



Thunder Run

Vol. 19 – NO. 2

“Together Then – Together Again”

2nd Quarter, 2004

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

Command Sergeant Major Horn Reunion Speaker



At left, Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Don Horn, our guest speaker for the 19th (Daytona Beach) Reunion. Below, CSM Horn circa 1973.



CSM (Ret.) Don Horn has graciously accepted our invitation to be the honored guest speaker at our nineteenth Reunion Banquet on Saturday night, 7 August 2004.

CSM Horn will be our first NCO/Enlisted Banquet speaker. Hearing from a distinguished member of the “Backbone” of our Army is long overdue. Being the first NCO selected to address the membership and our guests as the main speaker is a continuation of many “firsts” in the long and distinguished career of this outstanding soldier.

Born in 1927 in Ohio, CSM Horn enlist-

ed in the Army in 1945 at the age of 18 and honorably served his country and fellow Troopers for 28 years, retiring in 1973. In addition to numerous stateside postings, he served overseas in Panama, Germany, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. These assignments included three combat tours, one in Korea and two in Vietnam as the Regimental Command Sergeant Major (CSM) of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, serving as the top Enlisted Soldier for six Regimental Commanders!

CSM Horn was appointed First Sergeant (ISGT) during the Korean War at the young age of 23 with less than six years service as he fought with A Company, 6th Tank Battalion. He would go on to serve in ISGT/CSM positions for more than 22 years! Serving as the 3rd Squadron Sergeant Major, he was recommended and selected Command Sergeant Major (CSM) on the first list published by the Department of the Army (DA) in 1967 while still serving in Vietnam, and became the first Regimental CSM of the famed “Blackhorse” Regiment in October 1967.

Please turn to **HORN** on page 5

From the Reunion Chair:

See you in Daytona Beach!

By Steve Page, Reunion Committee Chair and Reunion Chair 2004

This will be the last Reunion Report until we meet in Daytona Beach. It is time to make Hotel and Airline reservations if you haven't already done so. Flights into Orlando are much cheaper

Registrations should be mailed ASAP as these are necessary to make plans for food and beverages.

and Daytona Beach is only one hour away. Registrations should be mailed ASAP as these are necessary to make plans for food and beverages. There are still rooms available but early reservations would

help us make sure that rooms can be added to our block if necessary this insures that all rooms are at the reunion price. We have no tours scheduled this will allow all attending to go where they like. This hotel is located in a beautiful area with many attractions nearby. Valet, Self Park and Free outdoor parking in a secured lot are available. As of now The Memorial Service will be held in The Hotel where it will be cooler. This will benefit all but espe-

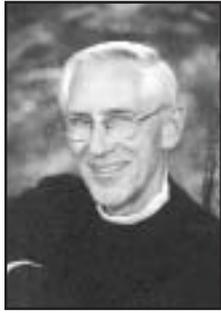
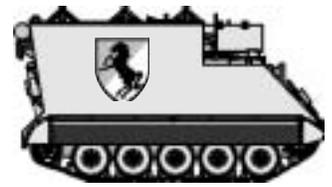
Please turn to **REUNION** on page 2

From the Command Track.....	2
Editor's Corner	4
Election to be held in Daytona Beach	4
Incoming... ..	5
Proposed By-Law Change.....	5
Calendar Scholarship Donations Break All Records	6
Scholarship Fund Donations	6
Col. James H. Leach, 40th Colonel of the Regt., Honored ..	7
Use your credit card with 11 ACVVC.....	7
Fairly Dumb Things I Did In Vietnam – I.....	8

Inside
2nd Quarter
2004

A Message From th Sixtieth Colonel of the Regiment.....	9
11th ACVVC Funeral Honor Guard	9
Chaplain's Corner	10
Welcome Aboard!	11
Journey to Fiddler's Green	11
Registration Form – Daytona Beach Reunion XIX.....	12
Women's Corner.....	13
Quartermaster Order Form	15
From the Quartermaster	15





Chuck Schmidt, President
11th ACVVC

As this issue of the Thunder Run goes to press, the Officers, Directors, and selected Committee Chairs will be conducting our annual mid-year meetings to decide the direction of the organization for the rest of this year and

beyond. Having served as president for only three and a half months, I am still feeling my way as I try to learn my job and act in the best interests of the 11thACVVC and its membership. I am blessed with a superb supporting cast that is doing their best to make sure my mistakes are limited and minor. Yet, we all make mistakes especially in dealing in interpersonal matters with individual members. All I ask is that you show patience and respect, and I assure all of you that the leadership of this outstanding veterans group will do their best to serve you well.

I want to personally thank all Troopers and friends who supported the Calendar Scholarship Fundraising project. Through your generous donations, the Scholarship Fund is being replenished and we will once again be able to offer monetary assistance to deserving members and their children seeking to further their education. Both the total amount, which is approaching \$23,000 as of this date, and the number of donors (over 1,000) is setting new records with every donation we get. The next leg of the funding stool is the annual raffle and by the time you receive this article you will have the tickets. Please fill in the ticket stubs and return them with your payment as soon as possible. More tickets are available for the asking. Just contact the raffle coordinator, Mike Forbes, and he will gladly send more. We are also seeking donations of merchandise and "in-kind" services and awards for the Silent Auction, which is held during the Annual Reunion. Information is available on the Web Site and elsewhere in this newsletter as to mailing address and procedure.

There are still thousands of veterans of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment who fought with us in Vietnam and Cambodia who have not yet joined our organization. Many would if they were simply asked. I ask you to make it a point this year to get a buddy to join.

The next major activity will be the Reunion in Daytona Beach, Florida, 5-8 August. If you have not yet made hotel reservations, you need to do so soon. The hotel is starting to fill up, and since this being held in the height of the tourist season, vacancies will be few and prices much higher than we have negotiated at the Adams Mark Hotel. More than 70% of the "blocked" room nights have already been reserved. Do not forget that in addition to hotel reservations, you also need to register for the reunion activities. Only registered Troopers and guests with a current reunion nametag will be allowed to participate in the "Bunker" and attend the banquet. Register in advance because the fee is higher if you wait to do it at the door. Steve Page, Reunion Chairman and the sponsor of this year's gathering, has put together a superb program. CSM Donald Horn, US Army (Ret), will be our honored guest speaker at the banquet on Saturday night. This will mark the first time an NCO has been selected to be the main speaker, and is long overdue. We all know that NCOs are the key to leading soldiers to success in battle, and from time to time, we need to acknowledge their vital role in our many glorious victories. We all look forward to hearing CSM Horn's remarks and benefiting from his insights and experience.

Our membership numbers are increasing and you can see the names of those who have recently joined in this newsletter. There are still thousands of veterans of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment who fought with us in Vietnam and Cambodia who have not yet joined our organization. Many would if they were simply asked. I ask you to make it a point this year to get a buddy to join. EVERY MEMBER RECRUIT A MEMBER! You have bene-

fited from being reunited with your buddies and now is the time to share that experience and help more of the outstanding soldiers who you relied upon for your very life to benefit from the camaraderie of belonging to the best damn Vietnam veterans organization on the planet.

Our Quartermaster, Rod George, continues to offer an outstanding service for the membership. Check out the listing of memorabilia and clothing items in the back pages of this issue. Rod has procured a redesigned "Challenge Coin" which you will find interesting. Don't be caught at the Bar without one or you may be buying the drinks! In addition, a new item for sale is a model M-113 ACAV specifically designed with the 11th Cavalry in mind. This is a great collectors item, and supplies may be limited as not many were produced.

In closing, I would ask you to acknowledge our active duty soldiers who are engaged in a global war against terrorism in defense of our great nation. Their war in Iraq has many similarities to the one we fought. We did not always have the support of the people back home. Make sure today's Troopers know that we support them. Whenever you see a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine tell him or her "Thanks for Serving"!

ALLONS!!!

REUNION *from page 1*

cially those with health problems. Registration will run like clockwork again this year with a promise to make it painless. The Ballroom has ample seating for all we will do our best to make every one happy. We are looking for a very large group with everyone having a good time.

