

The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia WWII 11th Cavalry Group Memorial Dedicated



By Allen Hathaway

espite a light rain, Blackhorse troopers gathered on May 17 at the 11th Cavalry Memorial at Fort Knox to dedicate a bronze plaque honoring the men who were killed in action while serving with 11th Cavalry during World War II.

Approximately 30 people attended the dedication, including three veterans who served in World War with the 11th Cavalry Group. During World War II the 11th Cavalry Group was organized into two squadrons; the 36th and 44th Cavalry Reconnaissance

Squadrons.

On hand to help

dedicate the plaque for the 36th Reconnaissance Squadron were Arthur Bass, Hillsboro, Illinois; Kingdon Gould, Washington, DC and Ausbon Jinright, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. All three served together in Troop C, 36th Recon Squadron, 11th Cavalry Group. These men, along with dozens of other members of Troop C, have been holding annual reunions since 1977.

In late September 1944, after extensive training and preparation in the United States,

LEFT: Ausbon Jinright, embraces the plaque listing fellow comrades of the 11th Cavalry Group killed during World War II.

BELOW: Arthur Bass (L) and Kingdon Gould (R) look on during dedication of the plaque honoring those killed from the 36th Reconnaissance Squadron, 11th Cavalry Group during World War II.



the 11th Cavalry Group boarded the US Transport Ship Cilicia, then joined a 40 ship convoy headed for the European Theater of Operation. On November 23, 1944, the 11th crossed the English Channel and soon found themselves in the Battle of the Bulge holding an entire sector normally occupied by a division. After the Bulge, the 11th Cavalry Group acted as a flank screen for the 13th Corps during the push from the Roer to the

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Allen Hathaway.

President

From The Command Track

This issue of *Thunder Run* will arrive just a few weeks before the 25th annual reunion in Washington, DC, on August 25-29. All indica-

tions point to attendance of approximately 1,100 this year.

We are pleased to announce that Joseph L. (Joe) Galloway, famed author and correspondent, will be our guest speaker at the Saturday night reunion banquet. During the course of 15 years of foreign service with United Press International he served four tours as a war correspondent in Vietnam.

He is co-author, with Lt. Gen. (ret) Hal G. Moore, of the national bestseller *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*, which has been made into a critically acclaimed movie, "We Were Soldiers," starring Mel Gibson. *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young* is presently in print in four different editions which have sold more than 1.2 million copies.

When he accepted our invitation he replied, "I will be there wearing stetson and spurs, and ready to talk."

There are many sights to see in Washington. We encourage everyone to visit them on their own or with friends and at their own pace. One suggestion is to start at the White House, just a few blocks from the hotel, then the World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Vietnam Women's Memorial. Catch the view of the reflection pool, Washington Monument and Capital Building from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and then continue on to the nearby Korean War Memorial. It can be hot in the summer so dress comfortably.

We received many phone calls and emails the months before the reunion from members who want to contact old friends and meet at the reunion. Several who will be attending this year will meet old friends for the first time since Vietnam. This is what it's all about - renewing old friendships, "Together Then – Together Again".

As I look back at the reunions over the past 25 years I think of the scores of people who have attended, each one filled with pride in having served with the Blackhorse By Allen Hathaway, President



We are pleased to announce that Joseph L. (Joe) Galloway, famed author and correspondent, will be our guest speaker at the Saturday night reunion banquet.

Regiment and each one eager to tell their story. I've heard countless numbers of stories over the years and I always take the time to listen to each one.

I was fortunate to have attended the first reunion in September 1986. My first contact with anyone from the 11th Cav was in January of that year when I received a phone call from an old friend I hadn't heard from since Vietnam. I answered the phone and recognized his southern accent almost immediately. Although it had been 20 years since we last spoke it seemed like only the day before. We talked for several hours, catching up on our lives over the last 20 years, wondering about some of the others we knew and what the 11th Cav did after we left in July 1967. He told me about a reunion being planned for September. Without any hesitation, I knew I would be there.

After the phone call I immediately began looking for my old Army things that had been packed away for many years. I found an address book! (We all said we would keep in contact when we got home.) In the next few months I made many phone calls, determined to find some of my old friends. I was fortunate that I was able to locate several others I knew.

One day the first issue of the newsletter arrived. It didn't have a name yet. The official name "Thunder Run" wouldn't come until 1988. The newsletter consisted of six pages and contained information about the reunion. One entire page listed 18 people looking for old friends. I realized I wasn't the only one looking for old friends. I read the entire newsletter several times.

September 5, 1986 – the first reunion. I arrived at the Rodeway Inn in Arlington, Texas, not knowing what to expect. The moment I walked in the door and saw the first Blackhorse insignia I knew I was among friends. Approximately 175 people attended that first reunion. Six people I knew in Vietnam attended: Ashe,

Bridgeford, Hain, Smailus, Smetana and Sowinski. We caught up on the last 20 years, talked about old times, looked at pictures and wondered where some of our other friends were. We learned so much about what the regiment did after we left in mid 1967. That weekend I also met many new friends, friends I see now almost every year.

These annual reunions have helped us reunite with old friends who served together in some very trying times. We depended on each other every day and under extremely difficult conditions. We all share a very special bond, a bond that lasts a lifetime. We have also learned a great deal about the history of this regiment. Those who served with the Blackhorse are proud of their unit and of their service.

Once again this year promises to be an outstanding reunion and an opportunity to be with others who served with the Blackhorse Regiment. Dig out your old pictures, slides and scrapbook and come prepared to enjoy yourself!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome COL Antonio Aguto as the 64th Colonel of the Blackhorse Regiment. COL Aguto assumed command of the regiment from COL Paul Laughlin, 63rd Colonel, in a change of command ceremony held on June 30, 2010, at Fort Irwin, CA. We would also like to thank COL Laughlin for his excellent leadership of the Blackhorse Regiment during the past two years and for the support he and the entire regiment have given to all Blackhorse veterans. We extend our very best wishes to both on their new assignments.

Finally, as always, I ask that you keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers. Reach out to those who wear the uniform and contribute daily to the security of our country, offer your hand, and thank them for their selfless service. ALLONS! – It's good to be "Together Again".

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 1948, Plainview, TX 79073-1948; 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," James M. "Jim" Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 < Jgriff11@aol.com>

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Galloway to be Guest **Speaker at Banquet**

By Allen Hathaway

T *T* e are pleased to announce that Joseph L. (Joe) Galloway will be the guest speaker at the 2010 reunion in Washington, DC, on August 29.



Joe Galloway

Galloway, a native of Refugio, Texas, spent 22 years as a foreign and war correspondent and bureau chief for United Press International, and nearly 20 years as a senior editor and senior writer for U.S. News & World Report magazine.

He is co-author, with Lt. Gen. (ret) Hal G. Moore, of the national bestseller We Were Soldiers Once...and Young,...

He is co-author, with Lt. Gen. (ret) Hal G. Moore, of the national bestseller We Were Soldiers Once...and Young, which has been made into a critically acclaimed movie, "We Were Soldiers," starring Mel Gibson. We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young is presently in print in four different editions which has sold more than 1.2 million copies.

Galloway and Gen. Moore recently completed a sequel to We Were Soldiers Once, a book titled We Are Soldiers Still: A Journey Back to the Battlefields of Vietnam which was published in August, 2008, by HarperCollins. We Are Soldiers Still also made The New York Times bestseller list.

