



Thunder Run

Vol. 22 – NO. 2

“Together Then – Together Again”

2nd Quarter, 2007

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

LOUISVILLE, KY

REUNION XXII

■ 6-9 September 2007

Steve Page

Reunion Committee Chairman

The Louisville Reunion is in the final planning stages. This Reunion promises to be one of the most meaningful in recent years. One of the highlights we are all looking forward to is the rededication of our Monument at Fort Knox on Saturday, 8 September.

Hotel room bookings are well ahead of recent reunions and we are already at 108% of our initial block of 425 rooms for Friday and Saturday nights. The hotel still has plenty of rooms available but they are not unlimited. To ensure that you get the type room you desire, I advise that you make your hotel reservations as soon as you can. Hotel information is on the 11thACVVC Reunion Registration form and on the web site: www.11thcavnam.com.

We also need your reunion registration form ASAP. We use the number of registrations received to plan many of the activities. Make sure they are mailed to our Treasurer Ollie Pickral. The information provided on the registration forms gives us data we need to put on a first class event.

Please turn to **REUNION** on page 7

Sausages, Eggs, and Biscuits

By Frank R. Cambria
Secretary, 11ACVVC

25 APRIL 1970

The morning sun was barely over the treetops as my Blackhorse cavalry platoon, followed by billowing clouds of red dust, rolled noisily into G Troop’s night defensive perimeter (NDP) just a few clicks south of the Cambodian border. An hour earlier in my platoon NDP, I announced that our Troop Commander Captain Sewall Menzel and our Mess Sergeant somehow managed to

get 25 dozen fresh eggs flown out from Quan Loi. With much anticipation, the men of my platoon policed our NDP, recovered their claymores and trip flares, and moved out in record time.

We were greeted with the delightful aromas of real fried eggs, link sausages, biscuits, and real brewed coffee that cut through the dust and heavy mixed scent of diesel fuel and vehicle exhaust hanging in the thick humid morning air. Most of my soldiers jumped off their tracks and ran to the Troop’s outdoor field kitchen.

Please turn to **BREAKFAST** on page 9



Officers and Directors of the 11thACVVC meet in Executive Session (annual mid-year meetings) at Cibolo Creek Ranch near Marfa, TX. From left to right: Director, Jim Holt; Treasurer, Ollie Pickral; Director, Rod George; Secretary, Frank Cambria; President, Chuck Schmidt; Vice President, Allen Hathaway; Director, Bob Moreno; and Reunion Chairman, Steve Page.

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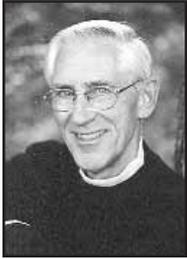
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From The Command Track

By Chuck Schmidt, President



Chuck Schmidt,
President, 11th ACVVC

As we begin the countdown to the XXII Annual Reunion in Louisville, KY, to be held the first week in September, it is evident that this will be a truly memorable event. Hotel reservations are way ahead of normal counts and enthusiasm is beginning to mount on the prospect for many of us returning to the locale of our initial training in the Army. Fort Knox holds many memories for 11th Armored Cavalry Troopers who completed BCT, AIT, NCOA, AOBC, or a host of other acronyms from our past. In addition, the 11th Cavalry's Vietnam Memorial Monument is located at Knox and will be a focus of our side trip on 8 September 2007. Fort Knox will be undergoing a transformation in the near future. The latest round of downsizing and realignment for the Department of Defense resulted in a decision to move the Armor School to Fort Benning, GA. This will be a major change for Fort Knox which has been the "Home of Armor" for decades.

Our monument is located in the Armor and Cavalry Memorial Garden adjacent to the Patton Museum. The 11th ACR's Vietnam Monument is the focal point at the entrance of the Garden and is the most prominent and unique of all the memorials. With the transfer of the Armor School there has been much speculation on the status of the Patton Museum. As of this date, the Patton Museum Foundation has focused on retaining the Patton legacy at Fort Knox, and is formulating plans to expand and build a new state of the art museum at the same location. We, the 11thACVVC Officers and Directors, believe that the Memorial Garden will remain at its present location and our monument will continue to be the most prominent at that location. It is the position of the 11thACVVC that as long as the Patton Museum remains where it is, our monument will also remain there. There has been some talk of moving it to Fort Benning along with the Armor School, but we are opposed to that move. If the monument ever has to move, we believe

...we continue to attract Troopers who served with the Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia with close to 150 new members this quarter after gaining about 1,000 over the last 18 months.

that a more appropriate location would be with the Regiment at Fort Irwin, CA. We believe that the Regiment would be more likely to protect our legacy and to honor our Fellow Troopers whose names are inscribed on the edifice.

During our trip to Fort Knox, we will conduct our usual memorial ceremony but will also rededicate our monument which will have undergone a significant transformation. All of the large bronze plaques are in the process of being totally redone to correct misspellings, adding those names that had been inadvertently left off, and deleting names of soldiers who never served with the Regiment and were erroneously placed on our monument. In addition we are regrouping the names by unit so each Squadron will occupy one side of the four-sided obelisk. We are also going to honor the Troopers of the Regiment who lost their lives during other conflicts by adding three smaller obelisks. See our write up on the monument and the donations associated with the fundraiser to offset some of costs of the renovation. Your donation of \$100 will allow the placement of a granite brick paver on the "Circle of Honor" around the current structure and provide some funds for the renovation. Since we plan to have this in place by September we need orders no later than the end of June. To have a brick inscribed and placed subsequent to that time will require a donation of \$125 to cover the additional costs of on site engraving. We urge you to support this worthwhile endeavor.

There are a number of exciting things going on in your organization. As you can see in the "Welcome Aboard" section, we continue to attract Troopers who served with the Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia with close to 150 new members this quarter after gaining about 1,000 over the last 18 months. Allen Hathaway (HHT Regt, '66-'67), Membership Chairman, continues to amaze us with his persistent pursuit of innovative ways to find our long

lost "Brothers." Your Scholarship Program is going strong with record numbers of donors and record amounts donated to support the college education of our members' children. We hope that we can soon begin to include grandchildren as candidates in this worthy program. Gene Johnson (E Troop, 2/11, '70-'71) has chaired this program for the past four years, and will be stepping down shortly to pursue other challenges. Thanks Gene for a job well done. Joe Willey's (HHT Regt, '69-'70) committee, "Operation Embrace", our effort to locate, communicate with and invite into our family the next of kin (NOK) of our KIA's is moving along nicely with more and more being added monthly. Our web site is a great conduit to communicate with our membership and to promote our service to visitors to the site. Otis Carey (F Troop, 2/11, '71-'72) and Pete Echon (F Troop, 3/11, '69-'70) continue to do us a tremendous service with their selfless service.

Pete Walter (HOW, 3/11, '70) has done a terrific job setting up the Funeral Honor Guard which tries to ensure one of our members is present for the final rites of any of our members making the journey to "Fiddler's Green". Pete is also seeking relief from this committee, and any member interested in assisting should contact Pete to ascertain the parameters of the job. Jerry Beamon (K Troop, 3/11, '69-'70) is tirelessly working the Quartermaster Store and has made some significant improvements in timely service and delivery of our fine memorabilia. Jerry and Jan have a never-ending job in providing this vital service to our members. Steve Page (B Troop, 1/11, '66-'67), Reunion Chair works tirelessly year-round to ensure we have great venues and smooth running activities. Rick O'Dell (919 Eng Co, '68-'69) has served many years as our Service Chair and has been critically important in helping many obtain help and earned benefits. Rick has requested relief so he can

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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. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," James M. "Jim" Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 <Jgriff11@aol.com>

President	Charles L. Schmidt (I Troop 3/11, 67-68) 15110 Jessie Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (719) 487-0291 <Colusaret@yahoo.com>	Editor	James M. (Jim) Griffiths (F Troop, 2/11, 1968-1969) 3784 Michigan Ave. Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 (269) 465-3414 <Jgriff11@aol.com>
Vice President & Membership Chair	Allen Hathaway, (HHT Regiment, 66-67) 13194 Rettew Drive Manassas, VA 20112 (703) 791-6610 <11thcav1966@comcast.net>	Internet Coord.	Otis Carey (F Troop, 2/11, 71-72) PO Box 124 Ekron, KY 40117 (270) 828-2512 <carey@kysales.com>
Secretary	Frank R. Cambria, CPT USA (RET) (G Troop, 2/11, 70-71) 55 Dorothy Way Novato, CA 94945 (415) 897-4003 <Captain.Frank@Covad.net>	Website Manager	Pete Echon (F Troop, 2/11, 69-70) 1624 Kenneth Ave Arnold, PA 15068-4219 (724) 335-8396 <ftroop2@comcast.net>
Treasurer	Ollie W. Pickral, (K Troop 3/11, 68-69) 571 Ditchley Road Kilmarnock, VA 22482 (804) 435-3658 <11cavalry@verizon.net>	Service Chair	Richard E. O'Dell, (919th Engr, 68-69) 5309 Golden Circle NE Roanoke VA 24012 (540) 977-1990 <rickodell@earthlink.net>
Director	Robert "Bob" Moreno (G Troop 2/11, 68-69) 24284 Endeavor Ave. Tomah, WI 54660 (608) 372-5892 <Blackhorse68@Charter.net>	Reunion Committee Chair	Steve Page (B Troop, 1/11, 66-67) 5400 Little River Neck Road North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582 (843) 280-4506 <stephen.r.page@verizon.net>
Director	James D. "Jim" Holt (HOW, 1/11/ 67-68) PO Box 1948 Plainview, TX 79073-1948 (806) 296-2632 <blkhrs6768@sbcglobal.net	Historian	Don Snedeker 2221 Tulip Dr Falls Church, VA 22046 (703) 676-4019 (W) (703) 241-0794 (H) <snedekerd@saic.com>
Director	Rodney H. George (How 3/11, 66-67) 21450 Ninemile Rd., Huson, MT 59846 (406) 626-5819 <rhg1ekg2@aol.com	Public Affairs	Eric Newton (K Troop, 3/11, 1968-1969) P. O. 956 Colleyville, TX 76034 <Armor11ACR@aol.com>
Scholarship Chair	Gene Johnson (E Troop 2/11, 70-71) PO Box 296 Milam, TX 75959 (409) 625-1736 <gene677@aol.com>	Funeral Honor Guard	Peter L. Walter (HOW, 3/11, 70) 8 Tallowood Drive Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 (609) 261-5629 <basepiece70@verizon.com>
Chaplain	Lawrence E. Haworth, (HHT 2/11, 69-70) 176 Rainbow Dr., #7627 Livingston, TX 77399 (661) 860-0093 (cell) <lehaworth@aol.com>	Women's Coordinator	Barb Moreno 24284 Endeavor Ave. Tomah, WI 54660 (608) 372-5892 <puppytoes@charter.net>
Auditor	William "Bill" Suhre (I Troop, 3/11 '68) 217 83rd Ave Greeley, CO 80634 (970) 330-7900 <thesurreys@aol.com>	Operation Embrace	Chairman: Joe Willey (HHT Regt, 69-70) 2793 Ocean Oaks Dr. South Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 (904) 583-1642 <11thackria@gmail.com>
Quartermaster	Jerry L. Beamon, (K Troop, 3/11, 1969-1970) 15926 Cedar Bay Dr Bullard, TX 75757 <JerryLBea@aol.com>		

Newsletter Deadlines

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

First Quarter.....Jan 15
Second Quarter.....Apr 15
Third QuarterJul 1
Fourth Quarter.....Oct 15

All submissions for publication must be sent to: Jim Griffiths, Editor, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106.
 Email: JGriff11@aol.com.

REUNION 2007 (XXII)

LOUISVILLE, KY
 SEPTEMBER 6-9, 2007

GALT HOUSE

140 N. Fourth St., Louisville, KY 40202

1-800-THE-GALT (843-4258), or: 1-502-589-5200

\$89.00 SO/DO West Tower Standar: \$119.00 SO/DO East Tower Suites

(SO = Single Occupancy; DO = Double Occupancy)

(Rates good for three days prior and three days after dates listed)

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY!

Join us as we rededicate our restored Memeorial at Fort Knox

REGISTRATION FORM



11thACVVC Reunion XXII ♦ Louisville, KY

Thursday, September 6th thru Sunday, September 9th, 2007



Make hotel reservations separately at:
THE GALT HOUSE, 140 N FOURTH ST, 40202
1-502-589-5200 or 1-800-THE GALT (843-4258)

Registration fee is \$78.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled program events including the "Bunker" on Thursday and Friday, lunch on Saturday at Fort Knox and the Saturday Banquet. (Transportation to Fort Knox and lunch at Fort Knox is included in the Registration Fee)

Please Register Early!! The registration fee will be an additional \$10.00 per person for registrations received after August 10, 2007!

Please Print All Information:

Name: _____ Telephone No: _____

Address: _____ Email address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Unit Assignment: _____ Years in Country _____
list only **one** Troop/Company (ie B Troop 66/1967 or H Co 69/70)

Attendees

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Banquet Meal Selection:(choose one per banquet attendee): ___ Chicken ___ Beef ___ Veggie

Special dietary needs: Yes No Please indicate needs: _____

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

Please continue registration on page 5

REUNION REGISTRATION

By: Bob "Two Dogs" Moreno,
Reunion Registration Director.

First let me say what fun Barb and I have every year working at the registration desk. Not only do we stay busy but hey, we get to see everyone who comes in.

This year we are adding our son Raleigh to our team so be sure to say hi to him. He seems to be pretty excited about going to reunion and helping. He has this wonderful idea that because he's helping this year that we can actually go and sit and visit everyone in the bunker. Keep thinking that son, keep thinking it.

Registrations have really been coming in, in great numbers. It is only the beginning of April and Barb has already made over 150 nametags. Besides the nametags she has started to locate some interesting little tidbits about Louisville and the surrounding area to put in your packets.

The cruise is an exciting aspect to the reunion this year. And I must tell you from having been stationed at Fort Knox that we are getting an amazing deal from them. The meal alone is probably worth more than the \$20 we are paying.

We have noticed that many of you are meeting friends in Louisville who are not attending the reunion but are taking the cruise with us. This is wonderful, but please remember, they will

Continued ➤

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Friday, September 7, 2007



Evening cruise on the Ohio River Aboard the Belle of Louisville.



Buffet dinner included in price of the two-hour cruise. (dock is walking distance from the Galt House Hotel)

We are currently planning on two departure times: 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm.
(the first returns to the dock at 6:30 and the second at 9:30pm)

The Belle of Louisville can accomodate up to 400 guests per trip.

When first cruise fills, we will go ahead with the second cruise. the cost for cruise and dinner is \$20.00 per person. (If we can fill only one cruise, it will load at 6:00 and return at 9:00pm). Early return of reunion and/or cruise registration is an absolute must to avoid late fees!

