



Thunder Run

Vol. 19 – NO. 3

“Together Then – Together Again”

3rd Quarter, 2004

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

Salt on Your Lips

By: Blandin W. Karabinos, Chaplain,
HHT, 2/11, 1971 – 1972.

One of the things I do in my autumn years is to serve as a tour guide and historic interpreter in Williamsburg, Virginia. About once a month, I take a busload of tourist to Washington for a day: mostly adults who hail from all parts of the US and with a few, from other continents. Most are visiting the Nation’s Capital for the first time. The drive up is about three hours and the trip back another four, as we factor in time for a breakfast and dinner stop, leaving us only about seven hours of tour time in DC.

Cresting the hill at the Navy Annex, we pass by the Pentagon and then on to Arlington Cemetery. At Arlington we visit the Tomb of the Unknowns, witness the changing of the guard, visit the Kennedy graves and those of a number of other American heroes, including Audie Murphy’s, America’s most decorated veteran of World War II. From Arlington, we go to the Iwo Jima Memorial (always impressive) and then on to the National World War II Memorial. This new monument is splendid and very special to all of us and especially to any veterans of that war we may have onboard. Although new, beautifully designed and sculptured, I think it lacks the emotional

...as we descend along the west wing of “The Wall” and then back up along the east wing, I say nothing. In fact, I can barely see anything.

clout of our own Vietnam Memorial.

Our next stop includes the Korean War Memorial (best viewed on a snowy winter night), the Lincoln Memorial and then we descend to the vortex of the Vietnam Memorial. I am a rather loquacious guy, get high marks as a historian and guide and provide an enlightening and entertaining commentary for most of the day. However, as we descend along the west wing of “The Wall” and then back up along the east wing, I say nothing. In fact, I can barely see anything.

I’ve made that trip dozens of times, but never once have I been able to stifle my emotions. Tears well up in my eyes and a lump gathers in my throat. And I can’t always control the sobs. This past May I watched a young woman and her husband as they made a tracing of a name on that Wall; in fact they had

Please turn to **SALT** on page 8

2004-5 Scholarship Program Breaks Records!!

By Chuck Schmidt

Thanks to the generous donations by our member and friends, a total of twenty-two (22) scholarships were awarded to our children to enable them to begin or continue their post-secondary education goals

It was a record setting year for this program in many ways. First, although we thought that we would soon run out of eligible children (our youngest Vet is well over 50 years old by now and most are approaching 60), Scholarship Chairman, Gene Johnson, received a record number (48) applications by the 15 May 2004 deadline. Secondly, we were able to award 22 Scholarships at \$3,000 each. This was two more than last year, and a new record (16 were awarded in 2002). Thirdly, donations received for the 2004 Calendar Fund Drive were well over the goal of \$20,000, Raffle Sales exceeded \$30,000, and the Silent Auction netted almost \$6,000. These totals combined with unused funds in the Scholarship Account prompted the Officers and Directors to approve the 22 awards.

The judges had a difficult time mak-

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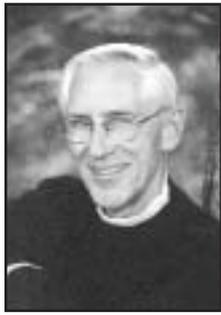
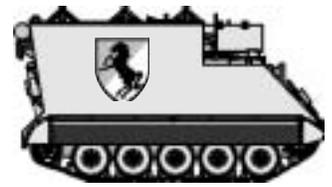
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From The Command Track

By Chuck Schmidt, President



Chuck Schmidt, President
11th ACVVC

Our first foray into the State of Florida for our Annual Reunion was a resounding success. More than 940 registered and attended the various program activities and the number of “First Timers” far exceeded expectations.

In fact, Troopers were hearing about our presence and coming in to register up to 10 minutes prior to the banquet on Saturday night! It is amazing that so many who served with us in Vietnam and Cambodia still are unaware of our organization. A number of first time attendees joined up as Life Members! Although we experienced rain on Friday and Saturday, the Adams Mark Hotel on the beach at Daytona was a fantastic site for our gathering.

Joe Coopet’s selection of Victoria Hills Golf Course in Deland, Florida for the 13th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Tournament received accolades from the large turnout. This annual Thursday event has become a “must do” for our avid golfers. Congratulations to the winners of the various prizes and our gratitude to Joe for all the work in organizing the tournament this year. Thanks to a lot of coordination between Rod George and Frank Cambria, the Quartermaster Store opened on schedule and served attendees Thursday through Sunday. The Herculean effort by Rod, Elida, Frank and Lisa was appreciated and the items chosen for stock were right on target. The grateful Troopers purchased over \$28,000 of merchandise. For the third consecutive year, Bob and Barb Moreno manned the registration table with unsurpassed enthusiasm and efficiency. Thanks to the Moreno’s and their avid helpers, all members received a hearty welcome to the festivities. And a very special thanks is in order for Steve Page who coordinated all the activities as Reunion and Site Chairman.

Friday’s major activities included the

More than 940 registered [at the Annual Reunion] and attended the various program activities and the number of “First Timers” far exceeded expectations.

3rd Annual Veterans Benefits Seminar led by Rick O’Dell, 919th Engineers, our in-house expert. Each year, we receive feedback from attendees who have taken to heart the information imparted during the seminar and have applied for and received compensation from the Veterans Administration for their disabilities. We owe Rick a debt of gratitude for all he has contributed to the 11th ACVVC over the years. On Friday evening, we held our “Bunker Party” and the turnout was outstanding. This is the time for reminiscing, sharing “War Stories”, getting reacquainted, and meeting buddies again for the first time in 32+ years. I personally was reunited with Wiley Graham who spent 8 months on my ACAV as an M-60 Gunner over 36 years ago and also got to see Jerry Mitchell, who served on I-40, and was attending his first Reunion 36 years after returning from ‘Nam. Welcome home, Brothers!

There was a large turnout for both the Women’s Meeting hosted by Barb Moreno and the Annual General Membership Business Meeting on Saturday morning. In fact, Barb reported that she had record attendance at the Women’s gathering—thanks Barb for all your efforts. Following the usual Officer and Committee Chairmen’s reports, troopers attending the business meeting approved two amendments to the By-Laws dealing with the Scholarship Committee and qualifications for election to the Board Of Directors, but rejected a proposed addition to the Objectives that would have formalized relationships with the active Regiment. The assembly also considered recommendations informally submitted to change election procedures to allow for “mail in” ballots and to change the existing standards of conduct paragraph by adding a detailed “Code of Ethics” section to the By-Laws. Both ideas were rejected unanimously from the

floor. Elections were conducted for one three-year Director position that will become vacant on 1 January 2004. There were two slated candidates and two more were nominated from the floor. In a close vote to select one from four highly qualified Troopers, Jim “Big Jim” Holt prevailed. “Big Jim” has been a “Life Member” from the start of the organization, and will be a welcomed addition to the Board of Directors. Sponsors presented Baltimore, MD, Phoenix, AZ, and Kansas City, MO as sites for the 2006 Reunion. Kansas City was selected by and overwhelming majority. Finally, the “Hat” was passed to collect donations for the Reunion Assistance Fund that is used to help our Brothers who could not otherwise afford to attend a reunion with a little financial boost to enable them to reunite with their comrades-in-arms. Troopers at the meeting contributed more than \$1,300 to replenish this important fund. Thanks for your generosity!

Chaplain Haworth presided over a well-attended, emotional Memorial Service Saturday afternoon that featured a “Fallen Trooper” display of an inverted M-16 rifle with fixed bayonet with Vietnam era jungle boots at the base and topped with a camouflaged steel pot. We thank Dave Tessier for his creative efforts to build this display that we will be able to feature at future ceremonies.