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



Thunder Run (©2000 11th ACVVC) is the official publication of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), P O Box 717, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384; a notforprofit organization. It is published four times a year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907 (finisterre@islc.net) for members of the organization. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the 11th ACVVC.

Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," C.E. "Bill" Gregory Jr, 720 Ashbrook Dr., Hixson, TN 37343-1285 <Battle46A@comcast.net>

President	Charles L. Schmidt (I Troop 3/11, 67-68) 15110 Jessie Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (719) 487-0291 <Colusaret@yahoo.com>	Auditor	William "Bill" Suhre (I Troop, 3/11 '68) 217 83rd Ave Greeley, CO 80634-902 (970) 330-7900 <thesurreys@aol.com>
Vice President:	Gene Johnson (E Troop 2/11, 70-71) 4054 Venita Court Las Vegas, NV 89120-1442 (702) 456 3218 <gene677@aol.com>	Editor	C. E. "Bill" Gregory Jr, (H Co 2/11, 69-70, HHT 2/11, 70) 720 Ashbrook Dr., Hixson, TN 37343-1285 (423) 842-4901 <Battle46A@comcast.net>
Secretary:	Frank R. Cambria, CPT USA (RET) (G Troop, 2/11, 70-71) 55 Dorothy Way Novato, CA 94945 (415) 892-3116 <Captain.Frank@Covad.net>	Internet Coord.	Otis Carey (F Troop, 2/11, 71-72) PO Box 124 Ekron, KY 40117 (270) 828-2512 <ocarey@kysales.com>
Treasurer	Ollie W. Pickral, (K Troop 3/11, 68-69) 1602 Lorrie Dr. Richardson TX 75080 (972) 235-6542 <ktrp11acr@comcast.net>	Website Manager	Pete Echon (F Troop, 2/11, 69-70) 1624 Kenneth Ave Arnold, PA 15068-4219 (724) 335-8396 <ftroop@verizon.net>
Director:	Michael R. Forbes, (A Troop 1/11, 69-70) 776 Diane Drive Cincinnati, OH 45245 <Michael.r.forbes@imco.com>	Service Chair	Richard E. O'Dell, (919th Engr, 68-69) 5309 Golden Circle NE Roanoke VA 24012 (540) 977-1990 <cptnric@aol.com>
Director:	Allen Hathaway, (HHT Regiment, 66-67) 13194 Rettew Drive Manassas, VA 20112 (703) 791-6610 <pathathaway@msn.com>	Reunion Committee Chair & Reunion Chair 2004	Steve Page (B Troop, 1/11, 66-67) 396 Pleasant St Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 534-0720 <stephen.r.page@verizon.com>
Director:	Robert "Bob" Moreno (G Troop 2/11, 1968-1969) 24284 Endeavor Ave. Tomah, WI 54660 (608) 372-5892 <Moreno@Tomah.com>	Ad-Hoc Committee on KIA Issues, Chair	Allen Hathaway (HHT Regt, 66-67) 13194 Rettew Dr. Manassas, VA 20112 (703) 791-6610 <pathathaway@msn.com>
Chaplain	Lawrence E. Haworth, (HHT 2/11, 69-70) 176 Rainbow Dr., #7627 Livingston, TX 77399 <lehaworth@aol.com>	Historian	Don Snedeker 2221 Tulip Dr Falls Church, VA 222046 (703) 676-4019 (W) (703) 241-0794 (H) <snedekerd@saic.com>
Membership Chair	Allen Hathaway, (HHT Regiment, 66-67) 13194 Rettew Drive Manassas, VA 20112 (703) 791-6610 <pathathaway@msn.com>	Public Affairs	(OPEN)
Quartermaster	Rodney H. George, (HOW 3/11 66-67) 21450 W Ninemile Rd Huson MT 59846 <RHG1EKG2@aol.com>	Funeral Honor Guard	Peter L. Walter 8 Tallowood Drive Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 (609) 261-5629 <basepiece70@aol.com>

Show Your Pride



LEFT: Flying not only "Old Glory", but also the 11th ACVVC banner. Trooper Bill Selch (G Troop, 1970 – 71) shows his pride to the world as they pass by his Sacramento, California home.

RIGHT: Coming at you!! Trooper Gary Ramntyz (G Troop, 1966 – 1967) leaves no room for misunderstanding where his loyalties lie with the G Troop tags on his '03 Grand Cherokee. Gary's shows his pride around his Akron, Ohio home.





Editor's Corner

C. E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr.

We are in for an interesting summer; the political campaign appears to be kicking in gear even earlier than usual. I do not know if that is just the way of things these days or if this year is unusual. Anyway, it should be entertaining. Try not to let it get to you, support whoever you want as eagerly as you want. Just remember that this coming November 3, it will all be over, and we will all still be Americans who need to work together. The battles in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, and other spots are getting tougher, and there is certainly nothing entertaining about that. Our soldiers, marines, airmen, and sailors are still showing the world what a first class military is capable of. They continue to be both brave and compassionate, making us all proud. We know better than most what they are doing and how important our support is to them. Don't miss a chance to support them, let them know that we are with them.

With May 1 nearly here it means we are only about 90 days from the beginning of the Nineteenth Reunion in Daytona Beach! A lot of things are going on in the world right now and the 11th ACVVC is busy as well. As I write this, our Board of Directors are holding their mid year meeting to make decisions to guide us into the future as an organization. While this is going on, Steve Page is working hard on the reunion, which looks like another good one. CSM Don Horn, a legend in his own time if there ever was one, has agreed to be our honored speaker. The trip to Florida would be worth it if only to see him again. Fortunately, there are lots of other reasons for us to go, so look for the registration, reservation and travel information in this issue and

...if you do not make your [reunion] hotel reservations before the first part of July, you may have to pay a high premium for a room at the host hotel – if you can get one at all.

make your plans before you miss any deadlines. For example, if you do not make your hotel reservations before the first part of July, you may have to pay a high premium for a room at the host hotel – if you can get one at all.

I hope this issue of your newsletter lives up to your expectations, we have entertaining articles and ones intended to inspire. I won't go out on a limb and tell you which is which. That will give me a better chance of getting it right. The Chaplain has given us his usual fine work, and Barb Moreno has an unusually touching article that brought a tear to this old tanker's eye. Charles Abbey has given us another of his entertaining stories about the fun of flying in a combat zone, while COL Joe Moore offers us an update on happenings in the Regiment, and an article about COL James Leach (Fortieth Colonel of the Regiment) who continues to receive awards and do us all proud. Look for information about official activities of your organization from President Chuck Schmidt, Director Alan Hathaway and Reunion Chairman Steve Page. Take a close look at the Quartermaster's section – he has some exciting new offerings.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in August, but if not the next issue should get to you sometime in September. Meanwhile, remember all they taught you at Knox about "Little Joe". ALLONS !!!

Election to be held in Daytona Beach

One position on the Board of Directors will be open for election during the Annual Business Meeting at the Reunion in Daytona Beach, FL this year. The vacancy is due to the expiration of the three (3) year term for one of the three Directors positions. The current incumbent is Mike Forbes who was elected at the 2001 Reunion in Washington, DC.

Any member may submit a nomination for the vacant position via mail to the Secretary who will place the name on a preliminary ballot.

Directors are elected for a term of three years with one position becoming vacant annually. The purpose of staggering the terms is to provide some continuity to the Board. In addition to the three Directors, other

Officers are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These Officers are elected for two (2) year terms and all positions were filled at the Business Meeting at last year's Reunion in Eugene, OR. These terms along with one (1) Director will become available for vote at the Colorado Springs, CO Reunion in 2005. All elected Officers and Directors terms begin on 1 January of the year following the election and expire on 31 December in the year of termination. Vacancies that occur due to unexpected early departure or inability or refusal to serve are filled pro tem for the remainder of the unfulfilled term by a majority vote of the remaining Officers.

Any member may submit a nomination for the vacant position via mail to the Secretary who will place the name on a preliminary ballot. Nominations may also be made in person from the floor at the Annual Business Meeting. (See Article VII: "Elections", of the By-Laws for further information such as eligibility etc.).