Belle Of Louisville Cruise:

Number Attending: _____

Preferred Time _____ (4:00 or 7:00pm)

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Number Attending Dinner Cruise X \$20.00:\$ _____

Reunion Registration Fee (From Above):\$ _____

Grand Total:\$ _____

Send check/money order (no cash please) for the full amount, payable to: 11 ACVVC REUNION XXI, or complete information below for Visa or MasterCard.

Visa MasterCard (Check one) Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature (Required) _____

Mail to: 11ACVVC Reunion XXII, c/o Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Road, Kilmarnock, VA 22482

only have the cruise tickets and not tickets to any of the other reunion activities to include the bunker, food or drinks that may be available to reunion attendees nor to any of the meetings or banquet. Only those people with the reunion name tags will gain entrance to these activities. This is why it is important that all registered folks wear their nametags at all times.

Also remember that there are only two cruise times to choose from. They are 4PM and 7PM. We have received several registrations asking for the 6:30 cruise. There is NO 6:30 cruise. I think what is happening is that you are seeing the return time, 6:15, for the 4PM cruise.

As you know we will be going to Fort Knox on Saturday for the memorial rededication. There will be buses available for you

take as well as directions if you wish to drive your POV. If you do drive, please remember that the parking is VERY limited. So be prepared to walk.

We will have available at the registration table blank forms to purchase the memorial bricks for the monument at Fort Knox. There will also be blank forms in your registration packet. This is a wonderful idea to do to remember your time in service or any special event or time in your life. Barb and I are having a brick done in remembrance of her father who served in the 8th Army Air Corp during World War II.

As I said registrations are coming in and so far I have not had to call too many people to verify information that was unread-

Continued on page 23



Jim Griffiths, Editor
Thunder Run

Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths

Thirty seven years ago this spring Richard Nixon's Vietnamization plan was well under way. This plan consisted of withdrawing American troops from Vietnam in an orderly fashion as the South Vietnamese military assumed a greater share of the defense of their country.

In order to hasten Vietnamization Nixon ordered U.S. Troops into Cambodia in late April, 1970 to destroy North Vietnamese and Vietcong sanctuaries in that country. Nixon made clear that this was a temporary move and not a widening of the war. The goal was to destroy the enemy's staging areas that were used to launch operations into South Vietnam. By destroying these sanctuaries, American troops could be reduced more rapidly and the safety of the remaining troops be protected more effectively

True to Nixon's word the troops that had entered into Cambodia in late April were withdrawn by the end of June. The incursion into Cambodia was a rousing success in that it greatly reduced the threat to remaining American forces, bought time for the South Vietnamese forces to further develop the ability to defend themselves, and allowed the continuation of the reduction of American forces in Vietnam.

Unfortunately, the incursion was viewed erroneously by many in America (especially on college campuses) as a widening of the war and ignited many demonstrations against the war and incursion. I had returned home from Vietnam a year earlier, finished my hitch in the Army in December, and was around to witness the reaction in the U.S. to the incursion. I was appalled at the ignorance of people shown by the reaction to the incursion. I knew that this move was great strategy. I tried to explain to the antiwar people (to little avail) that this incursion would help achieve the reduction of American presence in Vietnam that they had been screaming for more rapidly. Most of them continued to see the move

I would like to encourage you to support the Memorial Restoration and Rededication through the purchase of a brick. It is OUR historical legacy to those who gave all and is symbolic of the *esprit de corps* of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia.

into Cambodia as a widening of the war and could not be dissuaded from this view. The Kent State tragedy resulted from this misguided view of the incursion in my estimation.

As pieces of information began to trickle in through broadcast media I learned that the 11th ACR was one of the lead units on the ground into Cambodia. At first this was a source of great pride for me but it also led to a sense of apprehension knowing that our guys would be in the thick of it. I reached an emotional equilibrium knowing that the 11th ACR was well suited for its role and it was later proven that it rose to the occasion in Cambodia and contributed immensely to this mission as it had done on all its missions previously in Vietnam

Hats off to those of you who were there. Hats off to all who served in the 11th ACR which did a superb job during all eras of the war. Most of all as we celebrate Memorial Day, the greatest salute of gratitude belongs to those who gave all. You will never be forgotten!

Your 2nd quarter issue of *Thunder Run*

again will again be a thirty two page edition. We just seem to have more and more things to put in the newsletter. Keep the contributions coming. A great deal of information is in the issue about the Reunion of course. We also have articles from our regular contributors that will keep you up to speed on what's going on in the association.

I mentioned earlier remembering those who gave all. I would like to encourage you to support the Memorial Restoration and Rededication through the purchase of a brick. To this day I am amazed at the foresight that was shown by somebody to get that Memorial out of Blackhorse base camp in Vietnam and back to the United States. It is OUR historical legacy to those who gave all and is symbolic of the *esprit de corps* of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Our *esprit* and honor will transcend all time restraints perpetually through this monument. ALLONS

Enjoy your *Thunder Run*!

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: _____

REUNION from page 1

Dinner Cruise reservations on the Belle of Louisville are coming in at a good pace. This will be a very pleasant evening out. Names are listed by date received for each of the two cruises. In the extremely unlikely event we only fill one cruise the lists will be combined again by date received to determine priority for admission. If one of the cruises fills up, members requesting that cruise will be offered the other time frame if space is still available. The Belle of Louisville is handicapped accessible. It should also be noted that as a City property The Belle is smoke free.

A tentative schedule of events is in this issue of *Thunder Run* for your planning purposes. The final version will be in the next quarterly publication. The Reunion Committee requests your cooperation as we expect a very large turnout this year, and activities on Saturday will be successful only with the patience of all attendees as we load and unload busses and attempt to move a crowd that will probably exceed 1,200 participants.

The Officers, Directors, and The Reunion Committee are looking forward to seeing all of you in Louisville.

In the Headlines!

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges [You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?]

Man Struck By Lightning Faces Battery Charge [He probably IS the battery charge!]

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group [Weren't they fat enough?]

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft [That's what he gets for eating those beans!]

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks [Taste like chicken!]

Chef Throws His Heart into Helping Feed Needy [That was really giving of himself!]

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half [Chainsaw Massacre all over again!]

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors [Boy, are they tall!]

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead [nuff said!]

PRESIDENT from page 2

concentrate on other projects and will be stepping down later this year. Jack Morrison, (A Troop, 1/11, '67-'69) has agreed to work this area in the future. We are greatly indebted to these and the numerous other volunteers (men and women) and Committee Chairmen who keep the organization running to serve our members. We have the best volunteer staff in the business!!

At our recent mid-year meetings, the Officers and Directors reviewed all of our programs, and are working hard to ensure these programs are the right way to continue to serve the membership and to improve those programs for your benefit. In the next issue of *Thunder Run*, we will have some updates on some of the initiatives and modifications that we are proposing to update and upgrade our operations.

A tentative schedule of events for the Reunion in Louisville is posted in this issue of *Thunder Run* and on the web site (go to www.11thcavnam.com and "click" on reunion). Due to the many activities on Saturday, we thought about scheduling the Annual Business Meeting on Friday, but decided that too many members may not be checked in by then, so we will have the meeting Saturday afternoon to ensure maximum attendance. This is an election year with all four officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and one of our three Directors to be voted on for the next two years for Officers and a three-year term for the Director position. Our movement of the Annual Meeting to Saturday afternoon should allow an opportunity for most to attend and vote on these and other issues to come before the membership.

Lastly, and most importantly, I again appeal for all our members to truly support our Troops. Although a magnetic ribbon on your car is a nice gesture, true support is shown as we hope and pray for the success of their endeavors (in Iraq, Afghanistan, and wherever they are posted in the United States or abroad) and the safe return of those in harm's way. Many of these defenders of our great country are deployed for the second or third time and the latest tours have been extended an additional three months for the Army and Marines. Imagine being on your 10th month in Vietnam and you and your family being told that your return would be delayed for three months!! Our soldiers today have earned our support as they fight and put their lives on the line daily—they are truly brave Americans. Every time they are ordered to go on the streets, in the cities or in the country byways of Iraq or Afghanistan they are putting their lives in jeopardy and showing courage through their compliance with mission orders. The least we at home can do is support their successful completion of those missions. We have just learned that elements of our Regiment may deploy later this year from Fort Irwin. Both I Troop and K Troop have been alerted to prepare to deploy (Yes, these two Troops from the former 3rd Squadron have been activated, and I and K Troopers can be proud to see their guidons once again unfurled). For sure, these magnificent young men and women of our Armed Forces have earned our respect and our thanks. I only ask that each of you reach out to our Troopers, shake their hand, and thank them for their sacrifices!

Silent Auction Items Needed

Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during the XXII Annual Reunion in Louisville. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item or service of value is welcome, Cav related or not. You can bring items with you to the Reunion, or you can ship them to Terry Stivers who has volunteered to collect, hold, and bring them to the reunion hotel for display. If you plan to ship items, send to: 11thACVVC, c/o Terry Stivers, 3509 Chapel Lane, New Albany, IN 47105

If you will bring the item with you to the Reunion, it would be helpful to notify the Silent Auction Chairman, Rod George, E-mail rhg1ekg2@aol.com or tele # (406) 626-5819 so he can make preparations for your item,

Thanks for your generous donations!

THE 16TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, September 6, 2007
 Lyndsey Golf Course
 Clyde Hill PGA Golf Professional
 4024 Bullion Blvd
 Fort Knox, KY 40121-5000
 Phone 502-624-4218

Superb Club Facilities!

(They did great job in 1996 and we're looking forward to a repeat performance)

\$55 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 \$55 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by August 28, 2007 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!!! FORE!



15TH 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 Draw, Woodbury, MN 55125

Call 651-246-8009 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by August 28, 2007. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of best facilities in the Louisville area. 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. Tee times will be in the 7:30-8:30 AM range with lunch between 12:30 and 1:30.

11th ACR Iraqi Freedom III Dietz Print for Sale

The Regiment received 750 prints of the Dietz print shown below depicting the Regiment in action on a night operation in Iraq in 2005. About 400 of the prints have been sold and the remaining 350 are being made available through the Sutler Store that operates out of the museum at Fort Irwin, CA. Each print sells for \$125 with all profits from the sales going to the local Fort Irwin Chapter of the Blackhorse Association's Iraqi Hero Scholarship Fund. Troopers interested in supporting this worthwhile effort and obtaining a historic print, please contact Alex Silverman (Sutler Store Manager) at alexsilverman2005@yahoo.com, or via telephone at (760) 524-2885. Alex will also be able to assist on framing options.



Blackhorse Memorial Day Wreath at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial (The Wall)

All Blackhorse Troopers, family, and friends are invited to participate in the annual Memorial Day wreath laying at the Wall.

When: 10:00 AM, Monday, 28 May 2007.

Where: Near the Three Soldiers Statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C.

Who: All Blackhorse Troopers (all eras), family and friends.

What: We will initially gather near the statue of the Three Soldiers, say a few words, and then informally carry the wreath to the apex of the Wall (I'll be there by 09:30, so look for the Blackhorse Patch Wreath).

Please pass this information to anyone who might be interested in participating.

Allons!
 Don Snedeker
 703-676-4019

BREAKFAST from page 1

My mouth was salivating from the moment I captured a whiff of the meal. I couldn't stomach eating C-rats Worms-and-Turds (spaghetti and meatballs), Beanie-Weenies, or Mother@#%\$!-and-Gristle (chalky lima beans and discarded ham pieces) for breakfast. Instead, I experimented with cans of jellied ham and eggs that we had in abundance because none of my men would eat them. Eaten as the Army intended, the jellied ham and eggs had the appearance of stale vomit, the consistency of mud, the odor of spoiled meat, and tasted like something one might find rotting in the back of a cupboard. It was the most disliked C-ration meal ever dumped into a can. For weeks my breakfast had been reduced to eating cans of C-ration jellied ham and eggs with a splash of Tabasco sauce. If a C-ration tin of peanut butter (which was often so old the contents were dry and flaky) was available, I spooned it on top of the jellied ham and eggs and heated the concoction over a piece of burning C-4 until the peanut butter melted into a sticky goo.

Licking my lips as I made a quick check of all my tracks, I envisioned a half dozen sausages dripping with warm egg yolk from three eggs over easy, all nestled against two biscuits. I walked quickly to the mess line, standing behind my medic Mike "Doc" Rafferty as the two of us anxiously waited for the other men of my platoon to be served first. There were only two men remaining in line in front of us when Captain Menzel shouted for me to join his briefing. I pretended not to hear him because, at that minute, getting those sausages, eggs, and biscuits was the most important thing in my life. Menzel shouted at me again as Doc stepped into mess line. With only Doc between the mess line and me, I waved and shouted back to Menzel that I would be there as soon as I got my breakfast. But the C.O. yelled even louder, "NOW, LIEUTENANT!" Something must be urgent.

Cursing under my breath, I turned around and jogged over to his command track. I joined 2LT Bob Lewis and 1LT Gordy Crupper who were sitting on the ground finishing their breakfasts as Captain Menzel began his briefing. Muttering a quiet "Morning. . ." to every-

Licking my lips as I made a quick check of all my tracks, I envisioned a half dozen sausages dripping with warm egg yolk from three eggs over easy, all nestled against two biscuits

one, I plopped down next to Bob. Bob became my friend at the Special Jungle Warfare School in Panama, and we had partied hard for a weekend in Colon. CPT Menzel, whose first combat tour was with the 101st, was a sharp C.O. and the former 2nd Squadron S-2. I listened intently as he outlined a two-platoon recon mission I would lead later that morning.

The smell of Bob's steaming cup of brewed coffee and the sight of a lonely half-eaten sausage partially covered in bright yellow egg yolk on his plate made my stomach bellow a loud growl of hunger, disrupting my concentration. I'm sure I had a look of despair on my face as I imagined my sausages and eggs falling into the dirt and being stepped on by Menzel. Swallowing my pride, I reached out and plucked the thumb-sized piece of meat from Bob's plate. Menzel gave me a look of semi-disgust as I slowly chewed the cold but tasty morsel. Bob nudged me with his elbow and handed me his cup of coffee as I refocused on the briefing.

As soon as the briefing was over, I jogged back to the mess area for my long awaited hearty breakfast. My stomach turned in disappointment when I saw the cooks dismantling the field kitchen. Dejected, I was about to turn away when the Mess Sergeant spoke up, "Hey Lieutenant, if you're still hungry I got some of these left." He reached into a large pan of steaming hot water, pulled out a C-ration can, and tossed it to me. I caught the hot can with both hands and read the imprinted label: "JELLIED HAM AND EGGS." After thinking of real eggs fried over easy, juicy link sausages, warm biscuits, and real brewed coffee, I'd rather chew on the mess sergeant's sock than eat the contents of that can.

Two hours later, 2LT Bob Lewis and three troopers from my two-platoon recon patrol were dead. There were several others wounded including two men on my own ACAV 36. Doc Rafferty and I were both on 36, but we were spared. When the first helicopter arrived, I stood in stunned

silence watching my men gently load casualties into the Huey. I smelled Bob's blood and tissue on my face from where I had wiped away tears with a blood-covered hand. Doc Rafferty stood a few feet away from me with blood around his lips from giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to men with serious wounds. Blood was splattered all over his fatigues, and he held bloody bandages in each hand. He had done everything humanly possible to save and attend to our casualties.

