



# Thunder Run

Vol. 25 – NO. 2

“Together Then – Together Again”

2nd Quarter, 2010

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

### The Knell-Nash Airplane Washing Company

Charles Abbey’s fresh water wash point at Chu Lai



By Charles W. Abbey  
HHT 2/11(1966-1967)

“A clean helicopter flies faster, higher and safer than a dirty helicopter.” is an old aviation axiom...at least I think that it is.

At modern aerodromes, considerable attention is routinely given to the clean-

liness of the resident aircraft. Dirt, dust, mud and any other junk is washed from the outside aircraft surfaces. Unwanted material that has worked its way into interior spaces is removed. Pressurized water, air or solvents may be used. Vacuums suck difficult to reach gunk away. Soft cloths are used on transparent panels. In short, “Clean is good.”

Please turn to **WASHING** on page 4

### What’s an ‘ARP’?

By Doug Haywood  
Aerorifle Platoon Leader,  
(Air Cavalry Troop, 1970-1971)

This is my personal testimonial to the dedication to duty, professional competence, moral and physical courage, and camaraderie displayed by each one of my soldiers truly on a daily (if not hourly) basis—“MY ARP’s”

I was very fortunate and honored to have served as the Platoon Leader of the Aerorifle Platoon (ARP) from the end of June 1970 to mid-June 1971. I reported to the 90th Replacement Battalion as an infantry officer who thought “he had arrived” and, as a result of his current presence in Vietnam, the war would soon be over. Dumb!! I told the assignment people there at Long Binh that I wanted an assignment to the 1st Cavalry, the 101st Airborne, or the 173rd Airborne, “Glory Units”. When the official assignments were announced, I found I was going to the “11th ACR”. I had no idea what an “ACR” was and, clouded by ignorance and arrogance, was disappointed. Little did I know that the

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Allen Hathaway,  
President

# From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



Plans are being finalized for the 25th annual reunion in Washington, DC, on August 25-29. Once again this promises to be

an outstanding reunion and an opportunity to be with others who served with the Blackhorse Regiment. Whether you served in 1966 or in 1972 we all share a common bond. Reunions are a great place to renew old friendships and to make new friends.

The Grand Hyatt is located in the heart of the nation's capital and near many of the popular sightseeing attractions, monuments and museums. This is a perfect opportunity to combine the reunion with a visit to the nation's capital. See the separate article in this issue for more information.

We expect another large turn-out for this reunion, estimated now at 1,000 or more. We are seeing more people arriving one or two days early to meet with friends and take in the sights of Washington. We've added more rooms since the last newsletter. The new room block is filling up fast. We urge you to reserve your room as soon as possible to ensure you have your reservations set. Contact old friends early giving them plenty of time to make their plans to attend. Feel free to contact any board member if you need help finding an old friend.

We are offering the memorial granite bricks again in this issue. There are approximately 125 blank bricks available and this section of the Circle of Honor will be complete.

Dig out your old pictures, slides and scrapbook. Finally, come prepared to enjoy yourself!

We would also like to remind everyone the Trooper Assistance Fund is available for anyone who may need financial assistance to attend a reunion. The intent is a "one time" assist for troopers who have never been able to attend a reunion. If you are aware of anyone who would like to come, please contact either the secretary, president or any board member.

Our Scholarship Fundraising activity is going strong again for 2010. This issue contains another long list of donors. The annual raffle is one of three activities we conduct each year to benefit the Scholarship Fund. Raffle tickets will be mailed to all members in May. We're offering some great prizes again this year so be sure to return your tickets prior to the reunion.

We are offering the memorial granite bricks again in this issue. There are approximately 125 blank bricks available and this

section of the Circle of Honor will be complete. The granite brick is an everlasting way to honor your service or to remember a friend or loved one. Show your support for the 11th Cavalry Memorial and order a brick.

We received many phone calls after our last newsletter from troopers who recognized names in "Welcome Aboard" section. It's gratifying to be able to reconnect old friends after all these years. We find new Blackhorse troopers every week. If you are looking for someone, please feel free to contact me or any board member and we will try to put you in contact and old friend.

We invite all Blackhorse troopers, family and friends to honor our fallen comrades on Memorial Day, May 31, as we lay our Blackhorse wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on that day. If you're not able to attend, take a moment wherever you may be and remember our comrades-in-arms. They shall not be forgotten. Their memory will live forever. ALLONS! - It's good to be "Together Again".

## Notes from the Secretary

Adrian Vaaler

**E**lection 2010: This year we will be electing one person to fill the Board of Director's position held by Jim Holt. Jim is not seeking re-election so nominations are open for anybody to nominate themselves or somebody else to fill the position. The election will take place during the Member's Business Meeting on Saturday morning.

Qualifications: All members of the Board of Directors must be able to attend the Reunions and two Board meetings each year (Reunion and Mid-year) of his elected term, and to be in regular email communication with the Board of Directors and Officers regarding a multi-

tude of ongoing projects and business requiring decisions and oversight by the Board. Furthermore, each member of the Board of Directors must be able to commit themselves to "specific areas of interest"(committees, projects, etc.) within the 11thACVVC. A Board member must have good communication skills and should be a highly organized individual. He should be capable of communicating via email, using MS Word (Version 97-2003), and have any specialized skills the Board position may require.

Nominations may be sent to me by email (11thsecretary@gmail.com) or may be submitted at the Business Meeting

from the floor. Please consider participating on our Board of Directors serving the 11thACVVC.

### 2010 Newsletter Deadlines

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

**First Quarter 2010 .....Jan 15**

**Second Quarter 2010 .....Mar 25**

**Third Quarter 2010.....Jun 25**

**Fourth Quarter 2010.....Oct 1**

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



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

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*Thunder Run* covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Correspondence and inquiries concerning *Thunder Run* should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," James M. "Jim" Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 <Jgriff11@aol.com>

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**...the motivated, well trained military ground and flight crews commonly go beyond the expectations of the designer to keep their "bird" in the best possible flying condition.**

In a forward combat zone some of the clean-goals can be quite difficult to achieve. Given: Military aircraft are designed and expected to operate well in environmental situations that their civilian counterparts could not endure. Never-the-less, the motivated, well trained military ground and flight crews commonly go beyond the expectations of the designer to keep their "bird" in the best possible flying condition.

The four-helicopter Air Section of the Second Squadron arrived by C-130 transport at night, on an unfamiliar Marine air base, with no greeting committee to assist with the reconstruction of the partially disassembled rotor craft. Once off the transport our crew chiefs quickly faded into the murky darkness. Directly they returned with borrowed lifting and moving equipment and promptly restored our helicopters to flyable condition. At daybreak we were off to join the Squadron as it disembarked from LSTs on the Chu Lai beach.

And, a very pretty beach it was. This wall-to-wall sand pile was to be our home for several weeks until space inside the wire could be found for our armored cavalry organization. Ltc Ben Harmon, Squadron Commander, was semi-furious to learn that this sprawling Marine Base could find no real estate to offer the Army units destined to

replace the Marines being shifted to the DMZ. But, in the spirit of inter-service harmony he demonstrated sage patience.

In a day, our canvas was up and the aircraft ensconced in the minimal shelter of the first row of sand dunes behind the beach zone. Altogether the section was quite exposed to the maritime wind and weather. Exposure to salt laden air off the South China Sea coupled with the diurnal changes in the blowing sand was cause for some concern, not for the soldiers, but for the equipment. In just a few days of operation the aircraft began to show unwelcome signs of wear.

As it happened, even though we were established in the sparsely vegetated dunes, we soon discovered that a near-by wet lands closely attended our site. Water, possibly fresh, was flowing through the dunes and across the beach to the sea. Recognizing this potential boon to airframe cleanliness our senior crew chiefs, Specialists Knell and Nash approached me with a suggestion to establish a "wash point" in the wetlands area for our birds. Buckets of water would be dipped and used along with soft brushes and the aircraft would be clean!

This imaginative idea seemed to have considerable merit, but I had a reservation or two...

Could we find some timbers or steel planks that would support the aircraft?

Could the water of the wetlands be expected to be fresh - not salty or brackish?

My two chiefs assured me that they had already discovered a great supply of the necessary materials and that we had an in-house salt content expert with extensive experience as a youth in the vicinity of the California Salton Sea!

Proceed we did. The level landing pad of heavy steel planking went into place quickly - nothing but marsh on Tuesday, on Thursday we landed our first dirty bird, solid and secure. The water had been tested and declared free of all salts by our "salinity expert" and shortly, all of our OH-23s were washed and scoured from skid shoe to Jesus nut - they positively gleamed!

We were happy about this needed progress but I had a nagging doubt about salinity. "How could you accurately test for salts in this primitive setting?" I summoned my expert on brine and invited him to elaborate on his time-tested procedure for revealing the salt content of the local waters. His explanation went something like this; "Sir, I take several carefully chosen samples of the water over several days and filter them into clinically clean beakers. I allow the samples to stand for thirty minutes after which I stick my finger into each sample and taste - Not salty, No salt! Case closed!

That sounded like real science to me...and we never had the slightest problem with flying faster, higher or safer.

## Show Your Pride



**LEFT:** Pete Terry, (HHT, 3/11 69-70) displays his pride with his 11 CAV license plate on his motorcycle.

**RIGHT:** Tom Devine, (A Trp. 69) Exhibits his vehicle which shows his Blackhorse Pride



# Mustached Medicine Man

By Blandin Karabinos  
(HHT 2/11, 71-72)

In late 1971, come Monday, the 2nd Squadron's chaplains flew from Phu Loi to the FSB Andrews. Joining us aboard the Huey was Captain Nick Cifelli, our regimental surgeon. He too made rounds of the troopers in the field. Nick wasn't as brash as "Hawk-eye" of the popular TV Mash series but he was as compassionate as "BJ" and as erudite as "Charles." He could be funny, serious, commanding and sympathetic all in one sentence. He was a true professional and the kind of doctor you wanted in your corner.

Once we landed at Andrews we headed for the mess tent and breakfast. Not only did we want to eat, but it was an opportunity to let the troopers know that the chaplains and the doctor were in town. After breakfast, Doc Cifelli set up shop and a line soon formed outside his tent flap. The chaplains made rounds, located spots for worship services and usually conducted

**He was a true professional and the kind of doctor you wanted in your corner.**

them around 1100 hours.

During lunch, which we ate at Andrews standing up so no mud splashed into our food, Nick Cifelli mentioned that he was going to do a MEDCAP in the local vil-

lage and asked if I wanted to come along. With a couple jeeps loaded with medical supplies and equipment, a few assistants and armed troopers to provide security and a Vietnamese interpreter, we started down a muddy track that might have been a road to a local village about 8 to 10 clicks away.

Continued on page 12

## Show Your Pride



Philip Cenicola (HOW, 1/11 66-67) displays numerous items showing Blackhorse pride on his Honda

### REUNION SHIRT ORDER – also available with additional personalization 11thACVVC - 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion 2010 – Washington, DC

All pre-ordered shirts will be available for pick-up during the Reunion in DC

If you know you are attending and want a Reunion shirt, if you know your size, whether or not you want your unit on it also, we encourage you to take this opportunity to make your pre-order; it will be ready and waiting for you at Registration – all personalization of shirts will be pre-ordered.

To receive your 2010 Reunion shirt for the Reunion, Order must be in by June 30, 2010 – No Exceptions.

Pennsport is an approved vendor of the 11th ACVVC Quartermaster



contact *name* and *phone* or *e-mail*

#### 2010 Reunion Shirt

Sport shirt – pique knit cotton/poly blend, sage green - left chest pocket (may request  no pocket)

Adult (mens) sizes S – 6X avail – (for sizes 4-6X, please add \$3.- per X)

If to be shipped (AFTER the Reunion) – please add \$8.- per shirt

Include your address and shipping instructions

#### personalization

Add your name, unit, and/or dates in-country:

left chest over pocket, opposite Reunion logo – in 1 to 3 lines, allow 24 characters, excluding spacing:

example: **CHUCK BOWER**  
**L TRP 69-70**

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(add over 3Xs =) \_\_\_\_\_

size \_\_\_\_\_

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Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
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- see you there – Allons

**This form is for 2010 Reunion Shirts only – all other orders go thru the quartermaster**

Reunion shirts provided through Penn Sport Embroidery – Please e-mail or call direct with questions!

360-321-7110 – [pensport@whidbey.com](mailto:pensport@whidbey.com) - Chuck and Cathi Bower – 6075 S. Coles Rd. Langley, WA 98260

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## ARP from page 1

11th ACR's Air Cavalry Troop just lost its ARP Platoon Leader wounded in Cambodia and word went out from the Troop to the personnel guys in Long Binh that the Blackhorse wanted the next airborne and ranger qualified infantry lieutenant available. That turned out to be ME. As I was to learn in a few days, this was the most fortunate "personnel action" that would ever happen to me throughout my Army career.

A classmate of mine from Pennsylvania Military College (and an usher at my wedding three (3) weeks earlier and, since he was an Armor lieutenant, had selected the Blackhorse as his assignment of first choice) picked me up at Long Binh and took me to Dian. He knew where I was going before I did and was worried about my assignment to the ARP's, who were known even to him as a group of hard chargers who loved to lock horns with the enemy as often as possible. He and I were roommates at "Newbie School" and then reported to our respective units: mine, the ARP's and his, Bravo Troop. This brave and skilled officer (and very dear friend) was killed in July 1970 along with all the soldiers on his Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle. He left a wife and infant son behind, as well as a promising Army career that I was convinced would culminate in multiple star rank.

Formally, an "ARP" was an infantryman of the Regiment's Air Cavalry Troop's Aerorifle Platoon. Its mission: "to extend the capability of the Air Cavalry Troop by means of ground reconnaissance; exploitation of enemy contacts by Troop or other Regimental assets; conduct of daylight and night ambush patrols; augment Regimental ground cavalry troop and tank company operations; and (primarily) to rescue air crews and secure downed aircraft."