V A TOLL FREE PHONE NUMBERS

VA Benefits:1-800-827-1000

- Burial
- Death Pensions
- Disability Pension
- Income Verification and Means Testing
- Disability Compensation
- Home Loan Guaranty

Life Insurance:1-800-669-8477

Health Care Benefits: ..1-877-222-8387

Income Verification and Means Testing:1-800-929-8387

Status of Headstones and Markers:
.....1-800-697-6947

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD):.....1-800-829-4833

Mammography Help Line:
.....1-888-492-7844

**Register now for the
13th Annual
Marty Ognibene
Memorial Golf
Tournament**

Details on page 12

During his first tour, he served four Regimental Commanders: Colonels Farley, McFarlane, Holder, and Gorder. His first tour included some of the heaviest fighting in the first half of the conflict including TET '68.

Returning to the States, he was posted to Fort Hood, TX where he served briefly as the CSM of the 2nd Armor Division. In July 1969 he returned to Vietnam at the request of Colonel Don Starry and again served as the Regimental CSM—first under Colonel Jimmy Leach followed by Starry. CSM Horn was the Regiment's top soldier during the Cambodian invasion in May and June 1970. In July of that year he completed his second tour in 'Nam and returned to Fort Hood where he retired from active duty in 1973. During his time with the "Blackhorse", he was the CSM for six of the ten Regimental Commanders to serve in Vietnam and was at the side of Colonels McFarlane ('68) and Starry (70) when they were wounded and was with Colonel Holder ('68) when he perished in a helicopter crash.

CSM Horn's awards include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with "V" Device and three Oak Leaf Clusters (OLC), Meritorious Service Medal w/OLC, 23 Air Medals, Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device and three OLC, Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. CSM Horn was also awarded the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star and is one of only six enlisted men to be awarded the Gold Medallion of the Order of St. George.

In 1987, CSM Horn was appointed by DA as the first Honorary Sergeant Major of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, a position he still holds, serving along with General USA (Ret) Starry, the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

CSM Horn has made his home in Copperas Cove, TX since retiring there in 1973. He has one son and two grandchildren. His beloved wife, Agnes, passed away last month and we of the 11thACVVC offer him and his family our deepest sympathy. Now fully retired, if it does not interfere with his golf game, CSM Horn mows the lawn once a week.

Incoming...

The following information has been provided by our Troopers:

From **Maxine Lassiter**, widow of Trooper **Charles Lassiter** who passed away in December of 2000 wishes to hear from any Troopers who knew her late husband. Maxine can be reached at (919) 496-5746.

◆◆

From **Adrian Vaaler**, anyone interested in attending a 2004 summer picnic in Eugene, Oregon, please contact Adrian Vaaler, Phone 541-344-2113 or Email: BlackhorseEugene@aol.com. Saturday, July 10th is the date and will be held at the home of **Al Murphy**, a local member here in Eugene. Detailed directions will be sent to anyone interested.

◆◆

From **Vicky Weldon**, daughter of Trooper **Terrance Wayne Weldon, Jr.** (919th Engineer Company, 1970-71), would like to hear from anyone who knew her father. Please contact Vicky at: vweldon03@yahoo.com or by phone at (513) 471-7665.

◆◆

From **Ollie Pickral**, Treasurer of the 11th ACVVC. The following troopers have contributed to our General Fund. This fund pays for the day -to-day expenses of 11 ACVVC. We extend many, many thanks to each of you for your generous contributions. **Keith Andrews, Edward Clouds, John**

Jolly, Michael Komisin, Robert Larocque, James Miles, Richard Paine, Patrick Seegar, and Phillip Yacovetti.

◆◆

MEDAL REQUEST VIA INTERNET

Army veterans and their families can have an easier time tracking and receiving medals and decorations thanks to an automated system used by the Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate (PSID). The Web-based system eliminates extensive paperwork, reduces processing time and has capabilities such as allowing each veteran the opportunity to find out the status of his or her request or make address changes online.

These types of inquiries that used to be handled telephonically or by letter can be entered online at <http://veteranmedals.army.mil/>. Award criteria and background for the different service medals can also be found on the Website. Requests for medals are initiated through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis. Eligible veterans or the next-of-kin of a deceased veteran can request medals from NPRC at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>. [Source: Psychological Operations Veterans Association VSO Msg. 16 MAR 04] *Contributed by Ollie Pickral, Treasurer of the 11th ACVVC.*

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE

The following change to the 11th ACVVC By-Laws has been proposed and will be reviewed soon by the Board of Directors. It may be formally proposed by the board, and voted on by the membership at the Daytona Reunion.

Existing Article:

11ACVVC BY LAWS, ARTICLE IV: OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The objectives of the 11TH ACVVC are:

- (a) To improve overall life of the men who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in the Vietnam War,
- (b) To assist our membership whenever possible,
- (c) To continue the camaraderie of the Regiment through reunions, memorial services and communication.

Proposed Addition:

It has been proposed by Gene Johnson that the following line be added to Article IV of the 11TH ACVVC By Laws.

(d) Support and Encourage the Active 11th Armored Cavalry's Regimental Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and Troopers, and Their Families.

This objective could be accomplished by, but not limited to the following: including them in our activities; providing program's recognizing individual and unit accomplishments; assisting wherever possible to increase Troop moral and Esprit de Corps; developing and maintaining a meaningful and mutually beneficial relationship.

Calendar Scholarship Donations Break All Records!

Listed to the right are the donor's names of all donations received since the last publication of *Thunder Run* and prior to publication deadline for this issue. Any donations received after the deadline will be published in the next issue.

We are now entering the 2nd phase of the scholarship fundraising drive to provide the maximum possible number of scholarships next year. If you have not yet sent in your intended donation for the 2004 11thACVVC Calendar, now is the time to find your envelope and mail it in so we can close Phase I. Thanks to all who have opened their hearts and wallets to support the program. Forty-four (44) of you donated \$100 or more to the program so far this year and 1025 total donors have given a total of more than \$22,400.

Thanks!

Annual raffle

Phase II is the annual raffle. By now many of you have received the tickets in the mail. Please once again be generous in your support and return the ticket stubs as soon as possible. We have increased the value of the prizes this year with the First prize being \$750! As always, the winning tickets will be drawn at the close of the Banquet Program at the Annual Reunion, which will be in Daytona Beach, FL this year (5-8 August). You need not be present to win.

Silent Auction

Phase III of the program is the Annual Silent Auction held during the Annual Reunion. Please send *Tax Deductible Merchandise* and "In-Kind"/Service Award donations to the address indicated below:

David Ellingson
2341 Brian Ave
South Daytona, FL 32119

Again *Thanks* to all of you great Troopers for your generosity in support of the Scholarship Program.

Scholarship Fund Donations

*The 11th ACVVC wishes to gratefully acknowledge these generous donations to the Scholarship Fund, that have not been previously acknowledged.

Gold Level Donors

Donations from \$100 to \$499

Anonymous
Phil Croskey
David & Joanne Drake
Thomas A. Godfrey
Kent H. Hillhouse
William "Montgomery, Jr."
Richard & Mary Morris
Roger & Gail Patterson
Greg & Jean Pratschner
James & Patricia Rose
Thomas Seay
Kent Shebelut
William & Judith Trubeck

Silver Level Donors

Donations from \$50 to \$99

Thomas & Euleta Carr
Kenneth & Sonja Hoke
Robert & Gloria Johnson
Mr. & Mrs Terry Kaul
Joe & Margaret Maloney
Robert J. Mekoski
Clair & Arlene Poorman
COL (Ret) Glenn Ryburn Jr.
Michael C. Simpson
Edmund & D. G. Suberla
Robert & Eddiemae Wagg Jr.

Bronze Level Donors

Donations from \$1 to \$49

Wayne C. Alberg
Lance & Debra Alsop
Nasario & Barbara Arellano
Jerry & Patty Baker
Larry & Linda Barnes
Auto Sales Barton
SGM(Ret) Horace Baxley
Leon P. Benbenek
Joseph Berenda Jr.
Joseph & Deborah Bissen
Stephen H. Blich
Michael & Margarita Bloese
Joseph H. Bohr
Russell & Ida Boston
Leon W. Boughner
Kevin & Karen Brousseau
Gerald & Monica Brzuchalski
Roger & Joan Butler
Frank & Lisa Cambria
Ronald E. Chappell
Loida N. Chavez
Walter P. Chmura Jr.
Gerald & Teresa Cole
Jerry & Kathy Cole
Ronald & Susan Ann Colson Sr.