The helicopter lifted off and disappeared over the treetops. Doc and I listened to the haunting echoes of the helicopter's WHOMP-Whomp-whomp fading away. Then Doc Rafferty, in a moment of heart-felt anger and frustration, threw the bandages to the ground and kicked them as hard as he could.

The combination of a verbal kick in the ass from the Squadron Commander and Doc's emotional reaction somehow helped me recover my composure to rally my men so we could continue our mission along the Cambodian border. For the first time, I lost men under my command, including a personal friend. My warrior's blood wanted revenge. The war had suddenly changed for me; it had now become very personal. It had become my war. Foremost in my thoughts was how to find the enemy and best protect my men while inflicting as many enemy casualties as possible.

As my armored cavalry recon patrol of ACAVs moved out in a cloud of red dust and swirling leaves, I mentally wiped the vision of that morning's tragic episode out of my mind for the next 15 years. . . until buried memories began to emerge. Instead, as I sat on top of my ACAV for the rest of that day, I smelled those sausages, fried eggs, and biscuits I missed for breakfast. And when I fell asleep that night, I did not relive the tragedy of the day. Instead, I tasted that delicious breakfast I missed that morning.

*Frank can be reached at
Captain.Frank@covad.net*



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) since our last issue of *Thunder Run*.

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
HHT REGIMENT		Conery, Michael R	71-71	Holmes, Malcolm L	68-68	Wike, David M	69-70
Bennett, Albert W	68-69	Connell, Barry D	71-72	Hudon, Theodore L	70-70	HOW BTRY, 1/11	
Brooks, William A	70-71	Easley, Van W	-	Maxwell, Eugene	67-68	Avila, David K	68-69
Chambliss, Clifford A III	69-70	Ennis, Thomas W Jr	71-71	Mcdonald, Edward J	68-68	Baylosis, William	68-68
Choate, John L	70-70	Fodor, Edward W Jr	69-70	Pierre, Henry	67-68	Bowling, Gary W	70-71
Finch, Kenneth W	69-70	Hackney, Thomas J	69-70	Riley, Robert F	67-68	Durant, Brad P	68-69
Fodor, Edward W Jr	69-70	Johnson, Wayne E	71-71	Tonkovich, Dennis P	68-69	Lau, Phillip M	69-70
Graham, James W	69-70	Mayer, Jeffrey G	71-72	Valdez, Daniel E	68-69	Powers, George D	70-71
Greeley, John M	69-70	Mishler, Richard M	68-70	Warren, Lester E	68-68	Righter, Larry R	70-71
Kempton, Kenneth R	68-69	Moore, Clarence L	71-71	Wright, Ralph C	70-71	Smith, John B	67-68
Klosiewicz, Thomas J Sr	68-68	409th RR DET		A TROOP, 1/11		Swenson, Richard W	70-71
Lee, Thomas S	70-70	Agurkis, Mike J	70-71	Fish, Gary D	69-70	HHT, 2/11	
Luce, Michael E	68-69	Gray, Larry N	69-69	Gresh, Vincent M	67-68	Ashley, Gail L	70-70
Marlowe, Kenneth B	70-70	Kwiatkowski, Richard K	69-70	Hall, Russell G	70-71	Baca, Seferino M	68-69
Mccann, Timothy M	68-69	Mcdaniel, John M	68-69	Hart, Johnny L	68-69	Bartling, David E	70-71
Neighbors, Andrew E	69-70	Wallace, Richard H	69-70	Hjort, Ronald A	69-69	Conkle, Clayton R	71-72
Purvis, Marida R	69-69	541st MI DET		Lawson, Ronald L	69-69	Dodd, Ephraim S	69-69
Quinn, Richard L	70-70	Kelly, Thomas R	69-70	Scherz, Gerald E	67-68	Fogleman, George C	71-72
Radovich, Jack A	68-68	Kopec, Joseph G	70-71	Simpson, Gary	70-70	Foreman, Charles G	69-70
Sacchetti, Albert J	66-67	Kopp, Lawrence F	68-68	Taylor, David C	70-70	Hawes, James M	71-72
Sargent, Daniel F	68-69	Mcnally, Brian T	70-70	Wickham, Charles R	68-68	Holt, Byrl D	67-68
Sherburn, Ivan E	69-69	Walkner, Thomas P	70-71	Windemuller, Paul E	67-68	Kelley, James F	70-70
Stribley, Ronald K	67-67	919th ENGINEER CO		B TROOP, 1/11		Kelly, Robert	67-68
Tafoya, Manuel S	70-71	Ashley, Gail L	-	Anderson, Paul V	67-68	Masters, Terry L	69-70
Trevino, Frank L	68-68	Cochran, Gary L	70-71	Cross, Michael P	70-70	Mcmillian, Joe R	70-71
Vines, Joseph P	70-71	Davis, David E	70-71	King, Charles A	68-69	Molino, Thomas M	70-71
Wheeler, Alan W	67-68	Diggs, Ben Jr	70-70	Mccallum, Chester A	68-69	Ossont, James R	69-69
Wieczorek, Jerome J	66-67	Goudard, Frank P	68-69	Rideau, Michael D	70-70	Parker, Curtis	71-72
Wright, George A Jr	69-70	Graham, John M	69-69	Smith, Zachary T	68-69	Powis, William S	71-71
AIR CAVALRY TROOP		Guardiola, Juan S	68-69	Varner, Noah Z Jr	66-67	Runion, Jack L	68-69
Broom, Gerald G	67-68	Harlow, Christopher D	68-69	Waldren, Robert C	67-68	Sabraski, David A	67-68
Cotton, A C	68-69	Heffley, David G	68-68	Way, Bobby J	68-68	Sanders, Gary V	66-67
Jenkinson, Joe B	69-70	Martin, Jesse R	70-71	Weltzien, James H	70-71	Schoenmaker, David G	69-70
Klosiewicz, Thomas J Sr	68-69	Mcdaniel, Elliott L	67-68	Yates, Lee B Jr	69-70	Scotka, Ronald L	71-72
Smith, Paul	68-69	Morman, Thomas E	70-70	C TROOP, 1/11		Sylvester, John B	70-71
Wichser, Donald J	70-71	Ravin, Frederick X Jr	69-69	Backes, James A	68-69	Thompson, George K	70-70
Wilson, Paul N	68-68	Robertson, Larry P	71-72	Brogdon, James J	70-70	Thornton, Thomas W	71-72
7th ARMY POSTAL UNIT		Tolan, Kenneth F	67-68	Casten, Walter W	69-69	Waddock, Thomas P	71-72
Abney, Gerald R	68-70	27th ENGINEER BN		Cowan, Cletus J	69-70	Wilson, Richard A	71-72
33rd CHEMICAL DET		Oberst, Daniel C	66-67	Johnson, Charles Jr	69-69	E TROOP, 2/11	
Olivarez, Raymond F	69-69	HHT, 1/11		Lefever, John F	69-70	Barnes, William A	71-71
37th MEDICAL CO		Brogdon, James J	70-70	Major, David L	69-69	Barton, Russell W	71-72
Bartling, David E	70-71	Bynum, Ronald H	67-68	Maurer, Benedict P	69-70	Brody, Martin J	68-69
Johnson, Kirk R	70-71	Bynum, Ronald H	70-70	Swenson, Richard W	70-71	Brooks, Ernest E	67-67
Moushey, Gerald D	67-68	Cassano, Salvatore J	65-67	Thomas, Ronald L	71-71	David, Lindly A	69-70
Thomas, Henry F	69-69	Clapp, Ely B II	68-68	D COMPANY, 1/11		Framke, David H	68-69
398th TRANS DET		Collins, Patrick J	70-71	Beach, Richard R	70-71	Granberry, Aaron A	71-71
Brooks, William A	70-70	Curry, Charles D	69-71	Fair, James H Jr	71-71	Kvale, Gregory S	68-68
Chambers, Thomas G	69-70	Fair, James H Jr	70-70	Fortnam, David B	70-70	Parker, Curtis	71-72
Charles, Darrell	67-69	Genthner, Wade M	70-70	Matzke, Kenneth J	67-68	Pearson, Carl A	70-71

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
Pritchett, Charley T	67-68	Shaw, Bobby Joe	71-71	HHT, 3/11		Wilson, Paul N	67-68
Ramsey, William L Jr	71-71	Sinn, Douglas L	71-72	Bobbitt, James D	67-68	K TROOP, 3/11	
Wooten, Marion W	67-68	Villarreal, Robert	70-70	Burns, Stuart R	67-68	Hall, Charles D	69-69
F TROOP, 2/11		Walker, Lawrence W Jr	69-70	Dewitt, Kenny R	68-69	Hormell, James D	67-67
Bosko, Charles B Jr	69-70	Walls, Keith L	71-71	Garbacz, Joseph A	68-69	Mckinley, Bruce E	69-70
Cash, Richard T	70-71	Wilson, Roscoe L	71-71	Novak, David C	70-70	Missey, Theodore J Jr	69-70
Childers, John H	71-71	Zuna, Dean W	68-68	Scrogam, Robert C	67-68	Peterson, Thomas B	68-69
Cospy, Willie L	69-70	H COMPANY, 2/11		Streeter, William F	67-68	Rutter, Richard D Jr	70-70
Cross, Frezell	68-69	Jones, Michael M	69-70	Stribley, Ronald K	69-69	Scrogam, Robert C	67-68
Helfrich, Richard A	71-72	Warren, Luther P	68-69	Stromberg, Wallace M	70-71	Sharp, Richard C	69-69
Kantner, Luther L	68-69	HOW BTRY, 2/11		Triplett, Larry D	69-70	L TROOP, 3/11	
Kekel, Jerome E	69-70	Barner, William M III	67-68	I TROOP, 3/11		Hryzan, Walter J	68-69
Kelley, James F	71-71	Barrows, Abram E	68-68	Albear, Canuto G	69-70	Martinez, David B	66-67
Kortright, Walter M	69-70	Brock, R B	69-70	Barber, Gus W	68-69	Miller, Joel L	67-68
Martin, Ronald W	65-67	Brooks, Ernest E	67-67	Barrows, Elwood A	70-70	Ramsey, William L Jr	70-71
Mcmillian, Joe R	70-71	Dodd, Ephraim S	68-68	Bearden, George L	66-67	Schneider, David F	68-69
Perez, Jose E	70-70	Easley, Van W	71-72	Brooks, Edward F Jr	70-70	Smith, Ronald C	69-70
Sharp, Richard C	71-71	Evans, Phillip D	68-68	Cooper, Marc P	68-69	Spencer, Fred L	68-68
Spencer, David R	71-71	Fung, Paul W	69-69	Coursen, David E	70-71	M COMPANY, 3/11	
Sturgill, Hubert W	70-71	Grabenhorst, John F	70-71	Dias, Joseph D	69-70	Everett, Roy L	70-71
Zingmark, David A	71-72	Hall, Shirley F	67-67	Dominguez, Manuel E	70-71	Noah, Michael J	66-67
G TROOP, 2/11		Mizer, William C Jr	70-70	Dominique, Dennis K	69-70	Stromberg, Wallace M	70-71
Barber, Robert B	69-70	Neilsen, Charles E	70-70	Gentile, Gerald P	69-70	Syvetsen, Gilbert J	70-71
Coley, Michael A	69-70	Ottenbreit, John J	70-71	Gray, Zane D	68-69	HOW BTRY, 3/11	
Cutlip, Stanley E	71-71	Righter, Larry R	71-71	Hurley, Jack E	69-69	Arabian, Gordon L Jr	67-68
Grabenhorst, John F	70-71	Shilling, Daniel D	71-72	Jaggard, Michael F	68-69	Behrend, Steven W	68-69
Hainley, Norman L	66-67	Spurrier, David L	69-70	Krimm, Francis J	68-68	Campbell, A J	67-68
Hynes, David A	68-69	Waters, William D	66-67	Longsworth, Larry R	70-70	Caswell, Danny D	67-68
Quintana, Jose A	69-70	Woellert, Larry J	70-71	Rees, William J Jr	68-68	Johnson, Ronnie L	68-69
Razo, Louis F	71-72			Sosa, Victor R	69-70	Stevenson, Earl D	69-70

Incoming...

Information provided by and for our Troopers

From Doc Bahnsen.....My new book titled "American Warrior"-A Combat Memoir of Vietnam", will be released soon. The book is about my 2 tours in Vietnam, the second one in the 11th ACR. Over 200 11th ACR veterans and friends provided input to the book. Early information on the book can be found on AMAZON.com and the Barnes and Noble web site. I plan to sign all the books that my 11th ACR brothers ask me to at the Louisville reunion.

Other Reunions of Interest (not to be confused with the 11th ACVVC Reunion)

• Blackhorse Association 2007 Reunion

11th ACR Reunion (hosted by Border Legion, Blackhorse Association)

Who: All former and current Blackhorse Troopers of all eras

Where: Williamsburg Hospitality House, 14-17 June 2007
415 Richmond Highway, Williamsburg, VA 23185

For more information, see www.blackhorse.com and www.11thacr.org; or contact one of the following Reunion Committee members: Glenn Snodgrass at (703) 250-3064, jgs525@cox.net, Tom Smart at (703) 769-1406, tom.smart@L-3com.com or Wes Walters at (571) 276-9471, wes.walters@saabin-ternational.com.

Chicago (2008) Reunion XXIII

Plans are being formulated for the XXIII 11th ACVVC Reunion in Rosemont, Illinois. Dates are August 21-24, 2008.

The Hyatt Regency O'Hare is in the process of completing a 60-million dollar renovation, making it one of the most state-of-the-art hotels in the Chicagoland area. We are looking into tours and preparing information on all attractions the Chicago area has to offer.

A few new and innovative ideas are being considered and as we get more information, it will be passed along to you. I would like to invite all members who live in the Chicagoland area that are interested in lending a hand to get together with Team Chicago for a short meeting in Louisville.

Our goal is to make the 2008 Chicago Reunion a memorable experience for all our troopers. Keep in mind that Chicago was deemed a desirable enough venue to be chosen as America's candidate for the 2016 Olympic Games.

Jim Kaszubowski
HHT- 3/11 66-67

2007 11th ACVVC Elections

By Frank R. Cambria, Secretary

The 11th ACVVC has five of seven Officer and Director positions expiring on 12/31/07. An election for all five positions will take place at the General Business Meeting during the 2007 Reunion.

We are now accepting nominations from the general membership for each of the five available positions. All nominations for Officers and Director of the 11th ACVVC at the 2007 election should be emailed to the association Secretary (me) to be placed on a preliminary ballot. Nominations may also be made in person from the floor at the meeting. Prior active duty rank is **not** a factor for nomination. The current serving Board consists of former draftees, NCOs, a "mustang," and a West Point graduate.