However, that formal dry Army mission statement doesn't really tell the story of an ARP and the platoon in terms of their sacrifice, skill, courage, humor, and the mutual trust and confidence (and, yes, the brotherly love) we had in and for each other. As the ARP Platoon Leader for almost 12 months in 1970 and 1971, allow me to share my remembrances of those troopers.

No one platoon or Troop element EVER

operated independently – the strength of the Troop rested totally on teamwork and the synchronized employment of all its assets. An overview of the overall Air Cavalry Troop organization and equipment will provide an insight into where the ARP Platoon fit into operations, as well as illuminate the awesome maneuver and firepower capabilities that the Troop could bring to bear on the enemy independently or in support of the three (3) cavalry squadrons.

The Troop consisted of a Headquarters Section (Troop Cdr, XO, Operations Officer and CP staff, motor section, a Chemical Corps detachment, and administrative section); four(4) platoons, with the ARP Platoon being one. The remainder were the AeroLift Platoon (nine UH-1H Huey's, our "Bluebirds"); the AeroScout Platoon (nine OH6A Cayuse helicopters similar to the one used on "Magnum P.I.", armed with a scout observer's M60 machinegun and a side-mounted 7.62mm minigun, our "Whitebirds"); and the AeroWeapons Platoon (nine AH-1G, Cobra's, our "Redbirds"). All these air platoons were ably supported by armament and fuel specialists and aircraft maintenance and avionics technicians from both Air Cavalry Troop's assets, a Chemical Corps detachment (for the aerial employment of CS agents), and our direct support 398th Maintenance Company.

The Aerorifle Platoon was organized into a HQ element (myself, my RTO, and platoon sergeant, and his RTO) and four (4) rifle squads. Each squad had about 10 or so soldiers (only eight would go on a particular mission at a time since the maximum load of the Huey's was eight troops and four aircrew members). Each squad was commanded by a squad leader and consisted of an RTO, M60 machine-gunner, grenadier, medic (usually permanently assigned to the ARP Platoon from the Regiment's 37th Medical Company). As I recall, we had seven or eight medics in the platoon commanded by a staff sergeant, and three (3) riflemen.

A trooper became an ARP by formally applying through his unit. Most came from the ground cavalry troops or tank companies, but some came directly from the Regiment's headquarters as soon as they

arrived in country. The soldier would then be interviewed by the ARP Platoon Sergeant and me. We accepted about half the applicants, who were constantly evaluated by their NCO's and veteran ARP's during a probationary period. Those who didn't or were unable to meet the demands of an ARP were returned to their former unit. This was a particularly emotional event as, by simply accepting a soldier into the platoon, we then became totally responsible for his survival in a unit that frequently made contact with enemy forces, usually on their terms. Some of these soldiers did not survive and their losses have plagued me and many others since then.

An ARP was truly a professional soldier who was always eager to seek out the enemy, chock-full of initiative, but tempered with the discipline to comply with orders of his superiors.

He wore camouflaged jungle fatigues, camouflaged boonie hat, patrol cap, OG cravat bandana, or a head band and sometimes NOMEX gloves. He was always loaded for bear. Riflemen and all leaders carried a 100 round bandolier of M60 ammo, two smoke grenades, perhaps a LAW or WP grenade and pen flares, 4 or 5 frag's, and about 400-450 rounds of M16 ammo that was usually carried in AK vests taken from dead or captured VC/NVA.

We even frequently had point men carrying AK47's, whose physical appearance might be taken by an enemy soldier (at least for a split second) as one of "his" own. This would give the ARP that extra time to take him out.

An ARP was intolerant of a leader who was insincere, incompetent, or was consumed with his own personal advancement and would not accept another ARP whose dedication, skill, and commitment to the platoon was substandard. As in every other Army unit, the troops were usually the first to identify those who could not or would not "hack it" and they let them know it, one way or another.

As a COL Malone once said in his early 1980's magnificent audio tape describing his tour in Vietnam, enhanced by sound effects, that soldier performance there was "Marked not by short hair and salutes, but by proficiency and automatic habits of

combat never learned in any damn school!" These were my men!

Our almost daily operations were predominantly focused on enemy base areas that had been discovered by the Troop's scout aircraft, but many also resulted from "Blackhorse" ground cavalry troops and tank companies, as well as intelligence reports. During the period July through October 1970, the ARP's conducted over 125 combat assault helicopter insertions into often enemy occupied landing zones. These insertions were followed by demanding patrolling through the various terrain all of us "Blackhorse Troopers" encountered (dense jungle, rivers and streams, rice paddies, and small, but steep ravines and hills), detailed searches of bunker complexes, emplacement of automatic claymore mine ambushes, "stay-behind" squad-size ambushes, and frequent link-up's with ground cavalry troops or tank companies for joint reconnaissance operations. Often, these operations were followed by frequent night ambush patrols in squadron AO's or the Air Cavalry Troop's independent AO's.

I was blessed with super NCO's too. As a matter of fact, the platoon was frequently over-strength on NCO's. This "admin" situation afforded all of us (especially me) the wisdom and experience of fine soldiers who "had been there" many times over. Their presence and major contributions made all of us (again, especially me) better soldiers. I remember them fondly and respectfully. I vividly remember most of them, but to name them individually would inevitably result in the exclusion of a few and for that reason, I'll pass on mentioning them by name. They know who they are and so do the troops.

Although the ARP's had the "luxury" of being housed in major base camps living pretty well with our "brother" aviation assets compared to other Blackhorse units, who spent weeks and months in the field, our missions "outside the wire" were always conducted in recently or currently enemy occupied areas. We rarely "searched" for indications of enemy activity. We were always inserted where contact was not anticipated, but expected. We encountered numerous booby-traps, often with devastating results on my soldiers, and enemy contacts, sometimes equally deadly.

**They proudly wore their CIB's, but craved no medals or adulation. They only wanted to do their jobs, never let the platoon down, and bring all their fellow soldiers back.**

Throughout all this "historical stuff", my most vivid memories are of the superb NCO's and soldiers I served with and the courage, dedication to each other and the mission, their unparalleled professional skill, and their daring approach to aggressively closing with the enemy. They were so daring, in fact, that I often had to "rein them in" to avoid entanglement in a contact very unfavorable to us. They displayed all this on a daily basis.

They proudly wore their CIB's, but craved no medals or adulation. They only wanted to do their jobs, never let the platoon down, and bring all their fellow soldiers back. This dedication to each other was most heartening and continues even to this day through attendance at reunions, telephone and email contact, and their solemn presence at funerals for our fellow ARP's who have departed for "Fiddler's Green".

The story of the ARP's would be profoundly incomplete without including all the aviators, crew chiefs, door gunners, maintenance, armament, and fuel technicians that supported us every step of the way. Frequently, many of these true heroes were lost in protecting us. Their memory has been a constant companion of mine through the years along with the following:

- The Slick pilots and crews who carried us into and out of some really hairy situations, often negotiating tricky one-ship landing and pick-up zones and flying in adverse weather. I vividly remember one pilot who had to fly through a monsoon SIDEWAYS so he could see, since the windshield wipers could not handle to pelting rain as he carried us to a downed Huey. There were also those who consistently and on numerous occasions braved enemy fire to evacuate our wounded and dead.
- The Scout pilots and observers who routinely "hung it out" zipping and usually hovering around the jungle to locate enemy base areas. These men were always operating just in front of us or on our flanks with the sole objective of protecting us, giving us early warning of the presence of the

enemy, or by engaging those foolish enough to fire on them. The fact that we had to recover many Scouts and their aircraft, including some who were killed in action or very severely wounded, is a testament to their skill, courage, and genuine concern for my troops' safety. I've often said these guys had titanium or depleted uranium stones.

- The Cobra pilots who constantly orbited above us with their eyes focused on the Scout supporting us and our progress and were ready in an instant to "bring the world" down on any enemy who locked horns with us. When covering a downed crew and aircraft recovery, these men routinely flew at treetop level at slow speeds in order to locate and engage any enemy attempting to interfere with the operation and on EVERY landing or pick-up of my men, they flew parallel to (or just ahead of) the Slicks always ready to fire rockets, minimums, grenades, and (on one ship as I recall) a dreaded 20mm Gatling gun.

Most important of all is the memory of the real Heroes of the Air Cavalry Troop, the six (6) ARP's and two (2) AeroScouts who were Killed In Action during my tour:

**ARP's:** SGT Walter Hutton, SGT John Malcolm (posthumous Silver Star), SP4 Ronald Huxtable, SP4 Robert Koonce (posthumous Silver Star), SP4 Jerrold Vesey (posthumous Silver Star), PFC John Tamburri. **AeroScouts:** 1LT Dan Coombs, SP5 Joseph Blickenstaff

When I reflect on my assignment as "Raider 6" (my radio call-sign), two items come to mind that summarize my tour as the ARP Platoon Leader. They are the titles of the following book and a line from a movie:

*I Could Never Be So Lucky Again*, From title of the book by Colonel Jimmy Doolittle (commander of the Tokyo Raid in 1942)

*"At a time when courage meant most, I lived among brave men"*, from the great movie *Mister Roberts*

**These were and are my Brothers**

# Meet Our 2009 Scholarship Winners

Meet Our 2009 Scholarship Winners. This issue contains brief statements from 2 of our 2009 Scholarship Winners.



**Amanda Jones**  
Daughter of Daniel F. Jones, 541 MID, 68-69

Thank you very much, 11th ACVVC, for selecting me to be a recipient of the 11th ACVVC Scholarship. This scholarship is very important to me. It is allowing me to be able to go to college and get a good education. I have worked very hard to get to where I am today and I want to be able to do well in

school without having to worry about the cost of my education. With this scholarship I am able to help defray the cost that my parents will have to pay for me to go to school. College is very important to me because it will allow me to be able to achieve the one goal I have in life, to change someone else's life. Being a social worker will allow me to help all different sorts of people on a daily basis, whether these people are elderly, kids or adults. I am honored to be chosen to receive such an important scholarship, thank you.

Scholarship dedicated to PFC Jerry Wayne Talley, E Trp; KIA January 25, 1969, Age 25.



**Jessica Tilson**  
Daughter of Edward Tilson, I Troop, 70-71

First of all, thank you for this opportunity. This scholarship means exactly that, opportunity. I now have the opportunity to work less and study more. This scholarship has given me hope and incentive; incentive to finish school with the best grades that I am capable of making. Words cannot express

my gratitude. I was so excited when I found out that I was awarded the scholarship I screamed for joy! It was right before finals and the news gave me renewed incentive. I finished the semester with the highest semester average in my college career.

Scholarship Dedicated to PFC Ronald Collins, F Trp; KIA December 15, 1969; Age 18;

## Show Your Pride



At left, Chuck Argento, (K Trp. 67-68) shows pride with his Blackhorse adorned truck and license plate.



Nine I Troopers and their spouses display their pride showing the Blackhorse banner in the Branson Veteran's Day Parade as they have done for the last several years.



Christy Stoyanoff on the left, (F Troop 68) proudly shows Blackhorse pride with his 11th Cav plate and Blackhorse symbol on his truck along with Kenny Heithoff on the right, (F Troop, 1968-1969). Christy took his trip to Fiddler's Green within 24 hours after this photo was taken.



Jim Griffiths, Editor  
*Thunder Run*

## Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths

I recently received a phone call from one of my fellow crew members on F-24. He had been reading at the top of the Officer's page in *Thunder Run* and read my name over a couple times and a bell went off for him that he thought he recognized my name and Troop designation. (I wonder why it wasn't my picture on the Editor's Corner page that rang that bell for him after all these years?) We have talked a couple of times since and I told him to come to the Reunion if at all possible. I'll wait and see if that happens. I also passed his name and number on to one of my other crew members that I reunite with at most reunions and I will be waiting to hear how that conversation turns out.

I noticed while talking to my recently reconnected buddy that many things were very clear and that we agreed on many circumstances and people but the fog of time left a few other things a bit murky. I am sure many of you have experienced this same feeling at one time or another while talking to fellow troopers.

I knew I had an F Troop roster from 68-69 in Excel spreadsheet format and have sent it to him in hopes that he can open it, view it, and we can use it as a basis for continuing dialogue up to and hopefully even at the Reunion. I really hadn't closely examined the roster recently so I perused it more carefully to determine what recollections the names would bring back to me. Of the names I recognized there are some that I have had contact with, but vastly more that I remember but have never reconnected with and don't have a clue concerning whatever became of them. This caused a major feeling of wistfulness to sweep over me. My conclusion was that I will probably never reunite with most of them but I took heart that after all these years that I have been active with the 11th ACVVC that I reconnected with **one more** in March, 2010. **One more...one more...one more...**, that's what it's all about!

On another matter I would like to give you some information that might expedite

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**Submissions to Thunder Run of any type go to me, Jim Griffiths. Picture submissions for the 11th ACVVC Calendar should be sent to Pete Walter and donations for all categories to Ollie Pickral.**

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matters for you when you desire to communicate with the 11th ACVVC in terms of inquiries, correspondence, and submissions to various segments of the organization. The Officer's Page (page 3) will have details on the mail addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers for all the names I will mention in this column.

Submissions to *Thunder Run* of any type go to me, Jim Griffiths. Picture submissions for the 11th ACVVC Calendar should be sent to Pete Walter and donations for all categories to Ollie Pickral.

If you are moving or have moved or you need an address, email address, or phone number of a fellow trooper contact Allen Hathaway and he will let you know if these are available to you. We have a moving form in all issues of *Thunder Run* which makes filling out and sending an address change pretty easy. It is in a box labeled 'Moving'

The death of any Trooper should be reported to Allen Hathaway for inclusion in "Journey to Fiddler's Green" in *Thunder Run* and to Dan Stroia who is in charge of our Funeral Honor Guard.

In general, you can contact any Board member or any other person on the Officer's page via the information listed on the Officer's page as well.

