



Thunder Run

Vol. 37- NO. 3

"Together Then – Together Again"

3rd Quarter, 2022

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

Military Order of the Purple Heart honors Richard C. Quinn

Richie Quinn's family with the flag of MOPH Rich Quinn Chapter 004. Liz is in the front row of the right-side group in the black & white print dress. Her four daughters are behind her.



June 14, 2022, VFW Post #6493, Warminster, PA by Pete Walter

Douglas A. Post – Harry C. Wilson II, VFW Post #6493 was the setting for a Celebration of Life and MOPH Chapter naming ceremony in honor of the late Richard Coyle Quinn.

Richie Quinn, H Company, 2/11 ACR, 1966-1967 passed away January 19, 2022. He was born and raised in New York City and after his honorable discharge, he followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather and became a New York City Police Officer. A few years after retiring

Please turn to **Quinn** on page 3

WO Evans' Stained Glass Window

Warrant Officer and Air Cav Troop helicopter pilot, Thomas John Evans, Jr., died on 1 March 1967, as a result of enemy fire that downed his helicopter on 28 February 1967. He was twenty years old.

WO Evans sustained a fatal gunshot wound to the head. The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment lost one of its stalwarts that day, an outstanding trooper awarded: the Distinguish Flying Cross, Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Aviator's Badge, Good Conduct Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and an engraved place of honor on the Vietnam Wall (Panel 15E, Line 127). His place in the hearts and minds of his family, among his

Blackhorse brothers, and his countrymen, is eternal.

WO Thomas John Evans is also uniquely honored in a Hampton Roads church. His actual physical likeness, garbed as St. Michael the Archangel, radiates from a stained-glass window in the Emmanuel Episcopal Church on East Mercury Boulevard, in Hampton, Virginia, midway between Fortress Monroe and the Langley Air Force Base.

Not only does the powerful image of St. Michael feature the face-profile of



Please turn to **EVANS** on page 4

3rd Quarter 2022

State of the Reunion

As of this writing we are 90 days away from our 37th reunion. There is not much more info I can give you about activities during the reunion. Hotel reservations have been at a steady pace for the last 5 months and continue to rise. Reunion registrations are a bit behind the hotel numbers, a scenario I can't fully explain but are also making gains. Please don't wait to make plans, we need to have all necessary info in as soon as we can. The following info is still valid.

**The 37th 11th ACCVC Annual Reunion
September 5th-11th, 2022
Birmingham Sheraton
2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203**

Reservations by phone-205-324-5000. Be sure to tell the reservations agent that you are with the 11th ACVVC, group code VET

**For Reservations online go to:
<https://book.passkey.com/event/50238985/owner/16607/home>**

The room rate is \$125 + taxes per night, good for 3 days prior to the 5th and 3 days after the 11th. Parking is \$8 per night.

**Hotel reservation cut off is Aug. 8,
Reunion registration fee is \$100,
the cut off is Aug. 8, 2022**

Reunion registrations cancelled after August 29, 2022, cannot be refunded. This is the date all numbers must be submitted to the hotel and funds are committed. Please abide by these dates, it makes the Officer's and BOD's jobs much easier and saves you money. If you cancel later than Aug. 29 your registration fee must stay in the reunion account. Cancellations prior to that will be refunded or moved to the account of your choice.

Please turn to **REUNION** on page 3





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

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

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QUINN from page 1

from the NYPD, he and his wife Elizabeth (Liz) and their four daughters, Denise, Valerie, Patricia, and Kimberly would relocate to Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He would join the Bucks County Courthouse Security Team and work with Office of Bucks County Children and Youth until his retirement in 2009.

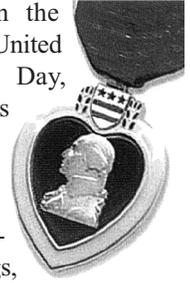
Richie was a decorated combat veteran of the Vietnam War, receiving the Bronze Star w/ "V" Device and the Purple Heart for wounds received in battle on March 23, 1967. He was an active member of the VFW, VVA, DAV, 11th ACVVC and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter #004 in Bucks County. In these organizations, Richie was also known as "Reliable Rich", the guy who

was always there when a veteran or their family was in need. Always quick and eager to donate time, effort or money, the quiet, soft-spoken ex-cop and Blackhorse Trooper was known throughout the Bucks County veteran's community as the go-to-guy when you needed help.

Richie knew the cost of war and his service as a Blackhorse Trooper and NY cop served him well, strengthening his inherent compassion and reinforcing the empathy and understanding he showed to his fellow veterans. His own life was spent battling hearing loss, tinnitus, PTSD, and in his later years multiple Agent Orange caused cancers...and yet, he never complained.

As a tribute from his comrades in MOPH Chapter #004, it was a fitting and

proper action when on the 247th birthday of the United States Army and Flag Day, MOPH Chapter #004 was named "Rich Quinn Chapter #004". Guests offered comments and memories of Rich, including those from his siblings, wife, and daughter. It was a great day and a great honor for a great man!



Members of Richie's family are shown with the chapters new flag. His wife Liz Quinn is in the black and white print dress in the front row of the group on the right.

(Editors note: I was asked to provide a eulogy and was honored to do so. Richie and Liz Quinn and children are and will always be good friends.)

REUNION from page 1

Service dogs are welcome but please bring all your valid documentation to avoid any unnecessary questioning. Pets are allowed for \$50/night, max of 2.

We do get a 20% discount in select hotel outlets. This seems to be overlooked each year so either copy or cut from the *Thunder Run*, the **11th ACVVC Discount Coupon** below.

