



Thunder Run

Vol. 36 – NO. 2

“Together Then – Together Again”

2nd Quarter, 2021

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

State of the Reunion

I truly hope this update finds you healthy and protected from the Virus that has stolen a big chunk of our lives over the last year. I am fully expecting a great turnout at this year’s Reunion to be held at the Anatole Hilton Dallas, Texas August 23-30, 2021.

We may not be entirely free of the need for masks and some social distancing by the time the Reunion starts but requirements should be much more relaxed ...

Registrations have been slow due to the fact that the *Thunder Run* was delayed in publication but has increased rapidly since the wider availability of the Corona Virus vaccine and the registration information is now in the hands of the Membership.

As of this writing 100 rooms have been booked with the hotel in the past ten days. Knowing that we can all meet in a safer

Please turn to **REUNION** on page 4

Battle of the Crescent; from the Drive’s hatch

G 27, in the rubber near Loc Ninh, 1970. Left to right – Elmer Hill - Loader, Frank Church - Driver, Dennis Cherry – Gunner. (Not pictured: SSGT Otis Jernigan - TC)



On January 20 1970 the 11th Cav engaged the NVA in a firefight at a place known as the Crescent. The action has been well documented from After Action reports and what was seen from a few thousand feet in the air by Commanding Officers. How it looked and

what it felt like from the ground by the troopers in the battle has not had much accounting. I was the driver of a Sheridan (27) with G Troop during that battle and my view was needless to say “front row”. The true story that follows is what was

Please turn to **CRESENT** on page 4

The best Army invention ever

He was gone forever, the Soldier who inside of six months had spent every waking minute with me, living and fighting in the latest conflict. A man who gave a whole new meaning to the words friend and family. I wanted to leave something with him to connect us through eternity, something that would assure us both he would never be forgotten. Ever. So I slipped a P-38 can opener into his pants pocket just before they took him away.Memories of a Vietnam Veteran

By Renita Foster, Fort Monmouth Public Affairs, August 11, 2009
(Reprinted from www.army.mil)

FORT MONMOUTH, N.J. — It was invented in just 30 days in the summer of 1942 by Major Thomas Dennehy at the Subsistence Research Laboratory in Chicago.



And never in its more than 60-year history has it ever been known to “break, rust, need sharpening or polishing,” which is why many Soldiers past and present have come to regard the P-38 C-Ration can opener as one of the best Army inventions ever.

C-Rations (tin cans filled with a variety of meats and vegetables) have been replaced with Meals Ready To Eat (MREs) but the phenomena of the P-38 continues due to the countless other uses that Soldiers found for it.



“The P-38 is one of those tools you keep and never want to get rid of,” military policeman Sgt. Scott Kiraly said. “I’ve had my P-38 since joining the Army and kept it because I can use it as a screwdriver, knife, anything!”

Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Steve Wilson believes it’s the size of the P-38 that counts.

Please turn to **P-38** on page 6





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

Thunder Run (©2000 11th ACVVC) is the official publication of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), P.O. Box 956, Colleyville, TX 76034; a notforprofit organization. It is published four times a year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907 (finisterre@islc.net) for members of the organization. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the 11th ACVVC.

Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Correspondence and inquiries concerning *Thunder Run* should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," Peter L. Walter, 8 Tallowood Dr., Westampton, NJ 08060-3721.

President	Peter L. Walter, (How, 3/11, 70) 8 Tallowood Dr. Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 <basepiece70@verizon.net> (609) 261-5629	Silent Auction	Gregory R. Mason (HHT 3/11, 68 – 69) 4636 W Knights Griffin Road Plant City, FL 33565 <gregrmason311@gmail.com> (813) 754-2980
Funeral Honor Guard Calendar Editor		Editor	Peter L. Walter, (How, 3/11, 70) 8 Tallowood Dr. Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 <basepiece70@verizon.net> (609) 261-5629
Vice President & Reunion Chairman	Frank T. Church, (G Troop, '69-'70) 5168 Laskey Road Rome, OH 44085 <fchurch4@aol.com> (386) 365-0487	Information Tech./ E-commerce	Otis Carey (F Troop, 2/11, 71-72)
Secretary & Quartermaster	Jerry L. Beamon, (K Troop, 3/11, 1969-1970) 15926 Cedar Bay Dr Bullard, TX 75757 <jerrybea@aol.com> (903) 805-0703	Assistant Information Technology/Ecommerce	Paul Gruber (G Troop, 2/11, '68) 11047 Tung Grove Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32317 <pgruber@polaris.net> (850) 878-8425
Treasurer	Ollie W. Pickral, (K Troop 3/11, 68-69) 571 Ditchley Road Kilmarnock, VA 22482 <11cavalry@verizon.net> (804) 435-3658	Public Affairs	Eric Newton (K Troop 3/11, '68-'69) P.O. Box 956 Colleyville, TX 76034 <armor11ACR@aol.com> (817) 239-3437
Directors	Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman. (G Troop, 2/11, 1969-1970) 5837 Habanero Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88012 <platoonmedic36@gmail.com> (575) 915-2921 Robert "Bob" Moreno, Reunion Registration (G Troop 2/11, '68-'69) 24284 Endeavor Ave, Tomah, WI 54660 <gtroopbob@gmail.com> (608) 372-5892 Blandin W. "Bill" Karabinos, Chaplain (HHT 2/11, '71-'72) 7312 Little Creek Road Toano, VA 23168 <blandinkarabinos@gmail.com> (757) 566-8885	Women's Group Coordinator	Sheryl Myers 19155 Royal Troon Drive Monument, CO 80132 <sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com> (571) 721-9189
Chaplain Emeritus	Lawrence E. Haworth, (HHT 2/11, 69-70) 10000 Rhineland Dr., Unit 209 San Antonio, TX 78239-3139 <lehaworth@aol.com> (661) 860-0093 (cell) (210) 646-3835	Website & Facebook Manager	Robert Kickenweitz (HHT Reg't, 66-67) 155 Hickory Tavern Rd Gillette, NJ 07933 <bobk11acr@comcast.net> (908) 803-3455
Membership KIA Issues	Allen Hathaway (HHT Regiment, 66-67) 13194 Rettew Dr. Manassas, VA 20112 <11thcav1966@comcast.net> (703) 791-6610	Veterans' Information	Jack Morrison (A Troop, 1/11, 1967-1969) 542 Main St. Rockport, IN 47635 <slumlord99@hotmail.com> (609) 261-5629
		Historian	Don Snedeker 2221 Tulip Dr Falls Church, VA 22046 <blackhorse7478@gmail.com> (571) 215-9610
		Auditing Committee/ Judge Advocate	William "Bill" Suhre, (I Troop 3/11, '68) 3230 SW 3rd Lane Cape Coral, FL 33991 <william@suhrelawfirm.com> (970) 381-0335

President's Message

By Pete Walter

Hello fellow Blackhorse Troopers, families and friends!

Spring is finally here and we can all look forward to a brighter and healthier year in 2021.

All facets of our 2021 reunion at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, Texas are in place and we are looking forward to a great reunion, hopefully with attendance returning to our historic norms.

The Hilton Anatole is a spectacular site spanning 45 acres, featuring indoor and outdoor facilities including the V Spa, Verandah Health Club, the new JadeWaters resort pool complex and a private Sculpture Park. The hotel also features four dining areas. We believe this is one of the finest – if not the finest – venue we have ever used! Please see Vice President Frank Church's article in this issue for more information.

Thunder Run – The 1st quarter 2021 issue was delayed in production, but worse yet the USPS seems to be operating slower than usual and there were dozens of Troopers who received their copy very late. I strive to get the input to the printer as early as possible, but we have no control over the speed of delivery by the USPS. FYI, the cutoff dates for submitting material for Thunder Run are the first day of each quarter, i.e., January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.

If you have an interesting story, please consider submitting it for possible inclusion in Thunder Run. Stories with clear, good quality photos are especially enjoyable to read and remind us we were "Together then". All input for Thunder Run should be in Microsoft Word. Hand-written stories are not only time-consuming to transcribe but are often difficult or impossible to read. We need your input and value your feedback on how we administer the 11th ACVVC. If you have a complaint, voice it. (Compliments are also accepted!)

Additionally, I am still seeking an individual who has solid writing, proofreading and editing skills. It is my belief that every one of our Officers and Chairman need to have a back-up who can jump in

The 1st quarter 2021 issue was delayed in production, but worse yet the USPS seems to be operating slower than usual and there were dozens of Troopers who received their copy very late.

and take over if and when needed. If you have the skills to be the Assistant Editor of Thunder Run, please contact me directly.

11th ACVVC 2021 Calendar – You, the members of the 11th ACVVC have donated \$91,520 to date to the 2021 calendar appeal. This is the highest amount ever received for our annual calendar appeal, with all proceeds going to our Scholarship Fund. All of the Officers of the 11th ACVVC extend their sincere gratitude for your incredible generosity! Important note: due to the late mailing of 1st qtr Thunder Run, we have extended the 2021 deadline to apply for an 11th ACVVC scholarship to June 15.

Saturday Business Meeting & Elections – There will be elections this year for four Officers. The offices of Vice President (two-year term), Treasurer (two-year term) and Director (3-year term) will be filled based on your votes. At present the nominees are: Frank Church (for Vice President), Ollie Pickral (for Treasurer) and Bob Moreno (for Director). There will also be a special election to fill the unexpired term of Director Bill Karabinos who resigned in February. This term will end December 31, 2023. Currently there is one nominee, Steve Page.

We also pick the 2023 reunion site at this meeting. Remember, you the members choose where you go and the Officers who go there with you (we never had that option in Vietnam!).

IT Expert Needed – If you are a website designer or have experience in website maintenance, we need you! We want to update our website and hope we have someone in our midst that can help the 11th ACVVC with their talents. Please contact me directly.

COVID-19 – We all know the impact

the virus has had on the world, our country and our 2020 reunion. We expect a much larger turnout for this year's reunion in Dallas. Hopefully by late August, all of us will have received the COVID-19 vaccination. While neither the government nor the 11th ACVVC can require that every reunion attendee has been vaccinated against COVID-19, I strongly recommend that you do receive the vaccine. If you do not want to do this for your own health, then do it for the health of your fellow Troopers and their families.

Golf Outing – Due to the low turnout last year, we "suspended play" of the Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing for a year. We expect a much larger turnout this summer and we will restart the 28th golf outing. We have a volunteer on site in Texas who has played in our outings several times and is literally "related" to the 11th ACVVC. Chris Farmer, son-in-law of Ollie Pickral, has graciously volunteered to run the outing this year at Stevens Park Golf Course. There is more info and the entry form elsewhere in this issue. Thank you Chris!

Quarter Master Store – We have some new items in this issue which we hope you find attractive. We are selling 11th ACR "see-through" window decals in a variety of styles. Check 'em out! As always, our Quarter Master Jerry Beamon seeks out unique, high quality items of interest for our members. Thank you Jerry!

Finally, I want to remind everyone of the Registration Deadline and Cancellation policy. It follows on page 13.

I look forward to seeing you all in the famous "Lone Star State" in August. Let's get back to normal by getting "Together again"!

CRESCENT from page 1

encountered by a singular vehicle and its crew during that battle, a story that could not have been seen or told by anyone else.

My Sheridan was due for maintenance that day for a leaky seal on the main gun, a common problem, and our TC, the Platoon Sergeant, was in the rear for the day. The Second Platoon got the call to mount up and move out in response to a downed LOACH. Not wanting to be left behind because of such trivial issues as an “iffy” main gun or no TC we joined the column and headed out with the gunner in the cupola. One never knew what to expect when responding to calls of someone needing assistance and this day turned out to be very much the definition of that phrase.

The path that we took to the downed chopper forced us to cross a small stream easily fordable for our ACAV's and Sheridan's. That was true for all the tracks that went into it before us, but when we got there it had become a big muddy hole. I without hesitation followed in the tracks of vehicles in front of us and was met by a wall of swamp water that washed into the drivers hatch and filled the inside with a foot of smelly muck. I held my breath and floored the pedal only to have the tracks start to spin and the vehicle start to sink into the mire. I jerked the T-bar right and left and amazingly got traction and

made it to the other side. I pulled out of line to clear my goggles and catch my breath while a large part of that “stream” drained out of a crack in the hull that was caused by a mine hit a few weeks earlier.

With that little incident concluded we joined back up with the rest of G Troop. About that time, we got the order to meet up with F Troop to make an on-line charge across a clearing and into the jungle where a whole bunch of NVA were preparing an ambush.

The movies and TV shows depict mounted Cavalry charges to be heroic and thrilling events, and that it was. To actually be part of such an epic occurrence is a Cavalryman's dream. But a dream it was not, the sheer excitement and adrenaline rush of participating in a real-life on-line charge was very heady stuff. Still, to this day my heart rate goes up when I think about it. It was a “Gold Spur” event. I'm sure it was impressive from the air, but there is nothing that can compare to being “in it”. I was happy we could provide such a show for all the Brass flying above us.

That euphoria lasted until we entered the jungle and were met by a real-life firefight with a barrage of RPG fire aimed directly at us. Tear gas had been dropped on the NVA just before we entered the wood line, and it sure made them scatter, but not very far. A driver doesn't do a lot

of shooting back when ambushed so I sat there in the odor of swamp water monitoring the radio and counting RPG's. I lost count at around 6p.m.. Luckily the jungle provided us with some degree of protection and all hit trees before they got to us. That was the only time during my tour that I uttered a “save me Lord” prayer... well maybe the first time.