I hope this information is helpful. I also hope the information concerning the Reunion, submissions from our regular contributors and your fellow troopers as well as all the other content of *Thunder Run* provides a positive reading experience and enjoyment from your 2nd Quarter *Thunder Run*

On a personal note, RIP F 24, you were an outstanding TC! 24 Delta.

## 'Bending Wrenches'

By Mark S. Crist, Air Cav Trp.  
and 398th Trans. Det. (68-70)

I arrived at Fort Bragg for Basic Training in February 1968 and RA all the way. From there I was to go to Fort Knox for AIT as an 11E20, tanks. At least that's what I left the recruiter's office thinking. By some SNAFU the picket fence I had when I left the Induction Center at Fort Holibird, Maryland had a 2 get printed under eyesight. Actually the "eyes" had it at 20/10, but maybe some clerk had an appointment at 2 and that's what got recorded. Not wise to the ways of the Army quite yet I wound up going to Fort Eustis, Virginia for AIT as a Single Turbine Engine Utility Helicopter mechanic, or Huey for short. So that's what the Army deduced my aptitude tests qualified me for. I had thought eyesight was more critical in this field...but!

I left the 90th Replacement bound for the "11th Regiment, Cavalry" after arriving in Vietnam. Once there I was assigned to Air Cavalry Troop. After Jungle School I was further assigned to a maintenance team charged with performing scheduled and unscheduled maintenance on Air Cav's Hueys. As I remember the AO at Blackhorse the flight line was covered with PSP steel planking which had a way of absorbing Vietnam's hellish heat, turning it up a notch, and radiating it back in your face. This was no more apparent than newbies being given jobs like working in the Huey's infamous "Hell Hole." It was located on the aircraft's belly and housed its hydraulics, transmission filter, and if you were unlucky, a cargo hook, to name a few widgets. If the flight line was a radiator, this was a virtual sauna. And "tight squeeze" is putting it mildly. After a few trips in there I looked forward to the arrival of somebody newer than me. I remember a fellow mechanic, a fairly religious man, having a time with a hydraulic servo. Perhaps he was a bit claustrophobic to begin with. We heard a wrench fall and a string of profanity erupt that probably heated up the steel even more.

Around the perimeter of the flight line was the 398th's various shops housed in vans. What the line mechanics couldn't do was work ordered to these shops which included Engine, Prop and Rotor, and Sheet Metal. We could usually knock out the 100

Continued on page 26

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

Donations to various 11th ACVVC activities since the 1st Quarter 2010 issue of *Thunder Run*

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49
<b>General Account</b>	Williamson, Gerald Young, Thomas			
<b>Gold Level</b>	Friends & Family Gene Hartwick	<b>Bronze Level</b>	Crudele, Anthony Cunningham, Charles Curti, Ben Czerepuszko, Daniel Czerwinski, Joseph Davenport, Allen Davis, Milton Davis, Thomas Davis, Richard Davis, Henry Degaray, Francis Deist, John Dell'Aria, Joseph Demasi, Ralph DePaul, Richard Dewitt, David Dewitt, Kenny Dimeo, John Dobraniecki, John Donnelly, Edward Dove, Russell Doyle, Timothy Droski, Frederick Dublin, Sammy Effinger, John Entas, Laurence Ericson, Robert Evener, Robert Farfel, Douglas Farris, Barry Femrite, Lynn Fericola, Charles Fisher, Paul Fitzgerald, William Floyd, Gary Fong, Leonard Forehan, Dennis Fortnam, David Foster, Randy Frantz, William Gabbert, Roderick Galloway, Robert Garten, James Gatewood, Henry Gaul, James Gibbs, Richard Giesler, Donald Govan, Stephen Greaves, Reginald Greek, Charles Green, Dennis Greene, G., Alanson Gregg, Kenneth Griffin, Frances Grogg, John Grulke, Wayne Grunloh, John Guerena, J. Gurden, Wallace Haines, William Halama, Ronald Hall, , Rick Hallman, Eugene Hansen, Henning Hartwig, Gary	Hass, Robert Hayes, Edward Herlihy, Matthew Herlinsky, Walter Herman, Paul Herweh, Terry Heuston, Robert Hien, John Higden, Ross Hladky, Joseph Holdcraft, Richard Holloway, Larry Hoover, Lawrence, Hopper, Megan Horvatic, Michael Howard, Carl Hoyle, Danny Humbertson, John Hyland, Jerry Inman, Henry Jensen, Robert Jacobitz, Wayne Johnson, Steve Johnson, Robert Johnson, Donald Jones, Edward Juskiewicz, Thomas Justison, Roger Kaehler, James Kearnes, Richard Kelly, Thomas Kent, Edward Kersey, Mark Knapp, John Koester, Herbert Kopecky, Christopher Kratky, Maryann Kuehner, James Kuenzel, Orlin Lade, Joseph Landusky, Thomas Galloway, Robert Langone, James Langowski, Lawrence Lantrip, Gary Larson, Raymond Leesmann, D. Leis, Robert Lemperle, Myron Lewis, David Lingen, John Lombardo, Stephen Long, Richard Lopes, Francis Lopez, Jeffrey Lownsbery, Mark Loya, Atanacio Luke, Craig Lundahl, Richard Lyle, Ross Lynch, James Lynch, Michael Madej, William Madsen, Per Manzo, Joseph
Abrahamson, James	In, Memory of Gene Hartwick	Bronze, Level Abney, Steve Anderson, Harold Anderson, Phillip Arana, Fredric Arellano, Nasario Bailey, Otis Baker, Daina Bakos, Richard Bankson, Timothy Barber, John Barrett, Donald Bartell, Kenneth Basham, David Baxley, Horace Baylosis, Joseph Beas, John Beishir, Gregory Bennett, Carl Bennett, Debra Binns, James Blackman, Melvin Blue, Donald Bostelman, Christopher Bourdess, Andrew Bradley, Otis Brand, Renette Brawn, Bill Brill, Grey Brooks, Charles Brooks, Edward Brown, Jason Brydge, Donald Burke, Joseph Burke, Thomas Burr, Chuck Byers, John Campbell, Clifford Caporiccio, Guy Carey, Otis Cargile, Ronnie Carpenter, Raymond Carson, Dennis Carter, James Caswell, Jonathan Chesemore, James Childers, Charles Church, Frank Ciborowski, Dennis Cioffi, Theodore Clark, Floyd Cofty, L.E., Cole, Richard Coliz, James Commons, Joe Connelly, Danny Conti, Carmine Cooper, Roger Copeland, Danny Cordero, P.F. Cox, Ralph Crosier, J., Leo Crouthamel, John	<b>Silver Level</b>	
<b>Silver Level</b>	Allen, David Alsup, Lance Andrews, Jerry Apholz, William Arble, Patrick Baughman, William Chavez, Larry Coey, Garry Eichenger, Joseph Enloe, Ernest Fancher, George Forbes, Michael Gajkowski, Edwin Gallman, David Gathe, Wilbur Glauner, John Hane, James Iasillo, Robert Johnston, Robert Kelly, Dennis Kerrins, William Kotwica, Jerome Koumanelis, Arthur Larson, Ralph McKillip, Clarence Mekoski, Robert Miller, Larry Miller, David Minter, Mark Mitchell, Cleveland Moore, Earl Morgan, Stephen Morrison, Jack Moyer, Jack Newman, Gary Palmer, Frederick Parker, Elmer Prohaska, Robert Rice, Danny Rieth, Gary Rosendahl, Myron Sayers, Brenner Sheneman, Charles Smith, Jim Stevens, James Timmons, Don Villarreal, Emilio Villwock, Jay Wagg, Robert Waggoner, Hugh Wardrope, Schtt Williams, Nicholas Yunker, James Ziesmer, David			
Montano, William				
<b>Bronze Level,</b>				
Bumanglag, Luis Cox, John Martin, Reginald Morehouse, Terry Parker, Elizabeth Pegues, David Schroeder, William Severeid, Ralph Silvestri, Eugene Verner, Herman				
<b>Trooper Assistance</b>				
<b>Gold,, Level</b>				
Embrey, James				
<b>Calendar Scholarship</b>				
<b>Platinum Level</b>				
Stepan Company In Honor of Edwin Buening				
<b>Gold Level</b>				
Aarestad, James Barnes, William Bowen, Alfred Brown, Keith Brundage, Ronald Carr, Thomas Creal, Dennis Crosby, Phillip Dirsla, Alfred Gourm, Dennis Grove, Michael Holt, Jim Husing, David LaFontaine, Donald LeBail, Wayne Olson, Gene Page, Stephen Pfamatter, Christian Robert McCormick Foundation Rodarte, Victor Schrode, William Sexton, Patrick Tomchick, James Wasdovitch, Joseph Whitson, Thomas Wickstrom, Eric				

Maples, Dennis	Naidas, Kenny	Price, Donald	Schwarm, Mark	Velders, Larry
Markowicz, Carl	Neary, Sheldon	Priddy, James	Seich, William	Wagner, Richard
Martin, Romeo	Newcomb, Dale	Purifoy, George	Sheldon, Dennis	Wagner, Larry
Mathews, James	Newman, Leslie	Quick, Richard	Sieminski, Edmund	Waldron, Gene
Mayer, Jan	Niswonger, Randolph	Rainey, Edward	Simpson, Charles	Walker, Ronnie
McBryde, Jerry	Nute, Chuck	Raper, Ronald	Sink, Woodrow	Wallech, Joseph
McCloud, Dick	Olechny, Patrick	Ray, Kenneth	Six, Robert	Ward, George
McDonald, David	Oloughlin, Brian	Reed, Ronald	Smith, Timothy	Welmon, Harry
Mcentire, Timothy	O'Neal, Robert	Rees, Sheila	Smith, Thomas	Werner, James
McRoberts, Gerald	Ontko, David	Refshauge, Charles	Solmonson, Fred,	West, George
McWethy, Wesley	Oracz, Robert	Rehm, William	Sorich, John	Wetmore, Joseph
Meek, Benjie	Ortiz, Concepcion	Reichgeld, Blake	Staffieri, Eustacchio	Weynand, Michael
Mesa, Ralph	Owens, William	Reinfeld, Edgar	Stampley, James	White, Roger
Middleton, Donald	Panky, Alfred	Rice, Larry	Stevens, Billy	Whitener, Ernest
Miles, James	Parisien, Dennis	Robertson, Elmer	Strickland, John	Wieland, David
Miller, George	Parker, Rodger	Rodarte, Raymond	Strine, James	Wilson, Mark
Mitchell, Jerry	Parker, C.R.	Rogers, James	Studeny, Henry	Wollschlaeger, Ken
Moeller, Daniel	Parks, Tommy	Rogers, Sammie	Stuedemann, Bob,	Wood, Eddie
Moliero, Joseph	Parmley, Thomas	Rolfson, Ronald	Sutton, Gordon	Wooldridge, Barry
Mollhoff, Wayne	Parris, William	Rosenbalm, Allan	Swonke, Robert	Yeider, Timothy
Montgomery, Lynn	Patton, Thomas	Rosenkrands, Peter	Tafoya, Manual	Yirsa, Harold
Moon, Bradford	Peckham, John	Ross, Carey	Taylor, F., Robert	Zimmerman, James
Moore, James	Pelvas, Bruce	Rundle, Patrick	Terlecky, Slofko	Warrick, J.R. & M.E.
Morgan, Keith	Pendlosky, John	Rush, Robert	Terry, Hardy	In Memory of Gene
Moring, Damion	Perryman, Bobby	Russell, Michael	Thompson, David	Hartwick
Morlock, Glenn	Philipp, Edward	Sanford, Clinton	Thompson, Thomas	Austin, William
Morrow, William	Phillips, Charles	Schaaf, Glen,	Tiedeman, Robin	In Memory of Michael
Mortillaro, Anthony	Phillips, Robert	Scheumann, David	Tingley, Roger	Bates and Michael Swinsky
Moses, Michael	Pisciotta, Michael	Schofield, David	Trottier, Raymond	
Musico, Anthony	Points, Richard	Schumacher, Robert	Valdez, Anthony	

## Incoming...

**From Gene Johnson (G Trp, 70-71).....**11th Armored Cavalry Regiment – Blackhorse Association Reunion will be held in Houston, Texas June 9-13, 2010. For more information contact Gene Johnson at (936) 205 4553 or reunion@blackhorse.org. *(This reunion is separate from the 11th ACVVC Reunion.)*

**From Henry Morris (F Trp '68).....**All 1968 F Troopers come spend an August week in Virginia and DC. Hang out in Evington, VA (10 miles south of Lynchburg) 24 - 25 Aug and 29 - 31 Aug BEFORE and AFTER the DC Reunion 25 - 29 Aug. Spouses are welcome. We will car-pool to and from DC. If you are flying to DC arrange for departure on 1 Sep. Drive down to Rockfish, VA (3 hours) for Sunday church and lunch with Mrs. Embrey then on to Evington. We will plan informal visits to the D - Day Memorial (Bedford), War Between the States Surrender field (Appomattox), and Tank Museum (Danville) Mon and Tue (30, 31 Aug). Driving time from Lynchburg to DC is about 5 hours. Contact info: "Captain Morris" shandtmorris@wildblue.net (434) 941-8585 (c)

**From Adrian Vaaler (HHT Regt. 67-70).....**The 7th annual Eugene picnic will be held Saturday, June 19, 2010. It will be held at the home of Adrian Vaaler in Eugene. Please RSVP to adrianaaaler@gmail.com or call 541-344-2113. ....

**From Bill Haponski.....**I served in Regimental S-3 and was Regimental XO under Colonel Patton. I also commanded the 1/4 Cav. I have written a recently released book that is highly researched and covers the battles in the AO of the 11th ACR from the French War and through and beyond the American portion of the War. All perspectives of all countries' militaries are represented concerning the major battles in the area during the various eras from the French period through the post American period. The title of the book is *One Hell*

### Information provided by and for our Troopers

*of a Ride: Inside an Armored Cavalry Task Force in Vietnam* and is available at Amazon.com.