Galloway also co-authored Triumph Without Victory: The History of the Persian Gulf War for Times Books.

Show Your Pride

Shawn Orback (L Trp.

during the ceremony presenting him with the

of Twin-Boro News /

Roy Caratozzolo III)

New Jersey Distinguished Service





Doc Leroy Bradbury, (37th Med 68-69) shows pride with his Blackhorse adorned vehicle

MEMORIAL from page 1

Rhine rivers. The 11th was in constant enemy contact, and reached the Rhine on March 5, 1945. They resumed their offensive into the heartland of Germany on April 1st. In a classic use of armored cavalry, the 11th pushed ahead of allied forces, liberating more than a thousand American POW's and several thousand slave laborers from prison camps. The 11th Cavalry reached the Elbe River on April 14th then swung north conducting mop up operations. The 11th Cavalry Group met the Russian Third Corps coming into Germany near Kunrau on May 4, 1945. This final thrust of the war resulted in the 11th Cavalry Group capturing over 6,000 prisoners. In 21 days the Blackhorse moved 378 miles. On May 8, 1945, Nazi Germany would surrender. The war in Europe was over.

For its actions during World War II the 11th Cavalry Group was awarded five battle streamers which are proudly displayed on the regimental colors: Normandy – 1944, Northern France – 1944, Rhineland – 1944-1945, Ardennes-Alsace – 1944-1945 and Central Europe – 1945.

These campaigns were hard fought and with great sacrifice. The 11th Cavalry Group suffered a total of 56 casualties. This plaque is dedicated to the memory of the 37 troopers of the 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. In the near future a plaque will be added to the World War II memorial honoring the 19 troopers killed while serving with the 44th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. It is our duty as friends, fellow Blackhorse troopers and Americans to honor these men and their sacrifices.

2010 Newsletter Deadlines

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

First Quarter 2010Jan 15 Second Quarter 2010Mar 25 Third Quarter 2010......Jun 25 Fourth Quarter 2010......Oct 1 All submissions for publication must be sent to: Jim Griffiths, Editor, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106. Email: JGriff11@aol.com.



Jim Griffths, Editor *Thunder Run*

Vietnam under less comfortable but surviving circumstances (as many of us did) that there would have developed an organization, loaded with class, which would flourish and provide us the opportunity to reunite with our buddies that we shared the pivotal event of our generation (the Vietnam War) with?

There was about a 15 year lapse between our participation in the war and the founding of the 11th ACVVC. Once founded, however, the organization would become an outstanding achievement that provided us with an equally outstanding reunion each year in which we would be able to participate and that these reunions would be 25 years old and no end in sight. At least we don't want to think about when it might end and at present we really don't need to.

I converse on a regular basis with fellow Vietnam veterans from other units and I have come to the conclusion that very few of these veterans have had the opportunity to reunite on a regular basis with their old buddies from Vietnam in the manner we do. There seem to be very few groups in existence or they are not enticing enough for many of our fellow vets to become involved in. To me all the national organizations pale in comparison to the

<u>Editor's Corner</u>

Here we go! The big number 25, our Silver Anniversary Reunion. Who would have thought when we climbed on the Freedom Bird or left

experience I have and the feeling of camaraderie that I share with members of the 11th ACVVC. It is only natural to feel this way as these are the guys that were truly our band of brothers. At times I feel a bit guilty knowing that I have this and so many others don't. I also know that when I express the feeling I have to those from other units they don't have a clue as to the depth of bonding associated with our group.

This issue of Thunder Run contains last minute details concerning the Reunion for your benefit as well as submissions by all of our regular contributors and features. I always read with interest the 'Journey to Fiddler's Green' and the 'Welcome Aboad.' Happily there are about 85 new members and hopefully many of them will get to the Reunion. On the sad side is we have lost about 44 that have gone to Fiddler's Green. All the more reason we need to make it a point to share our brotherhood with one another as time to do so remains. Hopefully you will be able read all the articles so that you will be up to speed on all the latest happenings.

We also, as usual, have some interesting quality submissions in terms of personal stories and poetry. I think most of you really enjoy the 'Show Pride' photos and many of you continue to submit proudly. I have a backlog of these and get them in a soon as possible. Remember on the 'Show Pride' that indication of as well as prominence of Blackhorse related symbols are of utmost importance.

Enjoy Your 3rd Quarter Thunder Run.

Show Your Pride

Members of 2nd Platoon (I Troop, 69-70) show their pride with a colorful collection of 11th Cavalry colors. Standing L to R, Wayne Grulke, Nick Soehnlen, John Raney, Richard McCauley(honorary member), "Cactus" Branham. Kneeling L to R, Mark Crist, Larry Hall



Washington Reunion Silent Auction

Preparations for the upcoming Washington Reunion are in full swing. One of the very important preparations is that it is time for us to appeal to the membership for direct support.

The Silent Auction is one of the three fundraising activities that helps support the Scholarship Program. The silent auction is always fun and entertaining. This is our 15th year for the silent auction. Each year we continue to see an impressive array of items being offered. Ron Krueger and Paul Gissible will be coordinating the Silent Auction this year.

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

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

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

Ron Krueger: ronkrue@hotmail.com Paul Gissible: gissible@yahoo.com

Mail Silent Auction items to:

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

See Silent Auction Donation Form on page 11

THE 19[™] ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, August 26th, 2010

Virginia Oaks Golf Club

Don Wagoner Tournament Director

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



Scenic Rural Setting Championship Golf Course with Complimentary Driving Range

\$80 per golfer includes greens fees, carts, balls, tees, lunch and prizes! Fill in the form and mail it to the address below with a check for \$80 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by August 10, 2010 to guarantee your entry!

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

	MARTY OGNIBENE DLF TOURNAMENT				
Name	Average Score				
Address	Home Phone				
City	_ StateZip				
Name	Average Score				
Name	Average Score				
Name	Average Score				
Mail Checks To: Joe Coopet, Golf Tournament Director, 9289 Parkside Draw, Woodbury, MN 55125					

Call 651-246-8009 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by August 10, 2010. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of best facilities in the Washington, D.C. area. They have a dress code to include: 1) No denim (Blue jeans), 2) No tank tops or T-shirts. Shirts must have collars. 3) Soft spikes only facility. Tee times will be a 9:00 AM shotgun start with lunch buffet following golf.

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

11[™] ACVVC DONATIONS

Donations to various 11th ACVVC activities since the 2nd Quarter 2010 issue of Thunder Run

Platinum Level \$500+

Donor Levels:

Calendar Scholarship

Platinum Level

Garland McSpadden

Gold Level

Joseph Carraher Bill Clark Stephen Clement John Crow Hunter Dunn Robert Ewert Robert Gambert Joseph Garbacz James Graham Gerald Gulley James Holt Dennis Horan Jeffrey Jeter

con

Don Johnson Jonathan Kerrick L.K. "Smokey" Murphy Harold Nicklas Bert Pehr Robert Sinclair Timothy Sobus Ned Stoll Edward Turner Gary Wagers Byron Skinner In Memory of Lt. Gene Lanoux

Silver Level

L.W. Clodfelter James Fitzpatrick R.H. French Manuel Gonzalez John Hoefler Frederick Hotzman Sid Hughes Richard Koziol Roy Lingle William Ochowicz Robert Petersen Jerry Sowell Phillip Tidwell Dan Walker August Whitlock Joseph Willey