The longer we sat there and the more blind and choked we became, one thing did become very clear to us but not considered by anyone else. The last time we saw a gas mask was in basic training. The EOM of a Sheridan did contain masks but they didn't make it to the field in Vietnam; as for our ACAVs, “what do we need those for?”. So, there we sat, just as choked up and teary eyed as the NVA. At that point it sure didn't feel like a perfect cavalry charge or much of a victory that military history said it was.

In the end the “iffy” main gun was not an issue, the lack of a TC didn't change the way we fought, the swamp water had become just a minor annoyance, but still stinky, and we were all in one piece. At the end of the day the official reports are accurate in that it was a major victory and a text book on-line charge, just missing a few minor details.

Frank Church, G Troop, 69-70

REUNION from page 1

and more socially relaxed atmosphere and the desire for us to meet up with our buddies again has had a very positive impact. We may not be entirely free of the need for masks and some social distancing by the time the Reunion starts but requirements should be much more relaxed than what we have had to endure in the last 12 months since the Indy Reunion.

To make sure you have all the info you need to plan your reunion attendance I'll give that to you again. Reunion dates are August 23-30, 2021 with Reunion functions starting on August 25th ending on August 29. To make your hotel reservation call the Hilton Anatole, Dallas TX. at 1-800- 445-8667. The 1-800-774-1500 number has had some issues so if you can't make a reservation at either of those

numbers, call the hotel direct at 855-516-1090, you must tell them you will be with the 11th ACVVC. The group code VVC will be needed for all reservations. You can also use the direct online booking link <https://book.passkey.com/go/5ce4394f>.

Room rates are \$139 per night with upgraded Tower Corner rooms are available for \$169-\$179 per night. Self-Parking is discounted 50% over the reunion dates which include dates 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion. Hotel reservations must be made by July 23,2021. Transportation to and from DFW can be a choice of shared shuttle for \$30, a non-stop private van for up to ten people for one way is \$100 and limo service at \$59 one way. All can be made at the time you make your hotel reservation or visit the “Yellow

Checker Shuttle” web page. Taxi, Uber and lyft are also available.

Scooters can be reserved with either of two companies. A to Z Medical Equipment and Supplies (214-349-2869) for \$30 a day with a \$50 dollar delivery fee. Heiline Scooter Rentals (855-443-5463) for \$50 a day with no delivery fee. Scooters can be picked up at the concierge desk.

Reunion registration fees are \$115 per person, the form is in the Thunder Run and on our web site 11thcavnam.com. Any registrations not received by our Treasurer by July 28, 2021 will be returned.

Get your vaccinations, make your reservations, call your buddies and let's enjoy another great Reunion.

Frank Church, Reunion Chair/VP

'BLACKHORSE TALES'

STORIES OF 11th ARMORED CAVALRY TROOPERS AT WAR

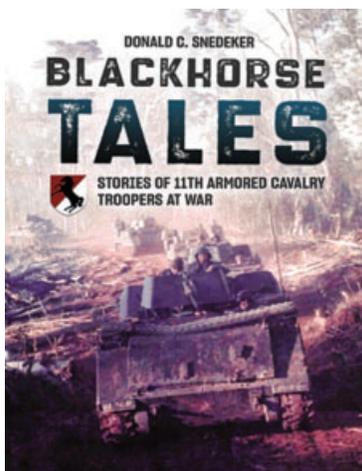
By Donald Snedeker

(Editor's note: Don Snedeker's first book, "The Blackhorse in Vietnam" has sold extremely well and all the reviews I have received have been positive. Don's second book contains more history that most of us have never read – until now.)

Over 25,000 young men served in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during its time in combat in South Vietnam and Cambodia. Their stories – and those of their families – represent the Vietnam generation in graphic, sometimes humorous, often heart-wrenching detail.

Collected by the author through hundreds of in-person, telephone, and electronic interviews over a period of 25-plus years, these "war stories" provide context for the companion volume, The Blackhorse in Vietnam.

The stories transport the reader back to the battlefields of Vietnam, where Blackhorse troopers fought against a savage enemy, primeval jungles, monsoon



rains, and unbearable heat – only to return to a country that no longer cared. The important role played by the families is highlighted, ranging from letters to and from home and "care" packages from "back in The World", to the critical role of the love and understanding from parents, siblings, and spouses during the long post-war integration back into society.

Between the chapters are combat vignettes, one from each year of the Regiment's five and one-half years in Southeast Asia.

These combat narratives remind the reader that the Blackhorse was at war.

Table of Contents

- Foreword
- Chapter 1: The Troopers
- Combat Vignette A: 1966 Suoi Cat
- Chapter 2: The Families
- Combat Vignette B: 1967 Slope 30
- Chapter 3: The Civilians and Allies
- Combat Vignette C: 1968 Chanh Luu
- Chapter 4: The Animals
- Combat Vignette D: 1969 War Zone C
- Chapter 5: The Land
- Combat Vignette E: 1970 Dog's Head
- Chapter 6: The Weather
- Combat Vignette F: 1971 Trang Bang
- Chapter 7: Life After Vietnam



Rudy Estrada Jr, 3/11ACR 1968-69 (Chino, CA), shows his Blackhorse pride. In 'Nam he was known as "SGT Sluggo"

Show Your Pride



Membership is Our Strength

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



P-38 from page 1

"It's a perfect inch-and-a-half making it a great marking tool. Because it's small, it doesn't take up a lot of space and that's essential in Army life. The conveniently drilled hole in the top half means the P-38 can be put on a key ring or dog tags and go anywhere," he said.

According to Col. (Ret.) Paul Baerman, however, the most vital use of the P-38 is the very mission it was designed for.

"When we had C-rations it was your access to food, making it a priority," he said. "Then Soldiers discovered it was an extremely simple, lightweight multi-purpose tool. I think in warfare, the simpler something is and the easier access it has, the more you're going to use it. The P-38 had all of those things going for it."

The P-38 acquired its infamous nomenclature from the 38 punctures around the C-ration can required for opening and the boast that it performed with the speed of the World War II P-38 fighter plane.

"Soldiers just took to the P-38 naturally," said World War II veteran John Bandola. A master sergeant serving in the 30th Signal Construction Battalion in North Africa, Bandola began his acquaintance with the P-38 in 1943.

"The P-38 was our means for eating 90 percent of the time, but the next thing I knew we were using it for cleaning boots, fingernails, screwdrivers, you name it. And we all carried it on our dog tags or key rings," he said.

When Pfc. Martin Kuehl stormed Omaha Beach on D-Day over half-a-century ago with the Third Army's 457th Anti-Aircraft Battalion, he not only carried several pounds of equipment but a P-38 as well.

"I used it to open cans for dinner after that 'longest day,'" said Kuehl. Six years later millions of the miniature can openers were distributed by the Army during the Korean War.

And while fighting on what Soldiers referred to as "Papasan Mountain" with the 24th Infantry Division, Jay Welsh discovered another vital use of the P-38 besides opening food cans.

"A clean weapon is your immediate priority because a dirty one is not going to

work," said Welsh. "The P-38 was the ideal tool to field strip and clean the finer components of the M-1 rifle. I believe that two-piece hinged device saved my life. It assured me I had a rifle that would fire."

Ted Paquet was a 17-year-old seaman serving aboard the USS New Orleans amphibious assault ship during the Vietnam War. Its mission was to retrieve and transport Marines off the coast of Da Nang. On occasional evenings Soldiers gathered near Paquet's duty position in the fantail for simple pleasures like "cokes, cigarettes, conversation and C-rations."

It was during one of these nightly sessions that Paquet became acquainted with the P-38 or "John Wayne" as it's affectionately referred to in the Navy.

"I think the reason I remember this incident so well is because one of the Marines and I got to talking about where we were from, and it turned out we'd gone to high school together and I'd even dated his sister," said Paquet. He came home to Pennsylvania after surviving 12 months of war. Yet civilian life didn't end his need for the P-38.

While driving down Route 60, known as the Old Steubenville Pike with older brother Paul, another Vietnam veteran who served with the 7th Air Cavalry, car problems suddenly developed. "There were no tools in the car and almost simultaneously both of us reached for P-38s attached to our key rings," chuckled Paquet. "We used it to adjust the flow valve and the car worked perfectly."

Christmas of 1969 brought a truce in Vietnam. Paul Baerman was then a wounded first lieutenant, whose only desire was to be reunited with his platoon in time for the highly coveted holiday. His wish was granted and it remains one of the most memorable times in his military career.

"One of my Soldiers received one of those tacky evergreen foil trees," he said. "It didn't come with anything so we mounted it on top of a 50-caliber machine gun on an armored vehicle and decorated it with brass shells from ammunition, C-ration cans, and of course P-38s. They were a little dull, but that hole made it a perfect hanging ornament. So whenever I see that little can opener, I think of being there with them in 70-to-80 degree weather and singing carols around a P-38 decorated Christmas tree."

It's nostalgic memories such as Baerman's that best depict the sentimental attachment many Soldiers came to feel for the P-38.

When John Bandola attached his first P-38 to his key ring it accompanied him to Anzio, Salerno, and northern Italy.

It was with him when World War II ended and it's with him now. "This P-38 is a symbol of my life back then," reminisced Bandola. "The Army, the training, my fellow Soldiers, all those incredible times we shared during a world war."

Because the P-38 represents such a significant part of Bandola's life, he plans to leave it to his son and grandson. It's a

MOVING?

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



Name: _____
Old Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
New Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone _____ Effective Date: _____
Email: _____

desire his wife Dorothy understands perfectly. "Every time they look at that P-38, they'll see and remember him," she said quietly.

Vietnam veteran John Koehler grinned broadly, proclaiming the P-38 "ranks with your first girl and your first car."

Koehler proudly admits he put his first P-38 on his dog tags 25 years ago and it's still there. "The P-38 was part of my youth when I was learning all about discipline, accomplishment, and self-worth as a Soldier with the 101st Airborne Division. And if someone wanted it, well, they'd have a better chance of seeing God!" he said.

Ted Paquet's P-38 is in a special box with his dog tags, a 50-caliber shell from the ship he served on, his Vietnam Service Medal, South Vietnamese money and a surrender leaflet from Desert Storm dutifully supplied by a veteran nephew.

No one's allowed to touch the box and his wife has been given clear instructions to dust around it. "It'll be on my dresser until the day I die," swears Paquet.

According to Steve Wilson, attitudes of former veterans aren't hard to understand. "When you see a P-38 you've carried since the day you enlisted, it means a

Having met many men over the years who claimed to be Vietnam vets, I always asked them if they still had their P-38. If a mystified look followed, I knew he was a phony wan-na-be. Fortunately, most guys reached into their pocket and produced something like what's shown here. Yeah, the real deal...Editor



whole lot. It becomes a part of you. You remember field problems, German Reforgers, jumping at 3 a.m. in the morning and moving out in a convoy. A P-38 has you reliving all the adventures that came with soldiering in the Armed Forces. Yes, the P-38 opened cans but it did so much more. Any Soldier will tell you that," he said.

There have been other inventions that Soldiers came to cherish, such as the steel helmet that proved ideal for washing, shaving, and cooking; the faithful, trustworthy jeep, guaranteed to go anywhere in any kind of weather and the TA-50 ammunition pouch for storing those personal

items Soldiers just couldn't leave behind.

Thomas Dennehy's P-38, however, remains the Army's finest creation.

As one of the "most perfectly designed tools in history," Dennehy counted on Soldier imagination to raise the P-38 to even greater heights than just opening cans.

The P-38 was an item he knew a majority of service members would come to possess and share, and thus promote the kind of camaraderie and bonding all Soldiers need and depend on.

Perhaps that is what this patron saint of Army inventions had in mind all along.

Band of Blackhorse Brothers!

We members of the 11th ACVVC often refer to each other as "brothers"; it is fitting and proper that we do so. Indeed, we shared moments, minutes, hours, days, weeks and months in an environment that we would hope our birth brothers would never have to experience. We formed bonds, bonds forged under fire, that most siblings would never face in a state-side lifetime.

And yet, there were sixteen (16) pairs of brothers who served in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and/or Cambodia. Even more surprisingly, there was one father-son pair who served in the Blackhorse Regiment in the Vietnam War at the same time!

- Orla F. Sharp, Sr. served as a SSGT in E Troop in 1970. His son, Orla F. Sharp, Jr. served as a Spc. 5 in Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th ACR from November 1969 through October 1970. Sadly, we lost Orla Sr. in 1996. Orla Jr. resides in Copperas Cove, TX and is a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

- One trio of brothers, Wesley, Gary and Hardy ("Pete") Terry all served in 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and/or Cambodia. Wesley was first, serving in A Troop from December 1967 through January 1969 and lives

...there were sixteen (16) pairs of brothers who served in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and/or Cambodia.

in Dayton, TX. Gary would follow, serving in Regimental Headquarters from March 1969 through January 1970; he resides in Huffman, TX. Hardy (aka "Pete") would be the last of the trio, serving in Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 3/11 in 1969-70 and calls West Monroe, LA home. All are Life Members.

- Don and JL Blue served together in F Troop in 1967-68; JL passed away in 2003. Don is a Life Member living in Laguna Park, TX.