Dennis & Darlene Creal
Roger & Betty Cross Jr.
Charles & Mary Cunningham
William & Sharon Davis
David & Lori DeWitt
Hal H. Dinsmore
Thomas & Helena Doll
Edward & Dale Donnelly
Larry & Alice Easter
Frank & Gail Ekert
David L. Ellingson
Ernest & Edna Enloe
Larry A. Erickson
Robert & Katheryn Evener
Barry & Leette Farris
Patrick & Linda Flynn
David Fordonski
Ed Fortman
Gary & Sandra Foster
Ronald & Barbara Freemeyer
Douglas & Fran Freyholtz
Dennis & Roberta Fricke
Steve M. Ganas
John Garabedian
Paul & Kathryn Garell
Wilbur & Cynthia Gathe
William & Edith Geier Jr.
Richard & Patricia Garing
Richard L. Gibbs
William J. Gillette Jr.
Billy Goad
Darryl & Nancy Gossett
Stephen & Kathy Govan
Michael & Nancy Guy
John M. Hall III
Eugene & Mattie Hallman
Alton & Alta Harper
Dwane & Betty Hein
Paul & Jo Anne Herman
Robert & Belva Holman
Donna J. Horstman
Michael & Jeanne Horvatic
Wayne & Martha Hukill
J. Lynn & Katherine Hyland
Robert lasillo
Gerald & Betty Jackson
Wayne Jacobitz
Gary Jacobs
David & Theresa Jarrett
Michael J. Jokinen
Phil Jordan
Richard A. Kearnes
Ralph & Juanita Kidd Jr.
Edward & Barbara King
Jerome & Elzbieta Kotwica
Peter & Patricia Kotzo
Rickey Langley
Harry J. Lilly
Miguel & Mercedes Lopez
Harold E. Mann
Terry & Kathy Mathias
Joseph & Marcia McKibbin
John M. Monahan
Douglas & Ivy Moriarity
James & Jeanne Morrill
Stephen Moushegian
Joseph P. Muchesko
William H. Ochowicz
Joseph L. Orozco
Angel E. Pagan
Garrett & Rosalyn Passos
Donald Pemberton
Charles & Mary Pennington
Clement & Carolyn Plako
Clifton Plisch
Ronald & Cecily Pope
Michael & Donna Pullium
James Ray
Melvin L. Robertson
Sammie L. Rogers
Fred & Sally Jo Rosel
Joe L. Ruiz Sr.
Gary M. Sawwell
James W. Sawyer
Kenneth R. Sheren
Edmund J. Sieminski
Doyle W. Smith
Joyce H. Smith
Thomas & Donna Ann Spahr
Tim Spinder
James A. Stampely
Jerry Q. Sterner
Jerry & Juanita Stertzbach
Gerald Straszewski
Thomas J. "Swaitlowski, Sr."
Joseph J "Switek, Jr."
Slofko & Martha Terlecky
John & Lois Thompson
Glenn Tonks
Paul Torres
Reynaldo & Yolanda Trevino
Raymond Trotter
Lawrence G. Van Deventer
Russell & Mary Verbeke
John & Lan Walling
Scott & Caroline Wardrope
Ben Washington
Amos & Michaelene Webb
Charles & Linda Whitmore
David Wieland
Linda G. Woodley
Stephen & Anne Wright
Raymond & Mary Ann Wright
Horace & Julia Yell

Submit your photos to "Thunder Run!" Originals are best. Remember, if you submit digital pics, be sure the resolution is at least 300dpi. The 72dpi resolution for web use is not good enough for the printed page.

Col. James H. Leach, 40th Colonel of the Regt, Honored

Colonel James H. Leach, the Fortieth Colonel of the Regiment and a Brigadier General in the South Carolina Military Department was honored in November 2003, by being awarded the Palmetto Cross by South Carolina's Adjutant General. Below is the article from the Beaufort Gazette of November 11, 2003, by Michael Kerr, reprinted with permission. – Editor.

Beaufort's James H. Leach received another military honor Thursday to add to his impressive collection. Leach, a retired Army colonel and brigadier general in the South Carolina Military Department, received the Palmetto Cross on Thursday at the Beaufort Readiness Center. The honor is the highest award given out by the department – which includes the S. C. Army National Guard, Air National Guard, State Guard and Emergency Management Division.

Leach, whom the center was dedicated to because of his efforts to establish a new home for Beaufort's Army National Guard troop, adds the Palmetto Cross to an abundance of awards he's earned since joining the military in 1938, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Legion of Merit and five Purple Hearts. "I stand before you a very humbled man," Leach said after receiving the award. "I've received more than my fair share of South Carolina's honors . . . What more could one ever expect in a lifetime?"

The Palmetto Cross is presented in the name of the governor to any state resi-

dent, military or civilian, who has distinguished himself or herself by extraordinary heroism at the risk of his own life under justifiable circumstances, or who has performed exceptionally outstanding service so as to make a lasting contribution to the state and nation. After 34 years of Army service including combat action in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, Leach led the charge in raising \$4.5 million to construct a new facility for Troop B, 202 Cavalry, Beaufort's Army National Guard troop.

Deputy South Carolina Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. John A. Shuler, presented Leach with the Palmetto Cross on behalf of Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears. "General Spears thinks a great deal of General Jimmy Leach," Shuler said. "He is one of his heroes, and he continues to use him as an example when he talks about leadership." Without Leach, the new Beaufort Readiness Center simply would not exist, he said. "What he's done for his country in World War II and throughout the years is phenomenal," Shuler said. "What he's done in his latter years here in South Carolina is exceptional."

The S. C. Military Department gives out no more than three Palmetto Crosses per year and Leach is the only person to receive the honor this year. Retired Army Col. Jim Bradin has known Leach since 1970, and served under him in Vietnam. Simply put, Leach is a special individual, Bradin said. "He has energy beyond compare and is as loyal a person

as I have ever met," Bradin said. When Bradin's helicopter was shot down in Vietnam, killing two of the four soldiers in the aircraft, Leach was among the first on the scene to help, walking through the rubber trees toward the crash, he said. "The guy doesn't understand fear," Bradin said. "He's just a great American."

Leach was originally from Texas, but now calls South Carolina home, in part because of his 54 years of marriage to his Carolina-native wife, Marion. "I feel like a peacock, full of pride," Marion Leach said after the ceremony. "I'm bursting with pride, I know how hard he works, and I'm very proud of him."

Coming Soon!!

Use your credit card with 11 ACVVC

By: Ollie Pickral, Treasurer

Within the next few months, members will be able to use their credit cards for payment of annual and life memberships, donations, Quartermaster purchases and registration fees for our annual reunions.

By the direction of the Officers and Directors, it was felt that 11th ACVVC members should be able to charge or debit their credit card accounts for the various payments that we collect. It was also felt that with this convenience, we would increase Quartermaster sales and have more Life members signing up. Administratively, we expect to have fewer and fewer "bounced" checks, saving us monies charged by our bank and less headaches trying to recover the funds.

We will be accepting the major credit cards of Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.

There will be some "up front" costs we will have to pay such as the purchase of at least two credit card processing/printers machines (Treasurer and Quartermaster). There is also a small processing fee each month. 11th ACVVC will however, get a percentage of each transaction.

We hope that this will be a service our members will utilize and will be a benefit to both our membership and 11 ACVVC.

MOVING?

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



Name: _____

Old Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Effective Date: _____

Fairly Dumb Things I Did In Vietnam – I

By: Charles W. Abbey*

Chief Warrant Officer Otha D. Brooks looked at me askance. “What?” he said. “We need to go down where?” Then sarcastically, “NoNoNo. I don’t think so boss!” Unquestionably, I valued Brooks’ exceedingly professional pilot’s judgment, but I felt sure that we could do this. After all, both he and I were seasoned combat flyers and pretty much fearless. On this particular morning, we had conducted a high recon of several sites in Vietnam’s War Zone C and were halfway back to Quan Loi for refueling. This was February of 1970 and Eleventh Cavalry units were doing some Rome Plow security.