Gold Level \$100-\$499

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Daniel Atchison Robert Baker S. Barner Richard Barnhart Joseph Berenda Daniel Bridgeford Tommie Brown Peter Carpus Stephen Celski **Ronald Charette Raymond Costello** Robert Delve Gerald Desoto Turner Dorton Walter Ergish **Richard Followay** Frank Fulop Steve Gonzalez Babe Halstead Dwane Hein Paul Hofflander Peter Hoffman Garland Howell **Donnie Hudgins** David Jarrett Earl Klein Robert Klink Edward Kriston Kerry Larson

Silver Level \$50-\$99

Bronze Level \$1-\$49

Rudy Lopez Michael Lyman James Lynch Nick Martinez **Glenny Mattly** Robert McNeil Keith Millea David Okinaka Kenneth Sayers Philip Seyller Stephen State Ivan Trifon James Walker Bobby Ward Philip Watt Daniel Weikel Erwin Wiggins John Willard **Richard Worley** Raymond Wright

22nd ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE



1st Prize - \$1,000.002nd Prize - \$750.003rd Prize - \$500.004th Prize - \$250.00

Donation \$1.00 per ticket

Drawing will be held at the annual reunion in Washington, DC on August 28, 2010

Bring your tickets to the reunion or mail them to the following address no later than <u>August 18, 2010</u>

> OLLIE W PICKRAL 571 DITCHLEY RD KILMARNOCK, VA 22483

All proceeds benefit the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund

Information provided by and for our Troopers

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

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

Directions:

I-80 to Davis. Take the Mace Blvd exit. Go North, around bend (Mace becomes Covell Blvd) Turn Left on Monarch Ln. Take1st right onto Temple. Park is one block ahead on left. – or – I-5, to Woodland, exit at Road 102 to Davis. Proceed South to Davis, approx. 8 miles. Turn left at the 1st major intersection – Covell Blvd. Go about 1 mile to Monarch Blvd, turn right, go1 block. Turn right on Temple. Park is 1 block ahead on left. Watch for balloons and signs. RSVP: Ron Krueger: 530-758-0351, ronkrue@hotmail.com

58,000

Steve Johnson (409th RRD, 1967)

I hear voices whisper slowly as they talk about a name, on the wall.

I hear a mother crying softly as she stares at a name, on the wall.

I see a family's future shattered As they think of a soldier torn and tattered, on the wall.

My heart cries out, my hands reach out. But I can't touch them from my place on the wall.

58,000 men and women, young and vibrant, heard the call. 58,000 names on the wall.

<u>Show Your Pride</u>



John Carabetta, (D Co. 68-69) shows his Blackhorse pride with a Soldiers' Cross he built in memory of KIA 11th ACR Troopers.

Show Your Pride



LEFT: Eric Newton, (K Trp. 68-69) proudly displays his 11 CAV Purple Heart Plate that is protected by a trailer hitch Claymore mine. **RIGHT:** Mike Weynand, (How 1/11 67-68) shows Blackhorse pride with a vehicle he says isn't a Harley, a Corvette or a Mustang, but it gets him around the roads, byroads, and many bike trails in Wisconsin.



Honor Thy Brother

By Jody J. Fisher

Take sweet rest now, my dearest brother Go be in the arms of our mother

Live now in everlasting peace with true glory that will never cease

At last a life of being pain free Hear now taps sweet melody

Before thee now, on bended knee I pray for peace and comfort for thee

Hear now the trumpet play soft and sweet Sadly forlorn its military beat Taps is now bestowing Deep respect in hearts glowing

I hear your heavy marching feet in the drum so bittersweet

Honor is given to a hero such as you Salute to a brother in red, white and blue Pay final tribute to a true soldier and friend Stand up and salute until taps comes to an end

Angels stand at attention, hold their line As he is saluted by the honor guard one last time

Heavens honor guard makes way for him to pass Into the lord's arms he will lay at last For from the eternities, he did not die! You'll join hearts and souls again, by and by with the reunion of soldiers who finally know... The answer to goodbye is really hello.

Submitted by Kenneth L. Nelson, (M Co. 67-68)

11th ACVVC 'Silver Anniversary' Reunion REGISTRATION

By Bob Moreno, Registration Chairman, (G Troop, 68-69)

Well, here it is folks. The final Thunder Run before we celebrate this year's reunion.

I guess the most important thing that I want to say this time is that if you haven't already sent in your registration, then now is the time to get it done. Don't wait any longer, and find you have to pay a late fee. August 4th is the cut off date. After that it will be an additional \$25.

They seem to be coming in slowly this year. We have two hotels full of you all, but not too many registrations. Where are they? Please don't wait until the last minute. You have no idea how much more work that makes for us. When they come in as slowly as they have, Barb has been able to get ahead of them. And now she is bored again. She also has the meal tags done, at least for as many meals as we have so far. So let's get those registrations in. We don't want you to miss out on this wonderful event. And we definitely don't want you to have to pay a late fee.

And please remember, that if you have friends or neighbors who want to come to DC with you, that they must register with us. If they don't they will be denied access to any of our events including the bunker.

We attended an event here in Wisconsin a week ago and I happened to notice that we of the Blackhorse seem to be the only organization that has really nice shirts, or for that matter have shirts of any kind. They really stood out and made it so much easier to spot each other.

I happened to talk to a guy that was with another unit and our conversation turned to reunions. I asked him if his unit held one and he said "oh yea we do". He started to tell me about it and I was absolutely dumb founded. They have nothing for the families. In fact the only ones they "let" attend their reunions are the members themselves. No wives, no family members, no guests. When I asked him why, he replied that there was no reason for them to be there as they weren't the ones who fought with them. He also told me that all hotel registrations were up to the individual (in other words, no set hotel) and that each guy attending was expected to chip in to buy the food and beer, after they arrived. I asked what happened if they didn't get

enough to cover everything for the whole weekend and he explained that they either all chipped in more or each person was then on their own. I was shocked to say the least. I asked him how many attended each year and he told me about a dozen. I then told him about our reunions. He seemed to be quite surprised and impressed. He left with some ideas to take back to his group. I hope they do change a few things, I think they will be happier.

Well, folks we've been asked to keep things short so I better go. See you all in beautiful Washington DC.

XXV Reunion

By Steve Page, Reunion Chairman

The 2010 reunion, our 25th, is drawing near. **The primary hotel has sold out** but we do have a secondary property that will fill our needs. The hotel information for The DuPont is listed below. The hotels are in very close proximity to all major attractions. There are Metro subway stations at both hotels and will make getting around very easy. We expect to have a very large turnout for this 25th anniversary reunion. If you have not registered please do so now.

At the Membership Meeting we will select the reunion site for 2012. The city will be Orlando, Florida. We are still working on the hotels to be presented. Your vote will pick the property we will use. We will again present the best reunion possible.