Any nominee not in attendance at the business meeting must have previously submitted to the Secretary a letter of acceptance of nomination as candidate for the office to which he is nominated. Most importantly, all candidates for office must be dues-paid Life members.

Each eligible candidate on the ballot will have an opportunity to address the membership at the General Meeting to state his qualifications for the position.

Each elected member of the Board of Directors is expected to attend two Board meetings annually (Bylaws require that a minimum of one Board meeting must held), and to be in regular email communication with the Board of Directors regarding a multitude of ongoing association projects and business requiring decisions and oversight by the Board of Directors. Furthermore, each member of the Board of Directors must be able to commit themselves to "specific areas of interest" (committees, projects, etc.) within the 11th ACVVC as directed by the President.

It is an established fact that all members of the Board of Directors dedicate substantial personal time to the performance of their assigned duties. Also, the Bylaws state that they "...will conduct themselves at all times in a matter consistent with the high office to which they have been elected."

The following is a review the election procedures required by our association's Bylaws for its Officers and Board of Directors:

- Every "odd numbered year" the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected biennially at the annual meeting to serve a two-year term starting on January 1 of the following year and terminating at midnight, December 31 of the next year. 2007 is an odd numbered year.

- One Director will be elected annually to a three-year term.

- In the event of an unplanned vacancy in any office, or because of inability or refusal to serve, the office shall be filled

"pro tem" by a majority vote of the remaining Officers. Typically this person would serve the balance of the vacant unfinished term.

- Officers and Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of the dues-paid members in attendance at the business meeting.

- An Officer may succeed himself no more than two consecutive terms (which means a maximum of three consecutive terms) with the exception of the incumbent Treasurer and Secretary who may run for re-election to those offices without term limitation. This exception for the Treasurer and Secretary is to facilitate continuity of key administrative functions and the coordination of the Board of Directors and its numerous committees.

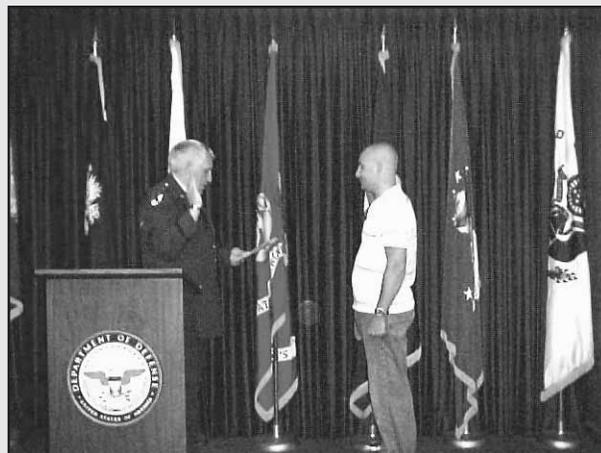
The current terms being served by the Board of Directors are as follows:

1. **President**, Chuck Schmidt. Term expires 12/31/07
2. **Vice President** Allen Hathaway. Term expires 12/31/07
3. **Secretary** Frank R. Cambria. Term expires 12/31/07
4. **Treasurer** Ollie Pickral. Term expires 12/31/07
5. **Director** Jim Holt. Term expires 12/31/07
6. **Director Bob** Moreno. Term expires 12/31/08
7. **Director** Rod George. Term expires 12/31/09

All five of the terminating Officers and Directors qualify to run for another term in their current position at the 2007 election if they accept a nomination for another term.

Secretary Frank may be contacted at Captain.Frank@covad.net.

A Trooper Tradition



Retired Warrant Officer Jack Morrison (A Troop, 1/11, 67-69) proudly swears in his son, Sgt. Christopher Morrison for his third enlistment in the Army. Christopher has seven years prior service and has done tours in Kosovo and Iraq.

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

Schedule of Events (Tentative) – 6-9 September 2007

Wednesday, 5 September

1400-1800 Registration Open for Early Arrivals

Thursday, 6 September

0800-???? 16th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament
 0900-1800 Registration Open
 1000-1800 Quartermaster Store Open
 1400-2400 "Bunker" Open
 1500-1730 Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairmen Meeting

Friday, 7 September

0900-1800 Registration Open
 1000-1800 Quartermaster Store Open
 1000-1200 Veterans Seminar
 1200-2400 "Bunker" Open
 1300-1500 Women's Group Meeting
 1600-1830 "Belle of Louisville" Dinner Cruise #1
 1700-2000 Silent Auction
 1900-2130 "Belle of Louisville" Dinner Cruise #2

Saturday, 8 September

0800-0815 Load Busses
 0815-0915 Travel to Fort Knox
 0930-1100 Memorial Ceremony and Re-dedication of 11th Cavalry Monuments
 1115-1230 Lunch by "The Chuckwagon Gang" from Odessa, TX
 1230-1245 Load Busses
 1245-1345 Travel to Louisville
 1400-1700 Registration Open for Late Arrivals
 1400-1700 Quartermaster Store Open
 1430-1630 Annual General Membership Meeting (Members Only)
 1745-1845 Cocktail Hour and Silent Auction
 1900-2130 Banquet, Presentations, Raffle Drawing, and "Blackhorse Salute"
 2130-0130 Dancing to DJ

Sunday, 9 September

1000-1100 Chapel Worship Service (Nondenominational)
 1000-1400 Quartermaster Store Open
 All Day Farewells and Departures

Scholarship Fundraising At Record Level!

By Chuck Schmidt
 Member Scholarship Committee

As of press time for this issue of Thunder Run, donations to the Scholarship Fund through the 2007 Calendar Fundraiser were approaching \$39,000. We had established a \$35,000 goal for this "leg" of the scholarship program and through the generosity of our membership we have exceeded that goal with only 22.5% of our membership participating. A hearty "THANK YOU" to all who gave so willingly!

The 11thACVVC Scholarship annual fundraising program consists of three "legs" to support our Children's education. The first is the Calendar, the second is the Annual Raffle, and finally the Silent Auction conducted during the Annual Reunion. Those who received a calendar, and just forgot to send in an intended donation may still do so. Just remove the envelope sent with the calendar, insert your donation (Visa or MasterCard are acceptable as well as check or money orders) and mail it in. Your support is critical and any amount is greatly appre-

Last year we awarded \$81,000 to eligible deserving young people and hope to exceed that amount this year—

ciated.

The Annual Raffle will again have prizes of \$1,000 for the first place, \$750 for second, \$500 for third and \$250 for fourth. Look for the mailing in late May or early June. Last year more than \$38,000 was raised via the Raffle and Jim Holt (HOW, 1/11, '67-'68) has boldly set a goal of \$40,000 for this year. That means that at least 1,000 members will have to purchase (donate) the full mailing of 40 tickets! The Committee is confident that you will come through as you always do in support of our kids who still have not completed college.

The final "leg" will be conducted in Louisville, KY during the XXII Annual Reunion. The Silent Auction is one of the highlights of the gathering. Donations of items or "in-kind" services for the Auction can be made at any time up to the day of the reunion itself. Those who wish

to ship items can send them to Terry Stivers (B Troop, 1/11, '67-68). Terry has generously agreed to be the "Collector" this year and you can send items to: 11th ACVVC, c/o Terry Stivers, 3509 Chapel Lane, New Albany, IN 47150. Terry will make sure your donations shows up in Louisville in good shape and on time. Members are reminded that items with an 11th Cavalry theme are always in demand, but any item of value and good taste is welcome. NO "WHITE ELEPHANTS" PLEASE.

We have received a number of applications already for the scholarships. As of this writing, we plan to award as many \$3,000 grants as we are able based on monies raised through the programs outlined above. Last year we awarded \$81,000 to eligible deserving young people and hope to exceed that amount this year — *so please, be generous!!*

Tribute from the Outside

My name is Edward W. Carper, SFC, US Army, and Retired. I am ecstatic each time I receive your complimentary copy of *Thunder Run*, but there is a problem I think you should be aware of. Someone passed my name on to your outstanding organization as a Vietnam Veteran of the 11th ACR. Well I did serve 16 months in Vietnam but not with the 11th ACR. I was with the B Co. 2/327th inf. 101st Airborne, Air Assault. I served up in I corps in the A Shau Valley and in and around Hue and the Golf Course.

I would have joined your organization years ago. But, sadly, I was not with the 11th ACR in Vietnam, but I sure would have been proud to have ridden with you guys.

I was in country from March 1969 to Sept 1971, wounded and sent home via Japan at camp Zama. I can remember distinctly when the 11th ACR rolled through Vietnam and into Cambodia. Although we were not with you guys as you rolled into Charlie's back yard, we of the 101st who were in Nam at the time, were with you guys in spirit and wished we were with you so we could help "Pile on" if you get my drift. In 1971 I was sent to Europe and to a small unit up in the middle of no where called Bad Hersfeld, Germany. This unit protecting and patrolling the Iron Curtain was the 14th ACR. It was a good unit and had a true mission and lineage but had not served in Nam due to its border mission.

The word came down in 1972 that we would become the 11th ACR. Let me tell you something if you were not there. During the changing of the commands and colors, those of us who had been to Nam and knew of the 11th ACR's reputation and history, walked a little taller and just a little prouder that day. Although we were proud to have served with the 14th ACR we were just a little prouder of the left arm patch we now displayed. That Blackhorse went up everywhere around the border and even in a night club off post for a short period. The commander at the time requested the owner take down his Blackhorse sign since it appeared as

War Trauma May Increase Heart Risks

For our aging Blackhorse troopers, this new study has tremendous implications. Clearly, we should monitor our health and seek competent medical help if we experience heart related problems.

On New Year's Day, the Associated Press (AP) reported a groundbreaking new study of veterans by the Harvard School of Public Health and Boston University. The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It suggested that those suffering from symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) have a greater risk of heart attacks. The AP noted that, "The new study is the first to document a link between PTSD symptoms and future heart disease, and joins existing evidence that vets with PTSD also have more autoimmune diseases such as arthritis and psoriasis."

In another study, the Army reviewed the soldiers one year after returning from combat in Iraq. The study found that those with PTSD were in worse physical health and required more doctor visits and had missed more workdays. The AP article said, "The possible link with heart disease didn't surprise one Iraq veteran diagnosed with PTSD.

'It didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out,' said John Oliveira of New Bedford, Mass., a former Navy public affairs officer and veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan. 'It should also be a wake-up call that the cost to treat those of us suf-

fering from PTSD could dramatically increase as we age.'"

The Harvard and Boston University research used data from the VA's Normative Aging Study which tracked Boston area veterans' health over a 10 to 15 year period. Even after other risk factors such as smoking and obesity are considered, it was found that veterans with PTSD symptoms are 18 percent more likely to have heart attacks or experience chest pain.

For our aging Blackhorse troopers, this new study has tremendous implications. Clearly, we should monitor our health and seek competent medical help if we experience heart related problems. Opportunities for veterans with PTSD to potentially service connect and be compensated for heart problems should flow from this study. Moreover, for the widows of troopers who suffered from PTSD, but who died of heart problems, the issue of compensation for dependents may also be open for reconsideration.

As information on this new study becomes available over the next several months, we'll be prepared to discuss the study and its impact on our members during the Veterans Service Seminar in Louisville. See you at the reunion.

though we owned or had a connection to the club somehow.

In closing you can see by my long boring dissertation that I was unfortunately not riding with the "Blackhorse" during the Vietnam War, but rather mounted up in 1972 in the small village of Bad Hersfeld, Germany. Never the less, had I been with you guys on your great escape attempt to get out of Nam "some guy's will try anything to get out of the jungle." I would have joined your organization years ago.

But, sadly, I was not with the 11th ACR in Vietnam, but I sure would have been proud to have ridden with you guys. So as not to cheat anyone with a free copy of "Thunder Run" I guess I should have you pull my name off your mailing list. You guys really have a great news letter and a squared away organization. You guys keep up the great work and make the rest of us schmucks envious of what you're doing.

Bengal One One

James P. Cooke

Having just read the article by Chaplain Larry Haworth (I always read the article by Larry - we were good friends there in Viet Nam) about transportation, I recalled an adventure which befell me and our good friend, Chaplain Francis "Bud" Mara, while we all were circling about Tay Ninh and poking into Cambodia. It is true: I emphasize that because, although I know no Blackhorse Trooper will doubt me, some might be tempted to think that I have conflated two or three episodes into one, which is not so. I tell it like it was. Bengal One One, aka Ch (LTC) James P. Cooke, USA, Ret.

Bud Mara and I very often (nearly every weekend and frequently in-between) teamed up to give chaplain coverage to each-other's assigned squadrons: I was Protestant, with First Squadron, Bud was Catholic with Third. One day, hoping to stir up some conversation with the troops, we hitched a ride with a Medcap (and probably I-cap) team, heavily guarded by tanks and ACAVs, and headed for Soc 5 or 29 or some such hamlet in the far, far boondocks. While the medics did their work and the S-2 people learned whatever S-2 people learned, Bud and I walked about with a Vietnamese Army interpreter, and while we all did that, one of the tanks managed to run onto a mine in the neighborhood. It was not possible to short-track the vehicle, and it was not possible to simply tow it out, so a call went back to the FSB for an M88, and the response was that it would take several hours to get to our location, and we should plan to spend the night. Bud, the interpreter and I all felt that we should get back to our units that day, and when we couldn't stir up any sympathy for our transport-less plight, the interpreter just walked out to the road and

waved down a truck-load of Vietnamese rubber workers. He parlayed a bit with one of the passengers, and we climbed aboard. I noticed that the Vietnamese all clung to either one side of the truck (which was about 2-ton, with a canvas cover) or the other; when I asked him why they didn't stand in the center, which was less crowded, he explained that they figured if the truck hit a mine, passengers on one side or the other would suffer - but anyone standing in the middle was going to get it no matter which wheel went over the mine.

We careened down that road for half-an-hour, slowing slightly at a wide spot in the road which we recognized as being just outside the FSB, so we set up a holler for the driver to stop, but the truck immediately picked up speed and soon slewed onto a narrow, dusty side road. At that point, the interpreter began encouraging us to dismount, and jumped over the tail gate. Bud followed, and I (being closest to the truck cab) came last. As I made my way to the tailgate, a couple of the men on board tried to dissuade me, even clutching at my uniform, but I ignored their concern for my welfare and jumped into about three inches of lovely red dust. I caught up with the other guys, who were running to the main road, and asked the interpreter what that was all about. He replied, "Well, Sir, I got a look at the passenger in the cab, and I recognized him as a Viet Cong person. Did you know we were all guests of the enemy for about half an hour?" We all had a good laugh, sort of dusted ourselves off, and found our way to the FSB.