**From Ron Krueger.....**The 20TH Annual Northern California Blackhorse Potluck/BBQ will be held Saturday, October 2, 2010 from 1100 - ??? at Slidehill Park, Davis, CA. 95618. Everyone is welcome to join us for a casual picnic in the park. Bring something to BBQ, something to share (salad, dessert, or munchies) and your beverage of choice.

Directions: I-80 to Davis. Take the Mace Blvd exit. Go North, around bend (Mace becomes Covell Blvd) Turn Left on Monarch Ln. Take 1st right onto Temple. Park is one block ahead on left. – OR – 5. to Woodland, exit at Road 102 to Davis. Proceed South to Davis, approx. 8 miles. Turn left at the 1st major intersection - Covell Blvd. Go about 1 mile to Monarch Blvd, turn right, go 1 block. Turn right on Temple. Park is 1 block ahead on left. Watch for balloons and signs. RSVP: Ron Krueger: 530-758-0351, ronkrue@hotmail.com..

**From Dan Stroia (KTrp, 67-68).....** The 11th ACVVC Thunder Run Pizza Run throughout the United States to serve one floor of a VA Hospital please go to [www.ktroop.com](http://www.ktroop.com) and scroll down until you see "Thunder Run Pizza Run." and read all about it ! I started this program T.R.P.R. in the spring of 2007 before I became the Funeral Honor Guard of the 11th ACVVC

**From Craig Anderson (E Troop 1968).....**Once again the 'Thunder Run Pizza Run' was a huge success. It was really great to see how excited the guys were when we showed up with the pizza and soft drinks. It seemed to me the staff was just as happy as the veterans. It is a humbling experience. It made me feel good inside. I think everyone had a great time at the party and they all enjoyed the humorous stories. Thanks again for the chance to help out.

## MEDICINE MAN from page 5

Once in the village, Doc Cifelli worked his magic. The community came alive. The village chief rushed out to greet him, the children swarmed around him while his assistants set up treatment facilities in a local hut for the Vietnamese inhabitants. The ARVN interpreter was invaluable, both relative to crowd control and then to help Nick understand the complaints of his patients. I watched as he provided relief (in some cases instantly), care and comfort to these people, who, for all we knew might be our enemies by nightfall. For Nick, there was no discrimination, no one treated better than another, just equal concern shown to the young, the old, the lame and the seemingly healthy. He was a real shaman to the locals. Even if they couldn't understand his words they could rejoice in his smile, soft touch and probing eyes. He was a true practitioner and sincere believer in his Hippocratic Oath. Troopers or Vietnamese civilians; Nick served them all with love and compassion ... a lot more compassion than he showed at the Poker table.

I didn't get to spend a lot of time with Doc Cifelli, our schedules took us in different directions, but when we did meet at other MEDCAPS or Orphanage visits, it was always a joy and a time to laugh ... except at our meetings at a field hospital. It was hard to play macho or flippant when we walked wards of wounded and dying lads.

Nick was a peach of a guy, a real friend and a great listener. He had great rapport with all ranks and was so well thought of by senior NCO's that they elected him to the Ancient Order of Yellow Dogs. His counsel was sage, short and to the point and his smile was always winning. I never saw Doc Cifelli after we stood down in March of 1972. I stayed around in country for awhile, I think he headed back to Fort Sam and then in time, to civilian practice in the State of New York. I don't even know if he kept his mustache, but I wish him well. He was good to all of us in the 2nd Squadron and good for all of us in Vietnam.

## THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, August 26th, 2010

Virginia Oaks Golf Club

Don Wagoner  
Tournament Director

7950 Virginia Oaks Drive  
Gainesville, GA 20155  
Phone 703-754-7977



### Scenic Rural Setting Championship Golf Course with Complimentary Driving Range

\$80 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 \$80 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by August 10, 2010 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!

### 18<sup>TH</sup> 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 Coopet, 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 10, 2010. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of best facilities in the Washington, D.C. 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 spikes only facility. Tee times will be a 9:00 AM shotgun start with lunch buffet following golf.

The golf course is a 50 minute ride from our hotel. Rental clubs are available. Let Joe know if you need them.

# REGISTRATION

## ATTENTION all members of the 11thACVVC:

It's time to send in your registration for what is slated to be the biggest, the most fun, and the best reunion to date. That's right folks, the reunion registration form is now available. It was printed in the last Thunder Run and is now also on the web site. So let's think about getting yours in.

Be a part of this, the Silver Anniversary of this great organization. Reunite with friends you knew all those years ago and the ones you've made at past reunions. And of course make new friends.

Never been to a reunion? Then this is the best one to start with. And I promise you, it won't be your last. Visit places that are memorials to those who have helped to form our great nation. There is so much to see and do in Washington, that you probably won't be able to do everything in this one weekend.

This is a great place to take your children and grandchildren. Barb grew up not far from Washington, and so we've been there many times. I think we've probably seen all the memorials and museums there. But some are fun to visit over and over again. Barb's favorite is the Air and Space Museum and National Gallery of Art. Mine are all of the Smithsonian ones, especially the one that has the train in it being the best. Can't think which one it is, but I do love to stand and listen to the train whistle and hear the train approaching and then leaving.

Of course the weekend wouldn't be complete without visiting the Viet Nam Memorial. The peacefulness of it within the busy city is amazing. And just over the bridge are the Arlington cemetery and the Women in Service Memorial. We always go see these for sure when we visit DC; the Viet Nam Memorial for me and the Women in Service Memorial for Barb. Yes, she was a WAC. In fact that's how we met. And of course Arlington cemetery to pay a respectful thanks to those brave military members who served so that we may be free.

This year we plan to add the World War II memorial to those we enjoy. This monument is to honor those who served in World War II. We will be seeing it in

honor of my father-in-law, Warren Gray.

But to see all these great places you must first send in your registration form.

How you ask? Well, that's easy. First either remove from the TR or make a copy of the registration form. Next, fill it out and mail it to Ollie. When filling it out be sure you either use an address label or print very clearly. It helps in making the name tags. Also be sure to list the unit you were with (ex: G Troop 2/11) and the years you were in Nam (ex: 68/69). You have no idea how many times we receive them and they say 11th ACR = 1 year. That tells us nothing, and then we have to stop what we're doing and look up the information. And when you're dealing with almost a thousand people that can take a while.

Next you need to make your meal choices. The choices this year are chicken, beef or veggie. Choose one per person that you are registering. Sorry no T-bone steaks. Whatever you choose, I'm sure it will be good. If you have a special dietary need please let us or better yet the hotel know. We will do what we can to arrange it. If you need special seating due to being in a wheelchair, on a walker, crutches or ECV, we need to know in advance. While we cannot provide you with any of them, we will have special seating at the banquet for you.

When you print your name on the sec-

tion that asks you to list all who are attending with you, please put your name as you want it to appear on your name tag. Remember the size of the tag is not huge so we won't be able to put your name PLUS your nickname. So if it's George Washington Adams Lincoln, and your nickname was Cookie, you need to choose if you want George Lincoln or "Cookie" Lincoln. We just can't fit the whole thing. (And I really don't want to hear Barb grumble when it won't all fit). If you don't make the choice, then we have to make it for you. I know some of you are still either in service or use your retirement rank, please know that we will make every effort to put it on for you, but again there is just so much room to work with.

I am still working with the meal tags. We made them bigger last year and still we had one person come to us saying she had lost hers. She did find it later. Boy was she embarrassed. Think we can have -0- lost this year?

So now that you know what to do. Just do it. Get that registration in NOW. And if you haven't already, call the hotel and make your room reservation.

I'll see you in August in our nation's capital. Washington, DC.

*Bob Moreno  
11th ACVVC Board Member  
Registration director*

## 2010 11th ACVVC REUNION

### 25th Annual Reunion

#### "SILVER ANNIVERSARY"

**AUGUST 25-29, 2010**

**GRAND HYATT WASHINGTON  
1000 H STREET NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001  
[www.grandwashington.hyatt.com](http://www.grandwashington.hyatt.com)**

**RESERVATIONS: 202-582-1234 or 800-233-1234**

**ROOM RATE: \$139.00 SINGLE/DOUBLE**

**RATES ARE GOOD THREE DAYS PRIOR TO AND THREE DAYS AFTER EVENT.**

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY JULY 28, 2010**

**PLEASE MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY.**

**REGISTRATION FORM**



**11th ACVVC Reunion XXV, Washington, DC  
Wednesday, 25 August thru Sunday, 29 August 2010**



**PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT  
Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-582-1234 800-233-1234**

**Registration fee is \$89.00 per person.** This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled events including the Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and the Saturday Banquet dinner.

**Please register early. Deadline for registrations is August 20, 2009.** The registration fee will be an additional \$25.00 per person for registrations postmarked after August 4, 2010

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION (print clearly or use mailing label)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Assignment \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Country \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: B TRP, D CO) (Example: 1966-1967)

**Attendees**

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
<b>Registration Fee Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Banquet Meal Selection (Choose one selection per attendee) Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Veggie \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs:  Yes  No (Please indicate needs) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Visa  MasterCard Card No \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Required for credit card) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail Registration Form along with payment to:

**11th ACVVC TREASURER  
C/O OLLIE PICKRAL  
571 DITCHLEY RD  
KILMARNOCK, VA 22482**

# 2010 Reunion – Washington, DC

By Steve Page – Reunion Chairman

Preparations are in full swing for the 25th Annual Reunion in Washington, DC. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your friends and share the brotherhood and camaraderie with other Blackhorse troopers. This is also perfect opportunity to make the reunion week a vacation and visit the Nation's Capital. Washington offers many sightseeing opportunities, most of which are free.

The reunion hotel is located just four blocks from the National Mall and within walking distance to all the Smithsonian Museums and monuments. There are plenty of restaurants in the blocks surrounding the hotel which offer a variety of food choices.

Valet Parking is available at the hotel on a limited basis at \$20 per day, no in-out. Self parking is \$24. Additional parking is available at the parking lot directly across from the front entrance to the Hyatt at \$20 per day. Several parking garages are also available in the immediate area of the hotel at \$10-15 per day.

An alternative is to park at the long term economy parking lot at Reagan National Airport then take the convenient Metro Subway Blue Line to the hotel. The cost for parking at the airport is about half of that in DC.

We expect another large turnout for this reunion. Our room block maxed out in March and there may have been some difficulty making reservations. Additional rooms have been added to meet the high demand. **Room reservations must be made by July 28, 2010.** You will not be billed until checkout. In the event you are not able to attend, you may cancel your reservations up to 24 hours prior to check-in.

The Metro subway offers a convenient and inexpensive way to travel in DC and nearby Reagan National Airport, Arlington National Cemetery and the Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial. The Metro Center Subway Station is located at the Grand Hyatt Hotel lobby. This station serves the Blue, Orange and Red lines. Information and maps for the

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**We expect another large turnout for this reunion. Our room block maxed out in March and there may have been some difficulty making reservations. Additional rooms have been added to meet the high demand.**

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Metro system can be found at: [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com)

## Airports and Directions:

**Reagan National Airport (DCA)** Take the convenient and inexpensive Metro Subway Blue Line from Reagan National Airport to Metro Center Station located at the Grand Hyatt. (Approximate 15 minute travel time)

**Dulles Airport (IAD)** Use the Washington Flyer motor coach service to Metro Subway West Falls Church Station (approximately \$18 round-trip). Then take the Metro Subway Orange Line from West Falls Church Station to Metro Center Station located at the Grand Hyatt. Washington Flyer motor coaches leave every 25 minutes. For complete schedule see: [www.washfly.com](http://www.washfly.com)

## Activities and Points of Interest (free except otherwise noted)

**Arlington National Cemetery** – Take the convenient Metro Subway Blue Line from the Grand Hyatt to the Arlington Cemetery Station (Approximately 15 minute travel time) <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org/>

**Marine Corps Sunset Parade** – Iwo Jima War Memorial, Arlington (Rosslyn), VA. Tuesdays – 7:00-8:00pm (admission free) This is a one hour performance featuring the music of “The Commandant’s Own”, The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and precision drill by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. Take the convenient Metro Subway Orange Line from the Grand Hyatt to the Rosslyn Station. (Approximately 10 minute travel) Walk four blocks south on N Fort Myer Drive to the memorial. [www.mbw.usmc.mil](http://www.mbw.usmc.mil)

**Marine Corps Evening Parade** – Marine Barracks, 8th and I Streets SE, Washington, DC. Fridays – 8:45-

10:15pm (admission free but prior reservations are required) This is a one hour and fifteen minute performance of music and precision marching. The Evening Parade features “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, “The Commandant’s Own” The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Marine Corps Color Guard, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, Ceremonial Marchers, and LCPL Chesty XIII, the official mascot of Marine Barracks Washington. Take Metro Blue or Orange Line from Grand Hyatt to Eastern Market Station. (Approximately 10 minute travel) Walk two blocks south on 8th Street to Marine Barracks. [www.mbw.usmc.mil](http://www.mbw.usmc.mil)

## Other points of interest and activities:

- White House and Visitors Center
- U. S. Capital and Visitors Center
- Smithsonian Museums (16 total)
- Smithsonian American History Museum
- Smithsonian Natural History Museum
- Smithsonian Air and Space Museum
- Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian
- National Mall
- Washington Monument
- Lincoln Memorial
- Jefferson Memorial
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- World War II Memorial
- Korean War Memorial
- National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
- National Zoo
- National Aquarium (\$)
- Holocaust Museum
- International Spy Museum (\$)
- Library of Congress
- National Archives
- Union Station
- Ford’s Theatre
- National Postal Museum
- Bureau of Engraving and Printing (tours free, sorry no free samples)



# 11th ACVVC Reunion XXV, Washington, DC

## Wednesday, 25 August thru Sunday, 29 August 2010



Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001 ♦ 202-582-1234 800-233-1234

### Schedule of Events

#### Wednesday, August 25

10:00am - 4:00pm Registration Open

#### Thursday, August 26

7:00am- ??? 19th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament (optional fee per golfer)

9:00am - 6:00pm Registration Open

9:00am - 5:00pm Quartermaster Store Open

2:00pm - 12:00am Bunker Open

8:00pm - 10:00pm Veterans Seminar

#### Friday, August 27

9:00am - 6:00pm Registration Open

9:00am - 5:00pm Quartermaster Store Open

TBA Wreath Laying – Tomb of Unknown Soldiers\* Arlington National Cemetery

12:00pm -12:00am Bunker Open

5:00pm - 9:00pm Silent Auction

#### Saturday, August 28

9:00am - 12:00pm Annual General Membership Meeting (Members Only)

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

2:00pm - 3:00pm

2:00pm - 5:00pm

3:00pm - 5:00pm

5:45pm - 6:45pm

7:00pm - 9:30pm

9:30pm - 1:00am

#### Sunday, August 29

10:00am - 11:00am

10:00am - 2:00pm

All Day

Memorial Service (Grand Hyatt Hotel)

Registration Open for Late Arrivals

Quartermaster Store Open

Cocktail Hour

Banquet, Presentations, Raffle Drawing, and "Blackhorse Salute"

Dancing

Chapel Worship Service (Nondenominational)

Quartermaster Store Open

Farewells and Departures

NOTE: This is a tentative schedule. Times may vary as the reunion draws closer. Locations of all activities will be posted at the reunion registration desk.