The Saturday night banquet featured “Big Jim” Holt singing his personally composed “Vietnam” during the Blackhorse Salute along with a medley of patriotic songs; an outstanding address from our guest speaker, CSM (Ret) Don Horn (the first and fourth Regimental CSM); an update on the active Regiment by the current Commander, COL Peter Bayer; and presentation of awards to a few outstanding Troopers who con-

Continued ➤

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



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

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tributed "above and beyond" over the years. Congratulations to Rick O'Dell, Pete Echon, and Frank Cambria for the Outstanding Trooper Awards and to Otis Carey for Trooper of the Year! Debbie Pickral was cited "in absentia" for her contributions on the distaff side and Bill Lewellen passed the Jack Quilter award to John Effinger. We recognized John Poindexter for contributions over the years in support of the Board of Directors as well as his annual donations to the Silent Auction. Scholarship award winners were announced with a record 22 of our children receiving grants of \$3,000

each to continue their education at colleges and universities across the country.

Chaplain Larry Haworth concluded the reunion with a well-attended worship service on Sunday morning. Farewells lasted most of the day as Troopers departed for homes across the country with most vowing to return to attend the 20th Anniversary Reunion in Colorado Springs next August. It is not too early to start making plans, and the hotel is taking reservations. Hotel information can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Our Regiment will be deploying to Iraq later this year. This will mark the first

time since we returned from Vietnam in 1972 (over 32 years ago) that the Regiment will be deployed to a war zone. Individual Troopers and smaller units have served in Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq over the past several years, but this will be the first major deployment. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Regimental Troopers and their families as they enter into harms way. The Troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry have our total support, and we are working on establishing a "Troop-to-Troop" relationship with our deployed soldiers. ALLONS!



Editor's Corner

C. E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr.

Summer is drawing to a close, I can already see some leaves falling from the trees, our 2004 Reunion is behind us, and we are all getting ready for the cooler days as the seasons change. Daytona Beach was great, sure it rained, and we barely got out of town before Hurricane Charlie paid a visit, but reunions are about people - not beaches. I saw Jerry Bromley (H Company, 69-70) for the first time in 34 years and that made the trip worthwhile. You see Jerry and I both worked and lived on Vehicle H-11 for nine months, we ate together, slept in the same hooch, worked as a team during many many fire-fights, and know things about each other that not even our wives and mothers ever found out. But all of you know exactly what I mean - you have been there. That is what makes reunions worthwhile!

This issue of your newsletter is again a compromise between what we want to get in and what we have room for. We have included information on several worthwhile initiatives, like the Troop-To-Troop program, the scholarship program, new members, status of the Regiment, and reports from our officers. Look at Chaplain Haworth's excellent piece on putting things in perspective. Chuck Schmidt shares some valuable information with us and we have included as many articles from members as we could

I still encourage you to submit your stories and poems, just remember to keep them in good taste because we want a publication that your eight year old can pick up and read.

fit in. There is never enough room for those, but we continue to do our best.

I still encourage you to submit your stories and poems, just remember to keep them in good taste because we want a publication that your eight year old can pick up and read. It also helps to keep them short; less than 800 to 1000 words is best. I have one super article I have been trying to fit in for well over a year, but it is almost 2,000 words and I have not been able to fit it in; I will keep trying, but if it were shorter, it would be a lot easier.

We will be back next quarter, Lord willing, take care of yourselves and each other. There were at least two very quick ways to tell at a glance if a tank was an M-48 or an M-60; can you remember what they were?

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

The 11th ACVVC wishes to gratefully acknowledge those generous donors to the Scholarship Fund that have not been previously recognized. We also want to thank all who participated in the recent Raffle and Silent Auction both as donors and bidders. Unfortunately, we failed to record the names of those who donated over and above the "cost of the Raffle Tickets and we apologize for these and any other inadvertent omissions.

Gold Level Donors

Donations from \$100 to \$499

Jeff Long
Craig M. Anderson
Standard Racing*

Silver Level Donors

Donations from \$50 to \$99

Charles & Christine Crase
Jane Ekholm*
Richard A. Gilpin

Gaye & Guy Gordon*
William & Susan Moore

Bronze Level Donors

Donations from \$1 to \$49

Jerry & Alice Andrews
Burt & Sarah Christensen
Larry E. Coft
Donald Dye*
Walter & Sharon Flick
James & Helen Gaul

Michael & Marilyn Hartgraves
Louise Leonard**
CSM (Ret.) Robert E. Linberg
Roger & Victoria O'Neal
John F. Reiterman
Arthur & Brenda Sevelius
Antony D. Spera
Rick Tilbury*
LTC Strphen & Linda Tracy
Joseph & Doris Wiley
John & Carol Willard

Note: Donations with the astrick (*) were in memory of Margerate Ekholm.. Donations with the double astrick (**) were in memory of Smead Edwards

Troop to Troop

■ As the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Deploys to Iraq

Soon, very soon in fact, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment will deploy to Iraq. The movement is slated to happen late this year and early next. The active regiment believes that they have much to learn from the Vietnam Era troopers and most of us veteran troopers want to do what ever we can to support our regiment.

With your support, we can make sure our troopers have the kind of support – both moral and material – that we did not.

To that end, the 11th ACVVC is joining with the active regiment to set up a mechanism to help those who want to support our troops. Each active Troop (Company, Battery etc.) will have a person serve as the specific point of contact between themselves and the veteran troops. By the same token, each Vietnam Era Troop (Company, Battery etc.) will have a volunteer to serve as the specific point of contact between the veterans and the active troops. {That is to say, A Troop will work with A Troop, B Troop with B Troop etc.}

The idea is to have a mechanism to facilitate communications between the two groups, so that whatever help we provide will reach the right place and in a timely fashion.

The support may be in the form of letters, cards, supplies or just moral support. A lot will depend on what they need and what we can provide. If you want to volunteer to be the point of contact for your troop, company, battery or support organization please contact

Gene Johnson
4054 Venita Court
Las Vegas, NV 89120-1442
(719) 456-3218
gene677@aol.com

James D 'Big Jim' Holt Elected

By: Chuck Schmidt, President

Four highly qualified Troopers were nominated to succeed Mike Forbes on the Board of Directors. In a closely contested vote the assembly, in accordance with the By-Laws governing the 11th ACVVC, elected Jim Holt of Plainview, Texas to the three-year term. Jim, a native Texan, is one of the original members of the organization and assisted in putting on the first annual reunion in Arlington, TX.

Jim was assigned to 1st How Battery in '67-'68, but spent most of his time in the line Troops, mostly "B" Troop where he received two Purple Hearts. It was here that he got his nickname "Kahuna" that he currently uses as his E-mail handle. He works as a Training Sergeant at the Plainview Training Academy, Texas Department of Criminal Justice and has been involved over the years with POW/MIA and other Veterans issues. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX, a renowned center for studies and archives for the Vietnam War.

Most recently, Troopers will recognize Jim as our featured singer at many of our reunions to include the recently concluded reunion in Daytona Beach, FL. Jim assumes his position on the Board of Directors on 1 January 2005.

Old Yeller



Around Mount Vernon, Texas, Wayne Jacobitz (D Company, 1/11, 1968 – 1969) wants all who see his 1967 International truck (Old Yeller) that he rode with the Blackhorse

Incoming...