- Buddy and Charles Castenada served in Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 2/11, 1968-69 and 37th Med Co., 1969-70 respectively. Buddy made the trip to Fiddler's Green in 2013. Charles is a Life Member residing in Anniston, AL.

- Dennis and Douglas Clark served together in E Troop in 1966-67.

Please turn to **BROTHERS** on page 27

2021 Elections

Jerry Beamon

Four positions are up for election this year during the General Membership Meeting to be held Saturday, August 28th during the 2021 Reunion. The four positions are Vice President, Treasure and two Directors. Candidates for office must be dues-paid Life members.

The Vice President and Treasure will serve two-year terms beginning January 1, 2022 and ending at midnight, December 31, 2023. One Director will serve a Three- year term, beginning January 1, 2022 and ending at midnight, December 31, 2024.

A special election will be held to fill the unexpired term of Chaplain Bill Karabinos, who resigned earlier this year. An election to fill that office on a pro tem basis was held in February among the incumbent Officers and Stephen Page was elected until a special election could be held to fill the unexpired term for the period ending in 2023.

The elected candidates must be able to attend the annual reunion and two Board Meetings each year of their

elected term. Candidates for office must be dues-paid Life members.

The elected candidate must be able to communicate by email with other Board members and be able to help the Board make decisions on a variety of organizational matters. Each candidate must be highly organized and be able to commit time and energy to a specific project or committee as directed by the President. Excellent skills in using Microsoft Word and Excel are required in order to prepare reports and other documents required of all positions.

The position of Vice President serves as the President's right-hand man. In the absence of the president the Vice President shall perform the duties of and be subject to all restrictions upon the President. Sound Leadership skills are fundamental to the position.

Candidates for Treasurer must have verifiable experience in accounting and/or finance. Excellent skills in using Microsoft Excel are required. Most importantly, the treasurer is accountable for maintaining accurate financial records, preparing reports, budgeting, forecasting, etc., of the General Fund,

the organization's investments, and all expenses and obligations incurred from the various projects supported by the 11th ACVVC.

Directors are expected to commit themselves to a specific area of interest within the 11th ACVVC or as directed by the President.

Nominations for these positions should be submitted in writing to the Secretary or made from the floor at the General Membership meeting.

Please consider participating on the Board of Directors serving the 11th ACVVC.

The current nominees are:

- Treasurer (term 2022-2023): Ollie Pickral
- Vice President (term 2022-2023): Frank Church
- Board of Director (unfinished term ending 2023): Stephen Page
- Board of Director (term 2022 – 2024): Bob Moreno

Other nominations may be submitted to the Secretary in writing or by email.

Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Membership Meeting.

VSO INFORMATION

Chuck Bosko Medic F Trp 69-70

11th Cav vets may be aware of three medical conditions recently added to the VA's Presumptive List as a result of exposure to agent orange: Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism's (Parkinson's like symptoms). Further, many Black Horse Troopers may have previously submitted claims for these and have been denied. The big question I receive from vets, "What happens if I submit a new claim for these?" Well - that claim will be treated as a new claim with new material evidence, the new evidence being the new law. Of interest - the claimant now may be able to secure benefits with an effective date back to the date of the original claim.

Should any reader now be eligible, submitting the claim the right way is important. The VA has a new process for previously denied claims. VA form 20-0995 Decision Review Request, Supplemental Claim.

There are three sections-

Section I: Vet's information

Section II List the medical condition, i.e., Bladder cancer
List the date the VA denied claim, i.e., May 1, 2017.

Section III List any VA hospitals and or private medical facilities

Additionally, using VA Form 21-4138 Statement in Support of Claim, adds a bit of clarity. A statement such as "Pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act, I am submitting VA Form 20-0995 for bladder cancer originally submitted March 1, 2017".

As always, I encourage veterans and families of veterans to receive assistance from an accredited Veterans Service Officer wherever you live.

I trust this article has been of interest.

Allons and welcome home.

2021 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason

We were unable to hold a Silent Auction at the 2020 reunion but are hopeful we will have a more normal 2021 reunion. As a reminder, the 2019 Silent Auction raised \$9,233 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 237 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many hand-crafted items and one-of-a-kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We look forward to another successful auction.

The auction process will be as follows:

1) Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 36th Annual Reunion in Dallas Texas. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cavalry related or not.

2) We will have a **collection site** set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on Wednesday from 1pm to 5pm, Thursday from 1pm to 5pm, and Friday from 1pm to 4pm.

3) You can ship items to Eric Newton, to collect, hold and bring the items to the reunion for display. If you plan to ship items, please use the convenient Silent Auction Donor Form printed in this issue. If you bring the

We do need volunteers to work the collection site and the night of the auction. We are setting up the collection site schedule in 2 hour shifts and if you would like to volunteer please contact me at gregmason311@gmail.com or 813-220-9027. I will respond to your emails as I receive them.

items to the reunion, also complete the donation form and include it with the item.

4) The **auction will be from 6pm to 9pm on Friday night** with the bidding ending precisely at 9pm. Those in wheelchairs or motorized chairs will be allowed in at 5:45 to allow them a little time to view the items before the crowds enter.

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

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

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

We do need volunteers to work the collection site and the night of the auction. We are setting up the collection site schedule in 2 hour shifts and if you would like to volunteer please contact me at gregmason311@gmail.com or 813-220-9027. I will respond to your emails as I receive them.

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

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

11th ACVVC Silent Auction

Donated Items Information Form

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

Description of item donated: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Address of Donor: _____

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

I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

Mail silent auction items to: 11th ACVVC, C/O Eric Newton, 6408 Bordeaux Park, Colleyville, TX 76034

REGISTRATION FORM



36th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion
Dallas, Texas- August 23-30, 2021



Hilton Anatole
2201 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Tx
Reservations: 1-800-445-8667

Registration fee is \$115 per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner.

All registrations must be received by Friday, July 28, 2021. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer no later than Friday, August 13, 2021.

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

Name _____ Telephone No: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Unit Assignment _____ Dates in Country _____
(Example: B TRP, D CO - List only one unit. This is your banquet seating.) (Example: 1966-1967)

KIA Relative? Yes Name of KIA: _____

Relationship to KIA: _____ Unit: _____

ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)

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

Total Registration Fee \$ _____

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

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

Visa MasterCard

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail registration form along with payment to:

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



36th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion Dallas, Texas - August 23-30, 2021

Hilton Anatole
2201 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas

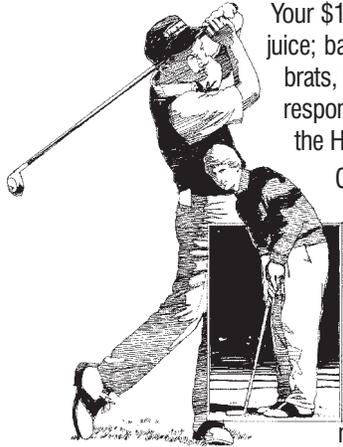


Day/Date/Time	Event	Location
Wednesday, August 25		
10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Quartermaster Store open	Desoto
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration	De La Salle-A
2:00 pm - 12:am	Bunker open	Chantilly Ball Room
1:00 pm- 5:pm	Silent Auction items accepted	Registration
Thursday, August 26		
8:00am-3:pm	29th Annual Marty Ognibene Golf Outing	Stevens Park G. C.
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Quartermaster Store open	Desoto
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration open	De La Salle-A
2:00 pm - 12:am	Bunker open	Chantilly Ball Room
1:00 pm- 5:pm	Silent Auction items accepted	Registration
Friday, August 27		
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Quartermaster Store open	Desoto
10:00 am - 12 noon	Veterans Seminar	Coronada-D
1:00 pm-4:00 pm	Silent Auction items accepted	Registration
1:00 pm- 3:00 pm	Don Snedeker POD Cast / 11th ACR in Vietnam film	Coronada-D
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Registration open	De La Salle-A
2:00 pm - 12:am	Bunker Open	Chantilly Ball Room
6:00 pm- 9:pm	Silent Auction sell off	Coronado B/C
9:00pm-10:00pm	Silent Auction Pay/pick up	Coronado
Saturday, August 28		
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Annual Membership Meeting	Wedgewood Ballroom
9:00am - 12:pm	Womens meeting	Coranoda D
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Memorial Service	Wedgewood Ballroom
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Quartermaster Store open	Desoto
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Registration open for late arrivals	De La Salle-A
5:45 pm-6:45 pm	Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)	Chantilly Foyer
6:00 PM	Banquet room Doors Open	Chantilly Ball Room
7:00 pm-10:00 pm	Banquet, Presentations and Salute	Chantilly Ball Room
10:pm- Midnight	Dancing (DJ)	Chantilly Foyer
Sunday, August 29		
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Worship Service	Coranoda - D
All Day	Farewell and Safe Travels	

THE 28TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Thursday, August 26, 2021, Stevens Park Golf Course, 1005 N. Montclair Avenue, Dallas, TX 75208, 214-670-7506

We will resume our annual outing this year playing at Stevens Park Golf Course, one of the top 50 municipal courses in the United States. Stevens Park is a local gem, a par 70, playing 6,235 yards, it has earned recognition as one of the region's premier golf experiences! "Absolutely fun course to play!" "One of my favorite courses to play!" "A great golf course!" "The 'Little Augusta' of North Texas!" "Country club golf in the heart of historic Kessler Park!" "... ranked 49th in nation by Golf Week for 2012 and in the Top 20 Texas courses for 2013!"



Your \$100 entry fee includes breakfast featuring sweet breads, croissants, bagels, egg burritos, fresh fruit, coffee, and orange juice; balls, tees, greens fees, cart with GPS yardage system, post-event luncheon featuring grilled buffet of gourmet burgers, brats, beef hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, fresh fruit, chips, cookies, iced tea, water and prizes! It is the golfer's responsibility to get to the golf course on time; transportation is not included in the entry price. The golf course is 3.7 miles from the Hilton Anatole Hotel.

Complete the form below and mail it to the address shown with a check for \$100 per golfer (payable to Christopher W. Farmer). Form must be received by Aug 12, 2021 to guarantee your entry! We cannot accept late registrations or walkups; due to COVID-19 the golf course will not be able to accommodate this. You do not need a foursome to enter.

Include your average score for 18 holes and you will be paired 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. Dress code: no denim, shirts must have collars, shorts must be Bermuda length, soft spikes only!

Call 609-261-5629 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation of your registration in the mail. All entries must be prepaid. There will be a light breakfast, with tee times at 8:00 AM and lunch and prizes following golf. Rental clubs are \$60 per set (call the course to reserve). Do not delay!!! Mail today!!! "FORE!"

27TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Name _____ Average Score _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

E-mail _____

Mail Checks To: **Christopher W. Farmer, 2612 Beaver Bend Dr., Plano, TX 75025**

2021 11TH ACVVC REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

All pre-ordered shirts will be available for pick-up at the Quartermaster Store during the 2021 reunion in Dallas, TX.

Orders must be received by July 24th, 2021

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Shirt Color: Ash with reunion logo embroidered on **left** breast. Name, troop, year on **right** side.

Adult Sizes: M, L, XL - \$42.00 each / 2XL, 3XL - \$44.00 each

Shipping: If you can't attend reunion, add \$7.00 shipping and shirt will be mailed to you.

Price include up to 3 lines of 40 characters per line of personalized embroidery (Name, Unit, Dates, Etc.)



Shirt Size: _____

Line 1: _____

Visa

Line 2: _____

MasterCard

Line 3: _____

Card No. _____ CVC Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks or money orders payable to **11th ACVVC**. If paying by check, write your drivers license number on the check.

Mail form to **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, C/O Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757**.

Reunion Registration

Well, here we are again, today is the 20th of March and here in Wisconsin we still have some snow on the ground. Today is the first day of spring and the sun is out and it looks like the snow will be gone by tonight. Now we can start working on the yard and boy do we have a lot to do. I hope you all have a great summer and stay safe.

We strive each year to make your check-in process as easy and painless for you as we can. Your patience and promptness help tremendously. It would be great to be able to talk with each of you at the registration desk but when we have a line of Troopers wanting to get their name tags, we just cannot do it. So, thanks for your patience and understanding.

Our next Reunion is on the 25th thru the 29th of August in Dallas Texas. As always, I want to encourage you to register as soon as you can. If you are not sure if you can make it, register anyway. If for some reason after you register you find out that you cannot make it to the reunion, you can always cancel. Just let Ollie or me know so we can give you a refund for your Registration. The cutoff date for Reunion Cancellation is the 13th of August. If you miss the cutoff date, please call me anyway, I still need to know that you are not coming.

Things that you need to check on the registration form if you are mailing it to Ollie.

One: Is it legible? Once again use one of those address labels that you get in the mail. It sure makes things so much easier when doing your name tags.

Two: Is it complete? Make sure you fill in all the information that we need to

Our next Reunion is on the 25th thru the 29th of August in Dallas Texas. As always, I want to encourage you to register as soon as you can.

make your name tag.

Three: Include the city and state that your guests are from. If your guests are from a different city and/or state insert the name of the city and state next to their name on the registration form. I will include that information on their name tag.

Four: Keep it as a whole page. Do not cut or trim the page that the registration form is on. I keep all the Registration forms in a 3-ring binder for future use.