First Squadron, commanded by LTC James B. Reed was operating south of the Cambodian border in tall jungle north of Route 246. They had been blasting the area with artillery and CS in order to flush out a bunch of NVA soldiers whom they had engaged. Moments before Squadron troops had captured a valuable prisoner – an NVA officer who might have considerable combat information of value to higher intelligence circles. This prisoner needed a ride to Quan Loi ASAP. Since Brooks and I happened to be in the area,

Reed had invited us to drop in and give this prize a hop. There were however some slight impediments to completion of this task. Notably, partially defoliated three hundred foot tall trees, scarce clearings and sporadic enemy fire; “Not to worry,” radioed Reed, “We will knock down a few trees and provide covering fire.”

We quickly identified the area and watched some trees fall down. Soon enough there was a hole in the treetops that looked big enough for a UH1H to slip through. We were light on fuel, and with just four crew on board; there would be ample power available. Directly, we made a couple of passes over the opening, checked the winds and despite my partner’s misgivings, established a slow decent through the trees. Once in under the canopy things got much easier. We had more than enough power and could see the clearing busted by the tracks below. Down we went and landed smoothly. Several “Bandit” troopers escorted the lone enemy prisoner, who was carefully bound and hooded to the helicopter and gently tied him in. Another trooper boarded, with a bag of captured documents and a .45, buckled-in to serve

as watchdog. We were ready to go!

Until that moment, I had been kept busy watching this process unfold and had failed to note one disturbing fact – most of the men of the Squadron were wearing gas masks! Was there a problem? Neither Brooks nor I had noticed anything. As we lifted to a hover and backed into the furthest corner of the clearing we began to feel slight facial tingling. As we assessed the take-off space available and the small circle of sky high above, we began to note slight tearing of the eyes. “There might be a problem here after all.” I shared. Since we had no gas mask, it was time to “git” before things got worse. Brooks applied power and headed for the canopy.

That did it! We received a full facial blast of what we guessed to be CS. Picture this: Two aviators, whose tears were running freely and whose breathing was becoming somewhat restricted, were trying to fly a helicopter out of a severely confined area without hitting something, while alternately exchanging control of the aircraft and each trying to ventilate by poking his head out of the open door before reclaiming the flight controls while

Continued on page 15

Photo File

Tanks for the Memories



Soldiers of the Audie Murphy Club from the 3rd ACR work on maintaining the M60 A-3 on display at Colorado Springs’ Shrine of Remembrance in Memorial Park. The Memorial to the 11th ACR was dedicated in 1995. Colorado was the site of the 1994 Reunion and will host the 2005 Reunion.



If you pass by the Milford, Ohio VFW (Post 6562) you might think you are back at FSB Jerry for a minute. Not to worry, bumper number H-55 is a retired M-60 A-3, not an M-48. Trooper Myron G. “Honey Bear” Honican (H Company, 1969) was instrumental in placing the tank on display near his Goshen, OH home.

A Message From the Sixtieth Colonel of the Regiment

By COL Joe Moore

I thought it time to update everyone on their regiment. A lot has transpired over the last few months. The NTC for the first time in over a decade has been tasked to support mission rehearsals for deploying units. In fact, for the first time ever, we trained a unit, then deployed them directly from Irwin to theater w/o returning home. Not surprisingly, this caused quite a change in how the 11th ACR met its mission.

We now have 11 villages available for training our force while at Irwin. 58th Engr's built all of these towns from scratch using portable sheds, old rail box-cars, and mobile-mini storage containers provided by Anteon. All together, there were over 200 separate structures built in about 2 mos. 58th also constructed another 5 tunnel complexes to provide training on cave clearance. They recently added another tunnel complex under our largest town - Tiefert City. In this town, the unit has the challenge of 2 story bldgs. and an underground complex reinforced with bunkers and trenches.

Your soldiers set the conditions for our Army. Of late, that means we had to add to our repertoire the ability to play terrorists, paramilitaries, coalition forces, US SOF forces, militias, and civilians. It is quite a sight to see so many 11th ACR troopers in so many different roles. I can honestly say we are training these guys hard to make them ready for Iraq or Afghanistan. We have developed IED's

the Baathist would find impressive. Our ambushes are far more dangerous than any in theater. Our COBs (Civilians On the Battlefield) stress the units through negotiations, riots, etc. We integrated 100 expat Iraqis last rotation and should see them in the future as well.

Meanwhile we have not forgotten our conventional warfighting skills either. For units who have returned from theater we provide our 'normal' rotation and give them 600 terrorists/COBs to worry about at the same time. It is quite a tactical challenge for them.

This winter all three squadrons were honored with the FORSCOM maint and/or Supply Excellence Awards. 1st & 2d Squadron won at battalion level and RSS won the supply award w/ S&T trp. and the Maint. Award w/ Maint. trp. RSS also won the FORSCOM Connelly Award for Field Feeding Operations. CPT Corey Crosbie (HHT 1/11) was selected as a MacArthur Leadership Awardee as well this month. 5 soldiers were selected for OCS and 2 for the USMA Prep School. We expect an equal number in both categories in the next round as well.

Our Blackhorse contingent in Afghanistan is back w/ us, minus three volunteers who remained behind to help the next unit. They did a superb job getting the Afghan National Army up and running. They also left the ANA brigade w/ a Blackhorse legacy by providing them patches and guidons most of you would

quickly recognize. :) It is amazing how quickly the Blackhorse fever catches even in armies w/o any history. Our numerous soldiers in Iraq are mostly home now. Those supporting 3ACR return this weekend and we expect those in 2 ACR soon.

On a personal note. CSM Flood is now the ATEC CSM. CSM Ricky Pring is on board as the 13th RCSM. He comes back to us from 1-13 Ar and Baghdad. His recent Iraq experience has been instrumental in helping us provide accurate training for our Army. My replacement, Pete Bayer, will be here in June. He was the 3ID G3 during the attack to Baghdad and will make a superb RCO. Our COC is 23 June at 0800. Invitations will be mailed soon.

Lastly, I wanted to take this opportunity to announce my retirement. I have decided to retire this summer for personal & family reasons. Command of this great regiment has been the greatest experience of my career. I cannot think of anything that comes close to it. But 14 moves in 20 years of marriage has taken its toll so I am letting my wife decide where we move to next. It appears to be Tacoma, WA. I hope to continue to contribute to our Army for a good while yet, but in dockers instead of a uniform.

Allons!

*Joseph A. Moore, Jr. COL, AR
Commander, 11 ACR (OPFOR) (760)380-3320 <joseph.moore@us.army.mil>*

11th ACVVC Funeral Honor Guard

By Pete Walter,

Most of us have heard of the mythical "Fiddler's Green", the "...good old time canteen" located "Halfway down the trail to Hell". Legend has it all Cavalrymen stop here for a drink with departed comrades and never leave.

In reality, we will all leave this world at some time. The loosely organized and informal 11th ACVVC Funeral Honor Guard renders the last respects for fallen comrades by simply attending the viewing or funeral service of our fallen brothers.

Any member of the 11th ACVVC who lives within an hour's drive of the funeral

I need to be informed whenever you know of the death of a Blackhorse brother.

service might get a call from me asking that they attend a viewing or funeral service. All I ask or expect of attendees is that they dress neatly, introduce themselves to the family, tell them you served with the regiment in Vietnam and are paying your respects and expressing your condolences to the family of a fellow Blackhorse Trooper.

To accomplish this last farewell, I need to be informed whenever you know of the death of a Blackhorse brother. Please con-

tact me directly at the number and/or email below. If you can provide date/time/details of the viewing and funeral service, it will make the task easier.

I've been doing this for many years, and have received callbacks and notes from Troopers who were contacted for the first time to attend a funeral service - all were honored to do so and reported the family was very grateful that we never forget our brothers. It is the last service we can provide. "ALLONS!"