The following information has been provided by our Troopers:

From **Donald L. Bentley**, (Troop unknown) I am seeking anyone who was close by the day I was injured in December 1970. Our APC ran over a bomb. I was burned badly I think the driver got a broken arm. He was a "red head". I came with a group from the 25th Infantry Division, 3/4 Cav (June – December 1970). I would also like to know:

- Troop assignment.
- Closest town to where injury was or where we were working.

I was the right M-60 gunner. Please contact Donald L. Bentley, 3105 Sunlight Drive, Austell, GA 30106.

♦♦

From **CSM (Ret.) Daniel J. Mulcahey**, who served as Regimental CSM in 1968

and 1969. The Sergeant Major wants to recommend the book, *Wounded Body – Healing Spirit* by John Senka, a fellow veteran who served with the 25th Infantry Division. He says, "This book could be helpful to veterans and families alike." The book is published by Brundage Publishing, Room 203, Executive Office Building, 33 West State Street, Binghamton, NY 13901. It can be reviewed on line at: www.brundagepublishing.com.

♦♦

From **Craig J. Dahms** (F Troop, 2/11, 1969 – 1970). Craig submitted the following for your consideration. "An apartment well furnished, A car well furnished, A mind untarnished, Are of great riches."

Silent Auction Donors

Barry Bowen	Aussie Hat
Chuck & Cathi Bower	Vests
Frank Cambria	Blackhorse Books
Debbie Cardinelli	Blackhorse Glasses
John Cramer	Blackhorse Country Frame
Dennis Creal	Horse Statue w/Knife
Randy Cribbs	Book Sets
Randy Farr	Picture, "Machine Gun Troop"
Tony Fortunato	Two Coins Dated 310 AD
"Wild Bill" Frantz	Book," My Memories: 'Nam"
Charles Ganno	Coffee Maker
Paul & Teresa Gissible	TY Bear
Jim & Kristen Graham	Cruise, Magnets, Various Gift Certificates, Reverse Osmosis System, Magazine Subscriptions
Don Grayson	Power Tools
Wayne Grulke.....	Vietnam Puzzle
James Hain	Patriotic Playing Cards
Bob Lee	Jacket and Glass Etchings
Annette Marchand	Blackhorse Quilt
Jack Morrison.....	Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Steve Page	Vietnam Collectors Plates
John Poindexter	Three Days at Cibolo Creek Ranch Resort
John Sorich.....	Picture, "Reunion"
Thomas Spahr.....	ACAV Model
Rick Wells & Roger Tingley	Plaque (Australia's Third Cavalry)
Edward Tinney	Horse Plaques

The following items were also donated, but names are lost/unavailable: GI Joe (Vietnam Memorial), Blackhorse Statue w/Shield, Shirt (Ft Irwin), Sweater Vest (Blackhorse), Black Hat, Light Box w/Blackhorse Emblem, Purple Heart Plaque, Pocket Knife (Franklin Mint Collection)

Troopers Select Credit Card as Choice of Payment

By Ollie Pickral, Treasurer

As evidenced at the recent Daytona Beach reunion, more and more of our troopers are using their credit cards for purchases of Quartermaster items, annual and life membership payments, registration for the reunion and donations to our various fundraisers for our scholarship program.

Because of the convenience of using the credit card, 11 ACVVC is seeing troopers using their cards and purchasing more items than they normally would. We have also noticed that more troopers are joining as life members using their credit card.

From Thursday through Sunday, over 550 purchases were made by using credit cards. Most purchases were for product sales but many paid their membership and reunion registration with their cards.

We are also seeing more and more of you use our website for these same purchases and payments from the convenience of your computer at home.

Presently we are accommodating Visa and MasterCard and we hope we are making it easier for you to order and pay by credit card.

Sense Of Nam?

By William F. (The Ghost) Frantz, III,
K Troop, 2/11 1970 - 1971

Superman on a bad day
or a hangover
I am right here and
have no idea where I was
when it came out.

It reminds me of the
sound of movies which
I watch and listened
to in Vietnam.

Flashbacks?
No, thanks!
I've had my share.

Blind dates?
Never went on one where
I wanted to see.

Different dimensions?
Edgar Allen Poe!
Romance is where
One finds it.
Yeah right!

Now I feel like I'm
Surrounded by monks
This is the end!
Goodbye?

SCHOLARSHIP from page 1

ing the final decision as all 48 applicants were highly qualified and although we would like to have been able to award assistance to all, our funds were limited to the 22 top qualifiers.

With the tremendous success of the three fund raising activities—Calendar Donations, Raffle Sales, and Silent Auction, we have decided to continue with these in the future. I will again be assembling the Calendar for 2005, and am soliciting your best photos for inclusion. Please send me no more than three of your best for consideration. Since we can only use 12 photos, we must be selective. You can send the photos (with captions identifying Troopers, the operation, approximate date, and any other pertinent data) to Chuck Schmidt, 15110 Jessie Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you desire submitted photos to be returned.

Thank you for your outstanding generosity in support of this year's Scholarship Program. We will acknowledge donors of items for the Silent Auction in the next issue of Thunder Run. ALLONS!!

11ACVVC Scholarship Recipients Selected in 2004

(Recipients have 20 months to use the award)

Name	School	Parent	Unit	Year
Jessica Allen	Connor State College	Bobby R	Allen ACT & HQ 3/11	68-69
Lance Alsup	Cumberland University	Lance W	Alsup M Co 3/11	69-70
Kerry Behm	University of Rhode Island	Ernest W	Behm Jr C 1/11	70
John Casterman	University of California, Davis	John M	Casterman M Co 3/11	66-67,69-70
Kevin Clement	University of Washington	Stephen L	Clement E 2/11	69-70
Robert Dinger III	University of Oklahoma	Robert J	Dinger II I 3/11	68-69
Lisanne Droski	Grand Valley State University	Fred	Droski E 2/11	71-72
Thomas Foreman	Valparaiso University	James T	Foreman Sr F 2/11	67-68
Angel Haumschild	Webster University	Robert	Haumschild H Co 2/11	66-67
Amanda Heim	Dickinson College	J Michael	Heim HHT 2/11	71-72
Jessica Johnson	Vanguad University of S.CA	Eugene N	Johnson Jr ACT,E 2/11	66-67,70-71
Nathan Klink	Allegany College of Maryland	Robert E	Klink D Co 1/11	70
Jennifer Long	University of Michigan	Richard M	Long C 1/11	70
Christopher Magnarelli	Marist College	John	Magnarelli F 2/11	69-70
Georgina Maritz	Angelo State University	Samuel	Caldwell ACT	67-68
Kelly McFarling	Indiana/Purdue University	Leonard I	McFarling F 2/11	69-70
Zandra Messick	Salt Lake Comm College	Ronald G	Caldwell D Co 1/11	69
Lauren Mitchell	University of Maryland	Jerry R	Mitchell HHT 1/11	66-67
Stephanie O'Donnell	University of Rhode Island	John P	O'Donnell F 2/11	66-67
Jolynn Rawson	University of Washington	Robert M	Rawson F 2/11	68-69
Ashley Wiegand	Kent State University	Henry J	Wiegand 53rd Signal	69-72
Megan Wurster	Seattle Pacific University	Stephen L	Wurster C 1/11	69-70

Getting To Know Our Scholarship Winners

To help us all become acquainted with and appreciate our scholarship winners, we plan to run brief statements from each of our scholarship winners over the next three issues of Thunder Run. This issue features the first eight of our winners.



Kerry Behm, daughter of Ernest W. Behm, Jr. (C Troop, 1/11, 1970) plans to attend the University of Rhode Island and says: "I plan to major in Elementary Education. I have always enjoyed

working with children and feel I have the qualities to become a great elementary school teacher."

.....