Five: Know the cutoff dates. All Registrations must be received by Friday, July 28th, 2021. Any Registration received after this date will be returned. You can request to have your registration fee refunded or donated, only if the cancellation is received by Ollie or me no later than Friday, August 13, 2021. You can call or email us, and we can record the date you called.

Six: Is your hotel room booked? Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-774-1500 or 1-800-445-8667, or the online booking link <https://book.passkey.com/go/5ce4394f>, using group code V V C. The cutoff date for the hotel registration is July 23, 2021.

Note: When you send your registration form to Ollie, he records the information that he needs. When he gets 10 or 15 forms, he then sends them to me in the mail. I will get them in three or four days. He does not send me the envelopes that your forms came in, which has your return address, so it is important that you

fill out the registration form completely.

The fastest and easiest way to register is online. When you send it in, Ollie and I will receive your registration form at the same time on the computer and as soon as I get ten new registrations in, I will get all your information posted on the web site.

We had more Troopers attend the reunion from Michigan than any other state when we had our reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I am thinking that since Texas is a lot bigger state than Michigan, that we are going to have a great turnout this year.

We are still getting some *Thunder Runs* and Calendars returned from the Post Office because we do not have the correct address on file. Please take some time and update your information that we have on the Master Roaster on the 11th ACVVC web site. If you have any questions, please call me ph.#608-372-5892 [home] or 608-387-3346 [cell] or email me at gtroopbob@gmail.com

As always on behalf of Barbara our son Raleigh and myself we hope that you all have a safe and healthy year!

Remember praise is more valuable than blame.

“ALLONS”

Roberto “Bob” Moreno
G Troop 2/11th [12/68 – 12/69]
Member of the 11th ACVVC
Board of Directors
Reunion Registration

Reunion Registration Deadline and Cancellations

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

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

The cutoff date for Dallas will be July 28, 2021. All registrations must be received by this date. Any registration received after this date will be returned to the sender. This policy will be published in all Thunder Run issues that have reunion information in them. Postings will also be made on the web site and Facebook.

Cancellations and Refunds: Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer at least five (5) days prior to the first Wednesday of the reunion, August 20, 2021.

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

(April 2021)

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

Post Office. The 7th Army Postal Unit (APU) joined the 11th Cav upon its arrival in-country. Bruce Miller was one of the original 7th APU postal clerks. He remembers those early days at Blackhorse: "Are you kidding me? Two strands of concertina, some tanks, that's all there was." As is frequently the case, it took the system a while to adjust to having a new unit, and the mail didn't always get through to Blackhorse Base Camp. The C-7 Caribou sometimes just couldn't fly (weather, hung-over pilot, etc.). And sometimes, when it did come, the bags of mail were wet, making the water-logged letters from home hard to read. The situation got so bad that Colonel Bill Cobb (the 34th Colonel) wrote about it in his quarterly report at the beginning of 1967: "Throughout the reporting period, the mail service to the Regiment was either unsatisfactory or marginal. This difficulty was the result of a lack of USAF aircraft to fly mail from Saigon to the supporting APU at Xuan Loc." The Air Force eventually got its act together, and the 7th APU postal clerks soon adapted to the high operations tempo of the Blackhorse. They routinely made their services available to Troopers in the field who didn't have the opportunity to get back to the base camp. The members of the Blackhorse APU were proud of their reputation for going to where their customers were, to the Fire Support Bases and Night Defensive Positions, regardless of the weather. As Captain William Shea, the commander of the 7th APU in 1970, said: "The 7th APU is the only recognized postal unit in Vietnam today that sends its money order clerks out in the field". Even when the Regiment was deep inside Cambodia in May 1970, the 7th APU's money order clerks made the trek to the area around Snuol to take care of their postal patrons. Blackhorse Troopers were known to buy up to \$1.6 million in money orders around payday. And, even though letters could be sent free back to The World, Troopers still bought a lot of stamps (for packages, film mailers, and bulky envelopes) - \$26,000 worth between February and April 1968, for example. It wasn't long before the 7th APU was handling more than 60 tons of outgoing mail every month. Even more impressive was the average 150 tons of incoming mail each and every month. The daily average was two deuce-and-a-halves full of mail arriving on the morning convoy. The 17 postal clerks of the APU scrambled to make sure all the mail was distributed in time for the evening Chinook or Huey headed out to the field. Christmas time was especially busy, what with all of the presents arriving from loved ones in the States. However, 'care packages' were an ongoing business for the 7th APU. In 1968, they averaged 4,000-plus boxes a quarter - about one for each and every Blackhorse Trooper.

5th Weather Detachment. When the Army Air Corps became the United States Air Force in 1947, one of the provisions of the divorce was that the Air Force had custody of the weather. As a result, USAF 'Combat Weather Teams' were assigned to major Army units and far-flung airfields throughout Vietnam. The 1st Team, 5th Weather Squadron was attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Long Giao, providing "meteorological services" (weather observation and forecasting) for Evans Army Airfield and in support of Blackhorse tac-

tical operations. This three-man team (although they were frequently short one man) operated the AN/MMQ-2 Tactical Weather Observing Van. Although officially called "mobile", this 10,000-pound container required a 5-ton truck or CH-54 Flying Crane to move it. Needless to say, once it arrived at Blackhorse Base Camp, it was sandbagged in and remained stationary for the duration. Inside their air-conditioned van, the weather specialists maintained constant communications with the Theater Weather Center, located at Ton Son Nhut Air Base. The weather center provided weather forecasting information (24-hour and 7-day forecasts), while local conditions (e.g., wind conditions, temperature, humidity, cloud cover, etc.) were observed by members of the team at Blackhorse Base Camp - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The team reported their observations and forecasts to the Regimental intelligence section (RS-2), as well as directly to the Evans Field tower. Over the years, some of the members of Team 1 - wearing Air Force fatigues with Blackhorse patches on their left shoulders - were seen in and around Army helicopters doing unweather-like duties, such as serving as temporary door gunners, helping rearm gunships, and moving casualties from medevac Hueys.

Rat Patrol. Shortly after arriving in Vietnam, the Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (HHT) formed a 4-vehicle scout section, using the ¼-ton jeeps that were authorized for the staff sections, but were not used due to the tactical situation. Inevitably - called 'Rat Patrol' (due to the popularity of a WWII North Africa drama on TV between 1966 and 1968) - the section was used to perform recon missions around the Command Post. However, the lone M-60 machine gun and soft-skin of the jeeps made them glamorous but increasingly dangerous as the enemy began to use more and more mines against the 11th Cav. The 20-Trooper strong HHT Scout Section turned in its jeeps for armored cavalry assault vehicles (ACAVs) in the spring of 1969. They switched nicknames from Rat Patrol to Rangers. About that same time, the Section Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC), Sergeant Donald Bentley, also formed a dismounted 5-man long-range recon patrol (LRRP) to enhance the section's ability to find the enemy. While nostalgic for the rat patrol-adventure, Bentley recognized the value of the additional protection and firepower. He told a 17th Public Information Detachment reporter for the Blackhorse Newspaper: "There have been times when we were in a tight combat squeeze ... and ACAV's from another unit had to pull us out ... The jeep cannot penetrate the heavy terrain that an ACAV can. We can now go out and find the enemy."

Excess Personnel. Compared to the other Regimental staff sections, the RS-3 (Operations, Plans, and Training) was 'rich' in personnel assets. But there was always 'one more' requirement to fill. When 2nd Lieutenant (2LT) Scott Crissman reported in to the Regiment in the late summer of 1969, he was told that he was excess. But not to worry, they had a job for him; the RS-3 welcomed him and told him he was the new Officer in Charge (OIC) of the alternate regimental command post located at An Loc. This was a time of significant enemy activity, and An Loc was known to be a prime target for the expected North

Vietnamese Army attack. The RS-3 section, already stretched thin with full-scale tactical operations centers (TOCs) at Blackhorse Base Camp and Quan Loi, established a mini-TOC at An Loc (collocated with the South Vietnamese Binh Long Province Chief's TOC), as well as another at Bu Dop (collocated with the Special Forces detachment). The An Loc TOC was located approximately 30 feet underground in a concrete bunker built by Japanese troops during WWII. Crissman's first combat 'command' consisted of an NCOIC, six radio-telephone operators (RTOs), one ACAV, one ¾-ton truck, and several radios. Their mission, in addition to deconflicting Blackhorse and South Vietnamese operations and calls for fire, was to coordinate 11th Cav pile-on forces (air, ground, and artillery) in case An Loc came under attack. Excess personnel and equipment were in high demand and put to good use in Vietnam.

Psychological Operations. Most of the time, the psychological operations (PSYOPS) warriors working with the 11th Cav couldn't prove that their broadcasts from helicopters and paper leaflets were having the

desired effect. But in mid-1969, they could draw a straight line from their operations to an enemy defection. Colonel Jimmy Leach, the 40th Colonel of the Regiment, placed additional effort on PSYOPS in the spring and summer of 1969. Using four distinct but related campaign themes (Chieu Hoi, Pacification, Tactical, and Voluntary Informant Program), the 5th Team, Bravo Company, 6th PSYOPS Battalion designed and dropped over one million leaflets in the jungles and rubber plantations around An Loc and Loc Ninh. They also flew 25-hours worth of aerial loudspeaker missions, urging the enemy to surrender. In July, a 27-year-old Viet Cong Chieu Hoi'd (surrendered) to the 9th South Vietnamese Infantry Regiment. He told his interrogators that life in the jungle was hard and getting harder all the time. When he heard the Blackhorse helicopter fly overhead, he listened carefully to the message being broadcast. It was that message that convinced him to give up the fight and turn himself in. Ten more enemy soldiers did so as well in August and September, all stating that the aerial appeals had been the crucial element in their decision to surrender.



Chaplain's Corner

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

Wind

I finished this story on 29 March, National Vietnam War Veterans Day, but I started to write it on 27 March. I had just finished reviewing my DA 66 (the green sheet) which tracks the dates and places of our military careers.

49 years ago on that date (27 March 1972), I drove Blackhorse 6 through the gates at Bien Hoa in route to my next assignment with the 1st Battalion of the 7th Cavalry; the Gary Owen Task Force.

The 2nd Squadron of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (with colors cased) had gone home six days earlier; returning to CONUS and leaving behind an enduring legacy: the blood of thousands of troopers on the soil of Vietnam, about a platoon of troopers to be re-assigned in-country, and 15 to 20 vehicles. For six years those vehicles and those men of The Legendary Blackhorse Regiment ruled the roads, busted the jungle from the South China Sea to inside the forbidden border of Cambodia. They found their way through flooded rice paddies, elephant grass plains and protected mud-encrusted firebases and isolated villages. Men of the Blackhorse, in tanks and ACAVs, in helicopters and dismounted died for their country, their brother troopers and for the people of Vietnam; 700-plus

immortal heroes. Enough said.

The remaining troopers were re-assigned out of Long Binh to the few units still in country. The equipment was accounted for and turned in at the supply depot. The last bus (supplied by the Air Force) was loaded and headed for Bien Hoa airbase, and the First Sergeant and Chief Warrant headed to MACV headquarters with the last documents in hand and I was left with the keys to Blackhorse 6, the Colonel's Jeep.

I threw my gear in the back, found my reporting papers, put on my steel pot, drove out the Long Binh gate, turned North and after a few clicks, entered the Army post at Bien Hoa.

Got a lot of salutes along the way. Not for me, but for the Jeep: Blackhorse 6. The MPs at the gate practically waved me through, though I had to stop to ask directions to the "head-shed." Once there I parked in the lot and walked to the Adjutant's office with my paper work, meet the Colonel, handed him the keys and went outside to gather my gear and say good-bye to that "trusty steed."

Had to put dates on this article, as I know it won't be in print until early May, and hopefully you'll receive it before Memorial Day. On that day, I expect to drive up to Washington, though not in Blackhorse 6, but in my

2010 Lincoln Town Car festooned with Blackhorse stickers. Our troopers within driving distance of DC, have traditionally gathered at The Wall to lay a wreath in memory of our Blackhorse Troopers whose names are etched on that Wall. We also remember sincerely our brother troopers who have passed since our return from Southeast Asia.

Last year we were shut out because of the COVID restrictions, and we may be this year as well. Nonetheless, I plan on being there, and I believe I'll see a few other Vietnam Blackhorse stalwarts there as well. Though we can't hold an official gathering or lay a wreath, we can still pray, and we can pray silently as well as with a crowd.

Though few of our veterans have passed because of COVID, nonetheless we are conscious that a number of them did. So too did some of their wives and family members. We try and acknowledge the passing of all our 11th ACVVC family members and count on you to let us know of their death or terminal illness. Since the last reunion, we have already recorded more than two hundred deaths, and that's not a number we want to grow. Many of those we pray for and, as we all should do, give thanks for their lives and especially thank them for their love and support of our brother troopers

Please turn to **CHAPLAIN** on page 30

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donor Levels: Platinum Level \$500+ Gold Level \$100-\$499 Silver Level \$50-\$99 Bronze Level \$1-\$49

Members donations are used for the sole purpose for which they are intended. Whether it be for Scholarship, Reunion Assistance, Memorial or the General Fund, member donations are used to support that specific fund.