\* Arlington Cemetery Wreath Laying. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to use the Metro subway Blue Line from the hotel to Arlington Cemetery Station (\$4.00 roundtrip). Individuals may walk from the Arlington Cemetery Station to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers - approximately 3/4 mile. For those who care to ride, Tourmobile Sightseeing tours are available at Arlington with stops at the Tomb and elsewhere throughout the cemetery. Tourmobile tickets may be purchased at the Arlington Cemetery Visitors Center.

### The Last Inspection

The soldier stood and faced God,  
Which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining,  
Just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, you soldier,  
How shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To My Church have you been true?"

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,  
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't.  
Because those of us who carry guns,  
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,  
And at times my talk was tough.

And sometimes I've been violent,  
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,  
That wasn't mine to keep...  
Though I worked a lot of overtime,  
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear.  
And sometimes, God, forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,  
Among the people here.  
They never wanted me around,  
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,  
It needn't be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,  
Where the saints had often trod.  
As the soldier waited quietly,  
For the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, you soldier,  
You've borne your burdens well.  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in Hell."

*Submitted by Tom Rosini, (B Trp. 1970)  
(Author Unknown)*



# Scholarship Fundraising Activities

By Allen Hathaway

Our fundraising activities this year are going well. We're confident that with the continued support of our members we will again have a very successful year. The Scholarship Fund is a self sufficient fund which depends solely on donations to sustain... The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the total donations made during the year. Through the generosity of our members in 2009 we were able to award 17 scholarships totaling \$53,000. Let's make 2010 another outstanding year.

The Scholarship fund raising program consists of three activities: the calendar, raffle and silent auction.

## CALENDAR:

The first fund raising activity is our ever popular calendar mailed to members last December. Members always look forward to receiving the calendar. The calendar contains 12 photos submitted by our members as well as notes on significant historical events between 1966 and 1972.

All costs associated with printing and mailing the calendar are paid directly from the Scholarship Fund. We want to continue to mail you a calendar. If you've put off mailing your donation please use the envelope included with your calendar. Your support is critical and any donation is welcomed.

## RAFFLE

The second fund raising activity is our annual raffle. This is our 22nd year for the raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each with the chance to win the following prizes:

- 1st prize of \$1,000      2nd prize of \$750
- 3rd prize of \$500      4th prize of \$250

Raffle tickets will be mailed to all members in May. Drawing will be held on August 28, 2010, at the annual reunion in Washington, DC. Winners will be notified and need not be present to claim their prizes. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit the scholarship fund.

## SILENT AUCTION

The third fundraising activity is the silent auction which is held during our annual reunions. The silent auction is always fun and entertaining. Ron Krueger and Paul Gissible will be coordinating the Silent Auction this year. This is our 15th year for the silent auction. Each year we continue to see an impressive array of items being offered.

We once again ask our members to put their imagination and talent to work for the organization and ask for donations of items for the silent auction. Our membership has always come through with many unique and interesting items. Donations of items or services are welcomed. Any items with an 11th Cavalry theme are always in demand. Other items such as tools, books and any other military memorabilia are also very popular.

Items can be mailed prior to the reunion or they can be brought to the reunion and dropped off at the reunion registration desk. If you would like to donate an item please make sure to fill out the Silent Auction Donor Form. This gives us all the information about the donor, a description of the item and an estimate of the starting bid. All these are very important.

All proceeds from the silent auction will be used to benefit the Scholarship Fund. We look forward to another successful silent auction. Thanks in advance for all that you do to keep this the best organization ever. For further information or any questions please contact:

Ron Krueger: [ronkrue@hotmail.com](mailto:ronkrue@hotmail.com)

Paul Gissible: [gissible@yahoo.com](mailto:gissible@yahoo.com)

Mail Silent Auction Items to:

**11TH ACVVC  
C/O ALLEN HATHAWAY  
13194 RETTEW DR  
MANASSAS, VA 20112**



## 11th ACVVC Silent Auction

### Donated Items Information Form



Please provide the following information with your donated item. It is important for our records. If you wish to donate anonymously, please check the box below.

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

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

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

Value of Item Donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_  I wish to remain anonymous (check box)



### Hobnobbing with the Wealthy

Do you know what "hobnobbing" means? I'm not being smart-alecky. A lot of people under 55 never heard the word or what it means. I think a lot of us older, even way older, wouldn't know either. Actually, I'm most likely older than you, and I don't know where I learned it. I probably learned it in an old time Sunday comic strip. Remember Maggie and Jiggs? No? Well, they were very funny - she was the boss, of course. They were a very, very wealthy couple - lots of moolah - but funny anyway. The strip was called "Bringing Up Father." "So what does that have to do with anything?" you're probably asking. I respond, "They were comic stories about very wealthy people hobnobbing with each other in ways that were very funny." In those days I guess we had a primitive sense of humor. Anyway, the dictionary says hobnob means "to associate in a familiar way." So, Maggie and Jiggs went around hobnobbing with other wealthy people. Got it? I'm making a point, so let's proceed and it'll become clear.

For starts, I'll remind you that I was a chaplain in the Army for twenty seven years, give or take a few days. Since I'm assuming that you're a veteran or a vet's wife or family member, having served in the Army (or another service). "So what?" you say. "Bear with me because I'm about to explain." I contend that each of us, you, me, and anyone else who served in the military has hobnobbed with wealthy people as much as Maggie and Jiggs.

I'm well into my retirement years now. This stage of life is fun and interesting. I look back to my school years when I planned to be a junior high school teacher or a church minister. In those days teachers didn't make a whole lot and ministers often were paid according to The Deacon's Prayer which was "Lord, you keep him humble and we'll keep him poor." That's a joke, but it makes the point that I didn't expect to ever be a wealthy man.

Now I'm at this end of life and I've discovered that I've become a very wealthy man, same as you. For starts, I'll let you

**If God had told me ahead of time what He was going to have me do and where He was going to send me, I'm not so sure I would have done it. That may sound sacrilegious; I hope not, but I think it's probably true.**

know that I'm OK financially, not wealthy with money, but OK. However, get this: it's not money I'm talking about, anyway. There are many ways to be wealthy in this world, and money is not numero uno. I hope this doesn't disillusion anyone, but that's the way it is. So, I'm a wealthy man. I expect you are too, unless you're a woman, then you're a wealthy woman. All kidding aside, think about it. I'm wealthy in many ways: I made it through twenty seven years in the Army. This included two combat tours in Viet Nam and six years along the East German border when the Cold War was a reality and the East German border was where it would get hot first. I've known many great people serving in our country's uniform. I've had vet friends of every color, kind, skill, and economic status. Many experiences, places, people, situations, and conditions have filled my life. God has given me a purpose, a reason to live, to get up every morning, that has been fulfilling to me and helped me to contribute, to make the world better than if I'd never been here. God has given you and me abilities, experiences, and accomplishments that we look back on and wonder how they could have happened. That's wealth.

I'll let you in on a secret that you and I probably share: If God had told me ahead of time what He was going to have me do and where He was going to send me, I'm not so sure I would have done it. That may sound sacrilegious; I hope not, but I think it's probably true. Fortunately, God doesn't tell us the details ahead of time. Then, when it's over and done, we realize that we came through just fine. And so, here we are.

Go ahead and think of your life's personal wealth account. You'll find that your account is full in ways money can't touch. Think about your family. You may come from a perfect family, but I doubt it. Most of us don't. Family is a powerful and won-

derful organism, whether perfect or flawed. For most of us, having a family is a resource for mutual love, support, understanding, and sense of place and acceptance. For anyone without such a family, substitutes are somewhere around: close friends, blood or adopted relatives, and "soul mates," are some. Over a lifetime, these relationships bring wealth in ways we understand and feel but can never measure in money or possessions.

Friends. My wife and I have friends all over the USA and around the world. So do you.... Well, at least in many places. Friends in Tennessee look forward to us coming to stay for a while, friends in Virginia love us as much as we love them. Vets in South Dakota are glad when we show up - we re-live old experiences that are healing for all of us. Cousins all over Oklahoma are actually glad when we come. Relatives in California, Florida, Missouri, West Virginia, Oregon, Arizona, and Colorado love us and we them. And the list goes on. The point is, relationships are powerful, permanent, and mean a lot more than any amount of money. Take stock once in a while - you'll be reminded how wealthy you really are.

What about your abilities? I fervently hope you are taking stock of just how wealthy you are in your abilities. Can you sing like Caruso? I doubt it. You probably can't sing at all - so what? So your buddy can. Great! Can you build a house or take a car apart? Yes? Wonderful. I can't. So what! I can do something else. I can drive a school bus, I can drive a forty foot motor home all over the US. I rode tanks around the jungle with the Blackhorse and flew in helicopters over tree lines taking fire. I was a chaplain resource for soldiers. Now I am for vets. See what I'm saying? You've developed your own abilities over the years. You have wealth in your account too.

Continued >



# Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
<b>HHT REGIMENT</b>		Underwood, Robert W	71-71	<b>C TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>HHT, 3/11</b>	
Blunt, Wallace R	70-70	<b>541ST MID</b>		Cline, Dennis C	70-71	Birenbaum, Herbert M	67-68
Doyle, David K	66-67	Whalen, Rex H	66-67	Thayer, Paul A	69-70	Byrd, James E	67-68
Fiscor, John E	70-71	<b>7TH SURGICAL HOSPITAL</b>		<b>HOW BTRY, 1/11</b>		Doyle, David K	69-69
Franklin, Douglas P	67-68	Pegues, David S	69-69	Crane, Dorr L	66-67	Fixx, Darrell	67-68
Gambert, Robert L	66-67	<b>919TH ENGINEER CO</b>		Dekindree, Eugene L III	68-70	Rains, Douglas A	69-70
Henyan, Kenneth A	69-70	Conway, Dennis	69-70	Pendlosky, John J	66-67	Reese, Calvin J	65-66
Mollett, Alvin	69-69	Montano, William A	71-71	Silvestri, Eugene J	66-67	<b>I TROOP, 3/11</b>	
Stark, John C	67-68	<b>HHT, 1/11</b>		<b>HHT, 2/11</b>		Estep, Paul A	70-70
Ybarra, Manuel Jr	68-69	Guidy, Thomas J	66-67	Hall, Evin	69-69	Lopez, Raul A	68-69
<b>AIR CAVALRY TROOP</b>		Henyan, Kenneth A	69-70	Mohler, Joseph L	68-68	<b>K TROOP, 3/11</b>	
Hall, James T	68-69	Morehouse, Terry F	66-67	<b>E TROOP, 2/11</b>		Denson, Walter S	67-68
Hunt, Charles T	68-70	Ranes, Kenneth W	69-69	Cline, Dennis C	70-71	Hunt, Charles T	68-68
Morrow, Michael O	67-68	<b>A TROOP, 1/11</b>		Mollett, Alvin	69-69	Schad, Eugene C	66-67
<b>19TH TASS-USAF</b>		Gonzales, Doyle W	70-71	Stark, John C	68-68	<b>L TROOP, 3/11</b>	
Fargo, William C	66-67	<b>B TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>		Best, Paul W	70-70
<b>188TH MAINT</b>		Barnes, Ray K	66-67	Duncan, Lester A	71-71	Dennis, John A	69-70
Joffer, Herke C	66-67	Carlson, Leonard W	69-69	Lopez, Raul A	68-69	<b>HOW BTRY, 3/11</b>	
<b>398TH TRANS DET</b>				<b>G TROOP, 2/11</b>		Thompson, King D	67-68
Coody, Maxie L	69-71			Welch, John S	68-68		

## CHAPLAIN from page 18

At the risk of overdoing it, I'll point out one more account you have in your personal wealth: your memories. Think about it. Be specific. You married, raised children, and had grandkids too. You slogged through the bush on patrols, you drove tanks, you survived tough times, and you had precious buddies who gave their lives. You remember and honor them. Your life has been rich and full. Not perfect, with many blunders, but you are wealthy. It's real.

The last account I have room for is your God account. That one takes in the whole thing. I'll let God's Word, the Bible, speak for itself: "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.... Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." II

Corinthians 9:8, 10-11(NIV). This account is full now and has been available for you all along. I hope you're tapping into it. I am. It pays off.

