



Thunder Run

Vol. 34 – NO. 1

"Together Then – Together Again"

1st Quarter, 2019

The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Reunion of Vietnam Warriors Remembrance of a battle 50 years past!

50 Year Anniversary of the Ambush on Hwy 13, L to R:
Jim Cowell, Bart "Doc" Fabian, Hal Fritz, Mike Mitchell, Bill Lister, Mike Aday



On January 11, 1969 the 2nd platoon of A Troop 1/11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was ambushed and engaged with a reinforced NVA Company on highway 13 in the III Corps area of Vietnam.

On January 11, 2019 several Troopers of the 2nd platoon were reunited at a special remembrance ceremony held at the Riverfront Museum in Peoria, Illinois.

Let's take a brief journey to review the circumstances that precipitated the January 11, 1969 ambush.

A Troop 1/11th, reinforced with a tank platoon from H Company, and an APC with a 20-millimeter Vulcan was positioned at

Thunder III. Thunder III was one of three positions astride highway 13 running from Ben Cat to Loc Ninh. Besides the mission of patrolling the area to disrupt the NVA and VC activities, the Troop mission involved providing security for the regularly scheduled large truck supply convoys coming from Long Binh / Bien Hoa destined to An Loc / Loc Ninh.

As the Executive Officer I was at the field location (Thunder III) working with the newly assigned A Troop Commander assisting him in area and mission update briefings to allow for a smooth transition. The Vulcan although not a regular vehicle weapons system found in the Cavalry Troop, was a new vehicle system sent to our location for field testing/validation.

Prior to the morning of the 11th of January 1969 A Troop and its attached H company tank platoon had experienced very little NVA/VC contact. The supply truck convoy was scheduled to make its supply run that morning. This truck convoy consisting of 50 to 90 trucks hauling diesel, gasoline, aviation fuel, ammunition,



CPT Hal Fritz is awarded the Medal Of Honor

Please turn to AMBUSH on page 6

Lifetime Achievement Award
Presented to Chaplain
'Emeritus' Larry Hayworth

By Frank Church, Vice
President/Reunion Chairman

At our 33rd reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to our past President, Allen Hathaway and past Reunion Chairman, Steve Page. Both being well deserved for their dedication to our Regiment while in Vietnam and in later years to the 11th ACVVC.



Chaplain Haworth's Lifetime Achievement Award

During subsequent discussion we wanted to set a formal criterion for receiving this award. My thoughts went immediately to our Chaplain, LTC. Lawrence Haworth (Ret.) as being the blueprint for such an award.

Larry was the Chaplain of 2nd Squadron, 11 ACR in Vietnam from 1969

Please turn to AWARD on page 3





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," Peter L. Walter, 8 Tallowood Dr., Westampton, NJ 08060-3721.

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President's Message

By Pete Walter

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and I wish you a healthy and Happy New Year!

Your organization's Officers have been hard at work throughout the holiday season and some of our planned events are being announced in this issue.

Frank Church, Vice President and Reunion Chairman, is leading the charge on a very special event in Texas that will have occurred by the time you read this. I'll let Frank tell you more about it in his words. Suffice to say it was a great idea and well-deserved recognition for one of our most respected and hardest-working members. Most of the schedule for our 34th reunion in Las Vegas has been firmed up and those details are in these pages also. I strongly encourage you to make your hotel reservations at the Westgate Resort & Casino immediately. Rooms are going fast, so please reserve on-line through our website link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/SACV9R>

If you do not have internet access you

11th ACVVC Reunion registration can be made online by going to our website at: 11thcavnam.com, scroll down to "Reunion Information" then click on "Registration Form Credit Card."

can make reservations by calling the Westgate at: 1-800-635-7711.

Be sure to mention reservation code: SACV9R Hotel reservation deadline is August 5, 2019.

11th ACVVC Reunion registration can be made online by going to our website at: 11thcavnam.com, scroll down to "Reunion Information" then click on "Registration Form Credit Card".

If you do not have internet access you can use the form in this issue of "Thunder Run" and mail it to our Treasurer Ollie Pickral at the address on the form.

All registrations must be received by Wednesday, July 24, 2019. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is

received by the Treasurer no later than Friday, August 12, 2019.

This issue of Thunder Run was delayed slightly in order to include some last minute news. I hope you agree these front page articles were worth the wait!

Finally, I want to welcome our newest members: Tony Shukis, Bailey, MI (E Troop, 1/11 ACR, 68); James Lewis, KC, MO (G Troop, 2/11 ACR, 71-72); Robert McKenzie, Patterson, NJ (E Troop, 1/11 ACR, 66-67); Frank Becker, Carnegie, PA (E Troop, 1/11 ACR, 69-70) ; Edwin Hunter, Lampasas, TX, (551st Maint, 11 ACR, 68) and Thomas Holland, (HHT, 2/11 ACR, 67-68).

Enjoy Thunder Run!

"ALLONS!"

AWARD from page 1

-70. I had the good fortune of being one of the many Troopers that he ministered to. Daily life in a line Troop in Vietnam was not boring by any means, but the days did have a way of blending together. This resulted in not really knowing, or caring, what day of the week it was. But there was one constant that brought that back into perspective. When a chopper landed in a Fire Base or an unnamed NDP and Capt. Larry Haworth stepped off, you knew it was Sunday.

He would bring his Bible and robe and set up a make shift alter. He would hold religious services for any one of any faith that felt the need to attend. I attended those services and always came away with a better feeling in my soul. After the services he would always give everyone an opportunity to speak with him privately. I took advantage of this at least once. I don't remember what the topic was but I do know that it meant a lot to me for him to listen and offer spiritual guidance.

There is no doubt that many young men enduring the ugliness of war felt the same way.

In 1986 the Veterans from Vietnam that were his flock formed an organization to be known as the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC).

LTC. Larry Hayworth was one of the many that joined that organization. Annual reunions were planned and held with Larry once again serving as our Chaplain.

For over 30 years at every reunion he once again donned his robe and Bible presided over our Memorial services and Sunday worship offering his spiritual guidance and love to us. He also wrote an article in every Thunder Run newsletter. They most often were based on experiences from Vietnam that we all could identify with and found a passage from the Bible that related to that. He always signed off with, "God loves you and so do I"

Larry can no longer join us at our

Reunions so in February of this year a group his fellow Blackhorse Troopers went to him at his residence in San Antonio, Texas and presented him his award.

The inscription on the award reads:

**Lifetime Achievement
Award
Honoring
Lawrence E. Haworth
LTC, USA, Retired
Chaplain Emeritus
11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans
of
Vietnam and Cambodia
Recognizing Your Lifetime of
Service and Ministering to
Your Country and Your Regiment
"God Loves You – and So Do We!"**

Forgotten no more: Hundreds of strangers gather to honor veteran who died alone

NORTH HANOVER, N.J. — A veteran from Atco, New Jersey with no known family died alone, but he was neither forgotten nor alone Friday.

Roughly 1,000 caring strangers gathered for Peter Turnpu's funeral at the Brigadier Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in North Hanover.

Groups of veterans, government officials and others from South Jersey attended to show their appreciation for Turnpu's service to the country during the Vietnam War era and to ensure he wasn't buried as a forgotten former soldier.

One of those strangers is the director of LeRoy P. Wooster Funeral Home and Crematory in Atco, who not only volunteered to handle the funeral but arranged for Turnpu to be buried with military honors at the state cemetery and put out a call to the public to remember him.

"I thought handling his funeral was the right thing to do," said funeral director Wooster, adding he was overwhelmed by cemetery staff estimates on the number of people who turned out to honor Turnpu. Not everyone who attended was able to reach the graveside for the service because of the crowd size, he said.

"It shows a great amount of support for our veterans. Everyone was pleased to see the number of people who came. They came together like one big family and the procession that began from a nearby church had more than 200 cars."

Wooster said he did not want Turnpu to be buried without anyone recognizing his service to the country.

"I thought he deserved more than that and that the community should honor him for his service to the country and recognize his death, so I reached out via social media — and the phone rang off the hook."

The funeral director said the 77-year-old man's lifeless body was found inside his home on Third Avenue in Atco on Dec. 9 by a neighbor who sometimes checked on him. After the neighbor called 911 and paramedics arrived to find Turnpu unresponsive, local police contacted Wooster,



Sgt. Jose Burgos pauses for a moment at the casket of Vietnam veteran Peter Turnpu as several hundreds gather for a funeral Friday, Jan. 18, 2019. (Photo: Joe Lamberti/Courier Post)

Roughly 1,000 caring strangers gathered for Peter Turnpu's funeral...

who agreed to pick up the veteran's body and began gathering information about him in preparation for a funeral service and burial.

"He had no one, and the neighbor told me he was a loner," Wooster said.

"There were veterans from all the armed services. I lost count of all the cars in the procession," said Kryn Westhoven, a state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs spokesman.

He also said the department was "happy to have provided a proper and dignified burial" for the veteran.

Wooster said he determined through some documentation he gathered that Turnpu was an immigrant born in Estonia, arrived in the U.S. in 1955, became a citizen in 1963 and served in the Army from 1964 to 1966, including a tour in Vietnam.

He said the veteran was divorced, had no children and apparently lived in Atco for at least 40 years.

Others at the funeral became aware of the veteran's story by spotting it on social media this week.

Camden County Freeholder William Moen attended the funeral service Friday after hearing of Turnpu's story.

"It was an overwhelming sentiment for one of our county's veterans in a solemn sendoff," Moen said of the outpouring for the funeral.

"Unfortunately, this happens more than it should to veterans that have courageously and honorably served their country," Moen said of Turnpu's circumstances at the end of his life.

"I think it is so important the community come together for him."

Moen's father, also a Vietnam veteran, has shared stories with him about how many veterans of that war were not welcomed home, celebrated or respected when returning from the unpopular war.

Members of the Warriors' Watch Riders motorcycle club, American Legion and VFW members from various counties were among those who came.

"We definitely want to honor him. No veteran should pass on alone," Tony Meade, state coordinator for the Warrior's Watch Riders of South Jersey, said.

Cavalry scouts earn their Spurs

By Spc. Adeline Witherspoon

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo —

The Army loves traditions — especially those that involve Soldiers crawling through mud and enduring cold weather in order to surmount a fitness test or physical challenge. Fortunately, the Cavalry scouts of Multinational Battle Group-East's Forward Command Post have upheld the proud tradition of the "Order of the Spur," after completing a variety of grueling tasks at Camp Bondsteel, June 3.

As lightning cracked overhead, followed by the low grumble of thunder, the Spur candidates prepared for what would be an exhaustive 12-hour ordeal. The tradition of "earning your spurs" dates back to the early days of the Cavalry, before Humvees replaced horses. New Soldiers were not awarded their spurs until they had been adequately trained in all methods of horsemanship, for fear that they would injure their animals.

Now, Soldiers had the chance to put their tactical skills to the test in a variety of modern-day challenges. The candidate teams would ruck to each of the 10 stations and perform tasks ranging from weapons assembly to casualty evacuation. Each station was specifically designed to test leadership, technical and tactical proficiency, physical fitness, and the Soldier's ability to operate as members of a squad under high levels of stress and fatigue. The exercise reinforced that the Cavalry doesn't give their spurs away — the Soldiers have to earn them.

"I was so tempted to give up, but knowing that I completed something so difficult gives me more self-confidence," said Pfc. Wesley Peppers, a Soldier assigned to MNBG-East's Forward Command Post. "I finally feel like I'm part of Cavalry family."

The rain kept falling in torrents, proving to be as much of a challenge for the test supervisors as it was for the candidates. But if there's one thing the candidates carry with them — in addition to the tourniquets in their cargo



U.S. Army Soldiers, assigned to Multinational Battle Group-East's Forward Command Post, construct hasty fighting positions during a spur ride on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, June 3. The Soldiers endured the mud and rain, performing a series of grueling mental and physical tasks, in order to be inducted into the cavalry's "Order of the Spur." (Photo credit: U.S. Army photo by Spc. Adeline Witherspoon)

U.S. Army Soldiers, assigned to Multinational Battle Group-East's Forward Command Post, complete an obstacle course during a spur ride on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, June 3. The Soldiers endured the mud and rain, performing a series of grueling mental and physical tasks, in order to be inducted into the Cavalry's "Order of the Spur." (Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Spc. Adeline Witherspoon)



A U.S. Army Soldier, assigned to Multinational Battle Group-East's Forward Command Post, recites "Fiddler's Green," also entitled "The Cavalryman's Poem," during a spur ride on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, June 3. The spur ride is a Cavalry tradition wherein Soldiers must pass a series of mental and physical tests while under high levels of stress and fatigue. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Spc. Adeline Witherspoon)



"The spurs are the number one symbol of what it means to be a Cavalryman,"...

pockets — it's their pride. Their confidence in their abilities as Soldiers and as Cavalry men and women makes the rain less cold, makes the mud less annoying, and makes the long hours of the night much shorter.