Scholarship Fund

Platinum Level

Fortham, Julie
In Memory of David B. Fortnam
Smith, Dale

Gold Level

Berg, Tamera
In Memory of William 'Bill' Holford
Bryan, Harry
Cambria, Frank
Carroll, Anita
In Memory of KIA, Capt. Thomas McAdams
Cartwright, Wavely
Oriskany Village Board, Fortnam Family
In Memory of David B. Fortnam
Parkhurst, Michael
Williams, Harry

Silver Level

Fenton, Tom and Marie
In Memory of David B. Fortnam
Martel, Paul and Ann
Simon, Henry

Bronze Level

Lewandrowski, Sandra
Thompson, Kristin
Graziadei, Carl
In Memory of David B. Fortnam

Assistance Fund

Silver Level

Williamson, Gerald

Calendar Fund

Platinum Level

Dennis, Steve
Tamulonis, John
Wallace, Peter

Gold Level

Alter, Philip
Anderson, Mel
Anonymous
Barber, John

Barnhouse, Lawrence
Bloese, Michael
Bock, Daniel
Bosko, Charles
Brody, Thomas
Brown, Robert
Brundage, Ronald
Buchholz, Richard
Calton, Bobby
Carpus, Peter
Cox, Alan
Cressman, Charles
Crittsinger, Clifford
Croft, Robert
Dalegowski, Gary
Davenport, Allen
Davis, Greg
Davis, Matthew
Dunn, John
Dunphy, Timothy
Durham, Kim
Effinger, John
Fancher, George
Finnerin, Arthur
Fogle, Willie
Foster, Roland
Fries, William
Goff, Thomas
Gordon, Ralph
Graham, Ray
Griffiths, James
Halstead, Babe
Helm, Thomas
Higgins, Steven
Holloway, Larry
Houchins, William
Howle, Jack
Husing, David
Janke, Roger
Jeranek, Richard
Johnson, Eugene
Kern, Donald
Kern, Paul
Kerrins, William
Keys, William
Kirk, Walter
Klink, Robert
Klinn, Lewis
Krieg, Steven
Long, Robert
Loveday, Gary

Magsayo, Michael
Marks, Gary
McCoy, James
McGrail, John
Miller, Marsha
Morris, Glenn
Morrow, William
Myers, Paul
Nealeigh, Clayton
Orzo, Joan
Ostrander, Gary
Patten, Thomas
Pehr, Bert
Pemberton, Donald
Perrin, Craig
Phillips, Charles
Pierce, Leo
Pimental, Frederick
Potter, James
Price, Erick
Purifoy, George
Rawlings, Jack
Rector, David
Rieth, Gary
Rosiles, Frank
Rubas, Ronald
Rucker, Richard
Runion, Jack
Rusteberg, Homer
Sams, Billy Joe
Sanchez, Vincent
Sartor, Billy
Scholz, C.E.
Sellars, Marvin
Sevelius, Arthur
Sieminski, Edmund
In Memory of, Capt. John Hayes
Smith, Robert P.
Smith, Earl
Smith, Thomas
Stresser, Michael
Sutton, George
Swartz, Larry
Terry, Hardy
Turner, Phillip
Twigg, Paul
Tyre, Jessie
Waldroop, Clinton
Weachter, Dennis
Webb, Mark

Wieland, David
Will, David
Works, Mike
Worley, Dennis
Yopp, Nixon

Silver Level

Aguilar, Arthur
Allen, David
Apholz, William
Arana, Frederick
Bakos, Richard
Ballantyne, John
Barnes, Sharon
In Memory of, Kenneth Barnes
Benitez, Joachim
Boesz, Arthur
Brawn, Bill
Cabot, Michael
Carr, Hoye
Carrier, Arlie
Carroll, Anita
In Memory of KIA, Capt. Thomas McAdams
Christensen, Arnold
Coley, Michael
Colson, Darrel
Confer, Richard
Daly, Thomas
Davis, James
Duckwall, John
Durr, Merritt
Dyer, Rodney
Edwards, Kenny
Evener, Robert
Fremd, Harold
Freys, John
Futch, Oliver
Garcia, Victor
Gensemer, Walter
Godfrey, Thomas
Gordon, Dalton
Grisham, William
Hall, David
Haywood, Douglas
Herman, Paul
Hess, David
Hofflander, Nancy
Hund, Richard
Jicha, Ed
Kaul, Terry

Kirkpatrick, Wayne
Klopper, Ronald
Koch, Anthony
Krcelich, George
Lestock, John
Long, Richard
Lumpp, Edward
Lyle, Ross
MacGregor, Gary
Madelle, James
Manley, Clyde
Mayer, Jeffrey
Melo, Emma
Miller, S.
Moody, A.R.
Parks, John
Peckham, Steve
Phetteplace, Duane
Powell, Alexander
Puckett, Larry
Ramey, George
Raper, Ronald
Rasberry, Jesse
Ray, Kenneth
Reinfeld, Edgar
Renda, F.D.
Richmond, Daquid
Rosevear, John
Ross, Carey
Sasaki, Frank
Schaefer, Michael
Seylier, Phillip
Sheldon, Dennis
Sink, Woodrow
Sobolewski, Robert
Sonnier, Michael
In Memory of, Msgr. Eldridge Sonnier
Stanley, John
Trammell, Horace
Vassallo, Patrick
Wagg, Robert
Wardrope, Scott
Watters, David
Weeks, Keith
West, George
Williams, Thomas
Woodruff, George
Yost, William

Bronze Level

Aleman, David
Andersen, Arthur
Anonymous
Appleton, Gary
Arana, Frederick
Backes, James
Bacon, Dean
Ballas, John
Banks, Ray
Barnes, David
Barnes, Joseph
Barnhart, Richard
Baronti, William
Barton, Ronald
Beeman, Gary
Behm, Ernest
Behrend, Steven
Bell, Gregory
Belville, Harold
Berg, Markie
Berghanel, George
Berna, Gerald
Blackman, Clarence
Blose, Michael
Bohr, Joseph
Bolton, Ted
Bomba, Robert
Bonesho, Thomas
Boston, Ida
Bowlby, Colleen
Brewer, Joel
Brooks, Edward
Brown, Steven
Bryan, L.D.
Burke, Thomas
Burney, James
Campbell, Craig
Cantrell, Freddie
Canuel, Richard
Cargile, Ronnie
Carlson, Leonard
Carney, Patrick
Carter, Stanley
Cash, R. Terry
Chavez, Loida
Christman, David
Church, Michael
Clanton, Clifford
Cleveland, William
Coates, Gary
Cobb, Stephen
Coleman, Vincent
Cook, Danny
Cooper, Jackie
Corey, John
Cox, Daniel

Craig, James
Cramer, John
Curreri, Gary
Daniels, David
Daniels, Robert
Darson, Jim
Davis, Eugene
Davis, Henry
DeGaray, Francis
Demaria, Lawrence
Derby, Steve
Derepkowski, Arthur
Derk, David
DeWitt, Michael
Dilling, Eugene
Dimeo, John
Dipiatto, Joseph
Dorman, Darwin
Doswell, Clifford
Dove, Russell
Duka, George
Dunn, William
Edwards, Earl
Ellison, Teddy
Engelman, Richard
Entas, Laurence
Esposito, Carmine
Estringel, Erasmo
Evans, Philip
Fagundes, Edward
Fariello, Albert
Farris, Richard
Figueroa, Michael
Firchau, Melvin
Fisher, Paul
Fitzgerald, William
Flick, Walter
Floyd, Gary
Ford, Timothy
Fox, Bobby
Frantz, William
Futch, Oliver
Gaines, James
Gamet, Ted
Garner, Joe
Gatewood, Henry
Geddings, Larry
Gelder, Albert
Gharing, Richard
Glaser, Barry
Godfrey, Lyle
Gowrie, Karen
Gray, Zane
Greenawalt, Michael
Grunloh, John
Guy, Michael
Haines, William
Hainley, Norman

Hall, Douglas
Hanna, Susan
Hartwig, Gary
Hayes, Edward
Heath, Clinton
Heilig, Gerald
Heine, Lloyd
Herlihy, Matthew
Hernandez, Amador
Hicks, Leon
Highman, Daryl
Hnatusko, Theodore
Hogan, Dennis
Hollar, Glenn
Hooten, George
Hoover, Larry
Howser, Glen
Huggins, Ronald
Hunt, Robert
Hyland, Lynn
Ilardi, Vicki
Ingle, Kenneth
Ivey, John
Jackson, Warren
Jarmosco, Steve
Jarrett, David
Javoroski, Duane
Jensen, Robert
Jewell, Thomas
Justison, Roger
Kelley, Robert
King, Charles
Knight, George
Kovash, Gary
Krebs, Richard
Krzyzan, David
Kudzia, John
Kunego, Donald
Kura, Joseph
Kyle, Frederick
Lacy, George
Lakari, Walter
Lane, Dennis
Lang, Daniel
Lang, Michael
Laternus, Simon
Lauck, Larry
Lee, Eugene
Lee, Larry
Leonti, John
Lescisko, John
Lewis, James
Lewis, Stanley
Liriano, Lady
Long, R.H.
Long, John
Loudon, Orrin
Ludwig, David

Lusinger, Rex
Madej, William
Maiuri, John
Mann, Harold
Marcum, Darol
Markin, Roger
McCarthy, Joseph
McNeil, Richard
McRoberts, Gerald
Meltsch, Eugene
Merrill, Blaine
Miller, David
Minakowski, Charles
Mitchell, Joseph
Molitero, Leland
Moriarity, Douglas
Moser, Kenneth
Mulcahey, Michael
Mulrath, John
Murphy, Dennis
Nieto, Leo
O'Neal, Robert
Ortiz, Concepcion
Oskin, Bingham
Page, Donald
Pankey, Alfred
Paschke, David
Patch, George
Payne, George
Peters, Joseph
Petersen, William
Phillips, Frank
Posak, Nicholas
Priadka, Ivan
Price, Henry
Putchaven, Cletus
Quinlivan, John
Rainey, Edward
Ramirez, Grable
Ranalli, Michael
Redmond, Sylvester
Reece, Thomas
Reed, Ronald
Regis, Carlos
Rego, Ronald
Reid, Daniel
Rellamy, William
Retzlaff, Jerry
Reynolds, Marla
Roberts, Joe
Robinson, Elwood
Rossi, Frank
Rounds, Nethel
Rout, Lawrence
Royce, Roger
Rush, Robert
Sabol, J.C.
Salerno, Alan

Sanders, David
Sanford, Clinton
Sayers, Ken
Scarborough, Charles
Schamberger, William
Schwier, Richard
Shimel, Dale
Shire, Phillip
Six, Robert
Skurat, Steven
Slinker, William
Slone, Kermit
Smith, Leonard
Smith, Lawrence
Southerland, Gary
Souza, Albert
Sowinski, Jamie
Spino, Floyd
Steedley, Richard
Sterba, John
Stern, Audra
Stratton, Kae
Stuart, Freeman
Stumbo, Gregory
Terlecky, Slofko
Titschinger, Mark
Torno, Charles
Toto, Lawrence
Townsend, Frank
Tranas, Donald
Upton, P. Richard
Valenti, Thomas
Van Horn, David
Vickers, Rannie
Waddell, Darrell
Wagner, Larry
Waldron, Hilmon
Walkner, Thomas
Walton, Ron
Watson, Bruce
Waugh, Steven
Weegee, Henry
Wehrle, Hubert
Weltzien, James
Werner, James
Wesley, James
White, Russell
Whitten, Jerrell
Wolfenden, William
Wollschlaeger, Kenneth
Yeider, Tim
Yirsa, Harold
Young, Paul
Yunker, James
Zamora, Jesus
Zeller, Larry
Zepf, Robert
Zimmerman, Winn



He's More Than Just a Name on The Wall

Back in 1990 when my son Brian graduated from high school his class went to Washington D. C. on their senior trip. Brian signed his parents up to be chaperones. Brian informed me that I was to be on my best behavior, not embarrass him in front of his friends and bring along plenty of money. Brian's government class had dwelled on the Viet Nam War and the significance of the hippy happening at Woodstock. After visiting the Capitol, blitzing the Smithsonian and lunch at the Old Post Office mall I was surprised at all the interest the kids had in wanting to visit the Viet Nam Memorial.

Nearly all of us walked over as a group to see this slab of black marble protruding out of the earth. I didn't really want to go and as we approached the monolith I was instantly turned off by vendors hawking memorabilia and souvenirs. I viewed the whole thing as sacrilegious and imagined how Jesus must have felt when he cleansed the temple of the moneychangers. One of Brian's classmates whose father had served in Viet Nam asked me if I would help her look for the names of two of her Dad's buddies who had been killed there. The names of all those killed in Viet Nam were in large books resembling a telephone book and were mounted on pedestals. We could find only one of the names she was looking for and she ran off to see it.

My wife asked me if there was anyone in particular I wanted to find and I said maybe I should look up a Lt. I knew while I was there and pay my respects. I thought I had put Vietnam out of my mind but when I ran my finger down the column of names on that cold slab of black marble and touched my former commanders name, I couldn't control myself and began to cry. To those who didn't know the 1st Lieutenant personally, he was just another name on the wall, but to me he was a real person who will never be forgotten because his memory is seared in my heart and consciousness. I only knew him for about a month but five men living in an Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle, crammed together like sardines in a can, trying to stay alive, become close in more ways than one. The Lt. was my first Commanding Officers' replacement. He was from Baton Rouge, Louisiana and was a real officer and gentleman who attended college at Virginia Military Institute, in Lexington, Virginia, an hour south of my home near Harrisonburg. The Lt was familiar with my home area and would talk about hunting in the Blue Ridge Mountains and cat fishing in the Shenandoah River. He told me the history of the song "Shenandoah" and how it had been sung by American soldiers all over the world ever since "The Great Civil War". We were both longing for home and as I showed him a picture of my pregnant wife and he showed me a picture of his family, he sang every word to that beautiful song as we tried to figure out what in God's name we were doing in a place most Americans had

never heard of just a few years before.