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

Chaplain Larry Haworth  
6508 Bannocks Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78239  
LEHaworth@aol.com

## Membership is Our Strength

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

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Circle of Honor and Memorial Bricks

## UPDATE

By Allen Hathaway

The latest group of 175 inscribed granite bricks were set in place at the 11th Cavalry Memorial Circle of Honor in the Spring of 2010. This group represents orders received from July 2008 through October 2009. This latest group brings the total number of inscribed bricks at the memorial to 848.

The memorial bricks are inscribed at a facility in Kansas then shipped to Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Bricks are inscribed in groups in order to reduce production costs. The larger the group, the lower the production costs and more funds available for the memorial.

Orders are being taken for the next group of bricks to be placed in the Circle of Honor in the Fall of 2010. An estimated 125 bricks remain to be inscribed. If you have not ordered a memorial brick this is an excellent opportunity to do so. Bricks are a very special way to honor your service to the regiment and to show your support of the 11th Cavalry Memorial.

We are now offering a new miniature, half size replica of the memorial bricks. Miniatures are inexpensive special keepsakes that show your support of the 11th Cavalry Memorial. Miniatures can be displayed with other memorabilia from your service. Miniatures are

### Brick Order Form

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

LINE 1:														
LINE 2:														
LINE 3:														
<b>(Use Lines 4 and 5 for 8" x 8" x 2" bricks only)</b>														
LINE 4:														
LINE 5:														

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

- 4" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$100 enclosed
- 4" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$25 enclosed with 3 additional payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months (\$25 x 4 = \$100). Bricks will be inscribed when the full amount is paid.
- 8" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$175 enclosed
- 8" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$85 enclosed with 3 additional payments of \$30 in 3, 6, and 9 months (\$85 + 3 x \$30 = \$175). Bricks will be inscribed when amount paid in full.
- 2" x 4" x 1/2" Miniature Replica Brick - \$20 enclosed
- 4" x 4" x 1/2" Miniature Replica Brick - \$30 enclosed

Visa     MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Required for Credit Card): \_\_\_\_\_

Granite bricks will be placed at the memorial in September 2010. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of miniature replica bricks. 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**

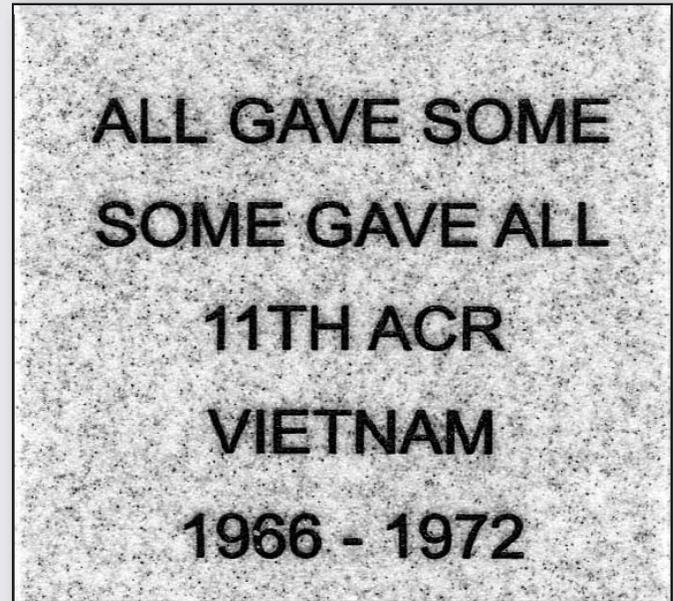
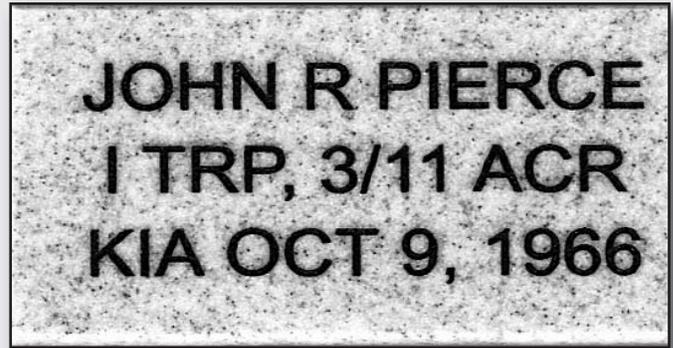
Orders are being taken for the next group of bricks to be placed in the Circle of Honor in the Fall of 2010. An estimated 125 bricks remain to be inscribed. If you have not ordered a memorial brick this is an excellent opportunity to do so.

made of composite material that closely resembles the full size granite bricks. Two sizes are available: 2" x 4" (\$20.00) or 4" x 8" (\$30.00). Inscription guidelines are the same as the full size granite bricks. Each line accommodates a maximum of 15 characters, including spaces and punctuation (commas, periods, hyphens, slashes and dashes). The order form has been updated to include the miniature bricks. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery for miniatures. Price includes shipping.

All proceeds from both the granite and miniature bricks are used to offset the cost of restoring, repairing and maintaining the 11th Cavalry Memorial.

The 11th Cavalry Memorial is a place to honor all Blackhorse troopers from all campaigns. They were our buddies, our friends and our comrades-in-arms. It is up to us to preserve their honor. They shall not be forgotten. Do your part to help this worthwhile project.

## 11th ACVVC Monument





Greetings everyone. As I write this, there are just 161 days until the reunion. There is still so much to do to get ready to go. The name tags need to be finished, the meal tickets need to be put in the right packets, things needed for the ladies meeting have to be gathered together, the fund raiser needs to be counted and packed. And finally our suitcases need to be packed. Lists need to be made as to what needs to be packed and what stays home. Oh my, will it ever all get done?

I just had a thought. How are we getting to DC? Are we flying or driving? If we're flying then there are things that need to be packed to ship to the hotel. If we're flying, then there are tickets to be bought. Either way a van needs to be rented. Maybe even a trailer for it. Then after reunion we still have over a week of traveling to do. Oh my will I ever get it all done?

While doing all this Bob and Raleigh will be off for a few days with our grandsons at Boy Scout Camp. I was planning on spending a few days in my hometown in PA with some friends as we celebrate our towns Old Home Week festivities, but have decided that it will have to wait. Oh my I really do think I need some help from little elves. I suppose it'll all work out, it always does. I'm just one of those people who worry about "everything".

Bob and I received a wonderful gift shortly after the last Women's Corner was submitted to the *Thunder Run*. Our Wesley came home from Iraq, safe and sound. Now I know what all of you are saying. "I thought their children's names were Robert and Raleigh. And I'm sure the grandkids are just little." Well, you are correct. Wes is sort of an "adopted" son. He is a wonderful, caring, clean cut, very smart young man who works with Bob at the commissary here. A few years ago when he graduated from high school, he was talking to Bob and asked him for advice. He knew what he wanted to do with his life, he knew college was in his future, but just wasn't quite sure how to go about getting the financing for it that he needed.

After having some long talks with Bob (as well as his own parents) he made the

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**We will be having a white elephant (aka - a black horse) exchange this year. You are to bring an unwrapped gift, new or something you want to find a new home for. It should cost no more than 5 - 10 dollars.**

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decision to join the reserves. To many peoples' delight, as well as surprise, he found that he really did enjoy himself. Because of his interest in what he was doing he became quite good at things such as disassembling and reassembling his weapon. He didn't even mind all the drilling they went through or even PT. Because of the care and passion he put into his duties within the reserve it soon became apparent to his superiors that he had true leadership qualities.

Things were going along as he had planned. School was going good, reserves going great, even his job was enjoyable. Then came the orders we all dread. Wes' unit was being activated to Iraq. This was to be for a year, then back home and on with his life as he had planned it.

Iraq - I remember the day that Bob came home and told me. A sense of dread and fear ran through me. We worried about him that whole tour. Was he alright? How bad was the situation where he was? Was he frightened? Was he alright?

We, or the commissary, sent him frequent 'care' packages, which I'm sure he shared with his fellow troopers. Suddenly the year was over. We were thrilled when he came home, safe and sound.

He and Bob once again had their long chats. He told Bob of meeting up with a unit from the 11th CAV. He said he spent almost an entire afternoon talking with several of the troopers. He told them all about Bob and his connection to the 11th CAV. They sent several small gifts home with Wes to be given to him. A desert subdued Blackhorse patch, some money they were using over there and a few other little trinkets and of course there were the pictures. All things Bob has tucked away with his many military treasures. Things that

our grandchildren will one day use as part of a history report I'm sure.

Wes was due to ETS in December of 2008. Then it happened. The unit was called into combat again. At first, because of his ETS date, it was thought he wouldn't be going with them. That was a short lived thought or dream. He was being extended. So again he left us all at home.

I think the second tour was harder on us here at home, harder than it possibly was on him. Bob and I talked about it not long ago and found much to my amazement, that we had the same thoughts. I guess it surprised me because I'm the worrier in the family and I guess having been in combat that Bob never thought much about it. Anyway, we realized that on the first tour, you worry about them doing something stupid like a bomb going off not very far from them, and wondering about their reaction. Would they remember everything they were taught? Would they freeze with fear? And you find yourself constantly, saying a small prayer for their safety.

Second tour comes along and you wonder what they are thinking this time. Are they letting their guard down a little because, hey, nothing happened last time? What could possibly happen now? Does their safety sense decrease a little? After all it has been shown that more injuries and casualties occur on a second tour than on a first.

And again you're asking God to please bring them home safely. These are all things we asked ourselves over and over again in the past year. So you wait and wait and continue to pray every minute of everyday.

Unfortunately, Bob was not at work the day Wes came in after returning home. (I think we were at a doctor's appointment or something.) But he made a point of finding the time to come back the next day, just to see him. He's fine, thank God, and ready to return to the books and to his job. Hopefully soon he will ETS and then he and his girl will begin making their wedding plans. And I can tell you right now, that one Blackhorse trooper and his lady will be sitting in the church beaming with

## Prostate Cancer Survey

Researchers at the VA Boston Healthcare System and Boston University School of Medicine are looking at the link between mood symptoms and prostate cancer screening among United States veterans.

I am writing to ask *male veterans who have never been diagnosed with prostate cancer* to complete an online research survey. We would like to learn more about factors that affect men's attitudes towards prostate cancer screening.

In the study, you will not be asked to give any information that would identify you. *Your participation is entirely anonymous.* We will not contact you after you have completed the survey. You will not be asked to buy anything. You will not be asked to sign up for any membership. You are only being asked to complete the online survey and nothing else.

If you decide to take part, you will be asked questions about:

- Prostate cancer
- Your history of prostate cancer screening
- The degree to which you feel at risk of getting prostate cancer
- Pros and cons of prostate cancer screening
- Your current emotions
- Your degree of trust in your doctors

The survey takes about 30 minutes. If you agree to participate, please fill out the entire survey. However, you may quit and end your participation at any time. The survey can be completed online at: <https://www.psychdata.com/s.asp?SID=131118>

There will be no cost to you for doing this survey. Although there is no direct benefit to you, the information you provide may help us improve veterans' medical care. Once the study is complete, we plan to share our findings with this organization.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at [erin.ulloa2@va.gov](mailto:erin.ulloa2@va.gov).

Thank you for thinking about completing this survey. Doing research can give veterans a voice in issues that affect their life. Please share this survey with other veterans who would be willing to help us understand the health of US veterans.

pride at this young man who served his country with honor and pride. We will silently say a prayer of thanks for his safe return. And yes folks, I think you may even see a tear or two dribble out of these tired, old eyes. But they will be tears of thanks, of joy and of pride for that young trooper we so fondly think of as another son.

This is the second young man that has gone off to war, that has touched this family so profoundly. The first some of you may remember was our dear friend and neighbor, Andy. Unfortunately, Andy didn't return from Iraq four years ago, yet Wesley did return. It makes you wonder why one made it and the other didn't. What did they do so differently? Why did things happen as they did? Why couldn't they both come home safe?

Recently I saw Andy's dad at the grocery store. While talking with him, I happened to think how much older and tired he has come to look in the past four years. He told me that slowly he is recovering and starting to heal. Having his daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren around certainly seems to help. I know he attends everything those kids do. Whether it be in school or in sports, he makes every effort to be there. We often hear from him about where they have gone on vacation. Making those all important memories with them. I guess in some ways he is substituting them for Andy. I can't say for sure that he has really started to put Andy's passing behind him or even begun to forgive what happened, but he certainly seems to be trying his best. And I guess that really is all one can do in the time of sorrow.

All I can say now is welcome home Wes! And to Andy, well friend we still miss you and think of you almost every day. We still continue to pray each day for those young men and women who are over there protecting our rights and freedom. May we soon be saying "Welcome Home" to all of them too.

Well, I guess I better stop going on about things that are happening around here, both past and present and get back to thinking about this years reunion.

I want to remind all of you ladies about our little change this year. We will be having a white elephant (aka - a black horse) exchange this year. You are to bring an

unwrapped gift, new or something you want to find a new home for. It should cost no more than 5 - 10 dollars. Remember when picking out what you are bringing that a lot of the ladies will need to pack whatever they get to take home in their suitcase as they have come on the plane. I'm really looking forward to seeing what you all think of to exchange.

Be sure your registration is in and the hotel has been booked, because this is one reunion you don't want to miss. Just being in Washington D.C. is awesome. There is so much to see and do there. I have several favorite places to visit. Being a Blackhorse wife and supporter I love going to the Wall. And being a former WAC, I of course enjoy going over to Arlington to the Women In Service memorial. This year for the first time we will be making it a point of visiting the World War II memorial. I recently submitted all my dad's military information to their archives. So it's important to me to see it since it was my dad who encouraged me when I decided to join the military.

I do have a little bit of bad news. The second cookbook we are doing is being put on hold for another year. It definitely will be done in time for the St Louis reunion next year. Why is it being pushed back you ask? Well, first of all we still need a lot more recipes from "everyone". Then after talking with Kathy Tandberg, who is our fund raising director, it appears that where she lives is bracing for another Spring of flooding. She has just bought a new house and is slowly moving. Plus she is not going to be retiring or cutting back as she had hoped. So I told her to just handle all her priorities and the cookbook can wait till next year. We will still have items available this year. As well as still having the Blackhorse towels, we will also have a pen and key chain. They can be purchased separately or as a set and the prices are going to be "awesome". So check us out.