REGISTRATION FORM	
Inth ACVVC Reunion XXV, WashingWednesday, 25 August thru Sunday, 29 APLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONSGrand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street NWWashington, DC 20001202-582-1234800-233-1234	August 2010
Registration fee is \$89.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at any of the so Friday night Bunker Parties and the Saturday Banquet dinner. Please register early. Deadline for registrations is <u>August 20, 2010</u>. The registration fee for registrations postmarked after August 4, 2010	
PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION (print clearly or use mailing label)	
Name	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
E-Mail Address Telephone No:	
Unit Assignment Years in Country (Example: B TRP, D CO) (I	Example: 1966-1967)
Attendees	
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
ЛВ	egistration Fee Total \$
Descript Meel Calentian (Change are calentian nor attended) Chicken Def	A Maria
Banquet Meal Selection (Choose one selection per attendee) Chicken Beef Special Dietary Needs: Yes No (Please indicate needs)	Veggie
Is this your first reunion? Yes No Wheelchair or special needs so	eating 🗖 Yes 🗖 No
KIA Relative? Yes Name of KIA:	с
□ Visa □ MasterCard Card No F	Exp. Date
Signature (Required for credit card)	
Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail Registration Form along with payment to	:
111 C/0 57	th ACVVC TREASURER D OLLIE PICKRAL 1 DITCHLEY RD .MARNOCK, VA 22482

11th ACVVC Reunion XXV, Washington, DC

Wednesday, 25 August thru Sunday, 29 August 2010

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



Schedule of Events

10:00am - 4:00pm	Registration Open	:
ТВА	Qurtermaster Store Open	ļ
Thursday, August 26		į
7:00am- ????	19th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament	-
	(optional fee per golfer)	ļ
9:00am - 6:00pm	Registration Open	S
9:00am - 5:00pm	Quartermaster Store Open	
2:00pm - 12:00am	Bunker Open	
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Veterans Seminar	
Friday, August 27		I
9:00am - 6:00pm	Registration Open	I
		re
9:00am - 5:00pm	Quartermaster Store Open	th
9:15am	Wreath Laying – Tomb of Unknown	
	Soldiers* Arlington National Cemetery	ar

Bunker Open

Silent Auction

(Members Only)

Women's Group Meeting

Annual General Membership Meeting

2:00pm - 3:00pm Memorial Service (Grand Hyatt Hotel) 2:00pm - 5:00pm **Registration Open for Late Arrivals** 3:00pm - 5:00pm Quartermaster Store Open 5:45pm - 6:45pm Cocktail Hour 7:00pm - 9:30pm Banquet, Presentations, Raffle Drawing, and "Blackhorse Salute" 9:30pm - 1:00am Dancing

Sunday, August 29

10:00am - 11:00am	Chapel Worship Service (Nondenominational)
10:00am - 2:00pm	Quartermaster Store Open
All Day	Farewells and Departures

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

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



12:00pm -12:00am

Saturday, August 28

9:00am - 12:00pm

9:00am - 12:00pm

5:00pm - 9:00pm

11th ACVVC Silent Auction Donated Items Information Form



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

Description of item donated:

Name of Donor:

Address of Donor:

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



The Iconic Huev

Chaplain's Corner

"Iconic" is a funny word. Y'know how we pick up on new words from time to time? Like, I hear people saying "ludicrous" when we used to just say "ridiculous." Or, "no problem" when we used to say "you're welcome." Well, I picked up on "iconic." I know what people mean when they say the word, but I looked it up anyway. Iconic is something that represents something else much larger than the iconic thing itself.

So, what's your best guess for what would be iconic about the whole Viet Nam War experience? You got it! I'm sure your first guess was "Yessss! The Huey helicopter!" We've talked about it before and will again now. Do you remember the whopwhop-whop! (or whap-whap-whap!)? Of course, you do. Since you were there, you've heard it many, many times. You can identify the sound of a Huey as easily as a biker can identify a Harley or a trooper can identify an AK-47 by their sound. That whop-whopwhop could be sweet or sour, depending on the circumstances when you were hearing it at the time. Such a circumstance could be a torrid fire-fight when your adrenalin was pumping and your heart was racing. You'd called in for medevacs. Now you hear that sweet sound - WHOP-WHOP-WHOP! (or whap-whap-whap). It was real nice to hear it coming. Remember? Of course, you do. Another circumstance would have been that day when your time was up. No, I don't mean the grim reaper. I mean when your ETS was close and you were leaving the field aboard that Huey slick - maybe the commanders own C & C slick (command & control, for you family members in this discussion). What a great day! What a great time, being in that Huey listening to that familiar iconic sound. You'll never forget that sound, even to this very day.

It may be hard to believe, but many of those old war horses are still around. They were well built, well designed, and well tested under fire. Many are flying as civilian medevacs for casualties in remote places, for crashes on lonely stretches of remote highways. They're used for mountain rescue and even for dropping retardant on fires in wilderness forests. I know there are plenty of newer helicopters out there now, but so are the old Hueys.

Moving on, Hueys divided into categories that were significant. First were the slicks, which you remember very, very well. It was the basic helicopter. It was called slick because it had no armament, except for a couple of M60 machine guns, one on each side. The slick was used for everything. It hauled people around like a taxi all over Viet Nam. It carried soldiers from the rear to the field, from the field to the hospital, from the reception station to wherever you were going for your year in country, etc. Slicks also hauled gear such as chow in mermite cans or cases of C rations (sorry I reminded you of Cs, but they were there and I know you remember them). Slicks also flew the ole man when a fire fight was happening - that was the C & C chopper (it wasn't a Harley chopper, it was a Huey). That was so he could see everything and know what to command - a very practical concept, now that you mention it.

Some slicks were really slick - the medevacs. They couldn't even have machine guns on their sides. The Geneva Convention ruled that. Our side was the good guys so we abided by the Geneva Convention which said that medical people were supposed to be unarmed (this applied to chaplains too). Trouble is, the bad guys didn't always (didn't usually) abide by the rules, but we won't go down that road. Anyway, the medevac slicks had big red crosses on the sides and top so it was crystal clear that they were medical Hueys. They were a beautiful sight when you needed then to haul out casualties, yourself included if you were a casualty.

There was another kind of Huey that was very common in Viet Nam. I'll add that they were always very welcome too, very welcome, especially if you were out in the bush and under fire. We're talking about the Huey gunship. If you're a family member in this discussion, you might not know the difference between a slick and a gunship. However, if you're a trooper who was out there, you sure know. So you, the trooper, can explain the difference to your family member and why the difference was so important. For our discussion here and now, I'll say that the difference was what the name "gunship" implies, it was "loaded for bear." They were heavily armed. Different gunships weren't always armed exactly the same, according to my remembrance. Most that I remember had several machine guns mounted on swivels at each side of the helicopter. Some, especially the team leader, carried rocket pods with many deadly rockets on each side. A few were mounted with grenade launchers which popped grenades machine gun style out the nose (the gunship's nose, of course). All carried two gunners (a crew chief and a door gunner). Older model Huey gunships had regular machine guns, which I mentioned. The newer gunships that I remember had mini-guns. They were a smaller caliber that could fire thousands of rounds a minute. They were very fearsome. Actually, all gunships were very fearsome, if you were the bad guy. That's why the troop-

Continued >>

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.