Kevin Clement, son of Stephen L. Clemet (E Troop, 2/11, 69 – 70) plans to attend the University of Washington and said: "Architecture and Construction Management. A double major in Architecture and Construction Management

will build upon my understanding of the process involved in designing and constructing buildings. Most people spend the majority of their lives in buildings. I hope to create structures that make a positive effect on society as a whole by making life easier, more convenient and efficient, and more beautiful."

.....

Robert Dinger, III, son of Robert J. Dinger, II (I Troop, 1/11, 68 – 69) plans to attend the University of Oklahoma. He said: "I plan to enter the field of medicine because it is something that has always interested me. I have proven to work



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

well under stress and in a crisis. I am very good with my hands and I am fast on my feet. I feel I would work very well in a hospital environment. I have the determination and confidence that will help me reach my goal to become a doctor."

Lisanne Droski, daughter of Fed Droski (E Troop, 2/11, 71-72) plans to attend Grand



Valley State University and wrote: "I plan on becoming a Nurse, possibly a Pediatric Nurse because I love working with little kids and I enjoy helping people, and making them feel better."

.....

Thomas Foreman, son of James T. Foreman, Sr. (F Troop, 2/11 67 – 68) plans to attend



Valparaiso University and wrote: "I am in my fourth semester as a Accounting/Management double major. I have always had an interest in business and hope to obtain a position in a company

where I can make a positive difference with both my knowledge and strong religious morals."

.....

Amanda Heim, daughter of J. Michael Heim (HHT, 2/11, 71 – 72) plans to attend



Dickinson College and tells us. "I plan to major in Biochemistry (Molecular Biology) in hopes of one day pursuing a career in government research. This will give me the opportunity to work with others on a glob-

al level and allow me to make a difference in others lives."



Jessica Johnson, daughter of Eugene N. Johnson, Jr. (ACT & E Troop, 67-68 & 70-71) says in her message to us. "I plan to continue studying History and Political Science. With my studies, plan to pre-

pare and take the LSAT's and attend Law School. Once I am out of Law School, I plan to work for the District Attorney's Office."

.....



Nathan Klink, the son of Robert E. Klink, (D Company, 1/11, 1970) will be attending Allegany College of Maryland, and says. "I am planning to become a Technology Education Teacher. I believe this right for me

because I love to see new ideas and designs and like working with my hands making small projects. Teaching Technology will allow me to do this while helping students learn and showing them what the future holds. I believe I could do this and make it fun and interesting for the students too."

Show Your Pride



Glenn O. Ryburn, Jr. (HHT, 3/11, 1966 – 1967) is proud to display his colors around his Lorton, Virginia home.

Letter From The 61st Colonel of the Regiment

Blackhorse Veterans,

Command Sergeant Major Pring and I would like to thank you for your continued service and concern for the well being of the Nation, the Army, and for the 2500 Troopers of the great Blackhorse Regiment. We truly enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you during your Daytona Beach Reunion.

As you may already know, on July 4, the Blackhorse Regiment received the official call to duty and the cavalry bugle was sounded; the Blackhorse will deploy to foreign soil and join the ranks of those serving our great Nation in Southwest Asia as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

The focus of the Regiment has shifted from training our Army to fight and win in combat to training Blackhorse Troopers to fight and win while also preparing our families for our deployment. Critical to our efforts is the embodiment of the Warrior Ethos, a concept I know to be very familiar to the Blackhorse Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, by all of our Troopers. Blackhorse Troopers always place the mission first, never quit, never accept defeat, and will never leave a fallen comrade behind.

The 58th Combat Engineer Company was the first of the Blackhorse to receive the call. They deployed to Southwest Asia in June to support Operation Iraqi Freedom II and are currently serving proudly with the 1st Cavalry Division in Baghdad. For the rest of the Regiment, our tentative window of deployment is between Halloween and Valentine's Day. The Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop will deploy as a division level headquarters element to command, control and synchronize the efforts of some 20,000 Coalition Soldiers operating in Northwestern Iraq. 1st Squadron will deploy with 3rd Brigade of the 1st Armored Division and will operate as part of the 3rd Infantry Division in central Iraq, while the 2nd Squadron will deploy with the 155th Separate Armored Brigade of the Mississippi Army National Guard and conduct operations in Central and

Western Iraq. Regimental Support Squadron will deploy a number of Soldiers to provide logistical support for the other Regimental elements and while remaining here at Ft. Irwin to serve as the Regimental Rear caring for our families and continuing to provide support to the newly constituted Opposing Force

1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry Regiment of the Nevada Army National Guard, a longtime member of our great Regiment, has been mobilized and will form the nucleus of Task Force Mojave, the Provisional Opposing Force. We are thrilled that the Blackhorse tradition of training our Army on the battlefields of the National Training Center will continue to be accomplished by Blackhorse Troopers even after we deploy.

The Soldiers of the Blackhorse have expediently made the necessary transition from "those who train warriors" to "warriors in training" and we are geared up to accomplish our mission. Our Troopers are now conducting demanding training from individual through squadron level to prepare for the deployment. We will be ready!

CSM Pring and I truly appreciate your involvement and support for the Blackhorse, and are deeply grateful for your generous hospitality and graciousness at the 11th ACVVC Meeting in Daytona. It is because of Veterans like yourselves that we continue to maintain our way of life, enjoy our freedoms, and have the opportunities afforded only to American citizens. Gentlemen, you are all heroes in our eyes and we salute you. ALLONS!

Peter C. Bayer Jr.
61st Colonel of the Blackhorse

Newsletter Deadlines

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

First Quarter.....Jan 15
Second Quarter.....Apr 15
Third Quarter.....Aug 15
Fourth Quarter.....Oct 15

SALT from page 1

asked me for a pencil. I usually carry a couple of golf pencils for just that purpose. When I asked her if the soldier, whose name she was tracing was from her hometown ... in her tears she answered: "my brother." I choked and had to move back to mop my face.

Not forgetting the Blackhorse Troopers that I served with, I moved to the next to last slab on the west side and the tears returned as I traced my fingers over the names of some of the lads from the 11th that I knew and whose memory are permanently etched on that Wall. Mike Aguilar, Captain Clark, Roger Kojetin, Arthur Likens, Ronnie Longfellow and Al Robalin I can still recall ... the list is too long and I was only in country as our participation was winding down.

There are more than 58,000 names on that Wall. I hate that number. Numbers are so impersonal; names have a personality. Each name had a loved one or two ... or many more that they left behind. Each name had a future, a career; a hope for an exciting, long and happy life. Each name deserved a reward for his service ... but instead of a reward, each name is a legacy: a precious legacy to the country and for all of us.

Those names represent a legacy of comradeship, duty to one another, loyalty to the Troop, to the Regiment, to the Country and to the story of humankind. Yes they were patriots, Sons of Liberty, makers of the ultimate sacrifice ... part of our generation. It may not have been tagged with the label, "the Greatest Generation," but for those of us who served with The Blackhorse in Vietnam; well, we can walk beside any generation with our heads up high ... as can the hallowed spirits of the men on that Wall.

Try it sometime, if you haven't done so already. Doff your cap and walk down along the wall and up the other side. Pause now and again and find the name of a buddy, a fellow trooper; rub your fingers across the engraving and I dare you to leave without tears in your eyes and salt on you lips ... and with great pride in your heart. Allons.

By: Steve Page

Reunion Chairman and Site Chair

Now that our Daytona Beach Reunion is over it is time to let the membership know how we did. There were over 940 Attendees. We served 920 at the Saturday Night Banquet. The Banquet Program was first class with CSM Horn giving an excellent and humor filled talk I am sure all enjoyed it. The Active Duty Regiment is in good hands with Col. Bayer and CSM Pring in charge. They will do a good job in taking care of our fellow Blackhorse Troopers as they deploy to Iraq, God bless them.