Pete Walter

E-mail: BasePiece70@aol.com

Phone: 609-261-5629



Remember Jessica?

Do you remember Jessica Lynch? I expect you do. She's well known around the country for being a prisoner of war in Iraq during the Iraqi Freedom War. She was a 19-year-old PFC from the hollows of West Virginia. She was in a convoy of rear support vehicles that made a wrong turn and got lost in the hostile city of Nasiriya early in the war. Jessi was your ideal hometown girl. She was cute, spunky, independent, and adventurous. The type you'd want for a granddaughter (don't forget, we're not 19 anymore). Nasiriya was loaded with Iraqis who wanted Americans dead. That all changed, of course. But when her convoy got lost in that city, there were plenty who were ready and eager to shoot up the convoy. Which they did. Jessica was one of those captured. I expect you remember the story of her rescue by American forces. It was a daring and heroic action. Jessica had suffered injuries in the crash of her hummer during the ambush. But it was clear that she'd also been severely brutalized by her captors. They did things to her that you'd never want to happen to any woman, including our female soldiers who wear the uniform as proudly as the men. I'm convinced that Jessica was a hero. She was a real hero, although not because of any great fighting she did. After all, she was unconscious after the crash and her M16 had jammed while they were making a run for it before the crash. But she's a hero anyway, for having been there, for serving in a tough spot as her country had asked, and for being honest about not doing the shooting and killing that many in the media had given her credit for. She was honest. She was forthright in telling who her heroes really were. She did her job and, according to reliable reports, she did it well.

Frankly, I'm proud of Jessica Lynch also because she reminds me of so many of our own Viet Nam generation vets. After all, she and the others of our current generation of warriors, are our kids and, especially now, they're our grandkids. I've talked with a lot of today's soldiers. Many are serving with today's Blackhorse. They look up to us. They respect us. We've given them a proud legacy of serving under fire. They, as

Stories of what soldiers sometimes must endure are as endless as they are profound and powerful. We all have our stories, our experiences. Some are rough. Jessica's story continues in that she seems to be doing quite well. But she still has a long way to go in recuperating physically.

we, have many heroes. Also, they as we, consider that most of our heroes are those who didn't make it home. Their heroes, as ours, are many who came back wounded. Some severely, some in mind as well as in body.

Jessica reminds me also of our generations POWs and MIAs. Our own John Sexton was serving with E Troop, 2/11th Armored Cavalry, when he was captured just south of Quan Loi in August of 1969. John was a prisoner of war for two and a half years. John was also brutalized while in captivity. He has a powerful story to tell; it was printed in his hometown paper some years ago. John wasn't one of those taken to the Hanoi Hilton. He was kept in a hole-in-the-ground cage in the jungles of Cambodia. His captors would dig a hole about six feet long and three feet deep. I believe they laid some matting of some sort down there and laid John on that. Then they put bamboo over the top and that was his "cell" for all except a little time they let him out to walk around to relieve himself or move to another jungle prison. John told me about it several years ago. I don't know where he is now. I think he moved out of the USA to Brazil or somewhere like that.

Stories of what soldiers sometimes must endure are as endless as they are profound and powerful. We all have our stories, our experiences. Some are rough. Jessica's story continues in that she seems to be doing quite well. But she still has a long way to go in recuperating physically. She seems to be doing well mentally and spiritually. She's had a lot of support. She has a great family, a great community, and prayers from all over the country. But her injuries were serious. Of the most concern to many, including me is the three hours she can't remember and how some of the injuries were inflicted that she can't remember. Still her attitude is great and her

future is bright. I hope and pray the same for John Sexton, our own brother from our Viet Nam days. I don't know how he is now. I pray for him and care for him. So do his brothers, those close to him during that hard time. Support wasn't so easy to come by in Viet Nam days. But, John, if you're listening, your brothers of the Blackhorse still care. They don't forget.

What I say for Jessica and what I say for John, I say for all of us. Any young man or woman who answers their country's call and wears the uniform honorably deserves the gratitude and respect of our country and all the people they served and protected. Some have a hard story to tell. Some have suffered in many ways - seen and unseen. Some weren't in harm's way and caused to suffer, but only because of different circumstances. But you all are honorable, and I salute you. We salute each other. The suffering and the circumstances of your service had a great purpose. Whether you served in Iraqi Freedom, Desert Storm, Viet Nam, Korea, World War II or other wars or times of peace between, your service mattered. It still does. Your service gave this country its opportunity to be great. As I see it, your service can be summed up by the bumper sticker that reads, "If you love your freedom, thank a vet."

These thoughts don't end here, though. I want to share with you another story of suffering with a purpose that you may already know. Or maybe you don't already know. It's important. It's the foundation of what this country is all about, a foundation which isn't as well known these days as it used to be. But it's true just the same. This story of suffering is the foundation of every life that connects with God Almighty. That's the highest purpose and reason we're created to start with. I'll quote from the Word of God

Continued on page 15



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) received as of April 9, 2004.

Alt, Kenneth H	HOW, 3/11	68-69	Jolly, John P	HHT REGT	70-70	Sharpe, Terry L	HHT, 3/11	70-71
Andersen, Arthur T	L TRP, 3/11	67-68	Jolly, John P	E TRP, 2/11	71-71	Thornton, Robert N	I TRP, 3/11	66-67
Andrews, Keith R SR	HHT REGT	70-71	Kearnes, Peter M	K TRP, 3/11	68-69	Toney, Ralph H	I TRP, 3/11	68-69
Armstrong, David R	L TRP, 3/11	68-69	Kipper, Joseph L	C TRP, 1/11	68-69	Van Abel, Carl D	E TRP, 2/11	67-68
Armstrong, David R	G TRP, 2/11	69-69	Klemann, Victor J Jr.	551st MAINT	66-68	Welch, Paul M	AIR CAV TRP	65-67
Baker, Barry E	HHT REGT	67-68	Klemann, Victor J Jr.	C TRP, 1/11	66-68	Winkler, James E	G TRP, 2/11	71-72
Baker, Frank L	E TRP, 2/11	66-67	Komisin, Michael J	919th ENGR	70-72			
Barrington, John E	HHT, 1/11	67-68	Martin, Reginald A	F TRP, 2/11	69-70			
Bills, Stanley L	E TRP, 2/11	71-72	Martin, Romeo	A TRP, 1/11	70-70			
Boettger, Alan R	K TRP, 3/11	67-68	Mcarthur, David W	HHT, 1/11	68-69			
Bondra, Dennis W	L TRP, 3/11	67-68	Mckelvey, Jack W	L TRP, 3/11	70-71			
Butler, Timothy	AIR CAV TRP	70-71	Mckenna, Thomas P	K TRP, 3/11	69-70			
Campbell, Charles	K TRP, 3/11	67-69	Miracle, Caleb B	C TRP, 1/11	68-69			
Clepper, Ray Jr.	HHT REGT	69-69	Naidas, Kenny G	G TRP, 2/11	71-72			
Clouds, Edward L Jr.	HHT, 2/11	69-70	Norris, Robert W	K TRP, 3/11	65-67			
Cook, Edward M	AIR CAV TRP	69-70	Orlando, Philip A	B TRP, 1/11	68-69			
Cottle, James D	F TRP, 2/11	69-70	Pendleton, James W	K TRP, 3/11	69-70			
Cranford, William M	G TRP, 2/11	67-68	Pletcher, Robert	F TRP, 2/11	70-71			
Derge, Mark E	HHT, 1/11	70-71	Poe, Jimmy	H CO, 2/11	69-69			
Evans, Bruce A Jr.	HOW, 2/11	70-70	Poe, Jimmy	G TRP, 2/11	69-70			
Gray, Danny W	HHT, 2/11	68-69	Roberts, Larry P	A TRP, 1/11	69-70			
Hayes, Willie L	HHT, 3/11	66-67	Rogers, John D	L TRP, 3/11	70-70			
Haywood, Douglas A	AIR CAV TRP	70-71	Rose, Charles L	I TRP, 3/11	69-69			
Hess, Lawrence D	B TRP, 1/11	70-71	Roysdon, Jackie B	HHT, 1/11	69-69			
Hicks, Vernie D	HHT, 3/11	66-67	Russell, Jackie G	F TRP, 2/11	66-67			
Hinkle, Stewart J	L TRP, 3/11	67-68	Scharhag, John W	K TRP, 3/11	70-71			
Holzman, Zachery J Jr.	HOW, 2/11	68-69	Seeger, Patrick		69-70			
Jackson, Paul H	398th TRANS	67-68	Self, Claude	B TRP, 1/11	66-67			

A Cover Story



A third generation trooper? When Trooper Gene Miller's (How Battery, 1/11, '68 - '69) daughter Jennifer Turner presented him with his first grandchild, Julia, Grandmother Marsha Miller made the new addition this quilt, proclaiming "My Grandpa rode with the Blackhorse". The Millers reside in Newcastle, OK.