"The spurs are the number one sym-

bol of what it means to be a Cavalryman," said Pfc. Edward Murphy, a Cavalry scout assigned to MNBG-East's Forward Command Post. "Having our spurs means we earned our spots in the Cavalry world."

AMBUSH from page 1

As we made the sweep north on highway 13 we were unaware that after passing an area south of An Loc, an NVA reinforced company had moved into ambush positions with the aim of ambushing the truck supply convoy.

and other combustible materials was escorted by a few MP gun jeeps and would complete their route resupply mission escorted by one of A Troops ACAV platoons.

A second A Troop ACAV platoon would sweep North on highway 13 to An Loc insuring the route was safe for the truck convoy and other A Troop platoon to safely proceed. The second A Troop platoon would refuel and laager in a position along highway 13 as a reserve force in case the truck convoy and A Troop escort ran into hostile forces.

The third A Troop platoon and H Company tank platoon would act as a reserve force from Thunder III. I elected to lead the 2nd platoon with the Vulcan system on the sweep to the North as the platoon leader and platoon sergeant had been evacuated earlier due to injuries. As we made the sweep north on highway 13 we were

unaware that after passing an area south of An Loc, an NVA reinforced company had moved into ambush positions with the aim of ambushing the truck supply convoy. Upon our movement south preparing to get into a laager position my element triggered the ambush. One chaotic and fierce battle ensued with the NVA at very close quarters often unable to allow vehicular weapons for engagement.

Seven vehicles, most were hit and ablaze, and 26 Troopers were in a fight for survival. Both my gunners (Sp 4 Charles K. Day and Sp 4 Thomas C. Bullard) were killed in the initial ambush initiation. The Vulcan was putting out maximum fire, but the 20-millimeter could not be lowered far enough to engage some of the near NVA ambushers.

Lt. Jim Caldwell, H Company tank platoon leader rallied his tankers and led the

charge to reinforce the fighting 2nd platoon Troopers. The Troopers of the 2n Platoon A Troop pulled off what to the NVA thought was impossible – win against overwhelming odds. On that day and during that battle, the NVA found out the results of grabbing a tiger by the tail. I am so proud of the men I served with in Vietnam and especially for those that I fought with that day. It wasn't one person but the "TEAM of TROOPERS" that would not succumb to defeat no matter what the odds were!

On 11 January 2019 at the Riverfront Museum in Peoria, Illinois in recognition of 50 years since that battle, four of those A Troop 2nd Platoon Warriors gathered with me in remembrance of that battle. Those Troopers included, Bill Lister, Platoon Sergeant, Bart "Doc" Fabian, Platoon Medic, Jim Colwell, Recon Scout and Mike Mitchell, Recon Scout. Don Larson, Recon Scout, George Rodriguez, Recon Scout, Brett Tuttle, Recon Scout and Joe Coopet, Recon Scout were also part of the Troopers that made a difference that day but were unable to attend. Don Larson and Brett Tuttle volunteered to go on that one last mission even though they both were due to depart as their Vietnam tours were completed.

Their appearance had been prearranged and came as a complete surprise to me when they were introduced during the 50th anniversary program. The museum has provided a display of the Jim Dietz print "Find the Bastards, Then Pile On", my Medal of Honor, and other personal memorabilia related to my service with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam. I do not wish to claim the title of hero nor do I believe that I earned the Medal of Honor because I am a great Warrior. I wear the Medal of Honor attached to its blue ribbon as a messenger to herald the message of the bravery and dedication of all that have served and sacrificed in name of Freedom. This Medal of Honor, which I humbly wear, belongs not to me, but to each of you that have made the pledge and shown by your patriotism to protect, project and preserve these precious freedoms for ALL.

"America Love It or Leave It Many have Died to Protect It"

Comrades in Arms, Brothers Forever,
Hal Fritz, Bobcat 5 -A Troop 1/11 ACR

Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

1st Quarter	Jan 1
2nd Quarter	Apr 1
3rd Quarter	Jul 1
4th Quarter	Oct 1

All submissions for publication must be sent to: Peter L. Walter, 8 Tallowood Drive, Westampton, NJ 08060-3721; email basepiece70@verizon.net.

MOVING?

We want you to get your copy of *Thunder Run* without a lot of trouble. Complete this form and mail it to: 11th ACVVC Membership Update, Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112; Email 11thcav1966@Comcast.net



Name: _____

Old Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Effective Date: _____

Email: _____

The following essay was found in a folder of papers belonging to my husband after he passed away in 2017. The folder contained English writing assignments for a class he took after retiring from the Army in 1991. I had not seen or read any of his assignments before.
...Mrs. Salvadore B. Melo

Tough Guy

I can't start at the beginning or end at the ending. I think I must start with some background. I was raised on a little ranch in Utah. I attended a small Catholic school. I thought I was the toughest guy in the world (a small guy with an attitude) and set out to prove it. Picture a five foot seven inch, 135 pound bully. I started fighting early in my freshman year of high school, and found I was good at it. Most importantly for my story, I liked it, I liked the adrenalin rush I got. I liked the cheers of the kids watching; mostly I liked the fear and respect of those kids. I wasn't the typical bully. I didn't pick on the little guy; there was no glory in that. I looked for the biggest and baddest in town. I got my glory, my reputation and my peer respect as a tough guy. By the time I had completed four years of high school; I was considered one of the bad guys in town. I was the person you told your daughter not to date and your son not to hang around with.

I graduated in 1968 and kicked around for a couple of years. I worked a little, went to school a little, tried being a hippie a little. Yes, I demonstrated against the war in Vietnam. I preached passiveness, I didn't believe it, but I preached it. At that time if you wanted to be where the girls were, that was the game you had to play. Still, I could always find a good bar fight when I needed my adrenalin fix.

It was bound to happen, the draft, me in the Army. (OK, it didn't sound so bad I'm the tough guy.) I could handle it, after all I was picked the guy most likely to commit murder by my graduating class. Just think of the adrenalin rush war would be.

So having no other choice I went to war, I was the tough guy. I remember well my arrival in Vietnam.

I can't forget the smell as I got off the plane, there was a light odor of vegetation under the strong smell of the dead and decaying, it was a sickening smell, I thought at first I might vomit so strong was the smell. The tough guy can handle it, but the smell of death was there. And it added to my fear of dying in that place. I had to wait to see what would happen next.

It happened a few months into my tour of duty. It was early in the evening; a dark and foreboding night it was like being locked in a closet the heat was so unreal. It was so dark you couldn't see anything. There I was Mr. Tough Guy watching my equipment. Sweat pouring off me from a combination of heat and fear, or fear and heat. I don't know which was stronger. The feeling something was going to happen and knowing I was in control of my and many other lives was awesome (my adrenalin pumping). Then it happened, my night observation equipment picked up the enemy. I didn't think, I reacted. My God, the adrenalin. I called for artillery fire, it seemed like hours, everything was in slow motion but in seconds the explosions erupted. There were flashes of light to my front followed by the smell of burning foliage. My

I was so high I didn't pay any attention to the casualty report. Our side had none (I learned later). I could not sleep that night and in the morning reality struck. The smell of fire and gunpowder was gone; in their place was the stench of decay.

next choice, small arms, I was screaming open up the sixties and fifties (machine guns) it seemed like a whisper. The machine guns opened up, the tracers were streams of red light headed to the enemy. They returned fire. Their tracers were a mix of green and blue light coming at us, as they approached they looked like colored basketballs. The excitement was unreal. I had never been so high, it was like riding a roller coaster, but a hundred times more thrilling. I thought here it is, the ultimate fight, and then it was over just like it began suddenly.

I was so high I didn't pay any attention to the casualty report. Our side had none (I learned later). I could not sleep that night and in the morning reality struck. The smell of fire and gunpowder was gone; in their place was the stench of decay.

We went to assess the damage done to the enemy. I had to pay for my high. Like a junkie I didn't care what the cost would be. I had my fix. It was easy to find what was left of them. The devastation was like something out of a science fiction story. The ground was incinerated and ripped. I saw what man can do to man. It was disgusting, there it was and it once was a man, no longer did it resemble a man. It was like the ground, torn and ripped. Pieces were everywhere. The odor was horrible. The dead human body has a rankness like no other. I was sick, but unlike some of my comrades, I didn't throw up. I was a tough guy.

I knew my fix cost too much, my sanity at stake; I couldn't do that to people. What could I do? I don't think it was a conscious effort. In order to survive I turned off my emotions. I was now not only tough, but also cold and calculating, I was a killing machine. And I did survive.

I returned home to a wife and child, a loving family and a normal life. I think I was still a tough guy. I remained in the Army for twenty one years. I'm still hooked on adrenalin, but I hate to fight now. My wife and I argue, but I'm a tough guy. I walk away. When I discipline my kids I get an upset stomach. I can walk away from a fight and feel good. What a tough guy?

(The 11th ACVVC thanks Mrs. Emma Melo for sharing her husband's thoughts.)

HUEY VS TREE, 1967

George Ruggles, Redmond, OR
(HOW BAT, 3/11, 66-67)

It was to be a routine helicopter flight from an operation somewhere in the boonies west of Bien Hoa to the 11th ACR base camp near Xuan Loc. With a full load of American passengers, heavier folks than ARVN soldiers, the Huey pilots revved up the turbine and prepared to pull pitch. It was a relatively windless day, clear and warm and, as usual, humid. Us passengers, we settled in and awaited takeoff.

I had been the XO of 3rd How Battery since the fall of '65, and now, January '67, with the battery about to transition from 105mm M-108 cannons to 155mm M-109's, it was a good time for reassignment. Looking forward to a job in the S-3 section at Regimental HQ, I reflected on my time in the battery and although I would miss working with all the guys there, I was ready for something new. The whine of the helicopter engine was comforting and the big aircraft hovered briefly at ground level and turned to face what little wind there was.

Anyone who has flown in a Huey knows what a marvelous machine it is. It served all kinds of purposes: Medevac, chow truck, gunship, taxi, command and control, you name it, Huey's could do it. To anyone on the ground, an approaching Huey had a

"whop-whop-whop" sound from the rotating blades, which are really the wings. Even today, if a similar helicopter passes over, a veteran will be taken right back to his days in the Nam. You've had that feeling, I know you have.

Back to the story: the two pilots planned to fly at low level to pick up airspeed, given their heavy load, before attempting to gain cruising altitude. To a casual observer, they looked like two old buddies out for a Sunday drive. Thing was, they were looking at each other, not eyeballing the terrain ahead.

Gaining velocity, the aircraft rose to about 100 feet or so. Us passengers, we who had settled comfortably in earlier, were looking at the terrain ahead. We could see a tall tree a few dozen yards away, directly in front of the Huey. It looked like the Vietnamese version of a pine. We were no longer comfortable.

There was no way to communicate with the pilots. They had on those big flight helmets, designed to cut down on ambient noise, or in this case the passengers yelling "Look out"! Maybe the door gunners saw the pine, I don't know.

At the last second the pilots saw the tree and flared the ship. Tree branches broke the plexiglass on the bottom front of the cockpit. Chunks of plastic and pieces of wood flew

through the aircraft. The helicopter shuddered and fishtailed in the air.

And kept going.

If a tree branch had caught a skid, I would not be writing this tale today. With a heavy load of passengers and probably close to a full tank of fuel, this would not have been a survivable flight.

Landing at base camp a few minutes later, we all tumbled out of that aircraft and never looked back. As far as I know, no one made any kind of report. Working in the Regimental S-3 shop, I would have heard about it. I don't have any idea what the pilots said to maintenance about the broken glass. To a man, us passengers just felt we had dodged a bullet and let it go. It never occurred to anyone to report the pilots. After all, they had just made a mistake, and who among us hadn't made one or two as well?

So, the way I remember it, Huey = 1, Tree = 0!!



For Stan

So, with youth and innocence
Away you went.
The map showed
A strange land, shaped like an "S".
And your drill sergeant said
There were people there
Who needed American Idealism –
For protection against an imposition.
So, you took your pledge
Into the rain and the heat of the jungle.
But what you found
Were people who didn't know
What American Idealism was.
And still you fought for them
And half the time

You never knew who the enemy was.
And it was necessary
To kill just to live.
And your buddies screamed
And explosions rocked your insides.
And at night you learned
To live in terror
Because they were waiting for you.
But you survived.
And came home to a land
Where people didn't care.
And a lady in an airport bar
Condemned the survivors.
Your rage surfaced
Because she didn't understand

That people in that "S" shaped land
Took away your innocence and youth
And you had nothing to show for it.
But you have a friend who understands.
And she marvels at your unwavering patriotism,
Intelligence, and worth.
But most important of all
Your own ideals to pass on
To innocent youths
On behalf of your brothers
Left behind in 'Nam.