The Friday Night bunker was well attended with plenty of food for all. The Vet's seminar was again well attended as was the Women's meeting. During the Members meeting much ground was covered with questions that were thoughtful and to the point. Discussion was orderly and all points of view were well received.

After presenting three cities for 2006 the majority of votes went for Kansas City, Missouri, see you all there in 2006. It is a credit to all that attended to how well the meeting went. The bids for silent auction items were high and numerous and the total amount collected for our scholarship fund was high. Raffle tickets sales hit an all time high. All involved did a great job.

The Memorial Service was excellent and Chaplain Haworth was again though provoking the indoors service as perfect. The Quartermaster was deluged with people and they were attended to in a very quick and friendly manner thank you Frank, Lisa and Bonnie and all the others that helped. The Sunday Service brought the reunion to an end. Again, the Troopers were very generous when the hat was passed. You guys are the greatest. Thank you all for making this a memorable event without you attending reunions they would not happen.

I will publish a report with all the numbers in the next *Thunder Run*. We hope all those attending had a safe trip home. Remember Colorado Springs in 2005 information will be published as soon as possible. Please try to register early It makes the registration process much easier.

Thank you all for attending!



Journey to Fiddler's Green

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

Benjamin Nelson (Ben) Butts, who served with K Troop, 3/11, (1968 – 1970) passed away on July 11, 2004. Ben was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and was 58 years old. He lost a long battle with cancer and died near his Grand Prairie, Texas home.

Larry Dennis Callaghan, who served with G Troop, 2/11 (1968) passed away on October 24, 2001. Larry held most national offices in the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Sergeant Callaghan's name will be added to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial this year. He was 55 years old and a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

Clarence E. (Bud) Campbell, who served with the 541st. MID (1970 – 1971) passed away on August 23, 2003. Bud lived in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

Dennis J. Clark, who served as the Regimental Signal Officer (1970 – 1971) passed away on April 1, 1998. His home was in Spokane, Washington, and he was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

Sherman L. Cook, Jr. who served as the Platoon Leader of Second Platoon, in L Troop, 3/11 (1967 - 1968) passed away on July 19, 2004, after a long illness.

Dana E. Cox, who served with the 27th Engineers, (1966 – 1968) passed away on May 18, 2002. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Reynoldsburgh, Ohio.

William A. (Bill) Dean, who served with the Air Cavalry Troop, (1970) passed away on September 30, 1995. Bill resided in Sacramento, California and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

Ronald E. Freemyer, who served as a Sergeant with A Troop, 1/11 (1969) passed away on June 22, 2004. Ronald lived in Athol, Massachusetts and was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC

James E. Gutzmer, who served with I Troop, 3/11 (1968 – 1969) passed away on September 6, 2000, from agent orange related cancer. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and was from North Dakota.

Thomas F. Harris, (MSG, US Army, Ret.) who served as a Platoon Sergeant with L Troop, 3/11 (1969 – 1970) passed away on March 24, 2004. He was 73 years old and lived in Hamlet, North Carolina. He was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

Richard T. Harvey, who served as a SSG with HHT, 3/11 passed away on May 16, 2001 from Agent Orange related liver cancer. Richard was from Georgia. His exact service dates are unavailable.

Steven M. Harvey, who served with the Air Cavalry Troop, (1967) passed away on October 21, 2003. Steve was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cox Creek, Kentucky. He died as a result of Agent Orange related cancer.

Tommy R. King, who served with HHT, 2/11 (1967 – 1968) passed away on December 25, 2003. Tommy resided in Bluff City, Tennessee and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

Leo R. Krum, Jr. who served with the 919th Engineers (1966 – 1967) passed away on August 9, 2004. Leo suffered from several Agent Orange related diseases, including diabetes, kidney disease, and heart disease. He lived in Brandon, Florida and was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

James P. Krumrie, who served with C Troop, 1/11 (1970) passes away on February 6, 2000. James resided in Lansing, Michigan and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

Walter L. (Walt) Ledbetter, who served as a Section Chief with How Battery, 1/11 (1966 – 1967) passed away. Walt was from Texas and a Life member of the 11th ACVVC.

Donald H. Parks, who served as the Commo Chief for D Company, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on February 11, 2002. Donald was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Cloud, Florida.

George S. Patton, III, (MG, US Army, Ret.) who served as the 39th Colonel of the Regiment (1968 – 1969) passed away on June 26, 2004 at his home. General Patton was 81 years old and a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

James W. Porter, (CSM, US Army, Ret.) who served as the First Sergeant of H Company (1970 – 1971) passed away on July 5, 2004, in Burbank, California from cancer. The Sergeant Major was a regular attendee at reunions and a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

Robert E. (Soap) Soper, who served on Track L-31 in L Troop, 3/11 (1967 – 1968) passed away on March 5, 2004. Soap was from Santa Rosa, California, and was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

Henry R. (Hank) Wilber, who served as a Sergeant in E Troop, 2/11 (1969 – 1970) passed away on April 18, 2004, from brain cancer, believed to be from Agent Orange exposure. Hank lived in Waverly, New York and was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

Roger L. Wolff, who served with G Troop, 2/11 (1967 – 1968) passed away on May 23, 2000. Roger lived in Meadville, Pennsylvania and was a member of the 11th ACVVC.



Memorial Day is always an important day for our country.

It's important in a special way for those of us who served in Viet Nam and for our families as well. This isn't new knowledge. You've known it for years. But Memorial Day this year, 2004, was especially significant for me, and I hope for you too. Here's why:

It goes like this; I obtained tickets to the World War II Memorial dedication in Washington, D.C. after I made a donation. I believe in what the WWII Memorial stands for in honoring the "Greatest Generation." My uncle served in the Army Air Corps and was shot down three times. I was born in 1937 and remember a lot from WWII days - gas and food rationing stamps, synthetic rubber tires, saving tin foil and bacon fat, parades, and Army hospital trains. We lived in Burbank, California by Lockheed where the P-38 and the Constellation were made. They flew over our house every day - thrilling for a little kid! I remember the war newsreels at the movies. I've seen "Saving Private Ryan" and I've talked with many WWII vets, including some who landed on the French beaches on D Day. I have tremendous respect, love, and honor for those men and women of my parent's generation.

During that wonderful weekend of dedicating the WWII Memorial and reliving the great victories of that war, some historical facts came to me that I shared at The Wall with our Blackhorse vets and families and

Politics aside, wherever and whenever our troops are sent into harm's way, we will support them. After all, as we are the kids of the WWII generation, troops today are our kids. Think about that.

will pass along to you. I, with others, could see our other wars in a historical perspective with WWII. These days we're fighting for democracy in Iraq. It's not hard to see where this war fits as part of the world war on terrorism. It's not hard to see where the war on terrorism fits into history in a world where despots would grind and subjugate people and where someone has to stop them.

Remembering the wonderful victories of WWII - the world was made free of the Nazi menace in Europe and Japanese aggression in the East. These evil empires were crushed and the people were delivered. Look at Europe and Japan now - they're free and democratic! The rest of the story includes the fact that the victorious conclusion of WWII left the communist menace strong and in place. This could wander into politics. Don't worry, we won't go that down that road. But I will give you some observations of history that I hope you see, too. I want you to see where the Viet Nam war and the 'Nam vet fits. Because he does fit and he fits well.