Manassas, VA 20112.	
Name:	
Old Address:	
City:	State:Zip:
New Address:	
City:	State:Zip:
Phone	Effective Date:
•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	



<u>Welcome Aboard!</u>

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
HHT REGIMENT Tommie C Brown Lester A Culver Jr John L Hoefler Garland W Howell Omer E Pigeon Jr AIR CAVALRY TROO Thomas R Manley	70-71	Richard Schiraldi HHT, 1/11 Darryl D Dismuke Gary B Goldsmith Michael P Johnson Dennis Murphy Lewis S Prioleau A TROOP, 1/11	67-67 66-67 69-70 70-71 68-69 65-67	Michael H Norris Limmie Thompson Jr E TROOP, 2/11 Max E Hager Jr Michael H Norris Larry W Roberts Warren D Schafer James E Ward	68-68 66-67 71-71 67-68 69-75 66-67 71-71	HHT, 3/11 Gerald L Griep Manuel Jurado Freddy J Kaywood Randolph M Large Howard D Rosenbaum Porter C Sherman Charles J Stalmah Robert V Yeager	66-67 70-71 69-70 69-70 70-70 68-69 67-68 69-69
David E Watkins 9TH SIGNAL DET Jerry L Cloyd 27TH ENGINEER BI Thomas R Hicklin	67-68	Reid T Fujishige66B TROOP, 1/11Gary B Goldsmith69Robert J Mowery67Robert E White68C TROOP, 1/11Gerald P Desoto66Juan L Duran67George W Greiner69	69-70 66-67 69-70 67-68	F TROOP, 2/11 Arlie F Carrier III Steve R Gonzalez Franklin R Green Kenneth E Plummer	71-71 68-69 67-68 67-68	I TROOP, 3/11 Thomas R Dion Thomas R Dion Roger L Parker	65-67 70-71 70-71
31ST ENGINEER BI James H Rice 37TH MEDICAL CO Philip S Mendelson David W Thomas	69-70		68-69 66-67 67-68 69-70	G TROOP, 2/11 Turner L Dorton Ralf R Koeller Myron K Stabler H COMPANY, 2/11	70-70 66-67 70-72	K TROOP, 3/11 Robert L Harris Jr Soloman Jenkins Steve F McClendon Tony Puglisi	69-69 67-68 70-71 67-67
398TH TRANS DET Jon W Cameron 409th RR DET Dennis W Curp		Leon L Langway D COMPANY, 1/11 Raymond I Greenslit William J Loth III Lavarn Slade	66-67 70-71 66-67 69-70	Steven Cameron Kenneth E Plummer Walter Resty Donald R Saari HOW BTRY, 2/11	69-69 67-67 67-68 68-68	L TROOP, 3/11 Jimmy L Bailey Robert L Harris Jr Windell R Roberts Paul E Snyder Jr	69-71 68-69 69-70 68-69
Octavio Shields 919TH ENGINEER C James C Aldridge 1/11 Howard L Hoover	68-69 68-69 68-69 67-67	HOW BTRY, 1/11 Thomas E Bullock Richard L Bumgarner HHT, 2/11 Sheldon Franklin	70-70 70-71 71-71	Oscar Ali Richard L Bumgarner Robert J Kelly Olen W Mustain Martin Vivar	71-71 67-68 66-67 71-72 70-71	M COMPANY, 3/11 Iwao K Nagata Charles J Stalmah HOW BTRY, 3/11 Robert A Griffith Jr William H Knauer	66-67 67-68 68-68 67-68

CHAPLAIN (continued)

ers on the ground liked having them around. In the Blackhorse we had an Air Cav Troop that had an awesome arsenal of gunships and crews.

I'll mention, as an aside here, that we called a helicopter a helicopter. Like I said already, pilots and crews also called them rotary wing aircraft because the main rotor was actually a rotating wing. Naturally, regular airplanes were called fixed wing aircraft. Guess why - you got it - because the wings stayed put. They didn't rotate like a helicopter and didn't flap like a bird. We never, never called them "helos," or "copters." I hear them called that by NCIS on TV or in the paper. No offense, but that sounds kind of funny to me. I can't knock it, of course,

because some are Marines who say that. But that's not what we called helicopters. Some might have called them "choppers" once in a while, but not very often.

That's about all I have to say about Hueys for now. I know that the whop-whop-whop sound can produce strong reactions and bring back all sorts of memories among Viet Nam vets to this very day. That's something we need to recognize and deal with. And we do. But we don't have time to go into detail today, so let's agree to talk about it later or when we see each other wherever that might be.

My time's up. But, as you know, I always finish off with something from the Bible,

God's Holy Word. Here are a few verses that fit our discussion that I think you'll appreciate: "The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:28b-31)

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

Chaplain Larry Haworth LEHaworth@aol.com

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Circle of Honor and Memorial Bricks

UPDATE By Allen Hathaway

Orders are being taken for the next group of bricks to be placed in the Circle of Honor at the 11th Cavalry Memorial. Only 35 blank bricks remain to be inscribed in the final section of the Circle of Honor. If you have not ordered a memorial brick this is an excellent opportunity to do so. Bricks are a very special way to honor your service to the regiment and to show your support of the 11th Cavalry Memorial. We are now offering a new miniature, half size replica of the memorial bricks. Miniatures are inexpensive special keepsakes that show your support of the 11th Cavalry Memorial. Miniatures can be displayed with other memorabilia from your service. Miniatures are made of composite material that closely resembles the full size granite bricks. Two sizes are available: $2" \times 4"$ (\$20.00) or $4" \times 8"$ (\$30.00). Inscription guidelines are the same as the full size granite bricks. Each line accommodates a maximum of 15 characters,

					Bric	k Oro	der F	orm						
Instructions: Print your message in the boxes below exactly as you want your brick to appear. Be sure to leave a blank box between words. Each line accommodates a <u>maximum of 15 characters</u> , including blank boxes and punctuation (commas, periods, hyphens). If ordering more than one brick, photocopy this form or use a separate sheet of paper.														
LINE 1:														
LINE 2:														
LINE 3:														
		(1	Jse Li	ines 4	and	5 for	8" x 8	" x 2	" bric	ks or	ıly)			_
LINE 4:														
LINE 5:														
NAME:	_							PH	ONE:					_
ADDRESS:												 		
ADDRESS:														
 8" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$175 enclosed 8" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$85 enclosed with 3 additional payments of \$30 in 3, 6, and 9 months (\$85 + 3 x \$30 = \$175). Bricks will be inscribed when amount paid in full. 2" x 4" x 1/2" Miniature Replica Brick - \$20 enclosed 4" x 4" x 1/2" Miniature Replica Brick - \$30 enclosed 														
Visa MasterCard #														
	Signature (Required for Credit Card):													
Granite bricks will be placed at the memorial in September 2010. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of miniature replica bricks. Please make checks/money orders payable to: 11th ACVVC . Mail this form with your check, money order, or credit card (no cash) to: 11th ACVVC Treasurer, C/O Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd, Kilmarnock, VA 22482														

including spaces and punctuation (commas, periods, hyphens, slashes and dashes). The order form has been updated to include the miniature bricks. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery for miniatures. Price includes shipping.

The 11th Cavalry Memorial is a place to honor all Blackhorse troopers from all campaigns. In May a bronze plaque was added listing the names of men who were killed while serving with the 11th Cavalry Group in World War II. In the near future a plaque will be

added to honor the men of the Philippine Insurrection

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

They were our buddies, our friends and our comrades-in-arms. It is up to us to preserve their honor. They shall not be forgotten. Do your part to help this worthwhile project.

11th ARMORED CAVALRY MEMORIAL RESTORATION DONATIONS

The memorial restoration at Fort Knox, KY, is still ongoing. There are granite bricks available for purchase and we encourage your continued support of this worthwhile project. Troopers and their families have purchased bricks to honor the service of family members and friends. The next group of bricks will be placed at the memorial in late Summer 2009. Approximately 200 bricks are available for purchase. Order forms can be found on our website under "Brick Order Form."

The 11th ACVVC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals and groups, to include B Troop and Air Cavalry Troop, who have purchased bricks between January 16, 2010 and July 1, 2010.