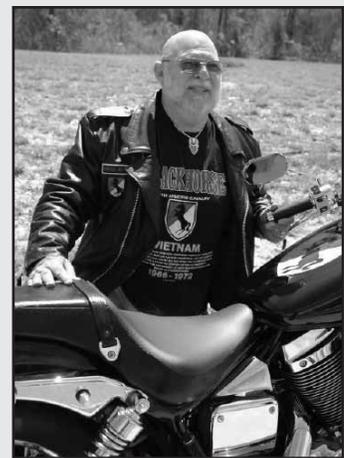
At the FSB, we were in luck: a BG from First Cavalry Division, and a very clean Major, were visiting, and Bud and I were able to talk the pilot of the General's helicopter to take us on board, for it turned out that they were headed back to Tay

Ninh. Those two First Cav officers were just about as clean as anyone we had seen in months, and we were certainly dirtier than anyone they had seen in months, shedding dust and smelling very sweaty all the way home. When we got to Tay Ninh, the aircraft landed at the "post" headquarters, and we were again on our own.

We began hoofing it to the Blackhorse forward support area, but soon came across a vehicle wash facility, where a truck from First Squadron was just about to leave. We flagged it down and managed to climb up into the rear of the vehicle and proceeded in relative comfort on the last leg of our journey, soon arriving at the Squadron area and cruising through the gate.

I wish I could tell you that the Sergeant Major met us at the gate and informed us that the Colonel was badly injured and calling for a chaplain, and that we sped to the hospital, where Bud and I both prayed over the poor man, and that he opened his eyes, wracked with pain, said, "Thanks, Chaplains, I needed that!" and then got out of bed, put on his uniform and went to the TOC, where he won the war. But I can't tell you that. I can only tell you that as we went through the gate, the troops in the area were first astonished and then hilarious, as they watched those two intrepid Irishmen with crosses on their helmets, sailing into the compound, in the back of a garbage truck! Allons!

Show Your Pride



Gene B. Geldziler (HHT 1/11, 1968-1969) showing Blackhorse pride with his bike and his attire.

Spaghetti...

By Blandin W. Karabinos, (quondam.)
Chaplain, HHT 2/11 ACR

I seldom knew where exactly I was in South Vietnam. I knew we were in MR III, supposedly interdicting Viet Cong supply lines and protecting the northwest flank of Saigon. But except for mud encrusted Firebase Andrews, and later Fiddlers' Green, the Cav was always on the move. Three Troops (E, F and G) were still in the field busting jungle in late 1971 and early '72 and the Air Cav was flying out from Phu Loi in coordination with the tracks on the turf. The Black Virgin Mountain (Nui Ba Den) was to the west of us and seemingly always on the horizon, except for a time when one of the Troops moved east, across Highway One and provided cover for a "Rome Plow" exercise. That exercise took us through Xuan Loc to the pristine and unspoiled hamlet of Ham Tan on the South China Sea with white sand beaches so bright that sun glasses hardly helped. But most of the time we were in the Parrot's Beak area and E, F and G Troops were prowling an Iron Triangle from Tay Ninh to An Loc to Bien Hoa.

Most Monday mornings Protestant Chaplain Jerry Webb and I would catch a Huey from Phu Loi and spend the week visiting the Troops and the Firebases, spending at least a day and a night with each Troop in the field. Depending on the mission of the day, we usually conducted religious services at a convenient down time ... which was usually while the Troop was stalled fixing a torsion bar. Though I remember crawling under one of those ACAVs with a couple of troopers and struggling with that "damn" (for want of another word) thing. In the evenings, once the Troop circled wagons for the night, we had a chance to get to know some of the extraordinary young men who made up the 2/11th ACR.

One afternoon somebody popped purple smoke and we dropped into G Troop's circled perimeter (I'm only guessing as to which Troop, as my memory sometimes fails me 34 years later). We made our rounds, I heard a few confessions and celebrated Mass. My altar cloth was spread across a stack of beer cases that had arrived with the chaplains. Traveling with the beer ration always assured us high priority. After Mass I walked the perimeter and chatted with the

TROOPERS WITH CHILDREN – "Hard" Troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment are pictured as they spend an enjoyable afternoon with the children at St. Dominic's Orphanage, Goo Vap, Saigon, South Vietnam.



I guess Mike Wallace and the media folk would have had a field day depicting a Chaplain sitting behind a .50 caliber in the middle of a moonlit Vietnam night. But that was routine, guys appreciated their sleep and to share in their duties and responsibilities was no big thing.

lads, looking for a place to stay. It wasn't hard to find a bunk for the night, all you had to do is find an ACAV or tank that was short handed and offer a couple of hours at the turret in exchange for a berth. Anyway I found an ACAV that only had three troopers and they took me in. I stood the 2-4 shift. I guess Mike Wallace and the media folk would have had a field day depicting a Chaplain sitting behind a .50 caliber in the middle of a moonlit Vietnam night. But that was routine, guys appreciated their sleep and to share in their duties and responsibilities was no big thing.

The next day was kind of relaxed. I walked the perimeter, moved out into the field with some troopers as they explored a spider hole. I stood back while a lad appropriately labeled "Short Round" called fire-in-the-hole and dropped a satchel charge into one of those holes. It blew out a couple of sacks of rice, a lot of bugs and a sack of field dressings. After that adventure I made my way back to the perimeter where the guys were taking down their RPG screens and getting ready to move out, but not before lunch.

I went back to the track where I had spent the night and Jim "Spaghetti" was cooking a masterful lunch. He had a large ammunition box, boiling over some C-4 and it was filled with a couple of LRRP rations. As I arrived he invited me to stay and added a package of Vietnamese noodles. I had never seen anything like it before, but now we can buy the same thing (Ramen) in our local grocery

store at 6 for a dollar. But at that time, I had no idea that that small package would make enough noodles to feed three ACAV troopers and one hungry Chaplain.

"Spaghetti" was inked across the back of his flak jacket and indeed he was from Italy. Actually his family was living in Connecticut when he enlisted ... and he was not yet a citizen of these United States Jim was anticipating his citizenship after his service obligation was finished and I pray that his dream came true. Later that afternoon Chaplain Webb and I moved on to another Troop location and I didn't see Jim "Spaghetti" for a few weeks. By that time we were standing down and G Troop returned to Phu Loi. A lot of guys were getting "drops;" if they had at least 6 months in the field, and so many of the troopers were going home or being re-assigned up country. I stayed till the Cav's colors went to Fort Lewis and was able to say good bye to a number of troopers.

While we were waiting, we had the opportunity to do some Civic Action work and made a trip to the Orphanage at Goo Vap just outside of Saigon. "Spaghetti" accompanied us on that visit. I don't know what ever happened to "Spaghetti," didn't know his last name, and don't know if he ever became a citizen. But he was one hell of a trooper and to this day I can not walk through a grocery store and pass the Ramen noodle aisle without remembering "Spaghetti."

Fire Fight With The Fire Flies, My Baptism Of Fire

By Fred D. Ayers, CW4 Retired

I had just finished two years in Germany in the 3d Armored Division. I volunteered for Viet Nam service with the signing of the famous "1049" in late 1966. Orders were received approximately 60 days later and whoosh; I was enroute to the Republic of Viet Nam.

I was as green as any other newbie arriving in Viet Nam. I went through 90th replacement in Saigon/Long Binh in February of 1967. We had our indoctrination to the lizards and monkeys that invaded 90th replacement every night looking for food. Two days later, I was enroute via 5-ton truck to the Black Horse Base Camp at Xuan Loc.

If you were a tourist, the scenery was beautiful, but arriving in a combat zone riding in the back of a 5-ton truck with no weapon was an eerie ride. My eyes, as tired as could be, were wide open and my body pumped adrenalin the whole way to Blackhorse Base Camp. Of course, we had escorts of ACAV's and gun trucks but I did not have a weapon and would not have one for at least two more days.

On arrival at Black Horse Base Camp, we were quickly separated and sent to our new units of assignment. My unit was G Troop, 2/11. The First Sergeant was known as "Big Red." Big Red had the reputation of being mean, ornery, and strict. Even before arriving at G Troop 1SG James Embrey's reputation preceded him. It was easy to tell who the top enlisted man in G Troop was by the way things hummed around him. He was bigger than life with this his second war. No one questioned 1SG Embrey.

Of course, newbies got to do guard duty around the troop area. I got my first guard duty tour shortly after receiving my weapon. I also received my helmet but did not have a helmet liner (that is another story). Anyhow, my first tour was the perimeter road behind the troop area.

While walking my first tour, one of the "seasoned" troopers came out to introduce himself and walked with me and gave me some war stories. I found it strange that this soldier did not have magazines for his M16. He had a bag of bullets (20 or so) and his

boots were not laced. He was not the cleanest soldier either (after all we were in base camp). I determined he was friendly enough so I listened and continued to walk my tour. It was getting dark and of course my adrenalin level was still high. My newfound friend (I will not give his name) continued to talk until the sun had gone completely down. It was a moonless night. As I was walking, listening and observing, I noticed some lights in the distance. My new friend advised me that the base camp dump was where the lights were and that the lights were actually enemy soldiers looking through the dump. Talk about needing more adrenalin, my heart started racing and my friend disappeared.

Now, I was walking with my eyes glued to the lights in the distance. Minutes passed that seemed like hours. The lights began (at least to me) getting closer and closer. There did not seem to be any stirring in the perimeter towers or the perimeter bunkers across the road. With only three days in country, I did not want to be killed so soon. What a predicament.

I was not going down without a fight. I quietly pulled back on the loading handle of my M16, raised the rifle to my shoulder, applied my night vision toward the lights and opened fire. Suddenly, my new friend leaped into the ditch adjacent to the road with his bag of bullets. 1SG Embrey came flying out of the orderly room with his .45 caliber pistol in the air yelling "What the #%@&* is going on out here. He came up to us as we lay in the ditch, we were trying to explain the invasion about to happen when he burst into an eerie laughter that says you are in deep "doo doo" boy.

1SG Embrey pulled me up out of the ditch and firmly, if you want to call a near butt-whipping firm, and explained to me that the lights were fireflies and that the guy still in the ditch marched to a different drummer. Needless to say, I got to walk extended guard duty as well as having "____" burning detail for the next two days until it was my turn at the new arrival training. I soon realized that the troop half-wit had unwittingly (maybe wittingly) set me up for my "FIRE FIGHT WITH THE FIRE-FLIES"

11ACVVC Trooper Assistance Fund

History

In 1989, the Officers and Directors of 11 ACVVC agreed there was a need for monies to assist our troopers in getting to a reunion. Prior to this date, the organization got many calls for assistance directly from the trooper needing assistance or a buddy of a trooper hoping to get his buddy to the reunion. It was decided then that during the meeting of its members, a "passing of the hat" would take place and with those funds, we could assist in getting some troopers who might otherwise not attend because of monetary limitations.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Trooper Assistance Fund is to assist troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and the kingdom of Cambodia attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Qualified candidates will be given one and perhaps more than one of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and the degree of assistance required: 1) a room at the host hotel for one or two nights during the reunion weekend; 2) funds to purchase fuel for auto, tickets for airfare or other means of transportation such as bus fare or train fare; 3) registration fees; 4) meals.

Maintenance of Funds

Funds collected through direct donations or the "passing of the hat" at the annual membership meeting shall be maintained and accounted for by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall include the Trooper Assistance Fund as a separate reporting item on the quarterly financial report. The Treasurer shall dispense funds from this account as directed by the Officers and Directors of 11 ACVVC.

Rules of Acceptance

To be accepted for consideration for assistance, the trooper may be required to: show proof that he is or was a member of 11 ACVVC or eligibility that he is qualified to become a member; describe his monetary situation, ie....job, salary, family, etc. Troopers will only be allowed to accept this

Continued on page 18



Operation Embrace

Joe Willey, Chairman

As this edition of *Thunder Run* goes to press, I can report we continue to make very good progress in locating next of kin and relatives of our Blackhorse brothers who died in Vietnam or Cambodia. By time this edition reaches you, I feel confident we will have located or accounted for the NOK of at least half of the 729 men we lost. Actual numbers of NOK/relatives contacted will probably be closer to 600, perhaps even more. A sanitized list of NOK located or accounted for is posted and updated regularly updated at the Operation Embrace Forum on our website (<http://www.11thcav.com/phpBB/viewforum.php?f=51&sid=2664409f3f224303fae11fd598475f82>).

In addition to establishing contact or accounting for NOK, we have also been able to generate many photos of our KIA and identify where some are interned. That information has been posted on the respective memorial pages of our website.

Some of you may question why the spread in numbers between the number of NOK located and actual number of KIA whose NOK are accounted for in full or part. There are a couple of answers to that question. Some of our Troopers were married, producing 2 and sometimes 4 or more family links; e.g. parents, siblings, spouse, and children. In the event the Troopers parents were divorced the number of links could potentially increase. The close knit nature of some families produces even more links through aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. Sometimes, these relatives are the only remaining survivors of the KIA and in many instances they played a significant role in the KIA's life.

In addition to establishing contact or accounting for NOK, we have also been able to generate many photos of our KIA and identify where some are interned.

It is not uncommon to find nephews who have been named after their Uncle and sometimes it is these extended family members who are the catalysts in keeping the flame of memory for the KIA burning. In one such instance it is the KIA's fiancé and her husband (his former best friend) that unites the KIA's siblings in keeping his memory alive. In another instance, the only family the KIA had was a buddy he met in Basic Training and AIT. Regardless of relationship, we embrace those who have embraced our Blackhorse brothers who lost their life in Vietnam or Cambodia.

Being a person who can be very intolerant with telephone solicitors, it never ceases to amaze me just how receptive and helpful people we have contacted are. We have had people take our names, telephone numbers, and email addresses and then contacted someone in their family actively involved in genealogy. These genealogists have generated one or two productive leads. Many others keep us on line while they thumb through the phone book looking for the right person for us to call. Some pull out their family directories and freely provide names and numbers of parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, former spouses, or children. The generosity of such acts is touching.

Without exception, Committee Members will tell you the reactions of NOK contacted makes all the effort worth it! Many are interested in establishing contact with Troopers who served with

their loved one. When this happens, we post their interest on the Operation Embrace forum. Many NOK contacted have expressed an interest and their intent on attending this year's reunion and memorial service at Louisville/Ft. Knox. Several live in the area and I expect a larger turnout of NOK than what we have experienced in the past. For those NOK who cannot attend the reunion and memorial service, but live near or will be visiting Washington D.C., each Memorial and Veterans' Day a group of Blackhorse Troopers gather to honor the Troopers who died in Vietnam and Cambodia. We meet at 10:00 A.M. near the statue of the 3 soldiers behind the Vietnam Memorial and lay a wreath of the Blackhorse patch at the apex of the Wall. This is an informal gathering and some who attend have lunch together afterwards.

I encourage members to take a step forward and reach out to the NOK of men you knew. Most have a lingering and unfulfilled thirst for information. The policy we have adopted regarding providing contact information is we provide the contact information of the requestor to the party they wish to contact and leave the decision of making contact up to the requested party. Of course, Members and NOK can post their own interests on the bulletin boards or member forums of our website.

In closing, I want to thank the members of the Operation Embrace committee for their assistance and encouragement. Allons brothers!