Between WWII and the fall of the Berlin Wall representing the Communist empire were the Korean and Viet Nam Wars. We're concentrating on Viet Nam but we remember

and honor the Korean War vet also. Too many believe that the Viet Nam War was a total waste, fought only for political purposes. Whoever gets all their information from the media can hardly be blamed for believing that spin on history. The trouble is, if one really believes that, then I guess it would be hard to see that an honorable cause was really served. Personally, I don't see it that way. I'll stick my neck out and say that I truly believe the Viet Nam War was won militarily but then given away politically. I base my observations and beliefs on personal interaction with Vietnamese people in Viet Nam during the war and with sources completely outside politics and the media, and who were apart from the war. This is pertinent and important because I want every Viet Nam vet to hold his head high and know that he or she served an honorable cause. Notice: I do not accept much of what went on or much of how the war was conducted, either from a military, political, or media point of view.

Another way of what I'm saying is that I see that The Greatest Generation contributed to world peace by defeating the Nazi and Japanese Axis. This was a monumental and total national undertaking. Just the same, the Communist menace was left in place. Then the Korean and Viet Nam wars were fought as parts of the "Cold War." Both contributed their proportionate part to the fall of the Communist menace. This was symbolized in the takedown of the Berlin Wall. In the Twenty-First Century the world menace of terrorism has roared onto the world scene. What are we going to do about it? Politics aside, wherever and whenever our troops are sent into harm's way, we will support them. After all, as we are the kids of the WWII generation, troops today are our kids. Think about that.

I'll add a thought now that came to me over that weekend. You already know the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial was dedicated

Continued ➤

The Blackhorse—forever!



I don't know if any of us could be more determined to show his pride than Don Sawyers (F Troop, 2/11, 1969 - 1970) (ABOVE) of Hamilton, Ohio. Unless, it might be Jesse Rasberry (551st. Maint., 1967 - 1968) (RIGHT) of Houston, Texas. Now, THAT is love of the blackhorse!!!





Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) received as of August 4, 2004.

Alaniz, Manuel	919TH ENGR	70-71	Gray, Dennis W	D CO, 1/11	71-71	Robinson, Jeffrey F	188TH MAINT	66-67
Allen, Bobby R	HHT, 3/11	69-69	Hellweg, Paul A	HOW, 3/11	68-68	Rollins, Charles	AIR CAV TRP	67-68
Allen, Robert J	HHT, 3/11	67-68	Holland, Roy C	HHT, 3/11	69-71	Shepherd, Ron	I TRP, 3/11	66-67
Alt, Kenneth H.	HOW, 3/11	68-69	Howell, James P	HHT, 2/11	71-72	Slimmer, Wes	HOW, 1/11	67-68
Andersen, Arthur T.	L TRP, 3/11	67-68	Jackowski, Richard W	HHT, 2/11	70-71	Sobus, Timothy S	G TRP, 2/11	69-69
Andrews, Keith R. Sr.	HHT, Regiment	70-71	Jarrell, David K	F TRP, 2/11	66-67	Taylor, Clarence	L TRP, 3/11	68-68
Bell, Edward C	AIR CAV TRP	70-71	Julve, Lazaro	B TRP, 1/11	66-67	Taylor, Clarence	M CO, 3/11	69-69
Biggin, Donald M Jr	L TRP, 3/11	68-69	Kasni, Robert J.	F TRP, 2/11	66-67	Thompson, Michael F	I TRP, 3/11	68-69
Brennick, Bobby	919TH ENGR	70-72	Kelliher, Patrick J	HHT REGT	66-67	Thompson, Michael F	HOW, 3/11	68-69
Brown, Don L	HHT, 1/11		Lafayette, Dowdell	L TRP, 3/11	66-67	Turner, Courtney K	HHT, 2/11	70-71
Campbell, Jimmie	HHT, 1/11	66-67	Larkin, Percy		65-67	Turner, Courtney K	G TRP, 2/11	70-71
Campbell, Jimmie	C TRP, 1/11	66-67	Lebail, Wayne F	A TRP, 1/11	67-68	Wallace, Hugh	HHT, 2/11	67-68
Campbell, John C	K TRP, 3/11	67-68	Livingston, David F	B TRP, 1/11	66-67	Wallech, Joseph	506TH S&S CO	67-68
Chandler, William M	K TRP, 3/11	66-67	Loya, Atanacio A	B TRP, 1/11	65-67	Weller, Michael P	A TRP, 1/11	70-71
Conner, Benton E	HOW, 1/11	66-67	MacGregor, Gary	F TRP, 2/11	68-69	Werner, James	409TH RRD	70-71
Drury, Robert V	E TRP, 2/11	68-69	Mattingly, Joseph S	HOW, 2/11	66-67	Wing, Douglas A	A TRP, 1/11	68-69
Dush, Donald R	A TRP, 1/11	69-70	Miller, Joseph	M CO, 3/11	66-67	Wood, Bennett B Jr	HOW, 3/11	70-70
Edwards, Gary W	HHT, 3/11	68-69	Miller, Larry A	G TRP, 2/11	68-68	Worley, Dennis	H CO, 2/11	70-70
Espenschiea, William	A TRP, 1/11	69-70	Minnear, James A Jr	F TRP, 2/11	67-68	Worthington, James	I TRP, 3/11	68-69
Evans, Gerald A	3/11	66-67	Mitchell, Jerry R	HHT, 1/11	65-67	Yankowy, Jerry	A TRP, 1/11	67-68
Fariello, Albert			Moffitt, Charles G	HHT REGT	70-71	Zillner, Joe	G TRP, 2/11	66-67
Fields, Steven L	HHT, 2/11	70-70	Moliero, Joseph F	HHT, 3/11	65-67	Zuckerman, Daniel H	B TRP, 1/11	70-71
Fields, Steven L	HOW, 2/11	70-70	Morrill, Allan F	G TRP, 2/11	70-71			
Florio, Richard	D CO, 1/11	66-67	Murphy, Patrick A.	G TRP, 2/11	70-72			
French, Walter H	B TRP, 1/11	66-67	Payne, Gilbert M Jr	I TRP, 3/11	66-67			
French, Walter H	HHT, 1/11	66-67	Petree, Gary G	H CO, 2/11	69-70			
Frutos, Reynoldo V	A TRP, 1/11	70-71	Portagallo, Thomas	HHT, 3/11	66-67			
Fulop, Frank R	C TRP, 1/11	68-69	Randolph, Billy Joe	919TH ENGR	67-68			
Gillooly, James A	F TRP, 2/11	69-70	Reed, Donald D	398TH TRANS	68-69			

RAFFLE WINNERS FOR 2004

Ron Krueger - \$750
Don Johnson - \$500
Susan Cleveland - \$250
Rose Rehm - \$100

in 1982. It was Viet Nam veterans, and no one else, who thought of it and started the project, worked like dogs to convince the Government to let it happen, and raised the money to build it. Zero tax money went into the project. Zero tax money was wanted or accepted. In time, others came on board and by dedication date, the whole country was experiencing healing from the wounds of that controversial war. Then many became conscious that Korean War veterans had been neglected longer than the Viet Nam War vets had been degraded. Korea began to be called the "Forgotten War," which it was. So they got busy and a wonderful memorial to the Korean War veterans was dedicated in the 90's.

A few years later, particularly after "Saving Private Ryan" came out, people began to notice that there was no memorial to WWII veterans. They didn't seem to realize that there were monuments all over

Washington to specific WWII units. But there still wasn't a memorial for all the vets together. So an enormous effort was launched, celebrities were recruited and about 190 million dollars was collected (I gave some), of which about 15 million dollars was federal tax money (rightly appropriated by congress, in my opinion.)