Vicki Moore
In memory of Stanley R. Martz
11th ACVVC, I Troop, 1969



From the 67th Colonel of the Regiment

COL Scott Woodward

Greetings from the 68th Colonel of the Blackhorse!

As always, your Regiment is incredibly busy, and 2018 was no different. We closed out the year with the largest Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise the Army ever conducted. Units from the 82nd Airborne Division flew across the country and jumped into Ft Irwin where they were met with the fury of the Blackhorse! The intensity of the fight was like nothing either unit had experienced short of combat. The reputation of the Blackhorse is now firmly cemented in the airborne community!

On December 11th, we held our inaugural Blackhorse Commander's Cup Competition. During this competition, Squadrons competed in traditional sports events - Softball, Basketball, Volleyball and fitness events as well as tactical military competitions such as - vehicle recovery operations, stress shoots, weapons assembly, road marches, obstacle courses and a resupply run. The competition ended with a 36-mile relay run from the Regiment Headquarters to the California Veterans Home in Barstow. At the end of the competition, 2/11 emerged as the victors

I look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas this summer and we are excited for your visit here at Fort Irwin - we have much in store for you.

holding the Cup until next year.

As you know, it is important for today's Troopers to learn about their past, so each year, we march to the California Veteran's Home in Barstow to spend the day with the veterans. This year, more than 500 Troopers marched through the streets of Barstow and ate lunch with the Veterans (in the Blackhorse Dining Hall). There, they shared stories and lessons with one another. The Troopers left the Veteran's Home with new experiences and bonds with those that served before them.

The upcoming months of 2019 are especially busy for the Regiment. Not only are we fighting Rotational Units each month, we are ensuring our Troopers are well trained on their weapon systems. During time between rotations, our Troopers are at the range working on the Tank and Bradley gunnery tables. Currently, we are preparing a team for the Gainey Cup competition – a U.S. Army wide scout skills competition at Ft Benning, GA in

late APR 19 (see info below).

This spring, our Squadrons are having their formal balls. This is a great opportunity for our Troopers, both young and old, to unwind and enjoy each other's company in an esteemed tradition. Because the Squadrons are hosting their balls this year, our Regiment Ball will take place spring of 2020. We will ensure more information is passed out as we approach that ball.

I look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas this summer and we are excited for your visit here at Fort Irwin - we have much in store for you. I know our Troopers will enjoy meeting with you and learning firsthand about our history and lineage. Thank you for all you do for this Regiment and our Nation as a whole. You are what made this the "Best Damn Regiment."

ALLONS!

Scott C. Woodward
68th Colonel of the Regiment

Unit	Date	Location	POC	Email	Phone
1/11 ACR	24 April 2019	Long Beach, CA	1LT Daniel Bloethe	(847)-848-0616	Daniel.w.bloethe.mil@mail.mil
2/11 ACR	26 April 2019	Long Beach, CA	CPT Sean Martin	(217)-820-3617	Sean.t.martin20.mil@mail.mil
RSS/11 ACR	25 April 2019	Long Beach, CA	1LT Isaac Anderson	(760)-380-6698	Isaac.a.anderson12.mil@mail.mil

MILITARY QUOTES

"It is a proud privilege to be a soldier – a good soldier with discipline, self-respect, pride in his unit and his country, a high sense of duty and obligation to comrades and to his superiors, and a self-confidence born of demonstrated ability."

George S. Patton Jr.

"Out of every one hundred men, ten shouldn't even be there, eighty are just targets, nine are the real fighters, and we are lucky to have them, for they make the battle. Ah, but the one, one is a warrior, and he will bring the others back."

Heraclitus

"The reason the American Army does so well in wartime, is that war is chaos, and the American Army practices it on a daily basis."

- from a post-war debriefing of a German General

"The day the soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you

stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."

Colin Powell

"The best tank terrain is that without anti-tank weapons."

-Russian military doctrine.

"Loyalty to country ALWAYS. Loyalty to government, when it deserves it."

Mark Twain

"The military don't start wars. Politicians start wars."

William C. Westmoreland

"I am concerned for the security of our great Nation); not so much because of any threat from without, but because of the insidious forces working from within."

Douglas MacArthur



Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Bill Karabinos, HHT 2/11 ACR 71-72

In the St. Nick of Time

"Just what I always wanted." My shout on Christmas morning when I opened a box that held two bottles of Corn Husker's Lotion. It came in the nick of time as the dry skin on my legs was itching incessantly. It didn't take me long to pull up my pant legs and rub in the lotion. Oh, what a relief. Made no difference if the family laughed at me ... it was a great gift.

Many of us can smile and think of a similar gift that brought instant relief or a smile when it arrived. That was especially true for those packages that arrived in Vietnam at Christmas time. We cherished them and maybe even hid them from our track mates. So I couldn't help relate this Christmas gift/story to my family, and now to you.

Had Midnight Mass at our base camp in Phu Loi in a little cantonment chapel filled with sleepy, and in some cases, tipsy troopers. No full dress affair, lads came in faded jungle fatigues but with bared heads in respectful awe. Memorable and happy celebration. Then early Christmas morning a service at the Air Cav Troop area for our guys and the Chinook drivers of the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion. A short walk to the Pad for a flight to Fire Support Base Andrews to gather the gunners to sing and pray in the Mess Tent shortly after breakfast. They did hand me a cup of coffee to go as I left for another airlift to E Troop about a 10 to 15 minute flight away. The troopers there too had finished breakfast and were energized enough to sing our Christmas hymns with gusto. As soon as I could, I caught other hops to F and G Troops scattered in the plains east of Nui Ba Den. The "Black-Virgin Mountain" was ever present on the horizon in our MR III area of operations. After leaving the field troops, I was flown to Cu Chi for yet another Christmas worship service, by now in the late afternoon. Had to close the bar for a short time to use it as an altar, but the troops didn't mind, their elbows needed a break.

Got a jeep ride from there back to Phu Loi and headed for the Mess Hall ... finally for something to eat. I was starving. You guessed it: it was closed. No one around. No Christmas dinner. Still hungry, I walked alone to the chapel and my little bunker/room. There, on my cot was a stack of Christmas cards and gifts ... Santa or the S-3 had been there while I was gone. God bless America!

One of the packages from my sister contained a small one pound Dansk Ham and a few cans of Heinz Baked Beans. Now I smiled; what more could I have wanted? Maybe a fire to heat the ham and warm the beans. God will provide, but in this case He (God) was an aggregate of field troopers and a stick of C-4.

Our Blackhorse troopers in the field had taught me how to heat rations by lighting a piece of highly explosive C-4 and placing it under a perforated used tin can. No matter how excessive the torture or intense the interrogation, I'll never reveal his name, except to say "one of the lads had given me a stick" that I carried in my Mass Kit: why, I had no idea. But there it was and so, keying open the ham can and, with my trusty P-38, opening the beans, I light the C-4 on my concrete floor and heated my ham and beans. *Christmas dinner*

in the St. Nick of time. Thank you, Lord!

Yes, I really did pause to thank God for my abundance of joys on that Christmas day, forty-seven years ago. It only took a minute. And, He smiled back at me. I slept well that night. It was a good night, a memorable Christmas and not once did I hear the familiar shout of "Incoming."

By the time you read this, Troopers Frank Church, Mike Rafferty and President Emeritus Allen Hathaway of the 11th ACVVC Board of Directors and other Blackhorse Troopers, from the San Antonio area and even from Fort Irwin in California gathered in Texas to present our venerable *Chaplain Emeritus*, Larry Haworth with the 11th ACVVC Lifetime Achievement Award. Larry, among the Founding Fathers of our association has given his all for our Regimental veterans and I know, you all love him dearly. He is well deserving of the distinction and you'll be able to access the presentation ceremony either on Facebook, in the next issue of *Thunder Run* or at our reunion in Las Vegas. Larry continues to care for his wife Deana, continues to serve all of us as he prays for you daily. I think I once heard him encouraging a trooper with these words: "*I spent a minute with God and hope you will too.*"

That's all we need do, spend a minute each day... and don't give me that excuse that the time you spent in Church on Sunday should carry over. Just a minute each day.

Fort Irwin Policy for POV Entry

We have been asked if individuals can enter Ft. Irwin in POVs (Privately Owned Vehicles) during our scheduled bus trip to Ft. Irwin, Thursday, August 22, 2019.

Individuals with current, valid DOD ID will be permitted to enter Ft. Irwin in a POV, but cannot be guaranteed they will be able to follow, accompany or park in the same areas as the chartered busses.

Additionally, any individual in a POV entering Ft. Irwin will not be able to participate in the planned luncheon at the dining facility.

Individuals who wish to travel to Ft. Irwin with the 11th ACVVC bus trip must board the outbound busses at the Westgate Resort & Casino in Las Vegas and board for the return trip at Ft. Irwin.

Please see the 1st qtr issue of "Thunder Run" for details, which we will also post on the 11th ACVVC website.

While Ft. Irwin's Military Police will not deny access to those with valid DOD ID, I strongly discourage any 11th ACVVC members from driving to Ft. Irwin.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Pete Walter at: basepiece70@verizon.net

Respectfully,

Pete Walter, President
11th ACVVC

Meet the Officers of the 11th ACVVC

Roberto E. "Bob" Moreno, 11th ACVVC Director

Roberto Erasmo Moreno was born in Edinburg, Texas in 1947. At the age of five he and his family moved to Michigan where he attended school until he was ten years old. Being the oldest of six they began to work as migrant workers and follow the crop work from Michigan to Texas then back up to South Dakota and Wisconsin. He got his draft notice in 1968 and joined the Army. Taking Basic Training at Fort Bliss Texas, he was then to Kentucky for AIT. After AIT he was asked to go to Officer Candidate School but declined. He was then offered NCO school and he said yes to that. With just 8 months in the army he made Sergeant, E-5 and was sent to Viet Nam. He served 363 days with G troop 2/11th ACR in Nam and was sent back to Ft. Knox, when his tour in Viet Nam ended.

While on this tour of duty at Ft. Knox he met and married his wife Barbara, who was at that time a member of the Women's Army Corps, and they have been married for 49 years this September. Two boys Robert and Raleigh, joined them within 3 years.

Following the birth of his children, Roberto and Barb both decided that it was time to leave the military and return to civilian life. However, two years later they both realized how much they missed the enjoyment and opportunities that were given to them and their children and reentered the military once again.

Following his reenlistment, Roberto did a year tour in Korea as a Platoon Sergeant, two tours in Germany; one with D Company 1/11th ACR as a Tank Commander and three years with 2/69th Armored as a Platoon Sergeant.

MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN WHICH ROBERTO WAS ACTIVE:

- 1967 Ft. Bliss, TX—Basic Training E Company 4th Battalion 3rd Training Brigade
- 1968 Ft. Knox, KY—AIT And NCO School
- 1969 Viet Nam—G Trp 2/11th ACR, Dec 1968 - Dec 1969
- 1970 Ft. Knox KY—Ait Trainer
- 1972 Ft. Benning, GA—Staff Bn
- 1973 Fulda, Germany—D Co 1/11th ACR
- 1977 Ft. Knox, KY—Armor Center Map Reading/Land Navigation Instructor
- 1980 Camp Casey, Korea—Platoon Sergeant
- 1981 Ft. Knox, KY—Armor School Instructor - Tank Gunnery Skills
- 1984 Friedberg Germany—2/69th Armor, Platoon Sergeant
- 1988 Ft. McCoy, WI—Nco Of Range Control

In 1991 he retired from all military activities and joined the Fort McCoy Commissary as the Manager of the Vegetable & Fruit Department as well as the Frozen Food Section and Dairy Department.

Prior to his retirement in 1995, from both the military and the commissary he worked with his church as a member of the

church committees as well as being a Young Peoples Interim Leader of the Youth Group and Sunday School teacher and a very active member of both the Girl Scout and Boy Scout organizations.

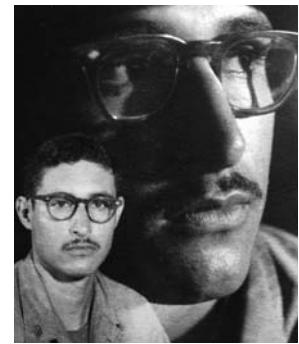
Roberto has never left the military life as a whole as he and his wife and son Raleigh enjoy traveling and visiting the many Vietnam Memorials across the country.