- John J. Beas
- David J. Bravi
- Wesley C. Burk
- Chester K. Fenner
- Ronald L. Fuller
- Larry S. Gilliam
- Rocky W. Hand
- Duane A. Javoroski
- Charles E. Johnson
- F. Edward Jones
- Rubin A. Kremling
- Ken D. Nielsen
- Eladio M. Quinones
- Daniel D. Stroia

- Peter L. Walter
- Arthur Bass 11th Cavalry World War II
- Donnie Bradley in memory of John P. Bradley
- Jeffrey R. Brand in honor of Robbin D. Brand
- Dick Ferry in memory of Barry Scott
- Wayne J. Mollhoff in honor of Zane Arpan
- David H. Rhone 11th Cavalry World War II
- Susan Kelley and Harold Stines in memory of Billie Hilliker
- Daniel Stroia in honor of Alonzo Wilson
- Peter L. Walter in memory of Lewis Walter
- Peter L. Walter in memory of Gerald Mladjen
- Linda Wooley in memory of Roy G. Wooley



Update 11th ACVVC Scholarship

By Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Committee Chairman

I received a total of twenty-four scholarship applications by the May 15th deadline this year. All of the applicants are children of our members. Seventeen applicants are female and seven are males. The youngest applicant is seventeen years of age and the oldest is forty-two. It is also interesting to note that most of the applicants are in the "traditional" college age bracket (17-24 years of age). The twenty-four applications come from seventeen different States with Florida having the most applicants (four).

These scholarship applicants have a wide variety of academic interests. Some of the fields of study they plan to pursue include: Pre-Med, Education, Psychology, Political Science, Computer Science and Architecture.

An independent panel of judges is currently reviewing these applications and will rate each applicant according to the formula described in the Scholarship Guidelines. After the 11ACVVC Board of Directors determines the number of scholarships we are able to award this year, I will notify the scholarship winners. Those not qualifying for an award will be notified as well and encouraged to apply again next year. A complete list of scholarship winners will be published in the 4th Quarter issue of *Thunder Run*.



<u>Women's Corner</u>

Well, reunion is getting closer and closer. And we here at the Moreno home are getting more and more anxious.

The Dupont Hotel is our overflow hotel and it is a really nice hotel also, and is located near a lot of the Embassies. It is less than two miles from the reunion hotel, is a fairly easy walk and is right on the Metro line. It is advisable to all, no matter which hotel you are in, to leave your car behind or parked (cheapest at the airport) and use the Metro. The metro is very easy to use and very economical too. And can be a lot of fun. We will have a large map posted at the reunion as to what routes go where. You can also see the map and schedules at: www. wmata.com. You can also contact me and I will help you. Please don't let the DC traffic keep you from attending. If you have any questions about what route to take to get where it is you want to go, just ask. Raleigh and I spent a day in April exploring how to locate various places so we should be able to help you and the Metro is handicap accessible.

I want to remind all of you ladies, that we will be having a white elephant (aka-Blackhorse) at our meeting. This should prove to be a lot of fun. Just bring an unwrapped gift to exchange. This gift can be new or just something you have around the house that you want to find a new home for (you know, like that purple polka dotted letter opener covered in fake jewels, that you know you will never use but your mother in law gave it to you, and so you smiled sweetly and said - this is what I always wanted). It should have a value of no more than \$10. Should be interesting!

We have been asked by Dan Stroia who is the Honor Guard Director to be a connection to the widows of our troopers who have passed. When he is notified of a troopers passing, he also notifies me so that I may either send a card on behalf of the Women of the Blackhorse and/or give the family a condolence call. Of course if they live not far from us, then we will by all means try to attend the I would also like to know if any of you ladies were in the service also. I recently joined the WACVA (Women's Army Corps Veterans of America) and am trying to locate other women veterans of any branch of the service.

funeral and visit with the family. I think this is a wonderful idea so I readily accepted the task. I have also been asked to please remind you ladies to be sure that your family members know who to notify. This can be found in the Thunder Run. We have made a copy of the dog tags that are shown and have given them to our children. They either keep them with their important papers or in their wallets. Either way they know where they are and who to contact.

I want to also remind you to check out the Ladies table when you check in. We will have towels, key chain/flashlights, pens, and water bottles. We only have a limited supply of all these items, so shop early.

I also want to let you know that, concerning the water bottles, none of the buildings in Washington allow you to bring in ANY liquids or food items. When Raleigh and I were there this spring we found out about this the hard way and had to gulp down two bottles of water in a hurry so as not to waste it, and then I forgot that I had two oranges in my bag. The guards threw them away. They are very strict about this rule. In fact the lady behind us in line at one place had to pour out her child's baby formula. So get a water bottle from the Ladies of the Blackhorse, fill it and then if you have to pour it out it will be a lot less than having to pour out a bottle of water that cost you 2 or 3 dollars. Once you are inside you can refill it from a fountain, over and over again. If by chance we are out of any of the water bottles, we will have order forms that you can place an order for them. You will be required to pay in advance for the bottle plus a shipping charge. They are

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

really nice. I have been using mine ever since they got here and I just love it.

Many of the states are having Welcome Home events for the veterans of the Viet Nam War. Bob and I have attended one in Green Bay WI and are attending one in Grand Rapids Michigan over the 4th of July. If your state is having such a celebration please let me know as Bob and I would like to attend as many of them as we possibly can.

I would also like to know if any of you ladies were in the service also. I recently joined the WACVA (Women's Army Corps Veterans of America) and am trying to locate other women veterans of any branch of the service. So if you are a female vet please let me know.

Also at our women's meeting this year, we will be talking about a program that Kathy and I have located to assist soldiers in or returning from combat. If you have the name and address of someone overseas in combat, please let one of us know. To learn more about this program be sure to attend the meeting. It is held the same time as the men's meeting (and remember NO women are allowed in their meeting, only the men who are registered members of the 11th ACVVC. NO women or guests) so why not join us for a fun time. ALL women are welcome. The more the merrier. We will also be talking about the possibility of having an outing for our women's meeting next year in St. Louis. Your input is important so please join us.

Our son Raleigh is interested in going on a Ghost Tour in Washington on Friday night. He doesn't really want to go alone and is looking for others who might also be interested in going. Just contact me for more information if this interests you or someone who is with you and I will send you the information about it. It would be fun if a group got together and went. Who knows what or whom you may run into?

Well I guess that's it. So all that's left to say is "see you all in DC."

Barb Moreno Women's Director 11th ACVVC Puppytoes@charter.net



From the 63rd Colonel of the Regiment

This spring the Blackhorse successfully helped trained the 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment from Fort Hood, Texas before a much deserved Block Leave period. Summer has finally arrived to the High Mojave Desert and as the temperatures rose the Troopers prepared for a July rotation with 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division from Fort Riley, Kansas followed by 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division from Fort Knox, Kentucky. Additionally on 30 June we conducted both Regimental and Squadron Changes of Command and Changes of Responsibility.

In early April the RCSM and I visited the 1-144 Fires Battalion in Kosovo. The "Mustangs" were deployed as part of our Nation's close-out stability force in Kosovo and were true examples of the dedication and hard work that are characteristics of our Regiment.

For April we welcomed the 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division. The 3rd ID "Dogface" Soldiers left well prepared for the rigors of combat and the unforgiving heat of the Iraqi desert. In May, we hosted our fellow Cavalry brothers, the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment "Brave Rifles," from Fort Hood, Texas. True to their cavalry heritage, the Brave Rifles performed gallantly against our determined and vigilant Contemporary Operational Environment Forces.