I tell you about other war memorials because I want you to realize that it was Viet Nam vets who made people aware that vets of all our wars deserved to be remembered and honored. Be glad. It's more of our legacy.

I want every one of you who has worn the uniform, answered the call, and served with honor, to hold your head high and be proud of what your service has accomplished. Whether in war or in peace, whether in WWII, Viet Nam or countless other times and places, you served a noble cause in keeping this land and much of the world free.

Something else to think about: As every generation fits into the flow of American history, in a similar way God calls each of us to fit into his history and purpose. The Holy Bible says it clearly in 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12: "... We constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his powers he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

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

Chaplain Larry Haworth
 176 Rainbow Drive, #7627
 Livingston, Texas 77399-1076
 LEHaworth@aol.com

[For a copy of my book Tales of Thunder Run, order through the 11thACVVC Quartermaster or send me your address and \$12.00 to help cover my costs]



Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

All year long, we look forward to our annual reunion. And all to soon it is over. This year was no exception. Despite Tropical Storm Bonnie with her daily doses of rain and rough ocean waves, I truly believe all had a great time. There were over 950 people in attendance, which included not only troopers but also wives, and other loved ones. All in all the registration process went smoothly thanks to all the wonderful folks who generously 'volunteered' to give their time to help out. Whether it was putting packets together, working the registration table or helping with the silent auction, your help was greatly appreciated. It certainly allowed me some extra time to get a few things done in the office.

The Women's' meeting completely blew me away. There were 65 women in attendance. This is the largest group I think we have ever had at one time. Thank you to Rick O'Dell for once again coming in to speak with the ladies. I know they all appreciate the time and knowledge you share with them. They are able to ask questions that they very often are afraid to ask of others.

The ladies have decided that we too need to be more supportive of each other as well as of our men. Thus, we are expanding into our own.

Before Rick addressed the ladies, we had a short introductory game to find out where everyone was from and just how well they know their states capital. Fun was had by all. The ladies have decided that we too need to be more supportive of each other as well as of our men. Thus, we are expanding into our own. With this new unity, we have divided in four areas with two ladies in each area that I will be in constant contact with in the event of the death of a trooper or other emergency, or happy event to show our support and love to the wife and family members involved. We will also be putting together a sort of newsletter two or three times a year. We are also hoping to have a link added to the web site for folks to visit. So, when you see it, be sure to drop us a line. While we will not be an "auxiliary" of the 11thACVVC, we will be a division of them. Our goal is to be a help, and support unit for our men. To let them know how much we understand, love and sup-

port them and that we are very proud of them for what they did for their country both then and now. We hope to find ways to help with the scholarship program and the mentoring program for the Blackhorse units shipping out. More information will follow as things develop.

This years Women's Award was given to a very deserving person. Debbie Pickral. Debbie is perhaps the reason we are in existence today. She saw a need for something for the ladies to do at the reunions and thus organized the Women's' group. She is a long time supporter of not only her husband but also everything the 11th ACVVC is about. She is the First Lady of the 11thACVVC. Unfortunately, due to a family emergency Debbie was unable to be in attendance, this year but her daughter April accepted the award on her behalf. Debbie, we missed you, and love you, and hope all is well with you.

Well, ladies I must close this and begin the unpacking and mounds of laundry that always seems to follow vacation. Despite Hurricane Charlie, the Moreno family had a wonderful week visiting Mickey Mouse and pals in Orlando. So until next time I invite all of you ladies, and men, to send me anything you think would be of interest for our first newsletter which will be our about Christmas time. Just e-mail it to me at Moreno@Tomah.com subject: Barbladies mtg. / or to me via snail mail at 24284 Endeavor Ave, Tomah, WI 54660.

If you would like to be included in our mailing list just send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to me at either of the addresses above.

With love

Barb Moreno

KIA RESEARCH PROJECT

By: Allen Hathaway, Chairman
KIA Research and Verification Project

The KIA research and verification project is looking for volunteers who live near the following national cemeteries:

- ♦ Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, FL
- ♦ Fort Bliss National Cemetery, El Paso, TX
- ♦ Fort McPherson National Cemetery, Maxwell, NE
- ♦ Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, CA
- ♦ Fort Smith National Cemetery, Fort Smith, AR
- ♦ Los Angeles National Cemetery, Los Angeles, CA
- ♦ Memphis National Cemetery, Memphis, TN
- ♦ Mill Springs National Cemetery, Nancy, KY
- ♦ Rock Island National Cemetery, Rock Island, IL
- ♦ Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, OR
- ♦ Zachary Taylor National Cemetery, Louisville, KY

If you live near one of the national cemeteries listed above and would be willing to spend an hour or so helping on this project, please contact: Allen Hathaway, KIA Research and Verification Project, pahathaway@msn.com, (703) 791-6610

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS

We wish to also thank the following donors to the General Fund

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Kenneth Brown | Alan Hathaway |
| Robert Brown | Stanley Hauser |
| Billy Cody | Percy Larkin |
| F. E. Egan | Larry Mayes |
| Frank Fulop | Bill Moore |
| Frank Fulop | |



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

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

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

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

FLASHBACKS

The Canal Road

Dust-off, Dust-off, we need dust-off.” The Lt. was still yelling into the radio when the RPG rocket hit his front right road wheel. He felt the ACAV shudder and the heat from the rocket.

By: Mike O'Farrell,
M Company, 3/11, 1966 – '67

A man and a woman stroll along a dirt road. It is late in the afternoon, and to their front, the mountains are shrouded in mist. The couple walks along a track that parallels a drainage canal. The gravel crunches with each step they take. They hold hands, occasionally speaking, but mostly they just walk, swinging their arms, seeming to enjoy each other's company. A breeze springs up from the north, giving a brief respite from the summer heat. She sets the pace, walking easily on long blue jean-clad legs. She seems sure of herself, head high, chest out, with each step her whole body rotates. He seems relaxed, taking shorter steps but keeping up with her.

At the point where the canal and road take a gentle turn to the right, he disengages his hand and drops back a couple of yards, crossing over to the opposite side of the road. His demeanor changes from relaxed to alert, anxious. His head swivels back and forth over the foliage on both sides of the canal, then to the front, and back to the road. Then he does an odd thing. He drops down on his haunches for a minute, takes cover behind a large bush, and stares intently at the

vegetation ahead. He is looking for someone, something. He is afraid. "Come on, slowpoke. Are you tired, need a rest?" she challenges. He wipes the sweat off his face with his hand and smiles. "Nah, I'm fine." He stands up and reluctantly starts moving forward again, but hesitates again at the curve. "What in the world is wrong with you?" she asks, becoming irritated.

The whine of the ACV (17 ton, M113 Personnel Carrier) diesel engine slowed to a deep rumble as it came to a dead stop. The M48A3 tank (52 ton, 90 mm main gun) leading the daily supply column had stopped at the curve of the road and the column began to bunch up. The young Lieutenant, platoon leader of the vehicles escorting the convoy, and thus the convoy commander, was three slots behind the tank. "Big Brother, this is Six. What's the holdup?" he inquired of the tank over the radio. "Ah, Six, Big Brother. Permission to recon by fire. One canister round (90 mm shotgun round) into the trees. I don't like this place." The young Lt. Responds immediately. "Negative, Big Brother, Keep rolling. Area cleared by ARVN (South Vietnamese Army) today." The tank jerked, swung its main gun to cover the canal side of the road

and began to move again. "Six, this is three-three. I've got movement to my right," Sgt. Gonzalez, commander of the three-three ACAV, reported from the rear of the column. Then the tank hit the mine, sending black smoke swirling into the air and showering the front of the column with dirt and rocks. "AMBUSH, AMBUSH, AMBUSH!"