Journey to Fiddler's Green

We're sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. Our deepfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends.

Raymond J. Feia who served with HHT, 2/11 (1968-69) passed away on February 15, 2004 at the age of 55. Ray was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and also belonged to the American Legion, VFW, and VVA. He was retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in St. Cloud, MN.

Joseph H. Glock who served with M Company, 3/11 (1968), passed away on January 25, 2004. Joseph was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC. He was from Louisville, Kentucky.

Tommy R. King who served with HHT, 2/11 (1967-68) passed away on December 25, 2003 at the VA Medical Center in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Victor R. Langston who served with HHT, 3/11 (1969) passed away on February 14, 2003. Vic was from Jasper, Arkansas.

Keith Alan Loso who served with I Troop, 3/11 (1966-67) passed away on March 17, 2004, from complications from Multiple Sclerosis. He was an independent businessman who owned American Battery Company of Chico, in Chico California. A Life Member of the 11th ACVVC, his home was in Paradise California and he was 57 years old.

Charles L. Lassiter, Jr. who served with the Blackhorse in 1970 -71 passed away on December 9, 2000. Charles was a member of the 11th ACVVC, from Louisburg, North Carolina. No specific unit information is available.

Gary L. Laupp who served with HHT, 2/11 (1968-69) passed away on April 12, 2004. Known by his friends as "Pappy" or "Lumpy", Gary's home was in St. Louis, Missouri.

Buddy McDavid who served with A Troop, 2/11 (Date Unknown) passed away in March 2004. Buddy commanded A Troop's "33" track. He was from Onalaska, Texas.

Martin B. "Swampy" Schenck (First Sergeant, USA Retired) who served as Platoon Sergeant of First Platoon, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-68) passed away on February 22, 2004 at the age of 81. He lived in Munfordville, Kentucky and was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

Roy W. Steckiewicz who served with First Platoon, K Troop, 3/11 (1968) passed away on July 30, 2003. Roy was from Fayetteville, New York.

REGISTRATION FORM



DAYTONA BEACH REUNION XIX



Thursday, August 5 thru Sunday, August 8, 2004

Registration fees are \$70.00 per person regardless of age. This fee is required for attendance to one or all of the scheduled program events inclusive of Thurs. and Fri. Bunker Parties and Sat. Banquet dinner. After July 17 and at the door, registration fee is \$80.00 (Only if space is available)

Please Print All Information:

Name: _____ Telephone No: _____

Address: _____ Email address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Unit Assignment: _____ Years in Country _____

(list only one Troop/Company)

(ie 1966-1967)

(This will be your seating assignment for the Saturday night banquet dinner)

Attendees

Banquet Meal Selection:(choose one per attendee): Chicken Beef Special dietary needs: Yes No

Wheelchair requirements: Yes No Is this your first reunion Yes No

Send check or money order (no cash please) for the full amount, payable to: 11 ACVVC REUNION XIX

Mail To: 11 ACVVC Reunion XIX, Attn: Ollie Pickral, 1602 Lorrie Drive, Richardson, Texas 75080-3409

The 13th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament

Thursday, August 5, 2004

Victoria Hills Golf Course

300 Spalding Way

Deland, Florida 32724

Phone: 1-386-738-6000

One of Florida's Top 10 Public Courses \$65 per golfer includes greens fees, carts, balls, tees, lunch and prizes! Fill in the form and mail it to the address below with a check for \$65 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by July 15, 2004 to guarantee your entry!

You don't need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. This outing is open to men and women. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!!

13th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament

Name _____ Average Score _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Mail Checks To: Joe Cooper, Golf Tournament Director, 9289 Parkside Drawe Woodbury, MN 55125

Call 651-578-2857 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by July 15, 2004. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of Florida's top-rated facilities. They have a dress code to include: 1) No denim (Blue jeans), 2) No tank tops or T-shirts. Shirts must have collars, 3) Soft spike only facility.



Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACWC Women's' Coordinator

It's 1 am, January 26th, and I have just gotten home from work. My next article isn't due until sometime in April but after what happened to me at work, tonight I just felt like writing it now.

As some of you know I work in a hotel here in Tomah. Well this weekend was a very busy weekend at the hotel. First, we had a teenage hockey team staying with us on Friday and Saturday. So, the hotel was rather noisy with kids running and yelling everywhere.

On top of that, one of the Engineer Battalions on post had weekend passes. These troopies are all preparing to depart for Iraq within the next couple of weeks. So many of their parents, wives, husbands, girlfriends and boyfriends were here to see them before they leave.

Friday night was joyful as they were reunited after being separated for the last couple of months. Saturday many of them just laid around the pool, visited the military post, went shopping at the exchange or just stayed in their rooms. All in all a quiet type of day.

Sunday, as I arrived at work there were a lot of them sitting around talking and laughing. There was a lot of picture taking and generally a very carefree happy atmosphere. We even had one young soldier propose to his girlfriend. With the backdrop of the fire going in the fireplace, it was a beautiful setting for such a romantic occasion.

I went about my job doing up my reports and starting on the mounds of laundry that there always is after having a full house. About 6 or 7pm I thought it had gotten awfully quiet in the lobby and just assumed everyone had gone to dinner. So I wandered out there to kind of tidy up. To my surprise, everyone was still there but the talking and laughing had now turned to more of a hushed tone. It was nearing time for the military folks to return to post and the families to once again say goodbye.

Not wanting to intrude I quietly slipped onto the stool behind the desk and

just kind of watched and thought about the times that I too had, had to say goodbye to Bob as he left on another assignment.

As I sat there watching them I saw one of the young girls crying very hard. I debated going over to see if I could do anything when her boyfriend got up and went outside to smoke. So I slipped into my military mom mode and quietly walked over to her to see if I could help or if perhaps she just needed someone to talk to. Someone who had been thru it. It turned out that her boyfriend had just suggested to her that maybe she ought to see other guys while he was gone "just in case he didn't make it back". I wasn't really sure what to say to her so I just kind of sat with her, held her and let her cry. After what seemed like forever, I looked up and into the eyes of her boyfriend and saw that he had returned and was crying too. I suggested to them that they go back to their room and really have a heart to heart talk about what was happening and why he felt this way. I truly hope things work out okay for them.

Thinking I could now return to my laundry, I started back to my desk area when one of the guys started yelling that he wasn't going back to post and that he was going AWOL. And he meant - NOW. So back out I went. Along with one of his buddies we got him and his wife into our conference room where we could find out just what was going on. It turns out that his wife (of four months) just found out that she is pregnant. He was panicking, thinking about the fact that she would have to go through it all by herself. I asked him how going AWOL was going to help her. I explained to him that when they caught him, and they would catch him, it would be so much worse for the three of them. He would have to face the possibly of never seeing his new child. By staying with his unit and going and getting the job done and coming home he would be able to see that baby grow up. This baby would also give him something to look forward to and help make the time go perhaps a little faster. I think I got thru to him cause he eventually started talking

about when he comes home they can do this or that. When I left them alone they were happily planning the nursery and talking names.

By now it was almost 9pm and time for them to head back out to post. Two of the guys and their parents stood up and held hands and looked as if they were going to pray together. I thought what a neat idea, so I gently took the hands of some of the others that were there and one by one everyone started to form a circle. And then one of the dads started to pray. It was perhaps the most beautiful sight that I have seen in a long, long time.