At the completion of training we were thrilled to join together with our Cavalry brothers in a traditional "Lucky 16" celebra-

<u>Show Your Pride</u>

tion. All the troopers had the opportunity to join together and honor their Cavalry heritage. We presented the Brave Rifles with a framed Blackhorse #11 football jersey and Blackhorse branding iron. We were delighted to receive a framed print of "The Battle of Rosebud Creek". Overall, it was a fantastic event for both Regiments.

On 30 June, I relinquished command to COL Antonio A. Aguto Jr. Additionally 1st and 2nd Squadrons also changed commanders and command sergeants major. The Regimental Support Squadron also changed commanders. It certainly was a great event and we were pleased that many of you were be able to attend.

As I completed my tenure with the Regiment, rest assured that it has been the highest honor and privilege of my 24 year career to command the Blackhorse. This historic Regiment continues to live up to the title



Commissioned Officers, and Officers of the Blackhorse are some of the best that I have had

the opportunity to serve with. Because of them and your continued support this Regiment will always succeed.

As always, if you are, or will be, in the southern California area, you are all more than welcome to come and pay us a visit. We always have a great time hosting the Veterans and Families of the Regiment.

From here, I will deploy to Afghanistan where I will serve as the military advisor to the Afghan Minister of Defense. But no matter the position or post I will always be Blackhorse! Giddy Up!

Allons! 63

The Family of KIA Trooper Raymond Crowder

The family of Trooper Raymond D. Crowder Jr. (K Trp KIA June,19, 1967) who attended our Memorial Day gathering and come to the Wall every year is pictured at right. (L to R) Raymond's brother Steve, Raymond's nephew Steve, Steve's wife Gina, and Steve and Gina's son Caton in the carriage. (Photo courtesy of Bill Karabinos)





Fred T. Kitzmiller Jr., (M Co. 67-68) shows his Blackhorse pride on his handicapped van



Jerry Williamson left, (D Co. 68-69) and Ron Krueger right, (HHT, 1/11 66-67) proudly display Thunder Run Street (which they recently discovered in Irvine, CA) and Blackhorse jacket to show pride.

Thunder Run

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

Robert C. Allen, HHT, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 16, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Live Oak, FL.

Fiddler's Green

- John A. Baiata, 919th Engineer Company (1969-1970) passed away on May 16, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Farmingville, NY. He was laid to rest in Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY.
- Warren W. Bair, 541st Military Intelligence Detachment (1970) passed away on April 11, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Niotaze, KS. He was laid to rest in Fairview Cemetery, Niotaze, KS.
- Everett D. Branson, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 21, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbus, GA.
- **Charles H. Christian**, C Troop, 1/11 (1970) passed away on May 23, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kenly, NC. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.
- **Howard Cutter**, USAF TAC attached to 11 ACR (1966-1967) passed away on April 13, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waconia, MN. He was laid to rest in Ft. Snelling National Cemetery, South Minneapolis, MN.
- Jerry L. Daniel, F Troop, 2/11 (1SGT, 1967-1968) passed away on January 7, 2010. He resided in Coutland, MS. He was laid to rest in Forrest Memorial Park, Batesville, MS. Jerry was also a veteran of the Korean War.
- James R. Deardorff, C Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 2, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Nappanee, IN. He was laid to rest in Union Center Cemetery, Nappanee, IN.
- **O'Dell L. Ervin**, A Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 27, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in London, WV.
- Virgil C. Farnsworth, HHT, 2/11 (1968) passed away on February 26, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Inman, SC.
- Michael A. Forti, HHT Regiment (1970-1971) passed away on April 4, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Batavia, NY. He was laid to rest in Saint Joseph Cemetery, Batavia, NY.
- **Ronald L. Fuller**, HHT, 2/11 (1970-1972) passed away on April 12, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hedgesville, WV. He was laid to rest in Cedar Lawn Memorial Park, Hagerstown, Md.
- Kenneth L. Gardner, L Troop, 3/11 (1969) passed away on May 5, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oroville, CA.
- **Richard L. Gibbs**, E Troop, 2/11 (1969) passed away on May 26, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fort Gratiot, MI. He was laid to rest in Burtchville Township Cemetery, Burtchville, MI.

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



- John P. Hill, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 8, 2009. He resided in Medina, OH. He was laid to rest in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman, OH.
- Billie M. Hilliker, I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 19, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mason, MI.
- Larry W. Hobgood, 919th Engineer Company (1967-1968) passed away on March 27, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Shepherd, TX. He was laid to rest in Houston National Cemetery, Houston, TX.
- **Dale L. IIg**, 919th Engineer Company (1968-1970) passed away on February 7, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Colton, OR.
- William P. Johnson, 37th Medical Company (1967-1968) passed away on April 4, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dunwoody, GA.
- **Franklin D. Kearney,** 919th Engineer Company (1967-1968) passed away on January 15, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Topeka, KS.
- **Russell E. Keller**, HHT, 1/11 (1969) passed away on February 7, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Toledo, OH.
- Gene G. Lanoux, C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on March 29, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Slidell, LA.
- **Ronald L. Lewis**, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 13, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mountain Home, AR. He was laid to rest in Howard Ridge Cemetery, Gainesville, MO.
- Harry J. Martin, I Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on April 30, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cumming, GA. He was laid to rest in Sawnee View Gardens, Cumming, GA.
- James T. McCormick, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on April 2, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Santa Rosa, CA. He was laid to rest in Santa Rosa Memorial Park, Santa Rosa, CA.
- Joel L. Miller, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on April 19, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Commerce Township, MI. He was laid to rest in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI.
- William T. Moorer, M Company, 3/11 (1968) passed away on January 10, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Covington, TN. He was laid to rest in West Tennessee Veterans Cemetery, Memphis, TN.
- Timothy S. Nye, M Company, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 13, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lakewood, WA. He was laid to rest in Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA.
- James D. O'Malley, E Troop, 2/11 (1970) passed away on March 26, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Westerly, RI.
- **Burton G. Parker**, HHT Regiment (1970-1971) passed away on May 20, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Boydton, VA.
- Larry D. Penrose, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 24, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Commercial Point, OH.
- Paul A. Peters (AKA Pietrzak), C Troop, 1/11 and HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 19, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Williamsville, NY.
- Richard L. Potter, HHT, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 2, 2010. He resided in Bolivar, MO.

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- Kenneth W. Ranes, HHT, 1/11 (1969) passed away on May 15, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Roeland Park, KS. He was laid to rest in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens, Kansas City, MO.
- **Donald R. Reynolds**, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 30, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Richmond, VA. He was laid to rest in Virginia Veterans Cemetery At Amelia, Amelia, VA.
- Albert J. Robertson, I Troop, 3/11 (1967-1969) passed away on May 8, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brandon, MS.
- James A. Rohrer, Air Cavalry Troop (1970) passed away on March 29, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Satellite Beach, FL.

Wendell W. Stephens, 398th Transportation Detachment (1969-1970) passed away on April 3, 2010. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Williamsburg, KY. He was laid to rest in Whitley Memorial Gardens, Williamsburg, KY.

Francis J. Stinner, G Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 16, 2010. He resided in Clark, NJ and was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC. He was laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery, Brielle, NJ. He is also a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

John W. Swerchek, HHT Regiment (1967-1968) passed away on May 3, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fredericksburg, VA. He was laid to rest in Round Oak Baptist Church Cemetery, Fredericksburg, VA.