Well, it seems like I'm just rattling on and on now, so I'll close for this time. Looking forward to seeing you all in my home area, Washington, D.C.

PS DON'T FORGET YOUR WHITE ELEPHANT ITEM!!!!!!

Always

*Barb Moreno  
Women's Director 11th ACVVC*

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC  
Historian

■ Operation Cedar Falls in January 1967 was the first time US forces had entered the Iron Triangle in large numbers. In addition to finding numerous caches containing tons of rice and extensive underground tunnels, store-rooms, and hospitals, Blackhorse Troopers, working with Sky Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade also convinced a large number of Viet Cong to come out of their jungle hide-aways under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) program. The official after action report describes one particularly successful operation by the psy-ops: "On the 19th of January, two VC rallied to the GVN [Government of Vietnam] cause. On the following day, they were photographed together and gave the names of six of their friends among the VC ranks.

The two men, who happened to be brothers, composed a message aimed directly to their six friends. On the same day, the leaflets were dropped. Shortly thereafter, the six Viet Cong rallied, following the good advice of their comrades. In addition, a woman refugee was permitted at her own request to broadcast a message to her husband and brother. Three hours after her plea, both men turned themselves in under the Chieu Hoi Program." The next day, three VC walked up to Lima Troop, Third Squadron and turned themselves in, saying that the psychological operations speaker mission flown the day before had convinced them to surrender.

■ This is how it was supposed to work. On 19 November 1968, the Aero Rifle Platoon from Air Cavalry Troop captured a Viet Cong in the area known as the Catcher's Mitt. The prisoner revealed that he was from the Dong Nai Regiment, a long-time nemesis for the Blackhorse Regiment. He also told his interrogators that the Dong Nai Regiment was moving from its base areas in the Catcher's Mitt to an area close to Highway 13, about half way

between Saigon and Phu Cuong. This information was confirmed by another Viet Cong guerrilla who Chieu Hoi'd nine days later. Based on this intelligence, a B-52 airstrike was directed against the suspected base camp of the Dong Nai Regiment during the night of 30 November-1 December.

The Aero Rifle Platoon was sent in to conduct a bomb damage assessment on December 1st and found the intelligence had been accurate. They had a running battle with the remaining members of the K2 Battalion, Dong Nai Regiment over the course of the day, and were later reinforced by Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry. At the end of the day, one Big Red One infantryman had been killed in action, but the bodies of over 30 enemy soldiers were left on the battlefield. More importantly, documents captured on the scene indicated that the mission of the advanced elements of the Dong Nai Regiment had been to attack allied fire support bases in the Binh My – Binh Co area in order to (according to the 1st Infantry Division after action report) "distract allied units to allow the dispatch south of the major portion of the [Dong Nai] regiment.

The compromise of this plan, however, resulted in its cancellation."

■ From the "it's all in the timing" department: On 15 April 1969, First Squadron was on the third day of Operation Montana Raider, a reconnaissance in force in the thick jungle (double and triple canopy) and rugged terrain of eastern War Zone C east of Tay Ninh and north of Dau Tieng. The area was traversed by numerous streams that fed into the Saigon River. At dawn on that Tuesday, the 1st Platoon, 919th Engineer Company moved out to emplace an Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge (AVLB) across the Suoi Ba Hao. Using an airborne dozer borrowed from the 1st Cavalry Division, the Red Devils set the bridge in place, allowing Charlie Troop, First Squadron to cross the 80-

foot obstacle. Shortly after the last track crossed the bridge, the river banks collapsed and the bridge fell into the Suoi Ba Hao. Soon thereafter – and less than a kilometer from the crossing site – Charlie Troop upset a hornet's nest of dug-in NVA using small arms, rocket-propelled grenades, and tear gas. Alpha Troop reinforced, artillery, tactical air, and aerial rocket artillery were called in, and the NVA left 13 of their comrades on the battlefield.

Two Blackhorse Troopers were wounded in action, and one M-48 tank was declared a combat loss. Back at the collapsed bridge site, the Red Devils, secured by 1st Platoon of Alpha Troop, worked feverishly to recover and re-emplac the bridge. It took two full days to do so, but by Noon on the 17th, the bridge was back in place, allowing Alpha and Bravo Troops to cross and continue with Operation Montana Raider.

■ From the September 1970 edition of the Blackhorse Newspaper: "On July 23, Fire Support Base Petrie was the starting point for a contingent of 3rd Squadron troopers setting out on a new operation – stand down. Preceded by the line troops and the tank company, the Squadron's Headquarters Troop and How Battery left the circle of dirt and mud which had been their base of operations for the past month and started for Di An. A large part of the road march took them over a four-lane paved highway – a far cry from the terrain the Squadron had traversed the past months.

The Blackhorse troopers found themselves driving in traffic and encountering everything from Lambrettas to Mustangs. And hardly a water buffalo in sight. The mood was predictably festive. The men did have three weeks of thorough maintenance work in front of them, but that wasn't everything. 'It's been seven months since I've seen a club,' said Staff Sergeant Cyrus Dodd of K Troop. 'You can almost be sure where I'll be in my spare time.'"



## From the 63rd Colonel of the Regiment

Paul J. Laughlin



Greetings once again from sunny Southern California! With two highly successful Canadian Army rotations behind us, the Blackhorse is now back in the swing of things training our U.S. Army Brothers. The training area is abuzz with our Troopers and civilian role players and the weather couldn't be more perfect for training America's warriors.

Currently, we are hosting the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division from Hawaii. Their Stryker fighting vehicles are being put through their paces against our professional, trained, determined and vigilant opposing force, (Killer Troop) in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

In early March, we held a Pre-Ranger Assessment Training course which has been so successful in the past, that this time, the training was offered to the entire National Training Center. Soldiers from across the post took advantage of the opportunity to prepare themselves for Ranger School by going through the rigorous three day curriculum. A lot of information and training was thrown at the Soldiers; they soaked it all in and look forward to put what they learned to the test in the future at Fort Benning, Georgia.

In late March, 1-221 Cav "Wildhorse!" redeployed from Laghman Province in Afghanistan. For the last 10 months our ARNG Troopers have fought an incredibly tenacious enemy in truly brutal terrain. CSM Wilcox and I visited them there before they redeployed. Their Troopers secured every U.S. Provincial Reconstruction Team in the country, as well as executing counter-insurgency throughout Laghman Province. They lost numerous MRAP vehicles to enormous deep-buried IED's, fought through ambushes, and endured mortar and rocket strikes on their bases and sniper and machine-gun fire on their combat outposts. Though they suffered numerous injuries, a few severe, no Squadron Trooper fell in action, which serves testament to their training, tenacity and leadership. The Blackhorse has left an indelible mark on the mission in that country. Today the "Mustang" Troopers, the 1-144 Fires

Battalion, remain deployed as our Nation's close-out stability force in Kosovo. The RCSM and I will visit the Mustangs from 5-9 April. They are scheduled to return home in July.

On the last day of March, we hosted our Spring Formal in fabulous Las Vegas. This year, the Regiment was fortunate enough to be able to book the Flamingo Hotel and Casino for our premier social event. Our Troopers worked hard to make sure this event was a memorable one for everyone that attended. More than 1300 Soldiers and their spouses attended this year, and tickets were in such high demand we had to add an additional room and telecast the proceedings. The formal coincided with our local school's spring vacation giving the Troopers and their families a much needed break.

This last quarter, the Regiment represented exceptionally well as Killer Troop took top honors at both the Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter boards. SPC Cobb (1/11ACR) placed First (of 154) at the AMU Rifle Competition (Audie Murphy Shoot). The 58th Engineers of the Regimental Support Squadron were also outstanding as they took 1st place in the Fort Irwin 2011 Army Supply Excellence competition. They were followed closely by their brothers and sisters of the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop who took 2nd place. The "Packhorse" Engineers will move on to compete at the FORSCOM level later

this year.

In April, we switch gears again and move from Strykers to a more conventional force when we welcome the 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division. The 3rd ID "Dogface" Soldiers will trade the swamps of Fort Stewart, GA., for the sun and heat of the High Mojave Desert, a perfect way of preparing them for the rigors of combat and the unforgiving heat of the desert. Also in April, 1st and 2nd Squadrons will host another Spur Ride. Troopers from the entire Regiment will have the chance to earn their silver spurs. These spur-less Troopers, or Shave Tails as you may recall, will have to dig deep and show their fortitude to earn this coveted leadership badge.

Then in May, we will be hosting our fellow Cavalry brothers with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment "Brave Rifles," from Fort Hood, Texas. We will come together at the end of the Rotation to recognize our Lucky 16 brethren. This rotation will be the last one right before we send our Troopers off to enjoy some down time on block leave for another well deserved break. Looking ahead to June, as my time commanding this historic unit comes to a close, we invite all of you to the change of command ceremony on June 30th. We look forward to seeing you all and please stop in to visit anytime you are in the southern California area.

*Allons! 63*



From left to right: LTC Scott Cunningham, CSM James Richardson (SCO and CSM of 1-221), COL Paul J. Laughlin, CSM Martin Wilcox and captured Taliban ordnance at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam in Laghman Province, Afghanistan.

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## WRENCHES from page 9

hour inspection in a few days depending on how involved it got. The crew chief usually helped out and it was a time for him to get caught up on anything he needed to. This was also a time to hear stories about what was happening outside the wire. Several of the mechanics I worked with would move on to become crew chiefs themselves. My hat is off to them because before they left they had aided immensely in bringing whatever mechanical ability I or the Army thought I had up to snuff. Thanks to John Godek, who we lost a while back, for showing me the intricacies of repacking a main driveshaft. Also thanks go to Reinhard Matzen and Joe Stark also for their patience.

It would all pay off later after a stint with I Troop and extending to go back to Air Cav and later the 398th. There were several maintenance teams with them at Redcatcher after the Cav left Blackhorse. It was the luck of the draw when one team finished up on an aircraft. Maybe it would be a Periodic Inspection. A 4 or 5 man crew could knock them out fairly quick. They were fairly routine, but if I learned one thing around helicopters we weren't complacent by any means. As I remember, without injecting my age now, the Regiment's aircraft were in good hands from the line up through and including the test pilots. Most of the crew would go along on those flights, maybe a little time on the controls, and always a good feeling when that flight was signed off in the logbook.

I eventually had my own team and remember the day walking up to the line and seeing a Huey, or what was left of it, sitting on its chin bubbles. I don't remember if it had been shot down or had an engine failure, but it had what's known in Aviation circles as a "hard landing." Maybe that's "putting it mildly" too. It had come down in a wooded area. The skids had been flattened out to where they were almost level with the doors. The rotor blades had contacted trees causing what's called "sudden stoppage." That is, the trees had caused a rapid decrease in rotor RPM. With the centrifugal forces involved this would involve changing the entire drive train from transmission to tail rotor and every rotating thing in between. It had also landed on a stump putting a foot wide hole in the belly which penetrated a fuel cell. The list went on from busted plexiglass chin

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**To all those "wrench benders" from Air Cav and the 398th I had the pleasure to work with, thanks for the memory!**

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bubbles to dents and wrinkles in the sheet metal. I had a feeling, Stateside it would have been shot to put it out of its misery, but this was Vietnam in 1969. What's that old saying, the impossible we do right away, miracles take a little longer! And my team was next in line.

A long story short, it came in on a Monday and was ready for test flight by Friday. And no bragging rights here by any means. Maybe some who read this would say, "What took you so long!" This was a concerted effort by all in the 398th that week, not to mention a wartime supply chain. It was stripped down to its bones basically and rebuilt. We had the technology and some fine mechanics on the line and in the shops. I wish I remembered the tail number on that ship. She was airworthy again and went on to further service with the Regiment.

These accomplishments were carried out daily all over Vietnam I'm sure. I've heard the statistics that of the 550,000 troops in Vietnam in 1969 only 50,000 being directly involved in combat. I've also heard being a mechanic wasn't at the top of the glory totem, but many an hour was spent keeping those aircraft in the air. I think I remember hearing the work ethic of our generation... it doesn't matter what you do as long as you do it well. From what I saw we had the best mechanics who took pride in their work and had a good sense of mission accomplishment. There is a certain glory in that I do believe. Anybody, whether they served in combat or not, has probably accomplished some mechanical feat around the house since then. I did my best to carry on with that ethic and my service with the Regiment during my second tour with the 1st Aviation Brigade. To all those "wrench benders" from Air Cav and the 398th I had the pleasure to work with, thanks for the memory! The wife's "Honey-Do's" don't get quite the service I remember from Vietnam, but know my 7/16's from a half inch. And whenever I hear that distinctive Whop Whop, which isn't all that often these days, I do remember what it took to keep it doing that.

## 4956 Miles From Home

My name is Terry Cioffi (K Troop 67-68). Last May, my wife and I celebrated our 40th anniversary by taking a trip to Hawaii. We were at the Turtle Bay Resort on the north shore of Oahu and one day we decided to leave our poolside chairs and take a walk along a winding oceanfront path surrounding the resort. After a while we stopped and sat at a bench which faced the ocean to enjoy the beautiful sounds and scenery.

**...I notice one of men was wearing a Blackhorse shirt. Not believing my good fortune to actually run into a trooper so far from home,...**

Off in the distance we noticed a group of people coming along the path in the opposite direction from which we came and all were wearing welcome leis. As they came closer I notice one of men was wearing a Blackhorse shirt. Not believing my good fortune to actually run into a trooper so far from home, I alerted my wife that I was going to say hello and rose from the bench and approached them. Just at about the same time the trooper and I were greeting each other I heard my wife say: "Diana?" and then I heard one of the wives in the group say "Concetta?" and then both said "What are you doing here?"