He is always ready and willing to talk to young people and vets about his time in Viet Nam. He always makes time to travel anywhere for a member's funeral service (when asked to attend) but most of all he enjoys his time working with and volunteering wherever he is needed with the 11th ACVVC. Roberto has been a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC since 1989.

Two of his favorite sayings are:

"Once a soldier – Always a soldier"

"Together then – Together again"



Bob Moreno then and now

Reunion Registration Deadline and Cancellation Policy

The purpose of this policy is to document and standardize the 11th ACVVC reunion registration cutoff dates.

Effective with the 2017 reunion, and all future reunions, the cutoff date for registration will be twenty-eight (28) days prior to the first Wednesday of the reunion.

The cutoff date for the 34th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion in Las Vegas, NV will be July 24, 2019. All registrations must be received by this date. Any registration received after this date will be returned to the sender. This policy will be published in all Thunder Run issues that have reunion information in them. Postings will also be made on the web site and Facebook.

Cancellations and Refunds: Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer at least five (5) days prior to the first Wednesday of the reunion.

VA Claims – A primer

Greetings fellow 11th Cav vets! I recently had a conversation with our organization's President, Pete Walter, regarding the annual 11th ACVVC calendar which I thought I forgot to order. Once he assured me the calendars will be forwarded to the members, we began to simply enjoy our conversation and sort of get to know each other. During the conversation, I informed Pete that I currently work for the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs as a Veteran Service Officer/Appeals Specialist - which I have been doing for seven years. Further, I sort of offered to contribute a quarterly note for our fellow members which will focus on matters of interest - such as successful disability claim submission (and why claims are denied), why PTSD is not the only mental health condition affecting veterans and whatever other interests surface. So, with this written and as our Regimental motto declares- "Allons!" Let's go!

Guidance submitting a claim - A claim must have three elements for VA consideration. A diagnosis, a currently chronic condition and what occurred in service to cause the medical condition. Missing one of these elements - no claim, period. Further, there must be some evidence in one's service treatment record for the declared medical condition as the VA will surely request a vet's records.

Now is a good time for a shining example. Here goes -

Jody (not the Jody back home) is a driver for a track in F Troop. One day while the Troop is pulling security for a Rome Plow company, one of those monkeys drops by and Jody decides to share some C rat crackers with the miniature ape. Of course now the monkey thinks he found a home until one day Jody tries to chase Cheetah away. In turn, the monkey bites Jody's ear and runs off to the trees. Soon, Jody's ear begins to really develop an infection, so the platoon medic decides to send Jody to the nearest Evac Hospital where proper treatment can be rendered. Good thing Jody brings back those treatment records to the S1 where all Jody's files are managed.

Thirty years later, Jody begins to notice he has an overbearing fondness for tiny insects and crackers and receives a diagnosis for monkeyism which truly affects Jody's occupational and social life. On good advice, Jody submits a claim for this rare disease and guess what? Because Jody has a current chronic diagnosed medical condition and there is a well annotated history in Jody's service treatment records, most likely, Jody will be awarded a service connected disability! Monkey business and simplicity aside - this is essentially what a claim should be. And best advice forward, no vet should submit a claim alone - seek the assistance from an accredited veteran service officer (most vet organizations provide same like the VVA, VFW, Legion, DAV or States).

Now if Pete accepts this article, perhaps I'll be able to continue additional articles for future issues of "Thunder Run".

Welcome Home and always ALLONS!

Chuck Bosko

F Troop, 69-70

chuckbosko@att.net

11th ACVVC 34th Annual Reunion



Westgate Resort & Casino
3000 Paradise Road
Las Vegas, NV 89109



Schedule of Events

Tuesday, August 20

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Quartermaster Store open TBD

Wednesday, August 21

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Quartermaster Store open TBD

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Registration open TBD

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Silent Auction items accepted TBD

2:00 pm - Midnight Bunker open TBD

Thursday, August 22

6:45 am Fort Irwin Trip (depart Westgate)

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Registration open TBD

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Silent Auction items accepted TBD

2:00 pm - Midnight Bunker open TBD

7:00 PM Fort Irwin Trip (return to Westgate)

Friday, August 23

8:00 am - 3:00 pm 28th Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing Wildhorse Golf Course

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Silent Auction items accepted TBD

2:00 pm - 9:00 pm Registration open TBD

9:00 am - 6:00 pm Quartermaster Store open TBD

2:00 pm - Midnight Bunker Open TBD

7:00 pm- 10:00 pm Silent Auction Sell Off TBD

Saturday, August 24

8:30 AM Raffle Drawing TBD

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Annual Membership Meeting (Members only) TBD

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Women's Group Meeting TBD

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Memorial Service TBD

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Quartermaster Store open TBD

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Registration open for late arrivals TBD

5:45 pm - 6:45 pm Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar) TBD

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Banquet, Program, Presentations and Salute TBD

10:00 pm - Midnight Dancing (DJ) TBD

Sunday, August 25

10:00 am - 11:00 am Worship Service Non-Denominational TBD

All Day Farewell and Safe Travels

11th ACVVC Reunion Trip to Fort Irwin

Thursday, August 22, 2019 from 6:45AM to 7:00PM

The 11th ACVVC has contracted with Arrow Stage Lines of Las Vegas to provide transportation to and from Fort Irwin in conjunction with our 34th annual reunion. Price includes R/T transportation on a luxury, air-conditioned motor-coach w/ restroom, water and lunch at Fort Irwin.

6:45AM - Pick up at Westgate Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV

7:15AM – Depart Westgate for Fort Irwin

10:00AM – ETA Fort Irwin

4:00PM – ETD Fort Irwin

7:00PM – ETA Westgate Resort & Casino

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

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Number of riders: _____ X \$40 per person = TOTAL \$_____

VISA MASTERCARD Card No: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CSC Code: _____

Signature (required for credit card): _____

Mail this completed form to: **Ollie Pickral**
571 Ditchley Road
Kilmarnock, VA 22482

We have been asked if individuals can enter Ft. Irwin in POVs (Privately Owned Vehicles) during our scheduled bus trip to Ft. Irwin, Thursday, August 22, 2019. Individuals with current, valid DOD ID will be permitted to enter Ft. Irwin in a POV, but cannot be guaranteed they will be able to follow, accompany or park in the same areas as the chartered busses. Additionally, any individual in a POV entering Ft. Irwin will not be able to participate in the planned luncheon at the dining facility. Any POV entering Fort Irwin is subject to search.

Individuals who wish to travel to Ft. Irwin with the 11th ACVVC bus trip must board the outbound busses at the Westgate Resort & Casino in Las Vegas and board for the return trip at Ft. Irwin.

While Ft. Irwin's Military Police will not deny access to those with valid DOD ID, I strongly discourage any 11th ACVVC members from driving to Ft. Irwin.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Pete Walter at: **basepiece70@verizon.net**

State of the Reunion

August 21 to August 25, 2019,
as Vegas, Nevada

Frank Church- Reunion Chairman

As of the date of this article's composition our 34th annual reunion is still 8 months away and we have already had Troopers register and make their hotel reservations. Don't wait too long if you are one of those who hasn't done so, 42% of the rooms are already reserved, more will be taken by the time you are reading this. **Reunion registration is \$100.00 and must be made by July 24, 2019.** No registrations will be accepted after that date. Registration can be cancelled with a full refund if done by Aug. 14, 2019.

The hotel room rate is \$89.00 plus tax per night and includes resort fee. Parking is complementary. The Westgate Casino and Resort is a very nice hotel with rooms that are a little plusher than most Vegas properties. **The \$89.00 room rate is in effect from 8/18/19 through 8/28/19.** Reservations must be made by 8/5/19 and must be cancelled 72 hours prior to arrival for a complete refund. The call-in number for the Westgate is 800-635-7711, be sure

to use the group code SACV9R. The web site is <https://book.passkey.com/go/SACV9R>. The **cutoff date for reunion registration is July 24, 2019.** I strongly urge everyone to honor this date. Registrations post marked after this date or registration at the Reunion cannot be honored. The last date to cancel is Aug. 16 to receive a full refund. A tram stops at the Westgate that will take you to the strip and back. Prices vary depending how many days you plan to ride. Group rates are available by going to their web site, <https://tix.lvmonorail.com.11thACVVC>. Tickets can also be purchased at tram stations but the group rate won't be available at those locations. We have a very full weekend planned. There will be the customary golf (on Friday this year), the Bunker, membership meeting with elections and business updates, memorial service, ladies meeting and Saturday night banquet with a DJ afterward. This year's dinner selection has a fruit plate as an option to the beef, chicken or veggie. And of course, there is the "cannot go without stopping at" the quartermaster store and silent auction. But the most important part

is the camaraderie with old friends, making new ones and that very special reuniting for the first time with old buddies from Vietnam. A trip to Ft. Irwin on Thursday Aug. 22 is being finalized with busses and lunch. (Golf and Ft. Irwin are separate events from the reunion registration that you will need to sign up for if you want either or both.) The cost for this trip and lunch is \$40. For those who may need or just want one, scooters will be available for rental through the hotel. After you have made your reservations call the hotel bell desk (702-732-5313) to reserve one. These prices also vary depending on your needs. The tram and scooter rental are also separate from your reunion registration. The Westgate has a dedicated shuttle from the airport to the hotel (no stops at other properties.) The cost is \$12.00 per person each way. Don't wait to register for the reunion or make your hotel reservations. All can be cancelled with a full refund if done so within the dates stated above.

Allons

Frank Church— Reunion
Chairman / Vice President

Attention Texas Blackhorse Troopers!

Jay Reese, Richardson, TX (HHT, 3/11
ACR, 65-66)

Hello, Troopers and Friends - Here is the tentative schedule for 2019, for planning purposes. Check your calendar and mark accordingly those events you want to attend. It is great to meet and greet all those associated with the 11th ACR. So, please plan for those activities in which you wish to participate. All are welcome. So here it is; remember times and dates may be adjusted in accordance with Poor Richard's Café plans and/or dating errors I may have made in preparing this schedule. Contact me if you find an error or have a question.

January 18 – Breakfast at Poor Richard's Café, Plano, TX—10 AM (FRIDAY)

■ April 19 – Breakfast at Poor Richard's Café at 10 AM (FRIDAY)

■ May 3rd & 4th – 11th ACVVC,

East Texas Roundup at Tyler State Park, Tex Hwy 14. Contact Jerry/Jan Beamon for times, plans and what you can contribute in food/drink/\$, and overnight plans, if you intend to camp. I am sure there will be more information forthcoming. This is one event that ALL should attend—it is a BLAST, and there will be other Troopers/Families to meet and enjoy the gathering. In 2018, we had Troopers from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas joining us.

■ May 31 – Memorial Day at Poor Richard's Café - 11 AM - Arrive quarter to half hour early, so we can gather and be seated as a group. There will be a service at 12 o'clock remembering and honoring our fallen comrades.

■ July 19 – Breakfast at Poor Richard's Café; 10 AM (FRIDAY)

■ Aug. 21 - 25 – 11th ACVVC Las

Vegas Reunion—See "Thunder Run" for basic information. Be there if you can.

■ October 18 – Breakfast at Poor Richard's Café at 10 AM (FRIDAY)

■ Nov 11 – Veterans Day at Poor Richard's Café at 11 AM. Arrive a quarter to half hour early, so we can gather and be seated as a group. There will be a service at 12 o'clock dedicated to all Veterans.

ALERT - For those events scheduled at Poor Richard's Café, PLEASE contact me by email/phone at least a week before the date so that I can make arrangements with the Management at the Café. I need to know the number in your party, counting yourself. So please let me know. Look forward to seeing one and all in 2019.

ALLONS

Jay Reese, jayree7282@aol.com or
phone: 972-690-4386

2019 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason

The 2018 Silent Auction raised \$10,351 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 240 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.

The auction process will be as follows (Please note changes to the hours):

1) Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 34th Annual Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cavalry related or not.

2) We will have a collection site set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on Wednesday from **1pm to**

5pm, Thursday from 1pm to 5pm, and Friday from 1pm to 4pm.

3) You can ship items to Arthur Ehrenberg, 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 6pm 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 bid 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 gregrmason311@gmail.com or 813-220-9027. I will respond to your email as I receive them.

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 Las Vegas 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 Arthur Ehrenberg, 1620 Plata Pico Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89128-7370



Membership is Our Strength

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





Blackhorse Women's News

By Sheryl Myers, Women's Group Co-coordinator

Blackhorse Women's Group in 2019

Happy New Year Ladies, and greetings from Colorado! I am Sheryl Myers and I will now be filling the position of Coordinator for the Blackhorse Women's Group. Our previous board, led by Kathy Tandberg, began a positive re-organization of the Blackhorse Women's Group over five years ago and your 2019 board members are dedicated to continue that work still in progress. Our organization's motto is – "We are family, friends and supporters who stand with the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia". The Women's Group, when possible, will offer a little diversion to our members, while the men enjoy additional time with their brothers in arms.