- Ralph H. Toney, I Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 7, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pelham, NC. He was laid to rest in Lively Stones Baptist Church Cemetery, Reidsville, NC.
- **Ronald K. Vice**, M Company, 3/11 (1969) passed away on January 27, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Byram, MS.
- **Oliver B. Westry**, HHT Regiment (1966-1967) passed away on April 4, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cincinnati, OH. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.
- Kenneth W. Wilson, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 17, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Smithdale, MS. He was laid to rest in Ramah Baptist Church Cemetery, Brookhaven, MS.

So that his brethren shall know...

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

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 I Ith 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(Troop,Sqdn)	DATES: F	ROM	_TO
(Troop,Sqdn)		(Mo/Yr)	(Mo/Yr)
SER NO RANK (during tour)	SSN NO		_
OTHER INFORMATION			
TYPE MEMBERSHIP: 🔲 NEW			3ER
ANNUAL (\$15)	LIFE (\$100)		
🗍 LIFE Plan (\$25 e	nclosed, plus 3 payme	nts of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 m	onths)
IN ADDITION, PLEASE ACCEPT MY TAX D	EDUCTIBLE CONTR	BUTION FOR \$	
I authorize the release of my address/phon	e number to other T	roopers who served wit	h the 11th ACR
(Sign)			
Visa D Mastercard Card #			Exp. Date
Signature			
Please make checks/money orders payable to: 11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickra			
	a, 57 i Dittiney hu.	, Minianiouk, VA 2240	£.

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#38b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



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Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian • During Operation Atlanta (20 October to 8 December 1966), the Regiment used an average of 35,487 gallons of gasoline (MOGAS) and 21,216 gallons of diesel every week. Let's see – in 1966, fuel cost about 32 cents a gallon, so that would be over \$18,000 dollars a week just to fill up the tank and go to work. At today's rate of about \$3 a gallon, that would be really expensive – around \$170,000 a week, just for gas and diesel.

• From the 13 December 1967 edition of The Old Reliable, the newspaper published by the 9th Infantry Division (under whose operational control the Blackhorse Regiment was then operating): "The Vietnamese detainee said nothing at first, but his eyes widened and his jaw loosened as the American began asking him questions in Vietnamese. Although the detainee was surprised, the reaction was nothing new to Captain Roger T. McLeod, commanding officer of Troop E of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's Squadron. McLeod 2d learned Vietnamese in 1964 at the Army Language Institute in Monterey, Calif. He beefed up the basics with a 19 month MACV [Military Assistance Command Vietnam] hitch, spending 10 months as Psychological Warfare civic actions advisor in the Bien Hoa sector, and 9 months as advisor to the 1st Troop of the 1st ARVN [Army of the Republic of Vietnam] Armored Cavalry Squadron... McLeod believes his language ability gives him a big advantage during search operations, even though his troop has a Vietnamese interpreter. 'By talking to the detainees as they are brought in, I can pinpoint good suspects for this interpreter and the interrogation team,' he explained. 'Besides, it provides somewhat of a shock value. Usually, I must repeat what I say at first, not because they don't understand, but because they don't believe an American can speak their language. It demands their respect and provides an added element of authority.'... During one search operation, a young girl brought her baby to him and said: 'The baby and I are hungry.' Realizing it was 1

Making mealtime memorable for Charlie. In mid-1968, the Squadron Howitzer Batteries began to employ a technique called "Breakfast Interdiction" and "Supper Interdiction."

p.m. and the people hadn't eaten, he sent one woman from each family back home to bring out enough food for the rest of the family."

· Making mealtime memorable for Charlie. In mid-1968, the Squadron Howitzer Batteries began to employ a technique called "Breakfast Interdiction" and "Supper Interdiction." The reasoning behind the choice of meal times for these artillery fires was that most US artillery units stopped firing H&I - Harassment and Interdiction - missions at daybreak and spent the next hour or so getting ready for the day's mission. Similarly, most US artillery units were busy plotting friendly locations and defensive concentrations in the late afternoon-early evening. Thus, Charlie, being a keen observer of GIs' habits, used these times to emerge from his tunnels, spider holes, and bunkers to prepare food, hold meetings, and plan the day's or night's activities. In the words of the official Regimental after action report for the period August to October 1968: "He feels relatively safe being above ground as long as there are no aircraft in the area." The "Breakfast" and "Supper" interdiction missions were designed to catch Charlie above ground and spoil his appetite. The official report does not say how effective these fire missions were.

• During Operation Atlas Wedge in mid-March 1969, contact with the enemy was both frequent and ferocious. Together, First and Third Squadrons completely emptied the Lai Khe ammunition supply point of 7.62mm linked (for the M-60s on the ACAV's and the M-73 coax machine guns on the M48s) and mini-gun (for the helicopter gunships) ammunition – in just two days! The logisticians in charge of the ammo supply point had anticipated the operation and had tripled their normal three-day stocks. Unfortunately, they used an infantry brigade, not an armored cavalry regiment, as the basis for their forecast. As a result, emergency resupply ammunition had to be flown in by Chinook on a daily basis during the remaining four days of the operation.

• From the June 1970 edition of the Blackhorse Newspaper: "There is nothing that the thing can't go through,' said Specialist 4 Brett S. Miller of the 919th Engineers. Miller operates a rome plow for the Blackhorse Regiment, and he would have it no other way. 'I love it. It's big and I like to drive big equipment,' he said. 'I think everyone, when he was a kid, wanted to operate some heavy equipment. Well, I got that wish.' Miller and his rome plow most frequently are found somewhere out in the jungle, busting through the brush and trees, cutting a road. He and his machine can cut through a medium-weight jungle at four miles per hour. 'In fairly thick jungle, I can move through it and cut it down faster than a man can run through it,' he said. A rome plow is basically a bulldozer with a sharp blade. In contrast to a bulldozer, a rome plow cuts through everything in front of it instead of digging it out. On one side of the blade is a stinger. When Miller encounters a tree too thick, the stinger, a flat piece of metal, can just break it off with brute force. Rome plows have cages over the operator's seat to protect against falling trees that have been cut. When the earth is soft, a rome plow can also be used to push up a berm as a bulldozer. When Miller entered the Army, he asked f he could work on heavy equipment. He wound up in Germany as a mail clerk. He tried again when he was assigned to Vietnam. 'I finally got my dream,' he said, smiling."



<u>Quartermaster</u>

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From the Quartermaster...

Hello to all BLACKHORSE Troopers.

Well guys there are only a few days left and we will all be on our way to Washington D.C. for our 25th Reunion. This is going to be a big one. Jan and I are looking forward to everyone there, and all our 1st timers.

We will be closing the Q.M. Store again on August 8th so we can get ready to move the store. So any orders that come in will not be filled until after the Reunion.

Again we are still asking for volunteers who may have some extra time to spare to come down and lend us a hand in the store.

Jerry Beamon

We could use all the help we can get. Just to wait on customers is all we ask, so come on by and see what is going on.

Lastly don't forget to put your phone number and your shirt sizes on your order form. We still have a lot of guys who forget this and this makes it hard for us to fill an order. Our **order forms have been changing** from time to time and our prices have changed some so *please* use the most recent form from the latest *Thunder Run* issue. We have sold out of some items and are not carrying them any more.

Allons, Jerry

QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: Past reunion golf shirts: Chicago 2008 in size large only and Louisville 2007 in x large and xx large, \$15.00.



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