"Earth to Mike, Earth to Mike . . . what are you thinking about?" she asks. "Oh, nothing, I'm fine." He seems irritated, angry. He starts to walk again, taking the lead now, moving at a much quicker pace. He gets through the curve and the road and canal straighten out once again. "You're having one of those things again, aren't you?" She asks accusingly. "No.. I'm fine. Let's get on out of here," he responds. "Jesus, Mike. Let it go. That was over thirty years ago. It seems like you are getting these things a lot more often lately." "I'm fine . . . let's just go, OK?" he replies. "You're getting more flashbacks lately, aren't you?" she is tenacious. "What do you mean, more? Everyone gets flashbacks. You see something, you hear something, or even smell something and it reminds you of another place, another time. Anyway, they don't bother me as much as they used to. You get them too." He is defensive. "Maybe," she says, "but I don't start acting weird and hiding behind bushes. Don't clam up on me now. Talk to me." "Why is this so damned important to you? You wouldn't understand, anyway." He answers. She shakes her head. She's been here before.

The mine triggered the ambush. When it exploded under the tank's right tread a deafening cacophony of sound erupted. The Viet Cong opened up with three light machine guns (LMG, 7.62 short caliber) and one heavy machine gun (HMG, roughly 50 caliber). Multiple AK47's (7.62 short Russian Assault Rifle) and five or six RPG's (rifle propelled grenade anti—armor weapon, fires a rocket) let loose at the same time. In response, the 3rd platoon fighting vehicles automatically followed their ambush drill procedures and each vehicle turned its nose to alternate sides of the road and began to fire with turret mounted Fifty caliber heavy machine guns and two M60 light machine guns per ACAV, mounted in shields on the sides of the vehicle. Green colored Chinese armor piercing tracer rounds came into the convoy, careening off

MOVING?

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into the distance, while orange US tracer rounds went out. The vehicles being escorted, eight two and a half ton trucks and two fuel tankers were supposed to try to keep going in order to run out of the kill zone of the ambush. However, the disabled tank blocked the way. An RPG rocket hit the gasoline tanker; always a favorite target of the VC, and it erupted with a violent WHOOSH, followed by an explosion and a hot, metal melting fire. An RPG rocket narrowly missed the Lt.'s 50 caliber gun shield as he reported his situation to his Regimental headquarters. "Blackhorse, Blackhorse," he screamed into the radio. "This is Mike three-six with Convoy One, three clicks (kilometers) south of base camp. Ambush. Ambush. We are taking heavy fire and need gun ships. . . Ah shit, they just got one of the tankers. . . " Big Brother, the disabled tank at the head of the column started to come to life. First, it started firing its coaxial machine gun (Light machinegun set up to fire where the main 90 mm gun is aimed), and then a canister round from the 90 mm machinegun. The Lt. Watched tiny sparks crawl up the side of the tank and wondered what they were. Too late, he realized that he was seeing rounds from a VC light machine gun hitting the turret of the tank. In seconds, the sparks reached the target, the tank commander, leaning halfway out of his cupola trying to direct fire on the VC. When the machinegun rounds hit him, they converted him into a rag doll, arms flopping, as he disappeared into the interior of the tank.

"Six, this is Big Brother alternate. Tank commander hit. We need a medic, fast." The tank gunner screamed into the radio. "Roger Big Brother. . . . Blackhorse Dust-off, Dust-off, we need dust-off." The Lt. was still yelling into the radio when the RPG rocket hit his front right road wheel. He felt the ACAV shudder and the heat from the rocket. Spotting the RPG launcher, he turned his turret and fired his fifty caliber. "Six, this is three-four." His platoon sergeant, calm as always. "The MGs and RPGs are across the canal behind the berm." "Roger three-four, thanks," he responded. "Big Brother, Big Brother, put HE (high explosive) on the berm on the canal side." The tank turret moved, stopped and spit a 90 mm high explosive round into the berm, smashing a large hole in it and sending dirt flying. The tank turret moved a

fraction of an inch and fired again. "Six, three-four," the platoon sergeant again. Three-three and three-two have gotten on the other side of the canal and are rolling up the berm." " Roger three-four, thanks," The Lt. Replied, wondering how the two ACAVs had gotten on the other side of the canal. He watched as the three-three and three-two ACAVs rolled over the VC ambushers, all guns firing. "Six, this is three-three, we got them on the run." Sgt. Gonzalez reported in. The gun ships arrived too late to help, but sprayed the area where the VC had run with machinegun and rocket fire.

The ambush has lasted slightly less than two minutes.

The couple have now left the dirt road and are starting their walk home on one that is paved. "Mike, have you spoken to anyone at the VA about flashbacks?" she asks. "Naw, hell honey, everyone gets them. I already told you that. Anyway, I've been too busy trying to deal with the diabetes thing and the hearing loss." He grins at his effort to make a bad joke. "Maybe you should," she says, "Babe it's not normal." "OK," he says, "next time I'm there I'll bring it up." He is lying, and she knows it.

Two hours have passed. The dust offs (Medical Evacuation Helicopters) have taken the wounded out. The three dead, the tank commander and two truck drivers, were tagged. Bagged and ready for transport, waiting for an inbound "slick" helicopter to pick them up. The tank commander had been badly mutilated around the head and neck, and it had taken four men to get him out of the tank.

The young Lt. Finally got off the radio, left the crew of his ACAV repairing the damaged road wheel, and gingerly circumvented the burning tanker truck. There were two

more bodies in the tanker, but they would have to wait until it quit burning and cooled down. The intense heat of the fire almost guaranteed that there would be little if anything left of them.

He approached the tank. The gunner, a Buck Sergeant named Jake, who had taken charge when the tank commander had been killed, had the remaining two members of the crew hard at work. They had replaced the road wheel damaged by the mine and were working on getting the track back on. "Good job Jake, you and the whole crew. You guys OK?" he asks. They all nod, but keep on working. "You guys and three-three saved the day. Jake, you'll be taking over as tank commander until further notice. How long before you're ready to roll? I want to be back at base camp before dark." The Lt. Watches them closely. "We'll roll in about three-zero minutes. Sir," Jake responds. "We get any of the little SOBs?" "Negative, at least none that we can find. You know how they are, they probably took them with them," the Lt. Responds. "Sir. Sergeant Cussak was a good man, good soldier. He was Korea too this was his second war. Has a wife and two girls back in the world. Damned shame." " Roger that. Good man and a damned shame. You're right. Call me when you're ready to roll." As he walks away, the young Lt. Notices that the driver of the tank, a young boy from Texas named Jackson, is crying. This annoys him, and then angers him. "It's a waste, that's what it is. A damned waste." He mutters to himself.

The couple reaches their house. He stops her in the driveway. "I promise that I will get some help with this stuff," he says. "Good. I love you. . . " She answers and gives him a kiss. He hugs her.

REUNION 2005 INFORMATION

Colorado Springs, CO

- Dates:** August 4 – 7, 2005.
- Hotel:** Sheraton Colorado Prings Hotel (*newly renovated \$8M Upgrade*)
- Room Rates:** \$89.00 per night Room rates are good for 3 days prior and 3 day after event
- Reservations:** Direct to Hotel 1-(719) 576-5900
Central Booking 1 (800) 981-4012
Must mention 11th Armored Cavalry Reunion
- Parking** Free parking in large hotel lots. Free airport (Colorado Springs) shuttle to hotel. (*or fly to Denver and rent a car-1 1/2 hr drive*)

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