A few days later I was wounded by shrapnel from an RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade) and the Red Cross helicopter that was to dust off (evacuate) the wounded was shot down by the N.V.A. (North Vietnamese Army). They used the big red cross emblems on the sides and belly of the chopper for targets, so much for The Geneva Convention! A few minutes later an F-15 jetfighter, which was delivering a payload of napalm, was shot down and exploded less than a hundred yards in front of us causing more casualties from burns inflicted by flying debris. The next day we finally secured an LZ (Landing Zone) and I was flown to a field hospital where it was determined that it would be more dangerous removing the chunk of jagged metal lying next to my heart than it would be to leave it and allow gristle to grow around it. After several days in the hospital, I requested permission to return to my unit where I figured I would be safer. With the exception of Corporal Klinger, the movie "MASH" pretty much defined this army field hospital in Vietnam.

When I got back to my unit with my left arm in a sling, I was assigned the job of grenadier out of necessity because they were shorthanded and I could load and fire the M-79 grenade launcher, which resembles a large sawed-off shotgun, with one hand. My platoon was ordered to send out two dismounted (infantry) AP's (ambush patrols) that night. My arm being in a sling probably saved my life. My good buddy and fellow machine gunner Frank Whitten on the command ACAV (Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle) volunteered to carry my pouch of ammo and the Lieutenant told me to go with Frank and he would get another grenadier.

As soon as it was dark enough that we wouldn't be observed we slipped out of camp to set our AP's on different trails leading into a village which was suspected of harboring Viet Cong. Just as my AP got settled behind a rice paddy dyke it commenced raining like a milk cow on a cement floor. By midnight the paddy was flooded and only our heads, hands and weapons were above water. To keep from drowning, I had to rest my chin on my helmet when I got too tired to hold my head up. We all placed cigarette filters in our ears and nostrils to keep the two-inch-long leeches that covered our faces from crawling inside our heads. These tropical leeches were as deadly as the Viet Cong if they got inside your body where they would find a blood supply and suck until they swelled up cutting off the flow of blood to your brain causing death. About 3:00 a.m., as we lay there cold and shivery, all shriveled up like a prune, hoping the enemy couldn't hear our teeth chattering, all hell broke loose at the other ambush site. Our AP was ordered to double-time back to camp ASAP because the Lieutenant's AP was under a major attack. Since we were a mile

I thought I had put Vietnam out of my mind but when I ran my finger down the column of names on that cold slab of black marble and touched my former commanders name, I couldn't control myself and began to cry.

away from our armor and were on foot, another platoon mounted up and went to the rescue. There was fierce fighting and as we waited for daylight the reports started coming in over the radio of KIAs (Killed In Action).

At first light we mounted up, formed a battle line, and advanced. When we approached the village, we were met by enemy fire from a heroin and hashish hipped up NVA soldier with one leg blown off and his intestines hanging out of his side. He was quickly dispatched, and we moved on a few yards. Directly in front of our ACAV stood a new pair of US issued jungle boots. (Often times it was hard for the soldiers in the field to get resupplied. Many times, badly needed supplies such as clothing, radios, and one time, even a Jeep were stolen by army clerks, officers and other rear-echelon personnel and sold or traded for whores, drugs or maybe a little nest egg for when they got back home). The following may seem sick, weird, or absurd under the circumstances, but a constant diet of death and destruction desensitizes you. Frank and I had lived through the night, the rain had stopped, and the sun was shining. We joked about which of us the boots would fit as Frank dismounted and I covered his cautious approach to the new boots making sure they weren't booby trapped. We were distracted by an old woman screaming at an American Trooper who was in the process of killing her milk cow which had been shot through the jaw and was continuously bellowing with about a foot of tongue hanging out of its mouth dripping blood. When the private hesitated, an officer yelled "Shoot that damn cow and if the bitch doesn't shut up shoot her too". All eleven men in that ill-fated ambush patrol had either been killed or wounded and the new officer in charge wanted revenge.

When two teenage boys were discovered hiding in a nearby root cellar and refused to come out, a few hand grenades were tossed down the hatch and the cellar became their grave. Frank told me to come look at the boots and when I did they were full of feet. The legs had been blown off at the boot tops. The Lt. had caught an RPG in the mid-section and the explosion had severed both legs while the tough jungle boots had protected his feet. The Lt's body had already been put in a body bag, tagged, and flown off to cold storage pending his family reunion. Frank and I took turns using an entrenching tool to dig a grave under the banana tree where the Lieutenant had fallen. They may have buried most of him in Louisiana, but his feet will be firmly planted in Southeast Asia until Judgment Day! The Lieutenant, like the other 58,318 Americans who died in Viet Nam, were and still are more than just names on the wall to those who knew them personally. Each of the more than a million who died on both sides

of that unpopular and undeclared war had someone who knew them personally and loved them.

My thoughts wandered back to Brian's senior trip and all those people going to the Viet Nam War Memorial. It was easy to distinguish between those tourists who had a personal relationship with someone on the wall from those who were there out of curiosity. I thought about Jesus, who is more than just the name on the wall of some place of worship. For we who know Him personally and put our hope, trust and faith in Him, this isn't the end of the story. I believe that the Lieutenant's name is not only on the wall and in the directory of the Viet Nam War Memorial but is also in "The Book" that matters most. I sincerely believe that one day the Lieutenant and his feet will be reunited, and he will stand before The Throne Of Judgment and in his clear, strong voice sing that old-time Negro spiritual "Golden Slippers" as he dances a little jig of joy for finding his name in the book that matters most!

*Harold W. Smith
(Written 7/7/1998 - Revised 5/11/2019)*

Around The Corner

By Charles Hanson Towne

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end,
Yet the days go by and weeks rush on,
And before I know it, a year is gone.
And I never see my old friend's face,
For life is a swift and terrible race,
He knows I like him just as well,
As in the days when I rang his bell.
And he rang mine but we were younger then,
And now we are busy, tired men.
Tired of playing a foolish game,
Tired of trying to make a name.
"Tomorrow" I say! "I will call on Jim
Just to show that I'm thinking of him."
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,
And distance between us grows and grows.
Around the corner, yet miles away,
"Here's a telegram sir," . . . "Jim died today."
And that's what we get, and deserve in the end:
Around the corner, a vanished friend.

Source: https://pennyspoetry.fandom.com/wiki/Around_he_Corner_/Charles_Hanson_Towne

This poem, suggested and submitted by James Patterson, is in the public domain. "It should be printed in honor of our members who have answered their "Last Call," he said.

It also suggests that we should not put off visiting or keeping in touch with our friends, who may not be there when we try to contact them.



SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman



Please note – The submission date has been extended to June 15, 2021!

In 2021, scholarship applicants will again be divided into two categories: applicants who plan to enroll or are enrolled in colleges and universities; and applicants who plan to enroll or are enrolled in a trade school or a community college vocational program. The same percentage of scholarships will be given to each group of students. For example: in 2020, we were able to award scholarships to 38% of the applicants in each category. Both groups of students use the same application which can be found in this issue of Thunder Run or on our website (www.11thcavnam.com). This is an updated application form and must be used by all applicants applying for scholarships in 2021. Please contact me if you have questions.

The 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program has awarded 583 scholarships totaling \$1,858,000 to the children and grandchildren of our membership since its inception in 1996! Every scholarship dollar paid to these deserving scholarship winners was donated by YOU, the members of this great association of Blackhorse combat veterans!

Our **Scholarship Guide** provides more information on the scholarship process and history of the program. You can find the Guide on our website. If you have a child or grandchild who is planning on attending a college, community college or trade school this fall, please encourage them to apply for a scholarship (application deadline 06/15/2021).

Each recipient's Scholarship Award will be dedicated in honor of a specific 11th Cavalry "Blackhorse" Trooper who was Killed in Action (KIA) in Vietnam or Cambodia. The Blackhorse KIAs honored each year are selected on an impartial and random basis. An attractive certificate suitable for framing and containing information about the trooper in whose honor their scholarship is dedicated will be sent to each recipient.

In addition, each year, one recipient is selected to receive a special Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship award in honor

of former 11th ACVVC President Chuck Schmidt for his leadership and devotion to the 11th Cavalry "Blackhorse" Troopers of the Vietnam War. Chuck died on Veterans Day 2007 as a result Agent Orange-related cancer shortly after being elected to his third term as President. Chuck's widow, Mrs. Bonnie Schmidt, selects the recipient of this award from the list of scholarship winners.

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

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

Additional Criteria

- 1:** The applicant must have maintained a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0 during the last two years of high school (or college if applicable).
- 2:** The applicant must be a high school graduate (by fall semester 2021).
- 3:** Graduate and doctoral level students are not eligible.

2021 scholarship winners will receive an award of \$3000. The Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship award winner will receive \$5000. All scholarship awards are sent directly to the school the recipient is attending.

*Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman
E mail address: platoonmedic36@gmail.com*

'Find an Old Friend'

By Bob Kickenweitz, Website Manager

Many of you troopers believe that when you registered with the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia and placed on our "Master Roster" that you were automatically placed in "Find an Old Friend," NOT TRUE. A lot of you when filling out the registration form did not enter an e-mail address. Why, because at that time you didn't have one, and you cannot be entered in "Find an Old Friend" without an e-mail address. The whole file is based on your buddy finding your name on the file and sending you an e-mail. So, if you still don't have an e-mail address, send us your wife's e-mail address, or one of your kid's e-mails address. Go to our web site: www.11thcavnam.com then go down the page till you see the matrix and look for "Find an Old Friend" in the left hand column and click it. Then again in the left hand column look for "Find an Old Friend Update" and click it. Fill in the data and click Submit Comments.

REMEMBER IF YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IS INCORRECT, HOW ARE YOUR BUDDIES GOING TO FIND YOU?



**11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia
Scholarship Application (effective October 1, 2020)**



Please review Scholarship Guide at www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html

Application Deadline June 15th, 2021

**IMPORTANT: A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED AN 11TH ACVVC SCHOLARSHIP IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY AGAIN.
Students working on advanced degrees (master's, doctoral) are not eligible to apply.**

Applicant's full name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Applicant's social security number: _____ E mail address: _____

Street address: _____ Apt./Unit # _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone #: _____

Applicant's Status: Child Grandchild of a current life member of the 11th ACVVC.
 Child Grandchild of a deceased life member of the 11th ACVVC.
 Child Grandchild of an 11th ACR veteran who was killed in action in Vietnam or
Cambodia.

Applicant's Sponsor (11th Cav Veteran): Full name: _____ E mail: _____

Sponsor's 11th Cav unit in Vietnam: _____ Dates in Vietnam _____ 11thACVVC member# _____

Name and Address of College or Trade School you plan to attend: What is your major? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Schools and Colleges Attended (10th Grade to Present)

Name	City, State	Dates (From/To)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What was your High School GPA? _____ College GPA (if applicable)? _____

You must attach a copy of your grade transcripts from your last 2 yrs. of High School or College.

You must have at least a 3.0 Grade Point Average to apply for a scholarship.

Briefly tell us about your extra-curricular and volunteer activities (attach separate sheet if necessary):

I, the undersigned verify the answers given above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I give my permission for a copy of my high school/college grade transcripts to be submitted with this application.

Signature of Applicant **Printed Name** **Date**

Signature of Sponsor Veteran or Guardian **Printed Name** **Date**

Please send your completed application and grade transcripts to:
Mike "Doc" Rafferty, 11th ACVVC Scholarship Chairman, PO Box 13188, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88013
 Email: platoonmedic36@gmail.com



Department of Defense Calendar Year 2019 Annual Suicide Report Factsheet and Communicating About Suicide

The Department of Defense (DOD) is committed to preventing suicide in our military community – every death by suicide is a tragedy. Our second Annual Suicide Report (ASR) presents recent available suicide data for Service members and their families and describes current and future efforts underway to combat suicide across the Department. The Calendar Year (CY) 2019 ASR indicates the suicide rate for the Active Component is statistically comparable to CY 2017, while the Reserve and National Guard rates are statistically lower than 2017. The available CY 2018 rates for military family members are consistent with CY 2017 rates. Military and family member suicide rates are comparable or lower than the U.S. population, and firearms continue to be the primary method of death. The Department leverages data to ensure focused and effective prevention efforts. We are implementing a comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention that targets our military population of greatest concern – young and enlisted members – while continuing to support our military families.

CY 2020 Data

§ We recognize the potential impact of COVID-19 on the well-being of our Service members and families. The Department is closely monitoring the potential impacts of the pandemic on death by suicide within the military population.

§ At this time, it is too early to determine whether suicide rates will increase in CY 2020. Although quarterly suicide counts are publicly available at www.dspo.mil/QSR – caution should be used when examining changes in suicide counts across time, as counts do not account for changes in population size or provide enough time for essential investigations to determine cause of death. Therefore, what may look like an increasing trend may not be statistically meaningful once all investigations are com-

plete and the Department conducts necessary analyses.