Trooper Assistance from page 18

assistance one time. Exceptions to the one time only use of the Trooper Assistance Fund will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and will require a unanimous vote of the Officers and Directors available for voting. Exceptions will rarely be granted and will never be allowed in consecutive years. (The Secretary will maintain a listing of those who have been assisted and will pass on to successive Secretary(s). The President will also maintain a copy). The trooper requesting for assistance must do so in writing to the

Secretary or the President and must also provide evidence of service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The Officers and Directors of 11 ACVVC will vote on whom and how much assistance will be given to a trooper, by a majority of those Officers and Directors. The Officers and Directors shall not divulge the names of those assisted troopers to anyone other than another current Officer and/or Director.

Ladies of the 11th ACVVC to Have More Great Offerings

By Kathy Tandberg, Fundraising Coordinator and member of the Ladies of the 11th ACVVC.

Barb Moreno, Women's Coordinator, is proud to announce the presentation from the Ladies of the Blackhorse of a \$2,000 donation to the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program. The presentation was made this winter at the annual board meeting in Texas.

The donation is the first to come from the sale of the 11th ACVVC cookbook that came out in 2006, "What's Cookin' with the Blackhorse." The cookbook was the first fundraising project of the Ladies of the 11th ACVVC, a project that was just a dream of Moreno that has now come true.

This donation is also the first of what the women's group hopes will become an annual presentation. It would not have been possible without the wonderful assistance and generosity of all of you who assisted with this project to include those of you who sent in recipes and those who have graciously purchased the cookbook.

"The response to the cookbook has been overwhelming. It has exceeded anything I have ever dreamed of happening. Your support both in donating recipes and purchasing the book has helped so many people in so many ways. The Board of Directors was truly dumbfounded when we presented them with a check for \$2000.00. And it could not have happened without all of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

And now, on with more good news! The Ladies of the 11th ACVVC are at it again! After making a \$2,000 donation this winter, the Ladies are working on a second first-ever project for the 22nd annual reunion in Louisville, Ky., set for Sept. 6-9.

This time the Ladies will be offering a commemorative Blackhorse woven tapestry lap blanket. The colorful 36" by 48" blanket is designed to portray the patriotic feelings that the great Troopers of the Blackhorse have instilled in this nation.

These special commemorative blankets are in production at this time and will be available at the reunion for the price of



Chuck Schmidt, President 11thACVVC, accepts a check for \$2,000 from Women's Group Coordinator, Barb Moreno. Proceeds are from the sale of the 11thACVVC Cook Book and will be used in support of the Scholarship and Trooper Assistance Programs

\$30 each. A photo sample of the blanket will be available before the reunion. Preorders are being taken for those who want to get a jump on things. These preorders will assist the Ladies as they plan on the number to bring to the reunion. If you're interested in preordering a blanket or even more, be sure to contact Women's Coordinator Barb Moreno. The Ladies expect this second project to be as successful as the first and with your help, it will be!

"I think you will be pleasantly surprised at the quality and uniqueness of this blanket. As an owner of many different blankets, this one is one that will be treasured and handed down to my grandchildren along with all of grandpa's many tales of battle. It will certainly make a wonderful remembrance for your 'hero'. So order one or more and help support the 11th ACVVC" said Barb when asked about the next project of the 11th ACVVC Ladies.

The Ladies have sold more than half of the 11th ACVVC Blackhorse cookbooks. So far, with just half sold, the Ladies have paid for the entire cookbook order, plus made the \$2,000 donation, and they still have enough in the treasury to begin this second project. Not bad for a first mission!

The 300-recipe Blackhorse cookbook was a popular item at the 2006 reunion in

Kansas City. The recipes include personal favorites from Blackhorse Troopers, families and friends. If you missed yours, there's still time to get one or more.

The Ladies have another mission for you now – you've pulled through before so the Ladies are counting on you! This mission involves everyone out there. The Ladies need to sell the remaining cookbooks. They ask that you put your thinking cap on, open your hearts once again and consider the organizations in your community. We're talking about your local VFW Clubs, Amvets, American Legions, Lions, Moose and Eagles clubs. Don't forget your local civic groups, senior citizen centers, craft fairs and bazaars as well as flea markets. Everyone can use a good cookbook and the Ladies want you to think about these groups, talk to them and take orders for the cookbooks or just buy a couple dozen or even more and help sell them. Bulk cookbook orders will receive bulk media mailing. Please help the Ladies get the word out so they can finish their mission of donating more dollars for the scholarship funds and troopers assistance. These are such worthy causes!

Send your preorders for the Blackhorse blankets and your order for cookbooks to: Barb Moreno "Women's Group", 24284 Endeavor Ave., Tomah, WI 54660. Or email them to her at puppytoes@charter.net with "Blackhorse orders" in the subject line. Thank you.

2006-2007 SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

The 11th ACVVC wishes to gratefully acknowledge these generous donations to the Scholarship Fund. We thank all who gave from their sustenance to support our Scholarship Program. The list includes those donations in support of the 2007 Calendar Fundraising Project only. Included are those donations received through the middle of April. Donations received subsequent to that time will be acknowledged in the next issue of "Thunder Run." Other donations received are listed separate from this specific fund drive.

Calendar Scholarship Fund Drive

Diamond Level Donors

Donations \$1000 and above

Platinum Level Donors

Donations from \$500 to \$999

William & Marlene Gould

Gold Level Donors

Donations from \$200 to \$499

Donald Lafontaine
James F. Newman

Silver Level Donors

Donations from \$100 to \$199

Ken & Lani Brown
Gary & Nanette Callaway/Thomason
John Sherman Crow
Alfred J. Dirska
John F. Grabenhorst
Fred D. Jack
Roger & Margaret Janke
Daniel & Robyn Jones
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To Memorial Restoration

Donation of \$500 to \$999

Peggy Taff

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY MEMORIAL RESTORATION DONATIONS

The 11th ACVVC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals who have purchased granite bricks in support of the 11th Armored Cavalry Memorial "restoration. The list includes orders received through April 20, 2007. Numbers in "parentheses indicate more than one brick

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Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

I want to remind you ladies that we now have our own area on the web site. Click on Women's Corner and leave me a note. We fought hard to get it and if we don't use it, we will lose it. This is where I will contact you when I need your help too.

I'm going to start off this article with, "remember what I said last time about NO SNOW?" Well we did finally get snow. BOY DID WE GET SNOW! 37 inches of the stuff and temperatures that went to -34. Thankfully while most of this was happening Bob and I were first in Florida and then in Texas.

We took our annual family excursion to Florida in February this year, to visit Mickey and company, enjoy the sun and get out of the cold. Well, we did visit Mickey and had a wonderful time acting once again like silly kids, but the sun and warmth were not that cooperative. The first several days were cool and wet. However the sun eventually did come out about the 4th day and we were happy. Of course just the temperatures being above 0 were happiness in itself.

While in Florida, I had the opportunity to reconnect with one of my best friends from my high school days in Pennsylvania. It turned out that she and her husband were on a cruise and then visiting friends in the Orlando area. So we all got together for dinner one night and strolled back down memory lane. Funny how we remember some things and conveniently forget other things. Of course my son, Raleigh, was I think a little disappointed that she had no tales to tell about me getting into any trouble. Guess I was too good a kid.

After two weeks in Florida, we were home and back to work for a grand total of 4 days, when it was time for Bob and me to pack the suitcases again and head to Texas. This time it was for the mid-year meeting of the Board of Directors.

Texas was wonderful - once we got there. Our local airport closed the night before our trip and was kept closed for three days due to snow and ice. We were then rerouted from Madison (about an hour away) and after many suggestions of different routes to be taken; the airline did get us there.

Texas as usual was great. The temperatures were not hot, but not cold, more like an early autumn. And we met some fascinating people. We met a darling mother and daughter couple. The mother was in her 90's and is an actively teaching professor. They were a pure joy to visit with. After returning home I sent them a copy of our cookbook and received a delightful note back from Susan, the daughter.

We got so much done while we were there. We (the ladies) received a whole hearted approval for our new fundraising project of a lap blanket. I also presented the board with a check in the amount of \$2000.00. This was from the sale of our cookbooks, so far and will be put toward the annual scholarship fund and trooper assistance fund.

Actually, when I presented it to them, they were all rendered speechless. It was rather amusing as I can't recall ever seeing these guys that way. Thank you to everyone who contributed recipes and bought copies of the book.

A lap blanket will be available at the Louisville reunion and will cost \$30. They are really nice and will be a wonderful remembrance and tribute to all 11th Cav troopers. In this issue there is a form to preorder your throw for pick up at the reunion. If we have any left after the reunion the price will be a bit higher as we will have to add shipping to it.

If we still have any left come time for the reunion we will also have cookbooks for sale. Remember these books will never be produced again so now is the time to get yours. Cost for the books is \$12.00 (plus 3.50 s&h).

All profits from this years fund raiser (lap blankets) will be going to help with the trooper assistance fund to help bring an accompanying spouse or care giver with the trooper.

Registrations for the reunion are start-

ing to arrive. I have already made over 150 nametags and started stuffing the envelopes. Looks like it's going to be a big one, so get your registrations in early. Remember when you send in your registration it is very important that you either print clearly or better yet use a return address label. Then we are sure to get the spelling correct. Also be sure that you are putting the year(s) that your guy was in Vietnam on it (example 68/69) not just "1 year". We also need to know, if you have chosen to take the cruise, and which cruise time you have chosen. We need to know so that we can make your "cruise ticket". Please note that once you have chosen a cruise time that there will be no way to change your time slot as the ship can only hold a certain amount of people. So I suggest to you that if you want to be on the same one that your friend or buddy is on, you contact them before you send in your registration and find out which one they are taking.

I want to remind you ladies that we now have our own area on the web site. Click on Women's Corner and leave me a note. We fought hard to get it and if we don't use it, we will lose it. This is where I will contact you when I need your help too.

I do need your help in staffing the ladies table with the books and blankets. We will be set up on Wednesday from 1pm - 5pm, Thursday from 10am until 5pm and on Friday from 1pm till 5pm. Shifts will work in 2 hour segments. It is important that we get this staffed as there is no way we will be able to sell things at the registration table or in the Quartermaster store this year. So far I have had 1(one) person offer to help. If we can't staff it then we don't set up and thus we raise no funds nor do any more fund raisers. And we will still have to pay for the throws we had made. E-mail me, call me, fax me - just let me know that you will help.

Well I really must go as 'again' I'm writing this on company time. Have a great summer and see you all in September at Louisville. Barb Moreno

*Women's Director, 11th ACVVC
puppytoes@charter.net
Fax: 608-372-5892*

Men of Battle

Editor's Note: This vignette applies to our reunions

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed together, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men.

I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades... Such good men."

Submitted by Rex (Doc) Harold, 67-68, (37th Med, 28th Mil. Hist. Det., G Troop

REGISTRATION from page 5

able. When you fill out your registration form (and cruise form) PLEASE be sure to PRINT or better yet use a return address label. It helps not to hear Barb groan because she can't read your writing.

Also be sure you are listing the years you were in Vietnam. You know like 68/69 not 1 year. Also know that there is only a certain amount of room on the nametag, so don't be upset with us if we have to abbreviate your name, drop your middle initial, or leave out a nickname or rank. It is more important to have your name, unit and city/state on there. We do try to get all that you request on them but sometimes it just doesn't fit.

We again this year have quite a few First Timers. So be sure when you see that red #1 or the ladies red rose that you make them feel very welcome. After all, they are your brothers and their family members.

You will all be able to tell who the board members are this year by their name tags. While yours are white, Barb

suggested we make the board members a different color. Not sure yet exactly what color they will be but I'm sure they will stand out and you'll recognize them.

I'm trying to put all the names of those who have registered onto the reunion web site as fast as I can. Please bear with me as this is the first year that I have taken on this responsibility. Of course for an old guy like me, it helps a great deal when you have a son who can do just about anything with a computer. So, much of the time I just pass it off to him to do. So, if you find an error on the web site concerning anyone in your party whether it be misspellings, a forgotten name, wrong unit or whatever please notify me ASAP by phone, e-mail or fax and I will correct it as quickly as possible. My cell phone number is 608-343-6244, e-mail address: blackhorse68@charter.net or fax 608-372-5892.

We look forward to seeing you all this year in Louisville.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NL2Q 07

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 ACV VC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd., Kilmarnock, VA 22482.**

Memorial Restoration and Rededication

By Chuck Schmidt

Work has begun to repair and restore our Monument in the Memorial Gardens adjacent to the Patton Museum of Armor and Cavalry at Fort Knox, Kentucky. We have had the top of the obelisk repaired and a new base fabricated for the Cross and Star of David at the apex. The monument once again appears as it was originally designed and dedicated in front of the Regimental Chapel at Xuan Loc in Vietnam. In addition, the Medal of Honor plaque has been redone and replaced to correct the misspelling of one of the recipient's names. We are now in the process of final proofing of all the names of our KIA's and shortly all four of those plaques, one of each side of the monument, will be recast with correct names, spellings, Troop/Company/Battery/or Detachment of assignment, and correct date of death. Each side of the obelisk will list one of the four Squadrons, beginning with the Provisional Squadron and culminating with the Third Squadron. Troopers who served with the Regiment in Vietnam but lost their lives after transfer to another unit in the Theater of Operations will be listed on a separate plaque on the base of the monument.

We have received approval for our expansion plan to include three smaller obelisks to honor 11th Cavalry Troopers who served in other wars and campaigns going back to the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican Expedition, WWII, Desert Storm, and the latest deployment, fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom III in 2005. Each will stand about four feet high. We originally planned to list the names of Troopers who lost their lives while serving in the Regiment during these campaigns, but we have concluded that

our information on the first three conflicts required more research to insure accuracy. Therefore, we will list only those names we can verify for sure from the latest two wars—Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom III. At a later date when we are confident that our data is as close to 100% accurate as we can make it, we will add the names for the earlier three conflicts.