I also would like to send a special thank you to all the ladies who attended our meeting in Grand Rapids, to make the beaded bracelets. There were 146 ladies in attendance. We would love to increase that number every year. Your board will always have our members in mind when we plan the Saturday meetings and/or special events. If you have an idea for future get-together's, please share it by emailing any of the Women's Board members. Follow the link "Messages" on the first page of the 11th Cav website – www.11cavnam.com - and you will find Blackhorse

Our previous board, led by Kathy Tandberg, began a positive re-organization of the Blackhorse Women's Group over five years ago and your 2019 board members are dedicated to continue that work...

Women's News, then the Women's Board Members info.

Looking ahead: The 34th annual 11ACVVC Reunion will be held in Las Vegas, NV. Since Las Vegas offers so many venues of entertainment, we are hoping to feature a speaker that will interest all in attendance at the Women's Group meeting on Saturday morning. We also will add a new additional fundraising item at the reunion. Our fundraising benefits the projects we take on to serve our Veterans. Look for an update in the spring.

Projects: Currently, the Women's Group has 2 main projects that serve our veterans. The first is the Prayer Shawl Project. Chaired by Cherry Platt, and begun in 2011, 400+ shawls have been sent to family and/or spouse of an 11th Armored Cavalry Veteran of Vietnam and Cambodia trooper who has passed since 2011. To find out more about this project and how you can help, please contact Cherry at: fred-platt@att.net or call her at 770-445-7534.

The second project is *Wreaths Across America*. The Women's Group sends 21 wreaths to Arlington National

Cemetery each year, representing the 21 Blackhorse Troopers KIA in Vietnam and Cambodia, buried there. We announced at our last meeting that our Women's Group is going to further our participation in this project by providing the information needed for members to honor those KIA buried in a cemetery near where you live. We hope to eventually honor all 730 KIA Blackhorse Troopers. If you weren't able to take part in this project in December, and need more information, please contact Kathy Tandberg at: sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com or call 719-559-0695 and leave a message if no answer.

Last but not least, we welcome Lajaunda Williams to the Women's Board to serve as co-coordinator. She and her husband Harry, L Troop, live in Texas. Harry served with my husband in Nam, but we didn't reconnect until 2015 when Gary & I successfully found 3 other troopers. We hope you all will join us at the reunion in Vegas. In the meantime we will keep in touch. Sheryl Myers at: sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com or 719-559-0695 or leave a message if no answer.

Thank You For Your Donations In 2018!

By Ollie Pickral, Treasurer

During the calendar year of 2018, our organization received generous donations from you, our membership. Below is a listing of our projects funded by you for the year:

- Donations to our Reunion Assistance program of \$850.00 assisted a member attend our last reunion.
- Contributions to our Scholarship program totaled \$19,402.00 for the year.

- Donations from our annual calendar totaled \$66,198.00 that helped fund 89 scholarships to the children and grandchildren of our members. Funding of scholarships throughout the years total over 1.5 million dollars.

- Your bidding at the reunion Silent Auction added \$10,351.00, resulting in additional scholarship funding.

- Our General account that handles our administrative expenses was provided \$2,794.00 from your donations.

- Although not donations, nor tax deductible, another \$51,445.00 was raised with our annual raffle for our Scholarship Fund.

Our accomplishments were achieved because of your generous donations. We thank you and hope you'll continue to contribute your tax deductible donations to the 11 ACVVC, allowing our organization to continue service to our members and our 11 ACVVC families.

ALLONS

2019 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal – 2018 A Record For Scholarships Awarded!

Pete Walter, 11th ACVVC President

By now all dues-paid members of the 11th ACVVC should have received their personal copy of our 2019 calendar. If you have not received a calendar please contact Allen Hathaway (11thcav1966@comcast.net) or me (basepiece70@verizon.net). The 2019 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 already received many compliments on the 2019 calendar along with many generous donations and we thank you for your continued support!

This full-color calendar is the first of our 2019 Scholarship fundraising efforts. It 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. Scholarships can be used for college, trade school, or any other educational training following high school. The Officers of the 11th ACVVC voted last year to extend scholarship eligibility to grandchildren of 11th ACVVC members. Please see the revised application in this issue.

You donated almost \$78,000 to the 2018 calendar appeal (an all-time record!); we have awarded a total of approx. \$1,256,000 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; fifty years later we continue to serve and show our pride by our generous support of the children, and now grandchildren, of our Blackhorse brothers.

As of Jan 11, 2019 we have received donations of \$58,614 from 1,306 of our members. This is down a bit (~\$2,950) from last year and due mainly to attrition as we have ~100 fewer donors. Still, this is an incredible average of almost \$45 per donor! Many of you write a check for \$100 or more and this is generosity at its best. But I am still bewildered by the ~5,000 members, (or 75%) who choose not to donate. Almost 8 of 10 of our members contribute nothing to the annual calendar which is our premier fund-raising project. We have entertained suggestions from our members on how we can improve participation in this project; we continue to request your input. Please consider donating \$5 or \$10 to this worthwhile project if you haven't done so.

In 2018 we awarded 89 scholarships (our highest number ever) for a total of \$269,000. To date, the 11th ACVVC has awarded 1,563,000 in scholarships. This is an incredible achievement for an organization of approximately 7,000 members; even more

You donated almost \$78,000 to the 2018 calendar appeal (an all-time record!); we have awarded a total of approx.

\$1,256,000 in scholarships to the children of members of the 11th ACVVC!

impressive when realizing that these donations came from ~1,800 of our members. Imagine what we could award if every member donated!

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 reproduction purposes are high quality 35mm prints or slides showing groups of Troopers performing every-day combat missions and chores along with images of the landscape, hamlets and indigenous Vietnamese. If you have the capability of electronically scanning photos at a resolution of 300 or 600 dpi, you can send them to me as attachments to an e-mail. This is the easiest, cheapest, safest and quickest way to submit images. 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!” Pete Walter, President

11th ACVVC Calendar



2019

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.

Philippine Insurrection
Samar 1902

Mexican Expedition
Mexico 1916-17

World War II
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Vietnam
Counteroffensive Phase II
Counteroffensive Phase III

Tet Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive Phase IV
Counteroffensive Phase V
Counteroffensive Phase VI
Tet 1969 Counteroffensive
Summer-Fall 1969
Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive Phase VII

Operation Desert Storm
Southwest Asia Cease Fire

Operation Iraqi Freedom
Iraqi Governance 2004-2005



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman

I received a total of 164 scholarship applications by the May 15th, 2018 deadline. That is 157 more applications than were submitted in 2017! Of course, the huge difference is due to the fact grandchildren became eligible to apply for a scholarship last year. Of the 164 applicants, 161 were grandchildren of our membership. The 11th ACVVC Board of Directors was pleased to be able to award 89 scholarships to the most deserving applicants in 2018. Their photos and thank you notes can be found on our website.

The 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program has awarded **486 scholarships totaling \$1,563,000** to the children and grandchildren of our membership since its inception in 1996! Every scholarship dollar paid to these deserving scholarship winners 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. This is an updated application form and must be used by all applicants applying for scholarships in 2019.

Our Scholarship Guide provides more information on the scholarship process and contains detailed assistance on completing the scholarship application. You can print a copy of the Guide and the Application at www.11thcavnam.com. If you have a child or grandchild 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 honored each year are 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.



Mike 'Doc' Rafferty

A Scholarship applicant must fall into one of the following categories:

- 1) A child or grandchild of an 11th Armored Cavalry Trooper who was Killed In Action (KIA) in Vietnam or Cambodia.
- 2) A child or grandchild of a deceased life member of the 11thACVVC.
- 3) A child or grandchild of a current life member of the 11th ACVVC in good standing.
- 4) "Child" is defined as a natural born, adopted or step-child.
- 5) "Grandchild" is defined as a natural born, adopted or step-grandchild.

Additional Criteria

- 1) The applicant must have maintained a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0 during the last two years of high school (or college if applicable).
- 2) The applicant must be a high school graduate (by fall semester 2019).
- 3) Graduate and doctoral level students are no longer eligible to apply.

2019 scholarship winners will receive an **award of \$3000**. The Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship **award winner will receive \$5000**. All scholarship awards are sent directly to the school the recipient is attending.

Please inform your eligible children/grandchildren that **applications and grade transcripts need to be sent to me by May 15, 2019**. Email me at platoonmedic36@gmail.com if you have questions. If you do not have access to e mail you may reach me at 575-915-2921. You may also text your questions to me.

The Four C Rationales

Soldiers on a battlefield have a way of quickly weeding out all that's worthless and unimportant and getting down to basics. On the battlefield, there are only four important values—candor, commitment, courage, and competence.

Candor means openness, plus honesty, plus simplicity. The stakes are too high, and the time is too short, to fool around with hidden meanings, little white lies, and status games. The candor of the battlefield is why lies told there are punished, not with gossip, but with action. The battlefield is the most honest place in the world.

Commitment starts with candor. It is a pledge to a person or an idea. Soldiers make few commitments because their world is small—first to their buddy, then their crew or squad and maybe to their small unit, their platoon. It's hard to see or commit

beyond that. Commitment is the real message of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Courage is important too, not because there is no fear, but because courage controls fear. Courage is the choosing to take a risk despite fear. Courage is contagious and spreads, just as fear can. Soldiers live and die by courage.

Competence is the oldest value on the battlefield. It is the underpinning for all the other values. You cannot fake competence. On the battlefield, the leaders and the led respect competence more than any other value—except courage."

Donn Starry, GEN, USA

10 April 1980

Fort Sill, OK

11TH ACWVC DONATIONS

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49
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Members donations are used for the sole purpose for which they are intended. Whether it be for Scholarship, Reunion Assistance, Memorial or the General Fund, member donations are used to support that specific fund.