§ Although the Department cannot provide official trends in suicides at this time, we all strive to support our nation's efforts to mitigate the impact of potential risk factors, including those arising from COVID19. During this time, we continue our efforts to educate the force, support the force, and emphasize social connectedness.

- The Department is using a variety of communication methods, including Military OneSource, the Defense Suicide Prevention Office website, and leader and unit social media channels, to ensure the military community is aware there are still many ways to look out for each other, build cohesion, and stay connected despite the physical distancing.
- The Defense Suicide Prevention Office also published tips on staying safe and connected, which are currently linked from the front page of the www.dspo.mil website and directly saved at: <https://www.dspo.mil/Portals/113/Documents/COVID%2019%20Info%20Paper%20for%20Military%20Community.pdf?ver=2020-04-28-151037-573>.
- In support of the theme of *Connectedness*, the Suicide Prevention Month 2020 slogan is 'Connect to Protect.' The *Connect to Protect* slogan emphasizes connecting with others and the community, as well as with suicide prevention resources.
- As part of our commitment to transparency, we also ensure that the data we release is as comprehensive and informative as possible. Once the CY 2020 data is final and appropriately analyzed, we will share these official rates and trends with the public.

CY 2019 ASR Data and Findings

§ In CY 2019, 498 members died by suicide. Military suicide rates are comparable with the U.S. adult population, after accounting for age and sex,

for Active Component and National Guard, and lower for the Reserve.

§ Compared to the past two years, the CY 2019 suicide rate for the Active Component is statistically comparable to CY 2017; while the Reserve and National Guard rates are statistically lower than CY 2017.

§ Between CY 2014 and CY 2019, the Active Component rate increased; while there is no statistical evidence of an increase or decrease for Reserve and National Guard.

§ We see continued heightened risk for young and enlisted members; suicide decedents are primarily enlisted, male, and less than 30 years of age. There have been strides within the National Guard (with rates now comparable to U.S. population and statistically down from CY 2017). We are cautiously optimistic, focused on long-term, sustained improvement.

§ In CY 2018, available information indicates 193 military family members died by suicide. The CY 2018 military family suicide rates are statistically consistent with the CY 2017 rates. Suicide rates for military spouses and dependents (minor and non-

minor) in CY 2018 were comparable or lower than U.S. population rates after accounting for age and sex, with the exception of male spouses.

Looking Forward

DOD efforts include:

§ Young and enlisted members. Training initiatives that address perceived barriers help-seeking and encourage the early usage of support resources before life challenges become overwhelming. New efforts also aim to address common risk and protective factors with an integrated violence prevention policy and approach. Support the rollout of a new Federal Communications Commission '988' suicide prevention crisis line number.

§ Military families. Teach influencers (e.g., spouses, chaplains) and students in DOD schools about risk factors for suicide, encourage help-seeking, and promote safe storage of lethal means.

§ Measure program effectiveness. Continue to evaluate program effectiveness through the DOD-wide program evaluation framework and enhance research, data, and evaluation abilities.

Editor's Note: In the 1st quarter, 2021 issue of "Thunder Run" I ran a mock-DA form titled "Hurt Feelings Report". I received this from a fellow Vietnam vet; we both thought it was funny and it was in this sense that I reprinted it. I received emails and phone calls from Troopers who also found it funny but I received a critical email from Bill Nash, former Platoon Leader in A Troop, 1969-70. Bill pointed out that the mental health of our troops is a critical issue and that PTSD is real. I emailed him and assured him I would print any information he provided about the situation. He was gracious enough to send along the article above. Bill was our guest speaker at the 2011 St. Louis reunion. A 1968 West Point graduate, he is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Purple Heart; he is an Airborne Ranger and a retired Major General with combat service in Vietnam, the Gulf War and the Bosnian War. I extend my sincere apologies to Major General Nash and anyone else I offended by my attempt at humor.

This Doonesbury cartoon ran on Memorial Day, May 27, 1996. A little research found that Elvis served with D Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Armor, 3rd Armor Division in Germany in 1959. Alas, the 11th ACR/Elvis connection is inaccurate, but given the choice, Elvis would probably have preferred to serve in the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment!





36th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion Dallas, Texas - August 23-30, 2021

Hilton Anatole
2201 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas



Women's Group Tour & Lunch

Come join us for a morning walk in the gardens of the

Dallas Arboretum & Gardens

When: Friday, August 27th, 2021 8:30am – 1:00pm

Cost: \$37.00 per person. Includes Admission, Boxed Lunch, & Transportation

Who: Open to Spouses, Family & Friends of the 11th ACVVC.

(Need not be a member of The Women's Group to attend)



Women's Group Tour & Lunch Registration Form

This form & payment must be received by July 1, 2021

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____ Email: _____

Box Lunch Choices: (Served with Chips & a Cookie)

Please check your choice in the box provided.

Cedar Elm - "Skinny Club" with Black Forest Ham, Roasted Turkey, Smoked Bacon, Baby Greens, Tomato on Soft Wheat Bread

Red Oak – Sliced Turkey Breast, Big Eye Swiss Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato w/Arugula, Baby Greens on Soft Wheat Bread

Magnolia – Our Signature Chicken Salad w/Sun Dried Cherries, Toasted Texas Pecans, Sliced Cucumbers, Lettuce, Tomato on a Buttery Croissant

Buckeye(Gluten Free choice) - Salad of Sliced Grilled Chicken Breast, Baby Greens, Shredded Carrots, Sliced Tomatoes & Cucumbers w/ your choice of Dressing on the side

Mesquite – Delicious Veggie Wrap w/ Avocado, Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Julienned Carrots & Portabella Mushroom, wrapped in a Spinach Tortilla w/ Cilantro Hummus Spread.

Questions? Call Sheryl at 571-721-9189

Make your Check or Money Order payable to: **Blackhorse Women's Group** (Sorry we are not able to accept credit cards)

Mail your completed form with payment to:

**Sheryl Myers,
Blackhorse Women's Group
19155 Royal Troon Dr.,
Monument, CO 80132**



Blackhorse Women's News

By Sheryl Myers, Women's Group Co-coordinator

Spring has finally sprung here in Colorado and the daffodils are popping up through the left-over snow patches. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Reunion in Dallas. We have plans for an informative as well as entertaining Blackhorse Women's Group Meeting on Saturday morning, that you are sure to enjoy.

We also have planned a Trip to the Dallas Arboretum & Gardens on Friday morning. Join us for a stroll through these beautiful, award winning, shade filled gardens and then enjoy a box lunch before we return to the hotel. We are departing the hotel at 8:30am, to beat the heat of the day. The

Registration form can be found in this edition of the Thunder Run. Since the 3rd Qtr Thunder Run may not get to you before the Registration deadline, please save the form in this issue and send it as soon as you can. We will have a limit of 110 registrations. Deadline is July 1st.

In closing, I will share with you that the Blackhorse Women's Group has added two of our 11th ACVVC Ladies to our Sarah's Angels Honor Roll - Elaine Rafferty, wife of Mike Rafferty, our 11th ACVVC Scholarship Chairman, passed suddenly in February and Kaki Shenamann, wife of Trooper Charles Shenamann, HOW 3/11,

passed on March 29th. These ladies will be missed.

We have included an article in this issue of the *Thunder Run*, explaining the Blackhorse Women's Group Remembrance projects, Sarah's Angels Honor Roll and the Prayer Shawl project. The Ladies of the Blackhorse and their Troopers deserve to be honored.

If you need any additional information please contact me at: sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com or 571-721-9189.

See you in Dallas!!

A Note to the Troopers of the 11ACVVC

The Blackhorse Women's Group wants you to know that our purpose is to support, remember and honor the members of the 11th ACVVC Family. We do this through our meetings on Saturday morning of Reunion Week, and during those occasional get-away tours during a Reunion. Our fundraisers provide for donations to the Scholarship Fund and to other entities. Our project to Honor those Troopers from the 11th ACR Killed in Action, by placing a simple memorial at their gravesite, has been

taken on by just a few. Please join us. Our KIA deserve to be remembered. Contact us to find out how you can help.

We also want you to know how we remember and honor those of the 11th ACVVC family, at their passing. Ladies of the Blackhorse Family are honored and remembered with their name added to Sarah's Angels Honor Roll and our Prayer Shawl Ladies send a lap robe of comfort to her Trooper. When we are made aware of a Trooper's passing, our Prayer Shawl group

sends a shawl of comfort to his spouse or family member.

To inform us of the passing of one of our 11th ACVVC Ladies, please contact Sheryl Myers @ 571-721-9189 or sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com, with the following information: her name, date of passing, Trooper's name & unit, and mailing address.

We appreciate your help in honoring our 11th ACVVC Ladies.

The Blackhorse Women's Group

Blackhorse Women's Group Offers Tote Bags For Sale!



Handy and custom made tote bags. These two colored black and red heavy duty totes are offered for \$10 each, plus postage/shipping as follows: **1-3 bags \$7.00; 4-8 bags \$14.50.**

Remember this is a fundraiser that helps support the group's Prayer Shawl and Wreaths Across America projects.

Please complete the order form below and mail, with payment to:

Marguerite Austin, 4189 11th Ave. SE, Willmar, MN 56201



Name _____

Shipping address (all bags in an order will be shipped to one address.)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Provide your Email address and phone number should we need to contact you about your order.

Email _____ Phone _____

Number of bags _____ x \$10.00 each =\$ _____

Shipping amount as listed below\$ _____

Grand Total\$ _____ (Check or money order only, sorry, no credit cards).

For the Bags: 1-3 bags \$7.00 Postage, plus cost of bags at \$10 each. 4-8 bags \$14. 50 postage plus cost of bags at \$10 each. Fill out form above and send with payment in full in check or money order only (sorry, no credit cards) to the address above.

Thank you for supporting the Blackhorse Women's Group!



Fiddler's Green

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names. Over 500 U.S. newspapers are checked daily for the keywords "11th Cavalry" or "11th Armored Cavalry". Information is then posted on our website to allow us to post notices. Please check the "Funeral Honor Guard check daily" at www.11thcavnam.com

Charles R. Arnold, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 6, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Corydon, IN. Charles was laid to rest in Saint Johns Lutheran Church Cemetery, Lanesville, Harrison County, IN.

Eugene J. Bertsch, C Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 11, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cody, WY. Eugene was laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery, 1721 Gulch St, Cody, Park County, WY.

Pedro Couvertier, HHT 11th ACR (1970-1970) passed away on February 24, 2021. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Windsor, CT. Pedro was laid to rest in Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery, 317 Bow Lane, Middletown, CT.

John B. Cramer, C Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 22, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cincinnati, OH.

Richard H. Deter, HHT, 2/11 (1970-1970) passed away on February 13, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Arnold, MD.

David B. Fortnam, D Company, 1/11 (1970-1970) passed away on February 11, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oriskany, NY.

Garry W. Harrington, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away recently according to his family. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Homosassa, FL.

William C. Holford, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 12, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bastrop, TX.

James L. Huskey, HHT, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away in January 2021 according to his family. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Grand Marais, MN.

Ronnie L. Johnson, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on recently according to his family. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Knoxville, TN.

John W. McEnery, LTG (Ret) HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 26, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Monterey, CA. General McEnery will be laid to rest in US Military Academy Cemetery, West Point, NY.

Stephen A. Meier, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1969) passed away on April 27, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lincoln, KS. Stephen was laid to rest in St Johns Lutheran Cemetery, Lincoln, KS.

John Rangel, F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on February 18, 2021. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hephzibah, GA. John was laid to rest in Hillcrest Memorial Park, Augusta, GA.

Byron N. Skinner, C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1966) passed away on March 19, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Diego, CA.

Edward A. White, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 14, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Douglas City, CA.

James R. Willis, HHT, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on February 22, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Aplington, IA. James was laid to rest in Pleasant View Cemetery, Aplington, IA.

Deaths of Notable Veterans in 2020

- **Chuck Yeager**, General, US Army Air Force, Inspiration for "The Right Stuff"
- **Wilford Brimley**, Actor, 85, US Marine Corps, Korean War
- **Carl Reiner**, Actor, Director, US Army Air Force, WWII
- **Fred Willard**, Actor, US Army
- **Jerry Stiller**, Actor, WWII, US Army
- **John Prine**, Singer, Song writer, US Army
- **Bill Withers**, Singer, US Navy
- **James Lipton**, Writer, Actor, US Army Air Force, WWII
- **Joe Coulombe**, Owner/Operator Trader Joe's, US Air Force
- **Kirk Douglas**, US Navy, WWII
- **Jim Lehrer**, Journalist, US Marine Corps
- **Buck Henry**, Actor, Writer, Director, US Army

More Arlington facts...

- 16,000- Soldiers already buried on Arlington House grounds when the Supreme Court awarded the right to return to Arlington House to George Washington Custis Lee, Robert E. Lee's eldest son in 1882.
- \$26,800 – Amount the U/S government paid for Arlington House and grounds at a government tax auction in 1862.
- \$150,000- Amount the U.S government paid to George Washington Curtis Lee for the deed to Arlington House in 1882 so they wouldn't have to disturb those already laid to rest there.
- 300,000- Approximate number of people buried at Arlington Cemetery.
- 4,000,000- Annual visitors to Arlington Cemetery.