Finally they all started to leave and as they did I wished each of them good luck and told them that I was very proud of them and very thankful for what they were about to do.

When they were all gone I returned to my laundry and said yet another prayer not only for them, but, for all the guys and girls who are fighting for us. Lost in my thoughts the time started to fly by. I was brought back to Earth so to speak by the sound of the bell on the front desk being tapped. It was one of the moms and she held out a small bouquet of flowers and a Hershey bar and smiled and said, "I just want to say thank you for what you did tonight. It meant a lot to all of us to know that you care so much about these boys and girls. Especially since you don't even know any of them".

After she walked away I just sat down on the floor behind the front desk and cried for a good five minutes.

I know this probably all sounds so sappy to a lot of you but to me it was a night that I will always remember.

To you my dear friends of the 11thACVVC I say thank you for all that you did then and are still doing.

God Bless you, God Bless the USA and most especially God Bless those young men and women I was with tonight. May they be safe and return soon to their loved ones.

Barb Moreno

11thACVVC Women's Coordinator

(Wife of SFC Bob Moreno of G Troop)



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
Coffee Mug, white 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	C	10.00		_____	_____
Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia.	B	10.00		_____	_____
Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	A	3.00		_____	_____
Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse w/full color BH insignia	A	2.00		_____	_____
Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	A	2.00		_____	_____
History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	C	25.00		_____	_____
Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Lary Haworth, Chaplain	C	11.00		_____	_____
Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) Man's Woman's	B	20.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> colored <input type="checkbox"/> subdued	B	4.00		_____	_____
Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed sabers, together then, together again	B	10.00		_____	_____
Coin, Blackhorse 100 year memorial, 1.5" crossed sabers/BH insignia	B	10.00		_____	_____
Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	B	20.00		_____	_____
Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00		_____	_____
Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	15.00		_____	_____
License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	B	5.00		_____	_____
License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	C	6.00		_____	_____
Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	C	30.00		_____	_____
Tote Bag, red & black, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	B	20.00		_____	_____
Barbeque Apron, white, 24x30 w/full color BH insignia new	B	25.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Pin	A	4.00		_____	_____
11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Xuan Loc"	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Quan Loi"	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "100 Year Anniversary of 11th Cav"	A	4.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00		_____	_____
Reunion pin (circle choice), Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Appleton, San Diego, Eugene	A	1.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia	B	70.00		_____	_____
Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21).....	C	35.00		_____	_____
Men's Ring, 10k gold w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	A	275.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Patch Temporary Tatoo	A	3.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Video (based on book) (specify format) <input type="checkbox"/> VHS <input type="checkbox"/> DVD	A	30.00		_____	_____
M-113 ACAV, 1/43 scale model	C	42.50		_____	_____
Blackhorse Tshirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	B	16.00		_____	_____
Note: all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL Specify size and color preference of item requested.					
Henley Shirt, 100% cotton, short sleeve, round neck w/full color BH insignia and VN ribbon. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White A	B	20.00		_____	_____
Golf Shirt, 100% cotton w/full color BH insignia on left front. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one)	B	30.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Sweatshirt, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic w/full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	B	25.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left)	B	75.00		_____	_____
Women's Sleeveless Shirt w/BH insignia. (available in size small also) Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Butter Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one)	B	20.00		_____	_____
Shipping Costs: A items = \$3.00; B items = \$5.00 (max shipping is \$7.50 per order); C items = \$7.50					_____
					Subtotal

					Shipping and Handling

					Total

Name _____		Phone _____			
Address _____					
City/State/Zip _____					
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address change					
Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$7.50. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to "11th ACVVC." Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. Prices effective until 12/31/04. Previous price lists invalid. Mail order to: 11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Rodney H. George, 21450 West Nine Mile Road, Huson, MT 59846.					



From the Quartermaster...

Rodney H. George

Greetings to all! Hi there. As we go to press there are a few new things to discuss. We have three new items that are now available on the order form. First item is a Corgi all-metal, 1/43 scale ACAV that was done from pictures of Captain Frank Cambria's ACAV. It is a beautiful addition to any collection and will be priced at \$42.50 and requires \$7.50 shipping. The second item is our new challenge coin. It will be available by the time the Thunder Run comes out. It will be silver-colored with the Blackhorse insignia on one side and Crossed Sabers with 11th over them on the reverse. It

will sell for \$10.00 and require \$5.00 in shipping. Our last new item is a book written by Reverend Larry Haworth "Tales of Thunder Run" it will be available for \$11.00 and requires \$7.50 shipping. I hope that you will all choose to enjoy these new items. The ACAV is a limited item and will be sold only until they run out.

I will not be attending the Daytona Reunion but plans are in the works to have the quartermaster store open and available in Daytona. I hope that you all have a wonderful time at the reunion! Elida and I will miss seeing all of you at the reunion.

M-113 ARMORED CAVALRY ASSAULT VEHICLE (ACAV)

Precision-engineered, exceptionally well-detailed die-cast metal scale 1:43 model ACAV. (made by Corgi) For the adult collector. (not a toy).

VERY LIMITED ISSUE



Each piece contains a numbered, limited edition certificate, and a booklet with the specifications of the vehicle and a true story relating to the actual vehicle from which the model was designed. Based on actual photographs and personal accounts, this ACAV was reproduced the exact mud-splattered ACAV used by retired U.S. Army Captain

Frank R. Cambria (G Troop, 2/11, 1970 - 71) who rode the ACAV as an armored recon Platoon Leader with the Blackhorse.

Price \$42.50 plus \$7.50 shipping and handling. Very limited quantities, we may not be able to restock. Sold on a first come first served basis. Order using the Quartermaster order form in this issue.

REUNION 2004 INFORMATION DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

- Dates:** August 6,7 and 8, 2004.
- Hotel:** Adams Mark, 100 North Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, Fl. 32118
- Room Rates:** \$119.00 per night S/O- D/O. Room rates are good for 3 days prior and 3 day after event
- Reservations:** Direct to Hotel 1-(386) 254-8200
Central Booking 1 (800) 444 ADAM (2326)
ADA Rooms are available to our group
- Parking** Self Park-Free; Indoor Garage-\$6.00; Valet Park-\$10.00

Any rooms in our block not reserved by July 3, 2004 must be turned in. After that date, the rate will be the hotel's normal charge (in their prime tourist season.)

Steve Page, Reunion chairman

CHAPLAIN from page 10

to explain because that's the source of my authority for saying this: "...Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps, 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:21-24 - NIV)

Jessica is a hero to me. So is John. Actually, a lot of you vets are too. Jessica didn't shoot a lot of the enemy. Still she was still in the thick of the battle. She's a hero to me. John shot at many of the enemy. He was in the thick of a firefight, was left as dead and was gone POW when his buddies came back to get him. Others were in the thick of things too. You know what I'm saying. I know you feel deeply about this. So do I. I also feel deeply about what God through his Son, Jesus Christ, has done. I hope you feel deeply about that too.

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

*Chaplain Larry Haworth
176 Rainbow Drive, #7627
Livingston, Texas 77399
LEHaworth@aol.com*

DUMB from page 8

the other pilot - - You get the idea . . .

We were not sure if the troops on the ground were much amused or much alarmed by this peculiar behavior and our erratic flight path - but we made it, thanks to a little blessing from above and Mr. Brooks' flying skill. We delivered the NVA Officer back to Quan Loi, deposited him with the proper authority, and then gratefully took the rest of the day off to recover and to re-hydrate at the Officer's Club.

**Charles Abbey served with the Regiment as Aviation Section Leader, 2/11 (Battle 17), from 1966 to 1967. Then as Air Cavalry Troop Commander (Thunder Horse 6) from 1969 to 1970, he finished his tour in 1970 as the Regimental Aviation Staff Officer. Charles is a frequent contributor to Thunder Run.*

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) _____

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACV VC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickral, 1602 Lorrie Drive, Richardson, TX 75080.**

☆☆☆ Membership is Our Strength ☆☆☆
 It's not the price you pay to belong,
 It's the price you paid to become eligible to join



Thunder Run
 11th ACVVC
 P O Box 717
 Soddy Daisy, TN 37384

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