It turns out that Diana is the wife of Blackhorse Trooper Andy Trabanco of Staten Island, NY which is my hometown. We met for the first time a few years ago at one of the reunions after the Trabancos reached out to us by email.

Andy Trabanco, his buddies (all from HHT 3/11 66-67), namely: Joe Moliero, Howard Linnabary and Jim Kaszubowski and their wives were "killing time" before boarding a cruise ship for a weeklong trip around the Hawaiian Islands. How strange that we should be sitting on that particular bench at the exact time that they were strolling that section of the resort path! Even stranger is the fact that we live less than one mile from each other on Staten Island a distance of 4956 hundred miles from Hawaii.



# Fiddler's Green

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

**Michael D. Bates**, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1970), passed away on February 3, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Watauga, TX. He was laid to rest in Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX.

**Daniel S Brown**, G Troop (1st platoon), 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on November 19, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sherman Oaks, CA. He was laid to rest in San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Gustine, CA.

**Leonard T. Cusack**, HHT, 1/11 (1969-1971) passed away on January 1, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in East Falmouth, MA. He was laid to rest in Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne, MA.

**Joseph L. Gonzalez**, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 18, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Reading, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.

**Michael J. Gorman**, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on March 21, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pownal, VT. He was laid to rest in South View Cemetery, North Adams, MA.

**Bobby L. Hopper**, 398th Transportation Detachment (1969) passed away on December 3, 1969. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pagosa Springs, CO. He was laid to rest in Ft. Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO.

**Micael G. Lewinsky**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 1, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Levittown, PA. He was laid to rest in Washington Crossing National Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA.

**Edward H. Nelson**, M Company, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 26, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Denison, TX. He was laid to rest in Cedarlawn Memorial Park, Sherman, TX.

**William P. Olis**, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 2, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Killeen, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.

**Daniel B Schroepfer**, L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on November 27, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New Berlin, WI. He was laid to rest in Southern Wisconsin Veteran Memorial Cemetery, Union Grove, WI.

**Curtis Smith**, Howitzer Battery 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on May 12, 2009. He resided in Hollister, CA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

**Daymond Snuffer**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on January 12, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lindside, WV. He was laid to rest in Pine Grove Memorial Gardens, Lindside, WV.

**Christy L. Stoyanoff**, F Troop, 2/11 (1968) passed away on February 22, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Carlton, MN. He was laid to rest in Oneota Cemetery, Duluth, MN.

**Ronald E Turner**, HHT Regiment (1968) passed away on November 25, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Santa Rosa, CA.

**Edward R. Underwood**, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on April 1, 2006. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Honolulu, HI. He was laid to rest in National Memorial Cemetery Of The Pacific, Honolulu, HI.

**Stanley L Vander Vegte**, E Troop (1st platoon), 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on December 12, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Paul, MN. He was laid to rest in Ft. Snelling National Cemetery, South Minneapolis, MN.

**B Holt Vaughn**, 409TH RRD (1970) passed away on November 28, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Broomfield, CO. He was laid to rest in Ft. Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO.

**William F. Warren**, Howitzer Battery 2/11 (1968) passed away on March 19, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Benbrook, TX.

**Harold K. Wofford**, Howitzer Battery 1/11 (1969-1971) passed away on December 30, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Westlake, LA. He was laid to rest in Good Hope Cemetery, Singer, LA.

**Roy G. Wooley**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 26, 2002. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Roselle, IL. Funeral services will be held at 11:00am on Friday, August 27, 2010, at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA, followed by graveside services in Arlington National Cemetery.

**Frank J. Yancik**, HHT, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on December 27, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Colorado Springs, CO. He was laid to rest in Ft. Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO. He is also a veteran of World War II and Korea.

You might want to make copies of these dog tags, place one on your refrigerator and extra dog tags on your adult children's refrigerators



## So that his brethren shall know...

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

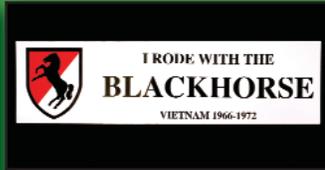
# The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#5 Blackhorse Watch w/Leather Band \$35.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band \$35.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#9 Coin, 11th ACVVC \$10.00



#10 Belt Buckle, brass \$30.00



#12 Lighter, Zippo \$15.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$7.50



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



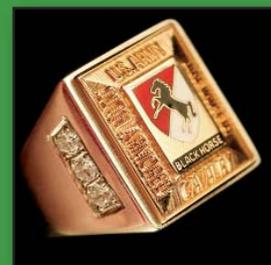
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$225.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$280.00



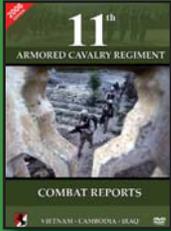
#25 Lapel Pin, Support Troops \$3.00



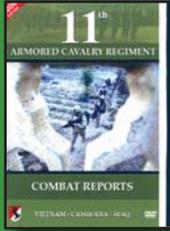
#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



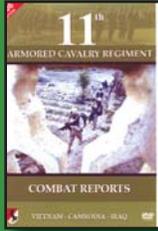
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



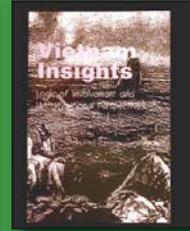
#29 Video Combo #1 \$50.00



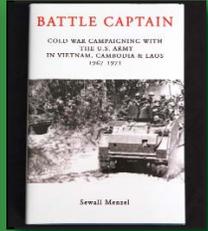
#30 Video Combo #2 \$40.00



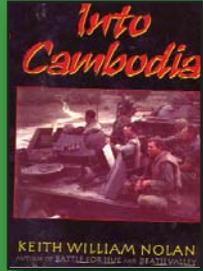
#31 Video (DVD): Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam \$30.00



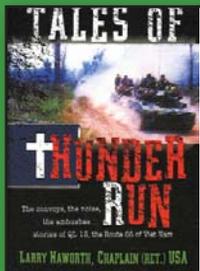
#32 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



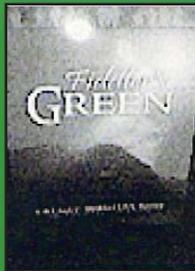
#33 Book: Battle Captain \$20.00



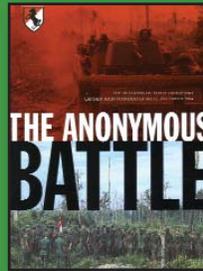
#34 Book: Into Cambodia \$23.00



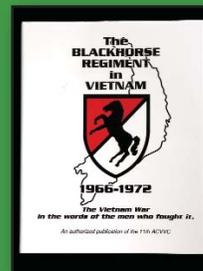
#35 Book: Tales of Thunder Run \$11.00



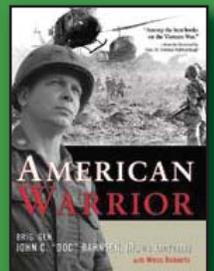
#36 Book: Fiddlers Green \$16.00



#37 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



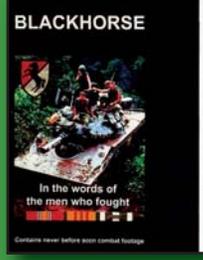
#38 Book: The Blackhorse Reg't in Vietnam \$25.00



#39 Book, "American Warrior" by 'Doc' Bahnsen-\$20.00



#43 Combo: DVD and Book The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam \$40.00



#47 Combo: VHS and Book The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam \$30.00



#40a Old Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#40b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#41a/b T-Shirt, black/ash \$16.00



#42a/b/c Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, red/white/black \$32.00



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



#44 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon, Mens \$30.00



#45 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$75.00

## CAN YOU HEAR MY SABRE RATTLE?

By Donnie Colwell, (A Troop, 1969-1970)

We are Blackhorse Troopers  
Invading your green jungle of death  
Loudly announcing our presence  
Looking hard for you  
  
Crouched silently in your bunkers hard to see,  
Booby traps, mines, and ambush planned  
You slip away to hide and plot your strategy  
When will you strike again?  
  
Sheridans crashing through thick jungle  
Smoke from tiger purring diesel engines  
Sun baked, sleep deprived, monsoon season coming  
This is your world, we yearn for ours

Sniper fire from AK  
Move up Move up says the command ship high aloft  
Cobras circle overhead mini guns their venom,  
Frantic cries for medic,  
Someone call a dustoff  
  
Cease fire Cease fire Cease fire  
Silence broken by crack of cook off  
Rumors spread like old men talking in a barbershop  
Who got hit, is it bad?  
  
Back in the world a mother sees a military car at front  
Oh merciful God "no" she sobs as she sinks to her knees  
Anger, rage, despair, grief,  
It don't mean nothin'

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NL2Q 10

#### 11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Membership is open to all troopers who served with or were attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment while in the countries of Vietnam or Cambodia from August 1966 thru March 1972. Membership is also open to the wives, parents and children of our Troopers killed in action.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ DATES: FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_  
(Troop,Sqdn) (Mo/Yr) (Mo/Yr)

SER NO RANK (during tour) \_\_\_\_\_ SSN NO \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE MEMBERSHIP:  NEW  RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL (\$15)  LIFE (\$100)

LIFE Plan (\$25 enclosed, plus 3 payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)

IN ADDITION, PLEASE ACCEPT MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the release of my address/phone number to other Troopers who served with the 11th ACR

(Sign) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 2nd QTR 2010

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	C	10.00		_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia .....	A	2.00		_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon .....	A	2.00		_____	_____
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's .....	B	35.00		_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's .....	B	35.00		_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored .....	B	4.00		_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued .....	B	4.00		_____	_____
9.	Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed sabers, together then, together again .....	B	10.00		_____	_____
10.	Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia .....	B	30.00		_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia .....	B	50.00		_____	_____
12.	Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia .....	B	15.00		_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11 .....	B	5.00		_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white .....	C	7.50		_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib .....	C	30.00		_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib .....	B	20.00		_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin .....	A	5.00		_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest .....	A	5.00		_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers .....	A	5.00		_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath .....	A	5.00		_____	_____
21.	Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, sterling silver w/full BH insignia .....	B	45.00		_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21) .....	C	35.00		_____	_____
23.	Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size) .....	A	225.00		_____	_____
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds .....	A	280.00		_____	_____
25.	Lapel Pin: "Support Our Troops" .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse" .....	A	5.00		_____	_____
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon .....	A	4.00		_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only) .....	C	30.00		_____	_____
29.	Video combo #1: "Combat Reports" & Blackhorse Video (DVD only) .....	C	50.00		_____	_____
30.	Video combo #2: "Combat Reports" (DVD) & Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam (VHS) .....	C	40.00		_____	_____
31.	Book, Video (DVD) Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam .....	C	30.00		_____	_____
32.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths .....	C	10.00		_____	_____
33.	Book, "Battle Captain" by Sewall Menzel .....	C	20.00		_____	_____
34.	Book, "Into Cambodia" by Kieth Nolan .....	C	23.00		_____	_____
35.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Larry Haworth, Chaplain .....	C	11.00		_____	_____
36.	Book, "Fiddlers Green" by Jack Stoddard .....	C	16.00		_____	_____
37.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter .....	C	16.00		_____	_____
38.	History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam" .....	C	25.00		_____	_____
39.	Book, American Warrior" by "Doc" Bahnsen .....	C	20.00		_____	_____
40.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new) .....	B	12.00		_____	_____
41.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black .....	B	16.00		_____	_____
42.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black .....	B	32.00		_____	_____
43.	Combo: DVD and Book The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam .....	C	40.00		_____	_____
44.	Denim Shirt, Mens .....	B	30.00		_____	_____
45.	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		_____	_____
46.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon .....	B	35.00		_____	_____
47.	Combo: VHS and the book "11th Armoured Cavalry in Vietnam" .....	C	30.00		_____	_____

**Subtotal** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Shipping Costs: A items = \$3.00; B items = \$6.00; C items = \$10.25  
(items totaling over \$75.00 = \$13.95 cost of shipping)

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$13.95. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757.**



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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



## From the Quartermaster...

**Jerry Beamon**

Hello To All Blackhorse Brothers

Once again our Reunion is coming up pretty soon, as I was informed today by my better half. Yes, it will not be long before we meet again in Washington DC. for our 25th Reunion so please get your registration in and book your hotel room so not to miss out on all the fun. And on that note Jan and I are asking for volunteers. If you have some spare time please come by and lend us a hand.

Once again we will be closing the QM Store on line on Aug.8th, so please have your mail-in orders in by that time also. We need the time get your orders filled and mailed out and then pack up for our trip to DC.

Also again Fellas please when filling out your order form **do not forget to put down your shirt size**. Many of you are making it easier, but some are still not. Phone numbers too are still needed so we can call if need to.

I am looking forward to see everyone in Washington DC. Please have a safe trip there and back. To all our helpers I would like to send out a BIG Thanks for their help. Jim with *Thunder Run*, Otis with the Web Store, and Jerry and Pat who help us out in the store at Reunions and here at home.

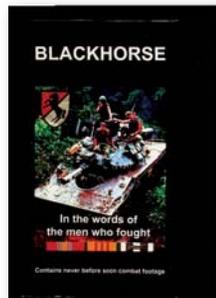
*Allons, Jerry*

### QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

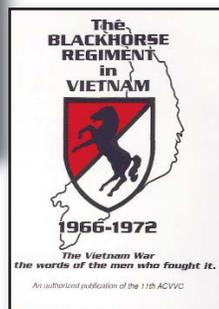
**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: Past reunion golf shirts: Chicago 2008 in size large only and Louisville 2007 in x large and xx large, \$15.00. Combo: DVD and Book 'The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam' \$40.00; a \$15 savings when purchased together.**



**#44 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon Men only \$30.00**



**#47 Combo:VHS and Book "The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam" \$30.00**



**#43 Combo: DVD and Book "The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam" \$40.00**