We have also received approval to install our "Circle of Honor" as depicted in the adjacent artist's rendition. The "Circle of Honor" is one way that we plan to cover some of the costs of the restoration and construction. The "Circle" (actually a U-Shaped walkway) will consist of 8 x 4 x 2 inch granite pavers that can be inscribed with three 15 character lines that may include your name, unit, rank, and years served in Vietnam (or other message, if preferred). A tribute to a fallen comrade would also be appropriate. A donation of \$100 per paver will be required. This is a special way for you to be present in spirit with your buddies who made the ultimate sacrifice. As I mentioned last quarter, your name will never appear on the monument, but this allows you an avenue to honor your Brothers and include your presence with theirs.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! We need your order no later than 30 June 2007 to insure that we have enough time to inscribe the pavers and have them in place for the rededication on the 8th of September when the memorial service will be held during the 2007 Reunion. An order form is provided for you to submit your request. Please fill out the form as prescribed—only 15 characters (to include spaces) per each of three lines are allowed. For multiple orders, reproduce the form or go to our web site:

Brick Order Form

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

LINE 1:

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LINE 2:

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LINE 3:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

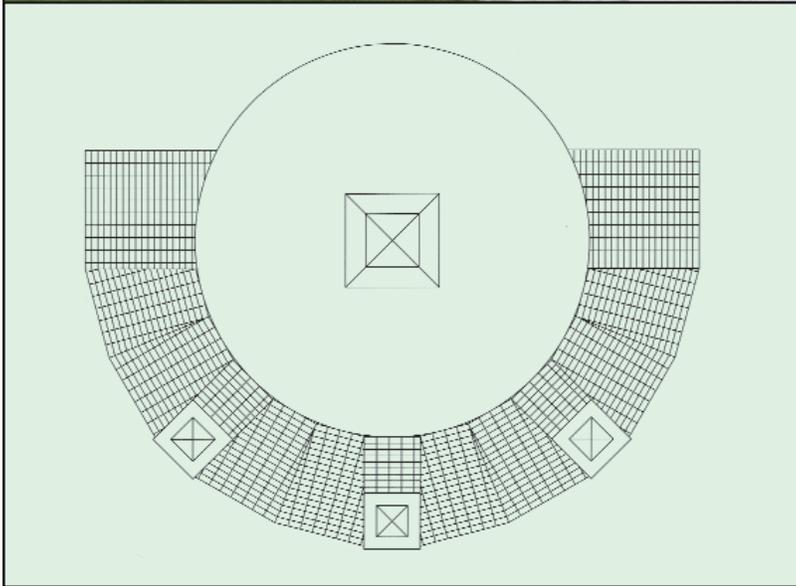
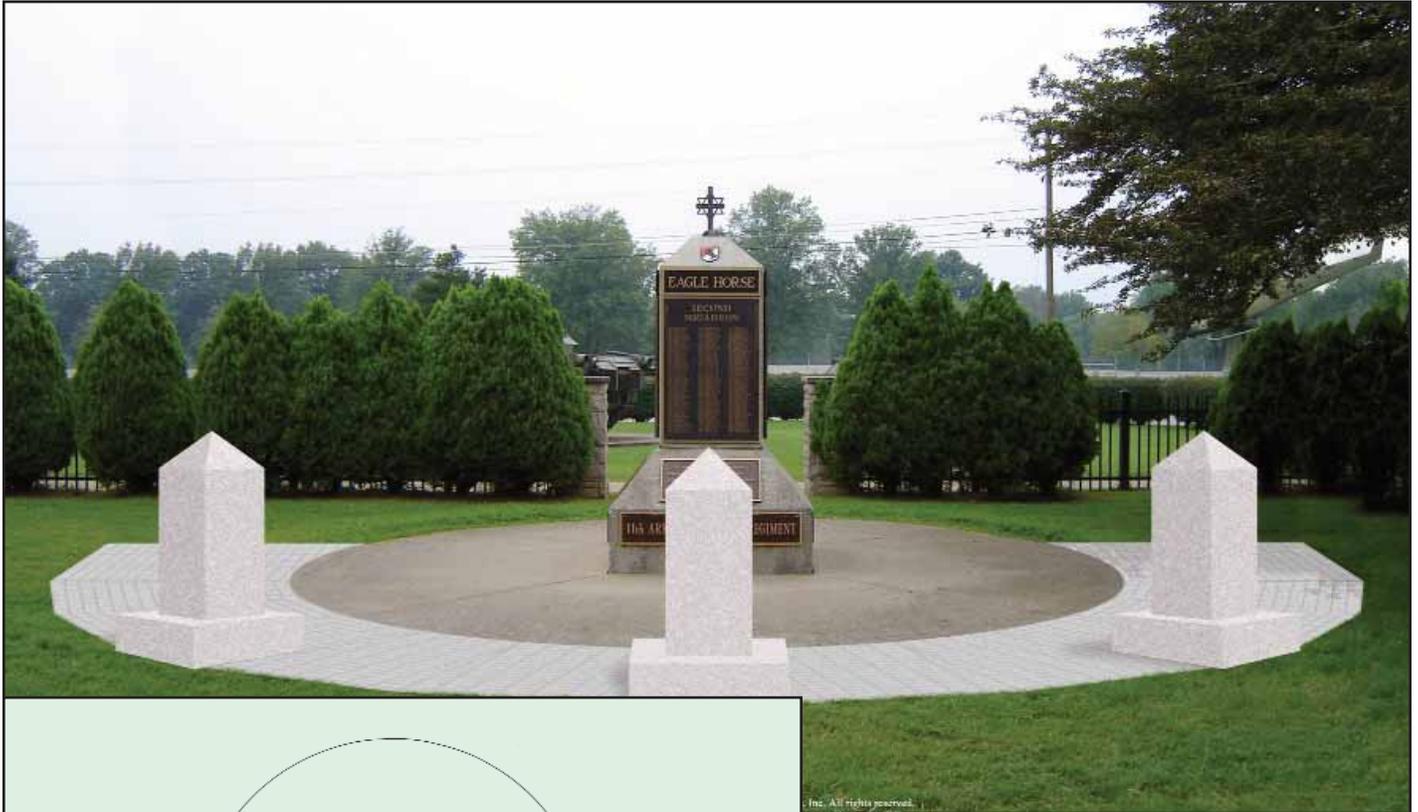
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

Visa Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for Credit Card transactions): _____

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



INC. All rights reserved.

ABOVE: Artists rendition of completed "Circle of Honor" showing the three proposed obelisks

LEFT: Layout sketch of proposed "Circle of Honor"

BELOW: Sample of inscribed brick



This is a special way for you to join your fallen comrades in spirit. Since your name will never appear on the monument, this allows an avenue for you to honor your Brothers and include your presence with theirs.

www.11thcavnam.com for a downloadable form. Remember, granite lasts forever, and this is an opportunity to permanently ensure your remembrance. Reserve yours now! We will be limited to approximately 1,500 pavers, and must reserve these on a "First Come, First Served" basis. Once the Circle of Honor is in place, unclaimed pavers may still be available, however the required donation will then be \$125 due to additional costs of engraving on site. So, to avoid the price increase on orders received after 30 June, do not delay! **After 30 June 2007 each paver will cost \$125!**

Expenditure of 11thACVVC funds and the fundraiser for this proj-

ect was approved by the membership attending the Annual Business Meeting on 23 September 2006 during the XXI Reunion in Kansas City, MO. The membership also endorsed, by unanimous vote, the proposal to include on the monument site the three obelisks mentioned earlier to mark the other wars and campaigns that the 11th Cavalry has conducted since its activation more than 105 years ago.

The 11thACVVC has made the preservation of our Monument a priority mission. "They were our buddies, our friends, and our comrades-in-arms. They shall not be forgotten. Their memory will live forever!"



MONUMENTS

For many years one of my favorite places to visit around our great country has been the Civil War Battlefield at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Some call that terrible event the American Civil War. Others call it the War Between the States. Either way it was one of the most horrifying things that ever happened to our country. On the battlefield thousands, yes thousands, of great young Americans died gut-wrenching deaths for a cause in which they believed. Today it is holy ground to many of us. The battlefield is marked by hundreds of monuments to the memory of those who fell there. The memories of those men, dying for both the Union and the Confederate sides, are permanently honored with monuments, wonderful, heartfelt works of art, that stand vigil day and night. They forever remind us of the sacrifices of those brave young heroes.

The battlefield of the Battle of the Little Big Horn is a stark monument to brave men who fought and died terrible deaths, recognizing their bravery and their honor. At one time the battle was called "Custer's Last Stand" in honor of the Commander of the 7th Cavalry that fought to the last man that day. Fortunately for history, the name of the battlefield was changed to recognize those heroes among the Indian tribes who also fought, bled, and died for honor and for that which they believed was right. I'll not get involved with the morality or the rights and wrongs of the battle or the Indian Wars. I will recognize the honor, bravery, and sacrifice of those who fought and died there that day in June of 1876. Today the entire battlefield is a monument to those men. The location of every soldier who died is marked on the exact spot where he fell. The exact location of only a few Indians is so marked because the tribes removed the bodies of their warriors as they departed the scene. Today you can walk the battlefield and pause at each place where a soldier or Native American fell, and remember with honor, each of those who died that terrible day.

Last year our 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Viet Nam and Cambodia

Now it's time for us, the troopers of the Blackhorse, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, to renew our monument. With immense gratitude we recognize those who have worked so tirelessly to bring our monument home from Viet Nam, to establish it at home at Fort Knox and, now, those among us who have renewed and updated it.

reunion was held in Kansas City, Missouri. What an awesome reunion it was! Thanks to our organizers and brothers who had the foresight to see how the World War I Monument would contribute to the depth and honor each of us would feel. Yes, the national monument to those who gave their lives in WWI, "the war to end all wars," is located in that city, centrally located in the heartland of America. What a sense of grandeur and depth of meaning we felt as we honored our own brothers among those of our grandfathers and great-grandfathers generation who went before us. What a profound depth of honor we felt for our own brothers in joining with that generation on the grounds of their monument of honor and memory. That monument lent to the realization of our own honor and purpose of sacrifice.

From 1984-1987 I was stationed at Red River Army Depot in Texarkana, Texas. I'd been there only a few weeks when a young civilian worker visited me. He was a Viet Nam veteran. He'd moved from Shreveport, Louisiana where he belonged to a chapter of the Viet Nam Veterans of America. He was hoping we could start a chapter at Red River. Being continuously on active duty since my Viet Nam (and Germany) years, I knew nothing of the VVA and pathetically little about Viet Nam vets. But I was intrigued and, with the support of the Installation Commander, called a meeting of all Viet Nam vets who were interested. Many responded. It was at that meeting that I discovered who Viet Nam vets really

were. I also discovered PTSD! (It was during this period that some Blackhorse brothers called the first reunion in Dallas - the rest is history). Over the period of a couple of years, our "band of brothers" joined with a band of Korean War brothers and, with much effort, a joint monument to both Korean and Viet Nam vets resulted.

The monument we designed, erected, and dedicated now proudly stands at a prominent intersection in the heart of Texarkana, a city and a region that gave many brothers in the cause of freedom. I tell you about this monument because it's representative of monuments to war veterans all over this land. Regardless of what you may see in the media, Americans are generally proud of their heroes. Americans know what they owe the vet, all vets. We've come a long way since the 60s, 70s, and early 80s when the Viet Nam vet was spurned by many. (However, even in those days, most felt more respect for vets than they could express). Now, even Viet Nam and Korean War veteran monuments have joined the monuments to the veterans of WWII, WWI, the Civil War, the Revolutionary War, and all our other wars to preserve the liberties and rights so enjoyed by every American, even if he/she doesn't have a clue as to the cost of these benefits. So, every time you drive through the center of small towns throughout America, whenever you see those war monuments in front of a county courthouse, remember with pride and respect, yourself, the Viet Nam vet, the Blackhorse

So that his brethren shall know..

Please report the death of any member of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia to Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew, Manassas, VA 20112; Email: 11thcav1966@comcast.net; phone: (703) 791-6610 for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

vet, the Desert Storm vet, the Iraqi Freedom vet, the War on Terror vet. You are of the same lineage as those honored and memorialized by the statues of men on horseback, the obelisks, the tanks, and the artillery pieces standing proud.

Now it's time for us, the troopers of the Blackhorse, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, to renew our monument. With immense gratitude we recognize those who have worked so tirelessly to bring our monument home from Viet Nam, to establish it at home at Fort Knox and, now, those among us who have renewed and updated it. But our most profound honor goes to those whose names are on the monument. We do not, we will not, we will never forget each and every one. Much will be shared, much will be spoken, and more will be unspoken - at the reunion, at the dedication, at this sacred monument so long as it will stand.

I will add one more memorial. During my ride with the Blackhorse I kept my tent on the fire support base with HHT. My assistant, who I've previously talked with you about, stayed with the tent when I went riding with the recon troops, the tanks or whoever was busting around. Wherever I went I handed out crosses on a chain. Troopers accepted these gladly - and added them to their beads, peace symbols, dog tags, and whatever else they could put around their necks [I say, "they." You were probably one of "them"]. I suppose many thought of them as nice decorations. Others probably added them "just in case" as good luck charms. But I think most also saw the cross for what it was; a memorial of the greatest event in history: the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. There are cross monuments all over the world. I saw one, many feet tall, on a mountain top in southern Argentina, all over the USA, in the Orient too. Whenever you see one, I trust you'll respect and honor its purpose in remembering Jesus and recognizing his purpose which was to provide the way to God, meaning and purpose while we're still living on this earth, and eternal life in heaven after we're finished here.

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

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



From the 62nd Colonel of the Regiment

Mark E. Calvert



To all the veterans of our great Regiment,

It's been an eventful Spring and as the summer rapidly approaches Troopers are looking forward to upcoming events and challenges. As always, the Regiment is keeping up it's busy pace, and the Troopers are answering any and all challenges with their usual skill and motivation for the mission and the Blackhorse Regiment.

1st Squadron returned from a second deployment to Fort Stewart where they provided world class rotational support to the 3rd Infantry Division as it prepares for deployment to Iraq. TF Eaglehorse, consisting of 2/11 ACR (-), elements of the Regimental Support Squadron, and a Battery of Artillery from Fort Sill deployed to the Republic of Korea for a major training exercise that helped reinforce the US commitment and cooperation to the South Korean Government.

While our 2 maneuver Squadrons were away, the pace here on Fort Irwin did not let up. The 58th Combat Engineer Company continued to train for its deployment to Iraq by completing two months of intense squad and platoon level urban combat training. The Engineer Company is currently training with the 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division here at the National Training Center.

In addition to the imminent deployment of the 58th CEC, I and K Troops have reorganized and completed training as light infantry. Both Troops are on standby to deploy upon notification by the Commander US Central Command to the Arabian Gulf Region. The pace and drive of these units to train and sustain their new skill sets as they await the order to deploy is a testament to the Troopers commitment to winning the War on Terror.

On March 3rd the Newport Beach American Legion Post held its second annual Hoe Down Fundraiser, raising \$10,000 for the Blackhorse Heroes

Scholarship Fund. My sincerest thanks go out to Jerry Williamson and Steve Spriggs for making this event a success.

I would also like to thank the generous people of Newport Beach who came out to support the spouses and children of the 21 Blackhorse Troopers who were lost in Iraq.

On the 4th of April the President of the United States visited the National Training Center. I had the opportunity to showcase the Regiment and its Troopers during a demonstration and static display we set up behind the Regimental Headquarters. During the demonstration he conveyed to the Troopers his deep gratitude for the sacrifice and the hard work made by our Troopers and families. He recognized the expertise of the Blackhorse in training our Army, labeling the Regiment as a vital piece to fighting the Global War on Terror.

On April 14th the Jack Daniels Distillery hosted an event on Fort Irwin to unveil 6 customized barrels of their famous Tennessee Whiskey that they donated to the Regiment. The barrels were used to make their Single Barrel Tennessee Whiskey that will be sold at the Ft. Irwin Class 6 store with a customized Blackhorse medallion. Three of those Barrels will be on display around the Regiment while the remaining 3 barrels will be auctioned off later this summer to raise money for the Blackhorse Heroes' Scholarship.