General Fund	Banks, Mason Barrett, Donald Barrows, William Bartosik, Harry Beard, C. Frederick Beavers, James Bowen, John Bozeman, Robert Bricker, Warren Brill, Grey Brooks, Timothy Brown, Robert Brundage, Ronald Brydge, Donald Buchholz, Richard Buehler, Christian Burns, James Burr, Chuck Burwick, Larry Campbell, Douglas Caporiccio, Guy Caruso, Frank Cassano, Salvatore Church, Frank Clement, Stephen Cobb, James Cooke, James Cornelius, Jerry Cowell, Richard Cox, Ronald Cox, Ralph Crabbs, Richard Craig, Michael Creal, Dennis Croskey, Phillip Crow, John Dalegowski, Gary Dart, Larry Daub, August Davis, Gregory Deberry, William Decker, Joseph DeLong, Robert Dowding, Arthur Drake, David Eaton, Noyd Eaton, Clifford Eichelberger, Jerald Ferreira, John Feyers, Larry Finnerty, John Fisher, Robert Foreman, James Frank, Donald	Gardner, Robert Garner, Leland Gaylor, Arnold Geasland, David Geesey, Ken Gentry, Lee Glauner, John Glawson, Ronnie Gonzales, Paul Goodner, Quintin Gordon, David Green, Floyd Griffiths, James Gulley, Gerald Hack, Charles Hammond, Francis Hardin, E.B. Harestad, Paul Henicke, Aaron Herb, John Hill, Terry Hines, Donald Hinnegan, Francis Hipps, William Hogan, Sean Horan, Dennis Howell, Monroe Howle, Jack Hudak, Gary Huddle, Douglas Hudnall, Dennis Hughes, Henry Hukill, Wayne Ingram, Glendon Janke, Roger Jankel, Ken Johnson, Gary Johnson, Donald Jones, Ruben Justensen, Richard Kathman, Michael Kelliher, Paul Kenyon, Richard Keys, William King, George King, Geoffrey Klein, Earl, Koch, Thomas Lamere, Bruce Larson, Raymond Lewis, James Lynch, Michael Macleod, Roger Manincor, William	Mason, Gregory Mays, Curtis McCann, Timothy McCarthy, John, McCoy, James McEliece, James McGill, James McGrail, Edmund McGrath, Thomas McKnight, Matt McGregor, Stewart McLendon, Glenn Mesa, Ralph Meyer, William Meyrick, Michael Mollhoff, Wayne Moodie, D.C. Morang, Joseph In Memory of John Reitwiesner Morehouse, Terry Morin, Donald Morlock, Glenn Munoz, Amador Murdock, Monte Newman, Roger Nicklas, Harold Ochowicz, William O'Neill, Timothy Overbay, James Patten, Thomas Payne, Horace Perrin, Craig Pierce, Leo Pimental, Frederick Pool, J.C. Pryor, Lee Radzwillas, Arminda Rankin, William Rapp, Dennis Rauh, Theodor Rice, Danny Richards, Dennis Rogers, Edward Romero, Silvio Roper, Everette Ross, Ivan Rudolph, Raymond Rusteberg, Homer Sanchez, Vincent Sartor, Billy Savicki, Robert Scholz, Clayton Schunck, James	Sellars, Marvin Selvidge, Mark Skinner, Byron Smit, Arthur Sobus, Timothy Solis, Francis Soule, Robert Stengel, Robert Stivers, Terry Stresser, Michael Stromberg, W.M. Sucato, Richard Sugihara, Martyn Sullivan, John Sussman, Bob Swan, Val Swartz, Larry Sweet, Max Taylor, David Thomas, Richard Thompson, Limmie Timmons, Donald Tomsheck, Mark In Memory of Larry Derolf Traner, James Tyre, Jessie Vail, Richard Villaverde, Robert Villwock, Jay Volta, Donald Waldoop, Clinton Walker, Dan, Ware Ralph Washington, Ben Watkins, Michael Watkins, Charles White, Edward Whitson, Thomas Wickstrom, Eric Williamson, Gerald Wilson, Steve Windemuller, Paul Wolfe, Okey Wolfe, Fredrick Wood, Eddie Yopp, Nixon	Andrews, Jerry Arce, Carlos Argo, James Austin, William Bachler, David Ballantyne, John Barrington, John Beard, James Beas, John Beliunas, Edward Benitez, Joachim Bertolini, Francis Binkerd, Alan Bishop, Verlon Brewington, Richard Calton, Bobby Calvert, Mark Carraher, Joseph Carraturo, Anthony Cartwright, Wavely Cederquist, Dennis Chattin, Frederick Chesemore, James Christenson, Kathy Christeson, Frank Cioffi, Cono Clark, Bill Colson, Darrel Conner, Jerry Conway, Richard Cramer, G. William Crittsinger, Clifford Cullinan, Bernard Culver, Gary Daniel, Ronald Daniel, Boone Daniels, David Davis, George Deege, Leonard Demasi, Ralph DeWitt, Raynald Dirska, Alfred Donnelly, Edward Duke, Billy Edwards, Kenny Effinger, John Ehrets, Steven Elliott, Frederick Farrant, Marcus Filbert, John Fortnam, David Frens, John Friend, Richard French, William
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Scholarship Fund					
Platinum Level					
Bachman, William Reardon, Craig In Memory of CW4 Maurie Reardon					
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Cartwright, Wavely Gauch, Herbert & Mary In Memory of Dennis C. Cannan Graham, James Henyan, Kenneth Krieg, Steven O'Dell, Dale In Memory of Rick O'Dell Stoll, Ned					
Silver Level					
Gordon, Dalton Wardrobe, Scot					
Bronze Level					
Jack, Fred Moore, Gary					
Calendar Fund					
Platinum Level					
Buening, Edward Coover, David Kester, Larry Smith, Dale Wallace, Peter					
Gold Level					
Aarestad, James Amore, John Anderson, Harold Argo, Clyde Armitage, W.T. Bahnsen, Doc Baker, Dennis					
Silver Level					
Abel, James Alfieri, Henry Allen, David Alsobrook, William Andersen, Kevin					

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Garvey, David	McRoberts, Gerald	Vescio, Carmen	Berghanel, George	Cizmadia, Joseph	Dinardo, Michael
Gill, Charles	McSwiggan, Joseph	Vigus, Max	Bernard, Richie	Clark, Glenn	Dittess, John
Goff, Thomas	Menix, Wilbert	Votaw, John	Bernt, Gustaf	Clark, Larry	Dodson, Kenneth
Greany, Paul	Miller, Richard	Wallech, Joseph	Berry, David	Clark, Floyd	Dorsey, John
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Hall, John	Morrissey, Matthew	Westerberg, Victor	Blackman, Clarence	Coleman, Vincent	Dufford, Steven
Hancock, Donald	Muchesko, Joseph	Williams, Lloyd	Blaisdell, John	Collier, Kermit	Duncan, Thomas
Harvey, Michael	Muscato, Michael	Williams, Thomas	Bland, James	Collins, James	Dunlop, James
Hathaway, Allen	Norris, George	Willis, James	Blankenship, James	Colman, Richard	Duplantis, Blair
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Huss, David	Plisch, Clifton		Bowen, David	Costa, John	Emerson, William
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Journeay, John	Renda, F.D.		Bradley, Otis	Crabtree, James	Ergish, Walter
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Koppenal, Kenneth	Scheumann, David		Burghardt, John	Cunningham, Charles	Felizardo, Carlos
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Krcelich, George	Scott, Gary		Burke, Thomas	Curtis, K Lee	Fields, Clifford
Kruzan, Lawrence	Semmelmeier, Peter		Burl, Albert	Czerwinski, Joseph	Finch, Jeffrey
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Lantrip, Gary	Sieja, Ronald		Byrne, William	Damron, Harlan	Fiorillo, Pasquale
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Lewis, Alfred	Slack, Ronald		Carnal, James	Daub, Herbert	Fisher, James
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Lopez, Filbert	Staffieri, Eustacchio		Cassen, Samuel	Davis, Eugene	Foster, David
Luke, Craig	Stogner, H.G.		Cavanagh, Michael	Davis, Thomas	Fowler, James
Lumpp, Edward	Suhre, Bill		Cenicola, Philip	Davison, Donald	Fowler, David
MacDonald, Clifford	Swiger, Rocky		Charbeneau, William	Deal, Clifford	Fox, S.S.
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Gensemer, Walter	Hess, David	Arft, Larry	Brennick, Robert	Ergish, Walter
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Gibbs, Lonnie	Hinson, Ray	Atkinson, John	Bump, Robert	Exner, Louis
Gietzen, William	Hnatusko, Theodore	Bacon, Dean	Burch, Bradley	Fairchild, Robert
Gilbert, Howard	Hoefler, John	Bailey, David	Burghardt, John	Fedorinchik, William
Gilliam, Larry	Hoff, Don	Bailey, Benjamin	Burke, Joseph	Felizardo, Carlos
Giorgio, Vincent	Hofmann, William	Baker, Robert	Burke, Thomas	Ferguson, Doyle
Gissible, Paul	Holbrook, Gregory	Baker, Marvin	Burl, Albert	Fields, Clifford
Gizzi, Ernest	Holdcraft, Richard	Balwanz, Rayne	Byers, John	Finch, Jeffrey
Glaspell, Richard	Holden, Robert	Barnes, David	Byrne, William	Fiorillo, Pasquale
Glass, Transport.	Hollar, Glenn	Barnes, Charles	Bystrak, Paul	Firchau, Mel
Glatzer, Ross	Holliday, Joseph	Barnhart, Richard	Calhoun, Dwight	Fiscor, John
Godshall, James	Hollis, Ron	Baronti, William	Carnal, James	Fisher, James
Godwin, David	Holmes	Barrows, Elwood	Carosella, Joseph	Fixx, Darrell
Goff, Robert	Holsbeke, Leon	Bartlett, James	Carpenter, Jess	Fordonski, David
Graessle, Thomas	Hooton, Berke	Barton, Ronald	Cash, Terry	Forehan, Dennis
Graffum, Denis	Hoover, Kathleen	Basler, Harold	Cassen, Samuel	Foster, David
Graziano, Anthony	Horgdal, Ole	Bastian, William	Cavanagh, Michael	Fowler, James
Greek, Charles	Horvatic, Michael	Bathurst, J.A.	Cenicola, Philip	Fowler, David
Green, Ronald	Houle, Douglas	Bauer, Stephen	Charbeneau, William	Fox, S.S.
Green, James	Hoyle, Danny	Baxter, Gary	Charette, Ronald	Freeman, Dennis
Greenawalt, Michael	Hrom, John	Bechard, Reginald	Chau, Phung	Freme, Robert
Gregg, Kenneth	Hryadil, Nicholas	Beck, John	Chavez, Larry	Frenette, Robert
Griffin, William	Hulik, Edward	Behm, Ernest	Childress, Warren	Freyn, Richard
Griffin, J.B.	Hunt, Robert	Belfield, Carlton	Chilinski, Mike	Fry, Gary
Gumph, John	Hussey, James	Bellamy, William	Chrisholm, Roderick	Fugate, Joe
Gutierrez, Juvenal	Hutchinson, David	Bennett, Jim	Christian, Gus	Fuller, Herbert
Gwinn, Ted	Hyland, J. Lynn	Benson, John	Christman, David	Fust, Arlan
Haberer, John	Hynes, David	Bentley, William	Ciborowski, Dennis	Gadberry, Blaine
Hadfield, William	Ingle, Kenneth	Berenda, Joseph	Cioffi, Teddy	Gall, Irving
Hagood, Robert	Ingram, Al	Berg, Mark	Cirjak, John	Garabedian, John
Halama, Ronald	Jacobs, Gary	Berghanel, George	Cizmadia, Joseph	Garcia, Julio
Hall, Leonard	Jacobson, James	Bernard, Richie	Clark, Glenn	Garell, Paul
Hall, Rick	Jacques, Tine	Bernt, Gustaf	Clark, Larry	Garner, Joe
Hall, John	Jaime, Daniel	Berry, David	Clark, Floyd	Garren, Kenneth
Hammond, Kip	Javoroski, Duane	Billips, Eugene	Cobb, Stephen	Garrisi, Lorenzo
Hann, Kenneth	Jeans, William	Billone, Gerald	Cofty, L.E.	Gehring, Joe
Hanson, Jeffrey	Jensen, Robert	Birch, Jimmy	Cohen, Cary	Gensemer, Walter
Harrington, Garry	Jeranek, Richard	Blackman, Clarence	Coleman, Vincent	Gentry, Lee
Harris, William	Jicha, Ed	Blaisdell, John	Collier, Kermit	Gerhardt, Terry
Harrod, Hugh	Johnson, Raymond	Bland, James	Collins, James	Gharing, Richard
Hassell, Grady	Johnson, Julie	Blankenship, James	Colman, Richard	Giannini, Gerald
Hastings, Donald	Jones, Russell	Blayer, Allen	Colmone, Salvatore	Gibbs, Lonnie
Hauser, Stanley	Jones, Edward	Blose, Michael	Commons, Joe	Gietzen, William
Hayes, Edward	Jordan, Michael	Blunt, Wallace	Compton, Bob	Gilbert, Howard
Headrick, Joseph	Juskiewicz, Thomas	Bockman, Wayne	Coney, Frank	Dykshorn, Jan
Heilig, Gerald	Abrams, Lawrence	Bodenus, George	Connelly, Danny	Gilliam, Larry
Heine, Lloyd	Hawkins, Robert	Bodo, Randy	Conner, Benton	Giorgio, Vincent
Heine, Dwane	Waters, Larry	Bostelman, Christopher	Connors, Thomas	Gissible, Paul
Henley, Ronald	Agosti, William	Boswell, Virgil	Conti, Mira	Gizzi, Ernest
				Glaspell, Richard