BROTHERS from page 7

• Mark, (Air Cavalry Troop, 1968-69) and Michael, (919th Eng. Co., 1968-69), Crist are regulars at our reunions. Both are Life Members; Mark lives in Texas, Mike in Alabama.

• Lottie and Robert Ennis served in Regimental Headquarters Troop in 1970 and in Howitzer Battery, 2/11 in 1971 respectively. Life Member Lottie resides in Warrenton, VA.

• Robert (“Pete”) and Thomas Fairchild are both Life Members. Pete served in Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 3/11 in 1968-69; Thomas in Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 1/11 in 1970-71. Pete lives in Hampton, VA and Thomas is in Spokane, WA.

• Twin brothers Richard and Roger Hale served together in Regimental Headquarters Troop in 1968-69; both were Life Members from Nicholasville, KY. Sadly we lost Richard in 1993 and Roger in 2003.

• Eugene Koliba served in the 919th Eng. Company in 1966-67. His brother Herbert served in D Company in 1968 and was the first of our pairs of brothers to give his life for his country on May 15, 1968. Life Member Eugene lives in Weslaco, TX.

• Gary Lee served in F Troop in 1971-71. Brother Jerry served in K Troop in 1969-70. Life Member Jerry resides in Weimar, TX; Gary lives in Springfield, MO.

• Jerry and Ronnie Lovett served together in Regimental Headquarters Troop in 1967-69. Jerry passed away in 2011; Ronnie resides in Peoria, IL.

• Life Member Jay Lyle served in the Air Cavalry Troop in 1969, sadly he passed away in 2018. His brother Ross served in D Company in 1967-68. He is a Life Member and resides in East Liverpool, OH.

• Robert and Troy Shaw served in 2nd Headquarters, Headquarters Troop in 1967-68 and G Trp., 1968 respectively. Life Member Robert lives in Eckerty, IN.

• James and Terry Sowinski are regulars at our reunions; James served in Headquarters, Headquarters Troop in 1966-67 and lives in Idledale, CO. Terry served in B Troop, in 1968-69 and lives in Rosemount, MN; both are Life Members.

• Paul and Peter Stensgaard served in B Troop; Paul in 1968-69, Peter in 1970. Life Member Paul lives in Plymouth, MN; Peter is in St. Paul, MN.

• Jon and Norman Strength of Spokane, WA served together in I Troop in 1969. Norman was killed in action, March 26, 1970; his brother Jon was with him at the time. Jon passed away in 2001.

• Brothers Barry and Jay Thompson served in Regimental Headquarters Troop, 1966-67 and Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 3/11 ACR in 1970-71 respectively. Barry lives in Dublin, OH; sadly, we lost Jay years ago.

So, while we all call each other “brothers”, these Troopers possess an even older and tighter bond as “brothers”!

NAME	UNIT
BLUE, DONALD R	F Trp, 2/11, 1967-1968
BLUE, J L	F Trp, 2/11, 1967-1968
CASTANEDA, BUDDY R	HHT, 2/11, 1968-1969
CASTANEDA, CHARLES A	37th Med Co, 1969-1970
CLARK, DENNIS L	E Trp, 2/11, 1966-1967
CLARK, DOUGLAS L	E Trp, 2/11, 1966-1967
CRIST, MARK S	Air Cav Trp, 1968-1969
CRIST, MICHAEL F	919th Engr Co, 1968-1969
FAIRCHILD, ROBERT P	HHT, 3/11, 1968-1969
FAIRCHILD, THOMAS N	HHT, 1/11, 1970-1971
ENNIS, LOTTIE D	HHT Regt, 1970
ENNIS, ROBERT B	How, 2/11, 1971
HALE, RICHARD	HHT Regt, 1968-1969
HALE, ROGER	HHT Regt, 1968-1969
KOLIBA, HERBERT **	D Co, 1/11, 1968
KOLIBA, EUGENE J.....	919th Engr Co, 1966-1967
LEE, GARY G	F Trp, 2/11, 1971-1972
LEE, JERRY D	K Trp, 3/11, 1969-1970
LOVETT, JERRY	HHT Regt, 1967-1969
LOVETT, RONNIE	HHT Regt, 1968-1969
LYLE, JAY O.....	Air Cav Trp, 1969
LYLE, ROSS W.....	D Co, 1/11, 1967-1968
SHAW, ROBERT L	HHT, 2/11, 1967-1968
SHAW, TROY H	G Trp, 2/11, 1968
STENSGAARD, PAUL J.....	B TRP, 1/11, 1968-1969
STENSGAARD, PETER D	B TRP, 1/11, 1970
STRENGTH, JON M	I TRP, 3/11, 1969
STRENGTH, NORMAN H **	I TRP, 3/11, 1969-1970
SOWINSKI, JAMES E	HHT Regt & A Trp, 1/11, 1966-1968
SOWINSKI, TERRY W.....	B Trp, 1/11, 1968-1969
TERRY, GARY L	HHT Regt, 1969-1970
TERRY, GARY L	HHT Regt, 1969-1970
TERRY, HARDY J	HHT, 3/11, 1969-1970
TERRY, WESLEY E	A Trp, 1/11, 1968-1969
THOMPSON, BARRY R	HHT Regt, 1966-1967
THOMPSON, JAY D	HHT, 3/11 1970-1971

Father and Son

SHARP, ORLA F SR

SHARP, ORLA F JR.....

** killed in action

Pete Walter

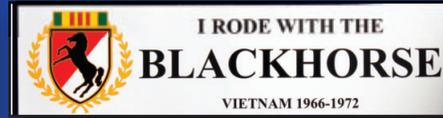
The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



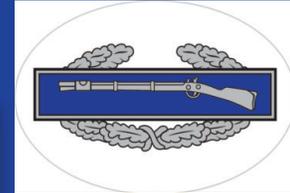
#2 Key Ring \$6.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



#9 CIB car magnet, 3"x4" \$6.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#8 Mouse Pad \$12.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$22.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$13.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



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



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



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



#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00



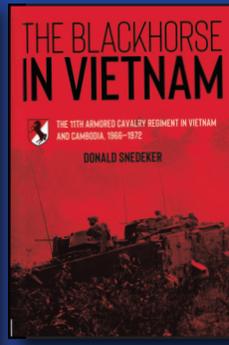
#22 Overnight Bag \$25.00



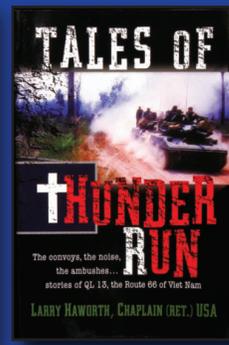
#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



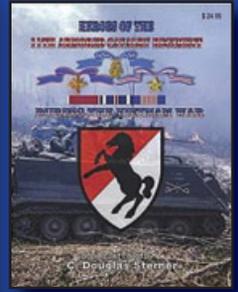
#30 Car Flag \$25.00



#34 "The Blackhorse in Vietnam" \$25.00



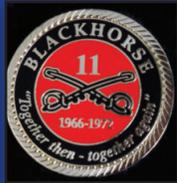
#37 Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Chaplain Larry Haworth \$11.00



#33 Book: Heroes of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment \$20.00



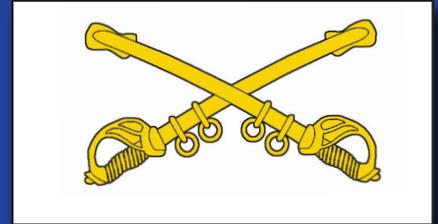
#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#31 Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs \$7.00



#35 See through Window Decal Sabers and Patch, 12" x 13" \$15.00



#32 See through Window Decal, Sabers, 13" x 13" \$15.00



#27 Golden Boot Spurs \$30.00



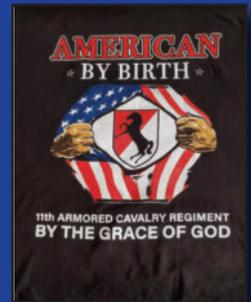
#36. Sweatshirts w/ BH patch, \$28.00



#44 See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch, 5" x 4.5" \$10.00



#45 See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch, 12" x 13" \$15.00



#40 Specialty T-Shirt: sizes S, M, L, 2X, 3X, 4 X \$20



#29 Ladies Necklace \$18.00



#38a



#38b



#38c



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



#39 a/b T-Shirt, Light Gray & Green \$20.00



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



#41 Light (A) or Dark (B) Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$35.00



#42 Blackhorse Jacket (lined), 100% Nylon \$95.00

CHAPLAIN from page 15

and their wives. Many of the obituaries we read state factually, that our trooper and his wife, had celebrated 45 to 55 years together. And in story after story, obituary or letter response, we read acknowledgments that their wives have been "the wind beneath my wings."

This year, especially on Memorial Day we want to honor both our warriors and their supportive spouses and significant friends who have "carried" them so long and so lovingly. As an example, Elaine Rafferty, the wife of Board Member and Scholarship Chairman, Mike Rafferty, passed recently and we mourn her loss. Elaine was not only a supportive wife but a great musician and I'm sure she loved the song and the music of *The Wind Beneath My Wings*.

I'm sure Mike can attest as to her strength as the one who held him up.

So, to our wives, our mothers, our

daughters, our friends, we gladly sing to you: *"So I was the one with all the glory, while you were the one with all the strength ... a beautiful face ... a beautiful smile. Did you ever know that you're my hero, and everything I would like to be? I could fly higher than an eagle ... for you are the wind beneath my wings."*

It would be nice to see some of you in Washington on Memorial Day, but I know that's not likely to happen this

year as we continue to recover from the pandemic, but I believe I will see a lot of you, and your wives and family members, at the reunion in Dallas this August.

In the meantime, my brother troopers, I'll pray for you as I hope you'll pray for me, so that we may merrily meet again, even if it is only on Fiddler's Green.

Chaplain Bill

Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

1st QuarterJan 1
2nd QuarterApr 1
3rd QuarterJul 1
4th QuarterOct 1

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

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

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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

SER NO RANK (during tour) _____ SSN NO _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

TYPE MEMBERSHIP: NEW RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____
 ANNUAL (\$15) LIFE (\$50)

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 2021

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white, ceramic (glass) 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	15.00			
2.	Key ring, Plastic	6.00			
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	3.00			
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	3.00			
5.	Hoodie Sweat Shirt	30.00			
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	5.00			
8.	Mouse Pads	12.00			
9.	CIB car magnet, 3"x4"	6.00			
10.	Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle	25.00			
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00			
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	9.00			
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	13.00			
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	30.00			
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	22.00			
17.	Blackhorse Pin	5.00			
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	5.00			
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	5.00			
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	5.00			
21.	Small Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (5" x 4 3/4")	5.00			
22.	Overnight Bag	25.00			
23.	Leather Gear Bag w/Blackhorse Insignia and pull handle	45.00			
25.	Blackhorse Coin	15.00			
26.	Large Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (8" x 7 3/4")	7.00			
27.	Golden Boot Spurs	30.00			
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	30.00			
29.	Ladies Necklace	18.00			
30.	Car Flag	25.00			
31.	Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs	7.00			
32.	See through Window Decal, Sabers, 13" x 13"	15.00			
33.	Book, "Heroes of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment"	20.00			
34.	Book, "The Blackhorse in Vietnam" by Donald Snedeker	25.00			
35.	See through Window Decal Sabers and Patch, 12" x 13"	15.00			
36.	Sweatshirts w/ BH patch, gray only. Size: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL	28.00			
37.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run," by Chaplain Larry Haworth	11.00			
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a, <input type="checkbox"/> 38b, <input type="checkbox"/> 38c, <input type="checkbox"/> 38d	17.00			
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Light Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Green	20.00			
40.	Specialty T-Shirt: sizes S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4 X	20.00			
41.	Denim shirt (men's) <input type="checkbox"/> Light (A) <input type="checkbox"/> Dark (B)	35.00			
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left	95.00			
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	35.00			
44.	See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 5" x 4.5"	10.00			
45.	See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 12" x 13"	15.00			

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: (Includes multiple items)

- A) \$3.00 — \$5.00 = \$3.00 C) \$10.00 — \$35.00 = \$15.00 Gear Bag Only = \$25.00
- B) \$6.00 — \$10.00 = \$9.00 D) \$36.00 and up = \$20.00 Gear Bags with other items = \$28.00

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

Signature _____

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

*Name _____ Phone _____

*Address _____ Email _____

*City/State/Zip _____

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to 11th ACVVC. ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: 11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com

* Required info to process your order



11ACVVC
13194 Rettew Dr.
Manassas, VA 20112-7800
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Hilton Anatole – Reunion 2021 – Dallas, TX

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DEPARTMENTS

President’s Message.....3
 VSO Information.....8
 Blachhorse Hoofbeats14
 Chaplain’s Corner15
 11th ACVVC Donations16
 Scholarship Update & Important Information20
 Scholarship Application.....21
 Blackhorse Women’s News.....25
 Fiddler’s Green26
 QM Store28
 Membership Application.....30
 Quartermaster Order Form31

NEWS & NOTES

‘Blackhorse Tales’5
 Band of Blackhorse Brothers7
 2021 Election8
 2021 Silent Auction9
 Reunion Registration Form10
 Reunion Schedule11
 The 28th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing.....12
 Reunion Registration13
 He’s Morte Than Just a Name on The Wall18
 Around the Corner (poem)19
 Report: Defense Suicide Prevention Office.....22
 Womens Group Tour and Lunch: Registration.....24