As we look to the summer, and the Regiment continues to work tirelessly for our country, it has never been clearer that all of our successes and accolades could not have come with out the hard work, determination, and sacrifice of those who have come before. I thank each and every one of you for your service and support of our great Regiment. BLACKHORSE!! ALLONS!!

..Jack Daniels Distillery hosted an event on Fort Irwin to unveil 6 customized barrels of their famous Tennessee Whiskey that they donated to the Regiment....3 barrels will be auctioned off later this summer to raise money for the Blackhorse Heroes' Scholarship.

Operation Iraqi Freedom DVD

This documentary captures the men and women of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Iraq (2006). Our camera toured with the Regiment and filmed battles, raids, and daily life as soldiers carried out their mission. Includes camera interviews with the combat veterans as they share their stories of survival supported by actual combat footage.

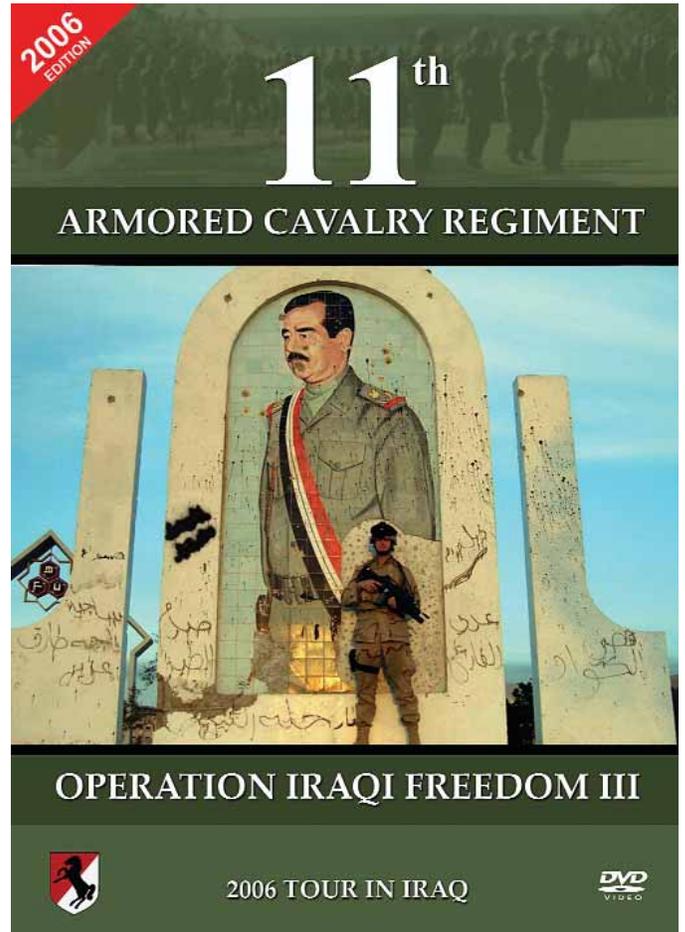
Eric Newton, K Trp., 3/11 (1968-1969) and Jerry Williamson, D Co., 1/11 (1968-1969).

Order this DVD through Quartermaster for \$30.00

Show Your Pride



Gene Giles (C Trp 1966-1967)
Driveway.



“WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH THE BLACKHORSE”

**PREORDER
YOUR
BLACKHORSE
BLANKET
NOW!**

The Blackhorse Women’s Group is still at it! Besides the fantastic First cookbook, the Ladies of the Blackhorse have another Great commemorative — a Blackhorse Lap Blanket that is in production at this time. The blanket will be ready and available in time for the 2007 Reunion. However, preorders are being accepted now. Reserve yours today for just \$30 each! Multiple orders gladly accepted!

AND REMEMBER, EVERYONE CAN ALWAYS USE A COOKBOOK!

Shipping discount for multiples of more than 4 books sent to one address. Contact Barb for shipping.

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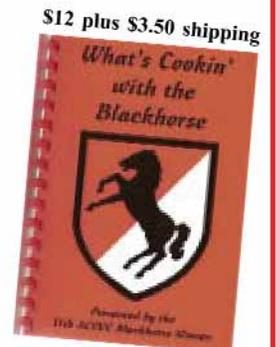
**Barb Moreno, Women’s Coordinator
11th ACVVC Blackhorse Women
24284 Endeavor
Tomah, WI 54660**

Please send me _____ copies of What’s Cookin’ with the Blackhorse at \$12 per copy and \$3.50 for shipping and handling per book. Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ _____.
(Preorder) _____ Blackhorse Lap Blankets at \$30 each.
Add \$6.50 if you want your blanket mailed.

Mail books to:

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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

*Proceeds support
the scholarship
and troopers
assistance
programs!
Your support is
appreciated!*





Journey to Fiddler's Green

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. Our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by listing their names here..

Wayne F. Bascue, who served with A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970, 2nd Plt), passed away on August 25, 2006. Wayne was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Joseph, MO. He was laid to rest in King Hill Cemetery, Saint Joseph, MO.

Arthur R. Brady, who served with HHT Regiment (1967), passed away on March 16, 2007. Arthur was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kempner, TX. Arthur was laid to rest in Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX

Gareth G. Burgmann, who served with D Company (1968-1969), passed away on February 13, 2007. Gareth was a LIFE member of

the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kingsport, TN. He was laid to rest in Holston View Cemetery, Weber City, VA.

James F. Garrett, who served with Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1968-1969), passed away on June 26, 2006. James was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Arlington, TX. He was laid to rest in Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Lelon Gross, who served with Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967), passed away on November 7, 2006. Lelon was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Science Hill, KY. He was laid to rest in Mill Springs National Cemetery, Nancy, KY.

Clarence D. Heintz, who served with Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1970-1971), passed

away on November 5, 2006. Clarence was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Garfield Heights, OH.

Benny R. Killough, who served with L Troop, 3/11 (1967), passed away on December 12, 2006. Benny was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Opp, AL. He was laid to rest in Beulah Cemetery, Opp, AL.

George A. Lachance, who served with D Company, 1/11 (1969-1970), passed away on July 3, 2006. George was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY.

Jerry R. Lester, who served with Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1966-1969), passed away on February 14, 2007. Jerry was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dixon, IL.

Jerome D. Maes, who served with HHT, 1/11 (1968-1969, Radar Plt), passed away on March 7, 2006. Jerome was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Glenwood City, WI.

Martin J. Montes, who served with I Troop, 3/11 (1970) and F Troop, 2/11 (1971), passed away on January 18, 2007. Martin was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tucson, AZ. He was laid to rest in the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix.

James E. Moore, who served with HHT, 3/11 (1970), passed away on August 20, 2006. James was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Iron City, TN. He was laid to rest in William Church Freewill Cemetery, Loretto, TN.

Dean L. Sailor, who served with G Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on July 24, 2006. Dean was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Carson City, MI.

Richard Simpson, who served with H Company (1970-1971) passed away on March 21, 2006. Richard was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Holdenville, OK.

Steven B. Wallace, who served with Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968) and I Troop, 3/11 (1968) passed away on January 6, 2007. Steven was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Los Alamitos, CA.

Show your Pride



Frank D. Renda (HHT, 1966-1967) has his Blackhorse Flag proudly flying

Retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John Love Gerrity, 81, a decorated veteran and 42nd Colonel of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, died Sunday, Jan. 18, 2007, in Naples, Florida. Interment was at 1:00pm on Monday, March 5, 2007, at Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by his wife Barbara.

Born in Santa Fe, New Mexico, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Armor upon graduation from the United States Military Academy (West Point) in 1947. Among his classmates were Alexander Haig, (GEN, USA and President Reagan's Secretary of State) and Brent Scowcroft (LtGEN, USAF and National Security advisor to Presidents Ford and G.H.W. Bush)

In 1965 he served his first tour in Southeast Asia as Operations Officer with Headquarters, United States Army, Vietnam. He returned to Vietnam in mid-1969 and served there through 1970, first as Plans Officer, MACV and then as 42nd Colonel of the Blackhorse. He assumed command of the Regiment on 22 June 1970 while we were operating in Cambodia. General Gerrity's decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit (4th Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star with "V" Device (1 OLC), Air Medal (13 awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Army Occupation Medal. He retired from the Army in 1979 and was a member of the Army Historical Foundation.

This writer was decorated by then Colonel Gerrity on 7 September 1970. Years later I would come to know him personally and discover that this austere appearing man had a great sense of humor and was a true down-to-earth gentleman. In 1996 at the combined reunion of the 11th ACVVC and the Blackhorse Association in Louisville, KY, he came to my room at the Galt House (this was the 20th anniversary of the deployment of the Blackhorse Regiment to Vietnam – the "Mother of all Reunions" drew over 2,000 people!). I had brought photographic equipment from home to copy photos from Troopers for inclusion in the aforementioned book. John brought his photos and sat with us for an hour or so, chatting and drinking a beer while I worked....a very pleasant conversation with a brilliant and humble man.

The following excerpt is from his sub-

In Memoriam



John L. Gerrity Maj Gen, USA, Ret "42nd Colonel of the Blackhorse"

"Tall in the saddle"

March 4, 1925 – January 18, 2007

mission to "The Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam" and is indicative of his character and class:

"What traits make the Blackhorse Regiment such an extraordinary unit? They are many and are bound to be seen differently by various observers. My thoughts are these. By birthright, the Regiment enjoys the tradition,

and accompanying élan, that the cavalry has gained over centuries of warfare. Such tradition rests upon and enhances application in the battlefield of unique capabilities for application of mobile firepower. Also underlying operations on the battlefield and elsewhere as called upon, are individual and unit professionalism. In the course of its operations, there is seen intense loyalty to the Regiment and to the fellow Troopers up and down the chain of command. Such traits combine to foster yet another trait, the cohesion essential to successful mission accomplishment on and off the battlefield – success marked foremost by spirited and conspicuous bravery on the battlefield and by setting the highest standards in meeting any challenge placed before it. Finally, stemming from and nurturing all others are the confidence and pride of every Blackhorse Trooper.

My greatest honor and privilege as a soldier in the United States Army has been to be a Trooper of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, The Blackhorse Regiment. Being its Commander was indeed the best job I ever had. Allons!"

General Gerrity was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on March 5, 2007. The 11th ACVVC extends sincere condolences to his wife Barbara. Another Blackhorse legend has ridden to Fiddler's Green – we will miss him.

"ALLONS!," "REST IN PEACE SIR!"
(Pete Walter, with attribution to the "The Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam", personal notes, correspondence and conversations)

Show Your Pride



Dan Coyle (H Co.1967 & Ftroop 1968-1969) shows his 2004 Blackhorse Monte Carlo



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	C	10.00			
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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			
Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) Man's Woman's	B	20.00			
Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, (indicate choice) r colored r subdued	B	4.00			
Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed abers, together then, together again	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, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	B	20.00			
Blackhorse Pin	A	4.00			
11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	4.00			
Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00			
Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia	B	125.00			
Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	C	35.00			
Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	A	225.00			
Lapel Pin: "Support Our Troops"	A	3.00			
Magnetic "Blackhorse"	A	5.00			
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Video combo #1: "Combat Reports" & Blackhorse Video (DVD only)	C	50.00			
Video combo #2: "Combat Reports" (DVD & Blackhorse Video (VHS)	C	40.00			
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Book, "At The Cutting Edge" by Sewall Menzel	C	20.00			
Book, "Vietnam Tracks"	C	26.95			
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Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White	B	25.00			
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			
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Windbreaker, white w/snap front, crossed sabers w/11BH patch logo, VN Ribbon, Vietnam 66-72 on left breast. Sizes: Small thru 3X available	B	35.00			
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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 12/30/06. Previous price lists invalid. Mail order to: 11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757.



From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello All.

Things here are really hopping as we are getting ready for our reunion. We will have some 1st timers and we are looking forward to meeting them in person. We ended the year on a slower note than we expected, but we are looking good to start off this year. Some of you have may have already seen some pricing inaccuracies in the 1st quarter T R. We have some 2x long sleeve t-shirts on sale. Also we are trying to empty out an over stock on some items and we have them on sale. Due to higher and higher

price on gold we are not carrying the gold rings, instead we opted for the gold and silver, which we believe is better looking. You can purchase them in ladies sizes and stones in them as well. We hope to see you all, in Louisville.

Allons

Most Clearance and Featured items can be viewed at www.11thcavnam.com as well.

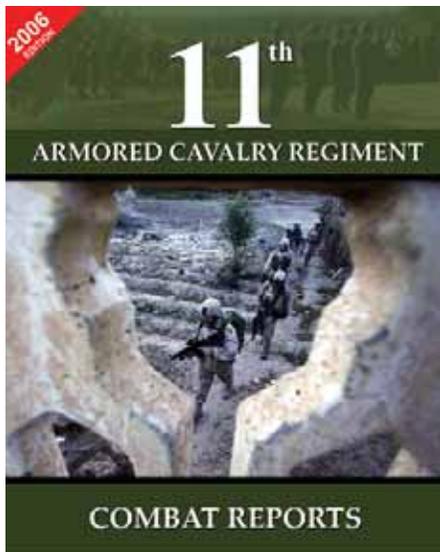
QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

QM Clearance items include: Ladies shirts all sizes old price \$20 now \$15. Past reunion shirts red or white old price \$30 now \$18, these include Washington, Nashville, and Eugene in sizes 2x reg. or 3x reg. Kansas City Reunion golf shirts sizes 2x reg. and xl reg., old price \$30 now \$25. Henleys red and white all sizes reg., old price \$20 now \$15. All red and white golf shirts, all sizes reg., old price \$30 now \$25.

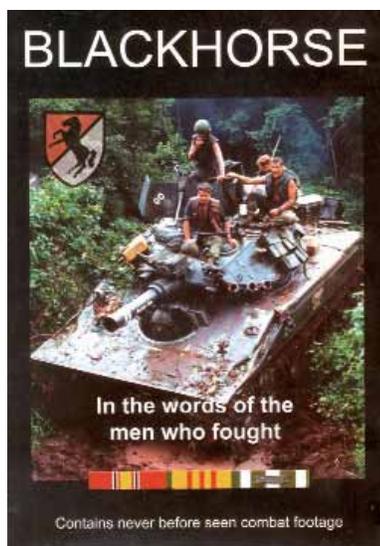
Long Sleeve T-Shirts, size 2X only, Ash or Black, old price \$20, now \$15.

QM Featured Items include: Magnetic "Support Our Troops Ribbons"-\$4.00 (A), "Support Our Troops" Lapel Pin-\$3.00 (A), and Magnetic "Blackhorse"-\$5.00 (A)

- DVD "Combat Reports" (new item) in DVD only, \$30.
- Video Combo Special #1, "Combat Reports and Blackhorse Video (DVD only) \$50 (save \$10)
- Video Combo Special#2, Combat Reports (DVD) and Blackhorse Video (VHS) \$40 (save \$20)



DVD "Combat Reports"



Blackhorse Video

Featured Items

Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon – \$4.00 (A)
"Support Our Troops" Lapel Pin – \$3.00 (A)



Magnetic "Blackhorse" – \$5.00 (A)



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