Glass, Transport.	Holliday, Joseph	Lanacaster, James	McDonough, John	Passanisi, Paul
Glatzer, Ross	Hollis, Ron	Lane, Earl	McEvoy, Stephen	Patch, G.
Godshall, James	Holmes	Lang, David	McFee, Thaneil	Patin, Melvin
Godwin, David	Holsbeke, Leon	Lang, Michael	McGarrity, Thomas	Patterson, John
Goff, Robert	Hooton, Berke	Langley, Rickey	McGreevy, Michael	Paul, George
Graessle, Thomas	Hoover, Kathleen	Langone, James	McManus, Charles	Pejakovich, Michael
Graffum, Denis	Horgdal, Ole	Landphier, Ronald	McNeil, Robert	Pelliccio, Thomas
Graziano, Anthony	Horvatic, Michael	LaPoint, Albert	McVicker, James	Pelvas, Bruce
Greek, Charles	Houle, Douglas	Laridon, P. Michael	Medbery, Thomas	Pendlosky, John
Green, Ronald	Hoyle, Danny	Lawless, James	Meier, Michael	Pendola, Lloyd
Green, James	Hrom, John	Lebron, Luis	Meltsch, Eugene	Penman, John
Greenawalt, Michael	Hryadil, Nicholas	Lee, Kenneth	Menefee, Douglas	Perez, Felipe
Gregg, Kenneth	Hulik, Edward	Lee, Larry	Merz, Robert	Perry, Richard
Griffin, William	Hunt, Robert	Lemperle, Myron	Mettler, Larry	Petersen, William
Griffin, J.B.	Hussey, James	Lepper, Donald	Meyer, Keith	Phillips, Charles
Gumph, John	Hutchinson, David	Lescisko, John	Miller, George	Phillips, David
Gutierrez, Juvenal	Hyland, J. Lynn	Lessard, Gerard	Minard, Linda	Pilkington, Ernest
Gwinn, Ted	Hynes, David	Lessnau, Bob	Missey, Evelyn	Pion, William
Haberer, John	Ingle, Kenneth	LeVasseur, Mark	Mitchell, Michael	Pitt, Christopher
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Hagood, Robert	Jacobs, Gary	Licon, Thomas	Moliterno, Leland	Portagallo, Thomas
Halama, Ronald	Jacobson, James	Lifka, James	Mollenkopf, James	Posak, Nicholas
Hall, Leonard	Jacques, Tine	Lindsey, Earl	Molstad, Steven	Poundstone, John
Hall, Rick	Jaime, Daniel	Lingen, John	Monprode, Robert	Price, Henry
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Hann, Kenneth	Jensen, Robert	Long, R.H.	Moon, Larry	Puccio, Roy
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Headrick, Joseph	Justison, Roger	Madej, Bill	Morrison, Willie	Rebeck, William
Heilig, Gerald	Karels, Roger	Madelle, James	Mowery, Robert	Reed, Jackson
Heine, Lloyd	Kashas, Raymond	Magnarelli, John	Mulrath, John	Reeves, James
Heine, Dwane	Kekel, Jerome	Main, James	Murphy, Don	Reichgeld, Blake
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Henson, Richard	Kelly, Ronald	Mann, Johnnie	Murphy, James	Rethlake, Paul
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Herlinsky, Walter	Kern, Richard	Marcello, Edward	Nagel, John	Rhyner, Robert
Hernandez, Al	Kerr, John	Marin, Henry	Neal, Bobby	Rich, C.H.
Hertel, Herbert	Kiehl, Ronald	Marion, Richard	Neighbors, Andrew	Richmond, Randy
Heslip, Grant	Kinsner, Ronald	Marmet, Dave	Nelson, Jack	Riggsby, Oakley
Hess, Lawrence	Kittelson, Harold	Martin, Romeo	Nelson, Kenneth	Rigney, Roy
Hess, David	Klopfer, Ronald	Martinez, David	Newlin, Ronny	Riley, Ira
Hicks, L.R.	Knoche, Timothy	Mascuilli, Timothy	Nissen, Lewis	Riley, David
Highman, Daryl	Kontzelmann, Fred	Masiella, Anthony	O'Donohue, James	Rinne, Howard
Hinkey, Elwood	Kotek, Richard	Masley, J.D.	Ohlen, William	Ritter, Jim
Hinnegan, Francis	Kralovic, David	Mason, Roger	Olechny, Patrick	Roberts, Joe
Hinson, Ray	Krebs, Richard	Massengale, Glen	O'Loughlin, Brian	Roberts, Larry
Hnatusko, Theodore	Kruse, Robert	Matthews, Milton	Ornellis, William	Robertson, Melvin
Hoefler, John	Krzyzan, David	Matthews, James	Ostermeyer, William	Roest, Herman
Hoff, Don	Kubena, William	Mattingly, Joseph	Ostrander, Gary	Rogers, James
Hofmann, William	Kujawa, Wilma	McBryde, Jerry	Ottenbreit, John	Roman, Irving
Holbrook, Gregory	Kulpa, Norman	McClellan, Bryan	Pace, D.L.	Rosenski, Peter
Holdcraft, Richard	Kunego, Donald	McCloud, Michael	Padgett, Connie	Rosett, Ronald
Holden, Robert	Lacy, George	McCreedy, Mitchell	Parris, William	Rubas, Ronald
Hollar, Glenn	Lakari, Walter	McDole, Harry	Pascual, Carl	Ruffner, John

Specht, Eugene	Swanson, George	Traw, Gary	Wagner, Gail	Westphal, John	Wright, Stephen
St. Clair, Harold	Swanson, James	Traylor, Douglas	Wagner, Larry	Weynand, Mary	Yankowy, Jerry
Stafford, Edmund	Sweningson, Bruce	Trottier, Raymond	Waldron, Hilmon	Wherley, Steven	Yeaman, Kenneth
Stalmah, Charles	Tandberg, Laurence	Turnbull, Ronald	Walker, James	Whitten, Jerrell	Yeider, Tim
Starbuck, Todd	Tankovich, James	Turner, John	Walkner, Thomas	Whorton, Charles	Yirsa, Harold
Steedley, Richard	Tarr, Ray	Turner, Courtney	Walton, Ron	Wiese, Timothy	Yochum, Thomas
Stelly, Sandrus	Tatum, Pearlie	Turopolac, Stuart	Wampler, Miller	Wilcox, John	Yocom, Kenneth
Stern, Audra	In Memory of Johnnie Tatum	Upton, P. Richard	Ward, Bruce	Williams, Terry	Yoder, Kenneth
Stevens, Billy	Templin, William	Valdez, Anthony	Watkins, George	Wilson, John	Young, Manuel
Stoddard, Paul	Tenderella, Larry	Valenti, Thomas	Watt, Roland	Wing, Douglas	Young, Paul
Story, M.F.	Tenik, Joseph	Van Ert, William	Watters, David	Winton, Alan	Zacharias, Charles
Straub, Delbert	Thompson, David	Van Matre, Jerry	Watts, George	Wisdom, Scott	Zamojda, Bronislaw
Strehlow, Roy	Thrasher, Harrison	Van Sickle, Terry	Waugh, Steven	Witek, Joseph	Zamora, Sherry
Striefel, Jerry	Tiedeman, David	Vanderbogart, Kirk	Weachter, Dennis	Witt, Marvin	Zaremba, John
Struble, Ron	Tighe, Michael	Vanderbogart, James	Webb, Gary	Wize, William	Zeller, Larry
Sullivan, David	Tips, George	Vaughan, Travis	Wells, John	Woellner, David	Zellmer, Steven
Sullivan, Roy	Toole, Larry	Velie, Richard	Weltzien, James	Wolas, Theodore	Zeman, Erwin
Summers, Carl	Torsok, Michael	Verbeke, Russell	Wentz, Darrel	Wolfenden, William	Zigante, John
Sutherland, Harland	Townsend, Frank	Virusky, Edmund	Werker, Frank	Woodson, Roddy	Zillner, Robert
Sutton, Gordan	Trabanco, Andrew	Vitullo, Vince	Werner, James	Wresch, Michael	Zipp, Darrell
Sutton, Harald	Trahan, Vernon	Waddell, Darrell	Wertz, Edward	Wright, Curtis	
Swan, Guy	Trares, Bernard	Waggoner, Hugh	Westerman, James	Wright, David	

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 _____

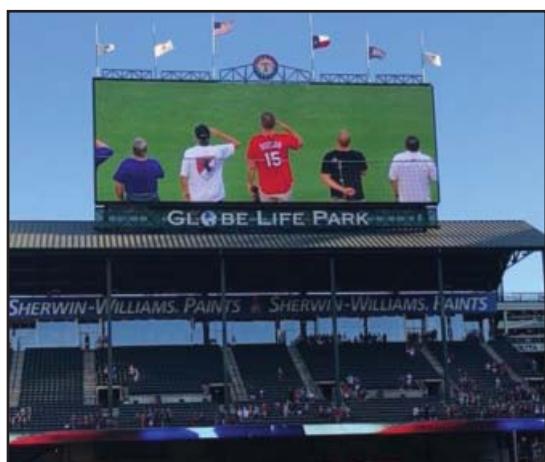
Signature _____

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**.

Show Your Pride



Larry Worley of Poland Spring, Maine (C Trp, 1/11 ACR, 68'-69') shows his Blackhorse pride on Ford F-150 pick-up.



BELOW: "On Friday night, Aug 31, 2018 at Globe Life Park in Arlington, TX the Texas Rangers hosted the Minnesota Twins and honored combat wounded Purple Heart Recipients. The Blackhorse was represented!" (Photo courtesy of Eric Newton)

Below, "Bruce Johnson & Grand Kids show their Blackhorse Pride" (Bruce passed away on Aug 31, 2018. Rest in peace.)



Combat in War Zone C

Mike "Doc" Rafferty

On March 17th, 1970, 2nd Squadron attacked an NVA bunker complex on a hill in War Zone C, an area along the Cambodian border in Tay Ninh province. I was the third platoon medic in G Troop. As we waited in our vehicles in a staging area at the base of the hill, the ground shook beneath us as B-52s bombed the target area. This was followed by a short artillery barrage and then we moved out.

This day I happened to be riding on the platoon sergeant's Sheridan instead of Lt. Matzen's ACAV. Since there was no room for me inside the vehicle, I had to crouch on the back deck behind the turret. After the bombardment ceased, we rolled out toward our objective. It was very hot, and my lungs hurt with every breath I took. The hot exhaust fumes from the engine only added to my discomfort. Every sound seemed to be magnified in its intensity: the noise of the Sheridan's tracks crushing the dry vegetation beneath us; the roar of the diesel engines; and the chatter of our machine guns firing into the jungle.

Our troop was attacking in two parallel columns which twisted and turned like a giant metal snake as we climbed up the jungle covered hill. As we closed on the bunker complex, our Cobra gun-

ships started giving us close-in fire support. Their machine guns spat out thousands of rounds into the jungle ahead of us. We could see rockets being fired by the Cobras as well. Little puffs of red smoke followed a few seconds later by the sounds of explosions far ahead of our column.

We crossed an open area and then entered a grove of trees. We found many NVA trails and bunkers. We also came upon an enemy soldier who had been wounded. He was trying to hide in a hole in the side of a large bomb crater. The ACAV M-60 gunners in front of my Sheridan covered him while a couple of guys from another track pulled him out of his hiding place. I was ordered to look at his wounds. I went over to him and it was obvious he was very frightened. He was not hurt seriously—just some burns on his legs probably caused by one of the Cobra rockets. I quickly put dressings over the burns as Captain Dickinson yelled at me to hurry up. Then the prisoner was put on a chopper and flown to the rear.

By this time, it was late in the afternoon and it was decided we would return to camp. As we drove back through the "bust" we had made in the morning we passed by a small clearing. In the center of the clearing were the remains of a campfire and around it lay three dead

NVA soldiers. They were strewn around the campfire like straw dolls. A fourth corpse lay in a hammock slung between two nearby trees. All I could see of him was his left arm hanging stiffly over the edge. These men must have been caught in the open when our barrage began and were killed before they could take cover.

Reusing a "bust" contained an element of risk. Sometimes the enemy would discover our "bust" and wait for us to return. Such was the case that afternoon for we were ambushed on our way back to camp. I heard explosions and gun fire up ahead and then was ordered to go forward to assist the 2nd platoon medic. When I reach the head of the column, I found one G.I. had been hit in the throat by shrapnel from an RPG. While we were bandaging this casualty an NVA soldier stepped out of the jungle a short distance away and fired a burst from his AK-47. Fortunately, his aim was poor, and no one was hit. He ducked back into the jungle as our machine guns peppered the wood line with hundreds of rounds. I have to say that soldier had guts!

After we dusted off our casualty, we were able to make it back to our NDP just as darkness was falling without further incident. I was thankful none of the guys in third platoon had been hurt.



Book Review

Crusader: General Donn Starry and the Army of His Times

The biography of US Army General Donn Starry, creator of the AirLand Battle doctrine that led to victory in Operation Desert Storm.

Donn Starry, one of the most influential commanders of the Vietnam War, went on to become one of the "intellectual giants" who reshaped the US Army and, throughout his career, worked to improve training, leadership, and conditions for the men who served under him.

Starry was a leading advocate for tank warfare in Vietnam. His recommendations

helped shape the American armor position in Southeast Asia and paved the way for his success as commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry during the invasion of Cambodia.

As commander of Fort Knox and the US Army Armor School in the 1970s, Starry brought new advances to armor tactics, training, and strategy. Most notably, he created the new "AirLand Battle" doctrine, which paved the way for a decisive US victory in the Gulf War. Like most Vietnam-era commanders, Starry's legacy has been overshadowed by the controversy surrounding the war itself—but few

have had as much of an impact on modern maneuver warfare.

In this new biography of Gen. Donn Starry, armor officer Mike Guardia examines the life and work of this pioneering officer using extracts from interviews with veterans and family, as well as from Starry's personal papers.

(Review from Amazon books)
(Editor's note: I served under then COL Starry in 1970 and in later years communicated with him often. I thought I knew a lot about Donn Starry until I read this well-written and highly informative book.)

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

Operations Quicksilver – Mines, Mines, and More Mines

Operation Quicksilver (4 – 21 December 1967) provides an unusually detailed example of how the enemy used mine warfare in an attempt to thwart the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment from accomplishing its mission. During the operation, the Regiment (minus 3rd Squadron) was responsible for clearing Highway 13 between Ben Cat and Phuoc Vinh for the movement of logistical and administrative personnel from the 101st Airborne Division. The Screaming Eagles had only recently arrived in country and were moving thousands of soldiers and tons of supplies by truck along the infamous Thunder Road.

The Regimental S2 (Intelligence) termed the enemy faced by the Blackhorse Troopers during Operation Quicksilver as “an aggressive Viet Cong local force ...[which had] operated in the vicinity of the AO [Area of Operations] since the commencement of guerrilla operations after the Geneva accords with France [in 1954] ... [They] had saturated the convoy route and adjacent areas with mines.” In other words, these guerrillas had been there a long time, knew the territory well, and had most of the advantages.

To make matters even worse, the weather acted as an ally of the VC. The U.S. advisors with the local South Vietnamese troops in the area said that “the mines had been emplaced during the wet season [ending in September] beneath the surface of all passages, from trails to major highways, as well as the areas adjoining the roads which the regiment was expected to use.” By December, all signs of mine-laying activity were gone. And the mines lay under the hard-baked Vietnamese red dirt. At night the Viet Cong connected batteries to the detonator wires and hid them in the bushes and tall grass along the side of the road.

The process of clearing the highway took an average of 8 hours each day – 136 total hours over the course of the operation. Three, 2-man sweep teams – frequently, but not always from the 919th Engineers – swept the road daily. One or two men were equipped with mine detectors. They were followed by the ‘prober’ who carried a knife. The prober’s job was to dig in the area where a sweeper thought he had found a mine. The sweep teams were protected by dismounted scouts and tankers and mortarmen and followed by the ACAVs.

The process was slow, painstaking, and physically (as well as emotionally) draining for those doing the sweep. Teams were swapped out on a regular basis, when there were sufficient properly trained Troopers available. On average, a team could cover just over a kilometer (six-tenths of a mile) an hour during a dismounted sweep, but commanders were generally impatient at this slow pace. Radio calls to platoon leaders asking for progress reports were frequent, often

accompanied by instructions to speed things up – usually spoken in colorful language.

These procedures were basically the same that had been employed by GIs since World War II. As Lieutenant Colonel Jack Nielsen (1st Squadron commander at the time) said: “Our capability in this field has not improved since 1942” – the year he entered the Army 25 years earlier.

In all, 19 mines were found during Operation Quicksilver. Second Squadron had the misfortune of finding 6 of these mines in the first week of the operation, causing damage to three Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles (ACAVs) and one M48A3 tank. A total of 12 vehicles were damaged or destroyed Regiment-wide during Operation Quicksilver. The well-trained and unusually aggressive Viet Cong local force company had dismantled three dud 750-pound bombs and repurposed the explosives into at least 30 home-made anti-tank mines.

The 2nd Squadron commander (Lieutenant Colonel Garland McSpadden) ordered his Troopers to revise their tactics. All crewmembers, except the driver, were dismounted from vehicles to reduce the potential impact of mines that were not uncovered during the sweeps. Over the next 6 days, 7 home-made mines were uncovered through exhaustive dismounted mine sweep done at different times – often more than once a day. Road runner patrols (called ‘Thunder Runs’) were employed almost every night – tanks and ACAVs full-speed ahead up and down Thunder Road.

The brush and grass alongside the convoy route was burned away to aid in the search for batteries and detonators. Off-road reconnaissance sweeps in the vicinity of Highway 13 resulted in the discovery of 3 caches where the VC were storing their mine-making materials. These locally-manufactured mines were of special concern, as the explosive material was housed in a casing made from clay pottery, making them virtually undetectable to the metal-seeking mine detectors.

The 2nd Squadron after-action report for the period stated: “Repeated sweeps of the road surface continued to uncover mines, all apparently emplaced for several months ... Their [local VC] employment of AT [anti-tank] mines was most significant and successful.”

Instead of searching the jungles for Charlie, for 17 days over 2,000 hot and dusty Blackhorse Troopers, mounted on 250 ACAVs and tanks and 56 helicopters, acted as virtual road guards, watching truck after truck of Airborne soldiers roll by. Not one of those trucks hit a mine. Not one. As Colonel Jack MacFarlane, Blackhorse 6, wrote in his official after action report for Operation Quicksilver: “No [101st Airborne Division] convoy vehicles were damaged or delayed as a result of enemy intervention ... It was not, however, a good mission for an armored unit as the mobility and firepower of the squadrons could not be employed.”

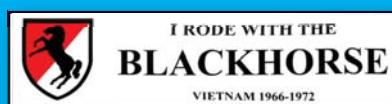
The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



#2 Key Ring \$5.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#21 Small Magnetic Patch (5"x4 3/4") \$5.00



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



#8 Mouse Pad \$12.00



#9 Cavalry Hat, Black or Brown \$225.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$8.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$12.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#12 Key Ring \$8.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



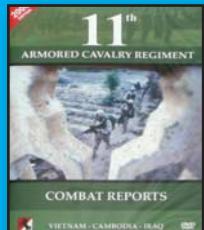
#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#26 Large Magnetic Patch (8" x 7 3/4") \$7.00



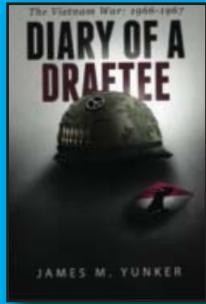
#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



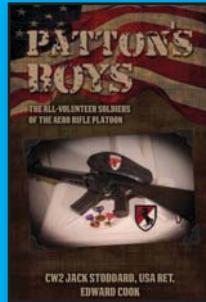
#22 Gear Bag, camouflage \$45.00



#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00

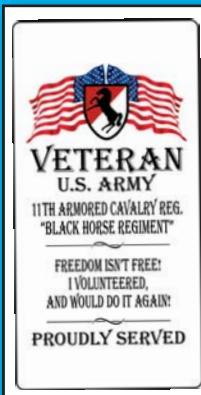


#32 Book: Diary of a Draftee \$22.00

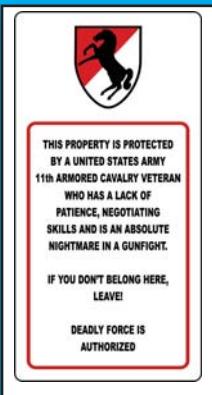


#33 Book: Patton's Boys \$20.00

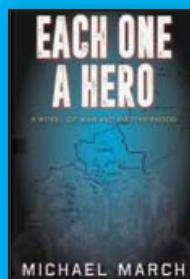
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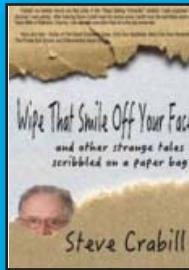
#34 Signs \$25.00



#34b



#31 Book, "Each One A Hero" \$20.00



#27 Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" \$16.00



#36. Sweatshirts w/ BH patch, \$28.00



#38a



#38b

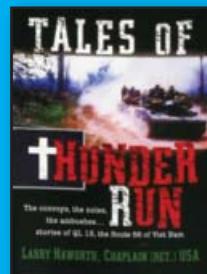


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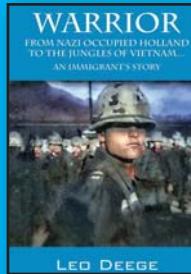
#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



#38d



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



#35 Book, "Warrior" \$15.00



#40 Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia. Specify color: Red, White or Black \$35.00



#30 Car Flag \$25.00



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



#41 Light Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$35.00



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00



#29 Ladies Necklace \$25.00



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. Over 500 U.S. newspapers are checked daily for the keywords "11th Cavalry" or "11th Armored Cavalry". Information is then posted on our website to allow us to post notices. Please check the "Funeral Honor Guard check daily" at www.11thcavnam.com

Allan E. Burns, HHT, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on August 8, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Blanchard, MI. He was laid to rest in Hillcrest Cemetery, Six Lakes, Montcalm County, MI.

Leroy Christian, F Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on September 21, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Speedwell, TN. He was laid to rest in Christian Family Cemetery, Wallins Creek, KY.

William D. Clinton, 919th Engineer Company (1970-1972) passed away on December 13, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Southgate, MI.

Manuel R. Gonzalez, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on August 28, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lawton, OK. Manuel was also a veteran of the Korean War.

James E. Gunnerson, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on August 16, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Des Moines, IA.

John T. Hawk, H Company, 2/11 (1967) passed away on December 24, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Colorado Springs, CO. He was laid to rest in Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

Frank P. Ilardi, H Company (1968-1969) passed away on October 16, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Long Beach, NY.

Robert A. Kaiser, HHT REGT (1970) passed away on October 28, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cincinnati, OH. He was laid to rest in Mount Washington Cemetery, Mount Washington, OH.

Luther L. Kantner, F Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on November 8, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Belfair, WA. He was laid to rest in Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA.

William B. Meyer, G Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on November 26, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pleasant Lake, MI.

Thomas G. Ming, C Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on March 13, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sullivan, IN. He was laid to rest in Druger Cemetery, Sullivan County, Druger, IN.

John Mitchell Jr, M Company, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on December 21, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Harker Heights, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.

Maurie L. Reardon, HHT, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 8, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fort Worth, TX.

Robert E. Sandlin, HHT, 3/11 (1970) passed away on December 27, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Campton, KY.

John M. Sandor, F Troop, 2/11 (1968) passed away on November 4, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kalispell, MT. He will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Willard E. Smith, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on November 17, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Homosassa, FL. Willard is also a veteran of World War II and Korea.

Philip J. Sorota, C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 30, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY.

Edward J. Tinney, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 12, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Spring Hill, FL. He was laid to rest in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL. Ed is also a veteran of the Korean War.

Harmon E. Weaver, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 12, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mobile, AL. He was laid to rest in Serenity Memorial Gardens, Theodore, AL.

Paul D. Wilson, I Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) and Air Cavalry Troop (1968) passed away on October 14, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rockaway Beach, OR. He was laid to rest in Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, OR.



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
551st MAINTENANCE COMPANY Hunter, Edwin K	68-68	Mckenzie, Robert C Shukis, Anthony J	66-67 68-68
HHT, 2/11 Holland, Thomas	67-68	G TROOP, 2/11 Lewis, James E	71-72
E TROOP, 2/11 Becker, Frank R	69-70		



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 1st Qtr 2019

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	6.00				
3. Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	3.00				
4. Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	3.00				
7. Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	5.00				
8. Mouse Pads	12.00				
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	25.00				
11. Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00				
12. Key Ring	8.00				
13. License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	8.00				
14. License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	12.00				
15. Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	30.00				
16. Tote Bag, red & black, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	20.00				
17. Blackhorse Pin	5.00				
18. 11th ACR Regimental Crest	5.00				
19. Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	5.00				
20. Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	5.00				
21. Small Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (5"x 4 3/4")	5.00				
22. Gear Bag, camouflage w/with color BH insignia	45.00				
23. Leather Gear Bag w/Blackhorse Insignia and pull handle	45.00				
25. Blackhorse Coin	15.00				
26. Large Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (8" x 7 3/4")	7.00				
27. Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" by Steve Crabil	16.00				
28. Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	30.00				
29. Ladies Necklace	25.00				
30. Car Flag	25.00				
31. Book, "Each One A Hero," by Michael Marsh	20.00				
32. Book, "Diary of a Draftee," by: James M. Yunker	22.00				
33. Book, "Patton's Boys," by: Jack Stoddard and Edward Cook	20.00				
34. Signs <input type="checkbox"/> 34a, <input type="checkbox"/> 34b	25.00				
35. Book, "Warrier," by Leo Degee	16.00				
36. Sweatshirts w/ BH patch, gray only. Size: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL	28.00				
37. Book, "Tales of Thunder Run," by Chaplain Larry Haworth	11.00				
38. Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a, <input type="checkbox"/> 38b, <input type="checkbox"/> 38c, <input type="checkbox"/> 38d	17.00				
39. Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Sand	20.00				
40. Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White	35.00				
41. Light Denim shirt (men's).....	35.00				
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) \$4.00 — \$7.00 = \$3.00 C) \$24.00 — \$60.00 = \$13.00 Any Gear Bag.
 B) \$7.00 — \$23.00 = \$8.00 D) \$61.00 and over = \$18.00 Shipping \$25.00

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVC Code _____

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 \$17.15. 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



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