This coupon will also be in your registration pack. Please remember to use it, just your ID tag may not be enough. Do not turn it over to the Server, it is good for as many times as you want to use it during the reunion dates. Please tip as though there is no discount. Servers will not proactively give you the discount if it cuts into their gratuity. Handwritten coupons will not be accepted.

Even though Covid 19 and its variants are still prominent in the news it seems that the worst of the Pandemic is behind us, and we are planning to have another great reunion. The turnout last year in Dallas was proof that you, the members, and families,

are still up to getting together and having a great time. We had 600 in attendance, down from past reunions but is probably the approximate number expected for the future. We are getting older, and travel is a little harder to deal with and more members are going to Fiddlers Green, so don't put off coming to reunions until next year.

There are 6 restaurants just outside the entrance to the hotel all with different menus and prices. Among the many things to see and do in Birmingham is the Barber Vintage Motorcycle Museum, a really cool place and a must see. The Museum has agreed to reduce the price of entry for the 11th ACCVC, just show your reunion ID tag our tell them you are with us. The Barons Double A baseball team will be in town the week of our reunion. Ticket prices as of today range from \$10 to \$20 depending on where you chose to sit, all games are in the evening. They can be purchased online at Barons@Barons.com or at the park. There will be a schedule available at the Reunion Registration desk with more info. There is the Alabama Veterans Memorial, Vulcan

Park and Museum (I recommend seeing this and taking the guided tour), a Baseball Museum, Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, the oldest baseball park in the U.S., several botanical gardens, a Zoo, several Civil Rights historical sites and a museum of flight featuring the Tuskegee Airmen.

Scooters will again be made available by calling "Elrod Mobility" at 205-424-5858. They will deliver to the hotel for \$250 per week or \$100 per day.

Several members have called me about not being able to make reservations at the phone number provided. This happens every year. Reservations are farmed out and the knowledge of the individual agent is often limited at best. I have made contact with the hotel on this issue, and it seems to have gotten better, at least I am not getting as many complaints. So please make your reservation at the hotel and register for the reunion.

Stay safe, stay well. See you in Birmingham.

Frank Church, Reunion Chairman

11th ACVVC Discount Coupon

The holder is entitled to a 20% discount on food purchases at:

Casey's Sports Bar, Coffee Shop, Atrium Café

Per contract with the Sheraton Birmingham

EVANS from page 1



Thomas John Evans, Jr., but the breastplate in the window carries the heraldry of the Blackhorse Regiment.

WO Evans' decorations are listed on the memorial ribbon, in the lower left panel, following the image of a UH-1 (Huey) helicopter.

The right-hand lower panel features the altar of sacrifice symbolizing the sacrifice of a soldier who



gave his life for his country. Below that altar, on the memorial ribbon on the right-hand lower panel, are the names of the donors: his father, Major Thomas John Evans Sr., his mother, Marjorie Holsinger Evans, and sister, Sharon Elizabeth Evans.



Across the aisle in the back of the church is a matching window dedicated to all the soldiers killed in action in defense of our country are the symbols of each of the services: Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Air

Force. That window depicts a Roman soldier (possibly referencing St. Longinus) laying down his shield to honor his fallen brothers.

St. Michael the Archangel

THEME: St. Michael the Archangel

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE: Revelation 12 "And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated..."

DESCRIPTION: The Medallion pictures the Jerusalem or Crusader's Cross worn by the soldiers of Christ.

The center of the window depicts St. Michael defeating the dragon. The face of St. Michael is a likeness of Thomas Evans, and the breastplate carries the heraldry of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse), Warrant Officer (WO) Evans' unit in Vietnam.

The left lower panel is the symbol of St. Thomas the Apostle. Thomas being one of the Christian names given WO Evans at his baptism.

The right lower panel shows the Altar of sacrifice symbolizing the sacrificial death of a soldier who gave his life in the service of his country.

The cross in the gradient is the Cross Gradient a Christian sign of the approach to God.

The cross in the lower left corner is the Latin Cross and the Cross in the right corner is the Iona or Celtic Cross.

WO Evans' decorations are listed on the memorial ribbon. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal. The Republic of Vietnam awarded him the Grand Cross with Palms and the Military (Meritorious) Medal. Additionally, a likeness of a UH-1 (Huey) helicopter, the type aircraft flown by WO Evans, is included in the memorial ribbon.

GIVEN: In memory of Warrant Officer Thomas John Evans, Jr. by Major Thomas John Evans Sr. (father), Marjorie Holsinger Evans (mother), and Sharon Elizabeth Evans (sister).



Needless to say, WO Thomas John Evans' name is also inscribed on the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's Memorial on the grounds of the Infantry

Museum at Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia.

Allons.

Chaplain Bill Karabinos, 11th ACVVC, Vietnam, 2/11 (71-72)

Show Your Pride



(LEFT) Jerry Williamson (D Company, 1/11 ACR, 1968-69) of The Villages, Florida, proudly displays the D Co. guidon given to him while visiting his old unit in Iraq.

(RIGHT) Jerry Williamson (D Company, 1/11 ACR, 1968-69) shows his pride at his new "Blackhorse Base Camp" in The Villages, Florida.



Come Support our 11th ACR Horse Detachment at the 2022 National Cavalry Competition

Eric Newton, PAO

Free and open to the public, come support our team at the US Cavalry Association's National Cavalry Competition from September 21st to the 24th at Historic Fort Reno in El Reno, Oklahoma! Our team is expecting to have 10 total competitors spread across all 3 levels of Competition to defend the Pulaski Trophy for Most Outstanding Military Unit for a record 4th year in a row. Friends, families, and anyone else are welcome to attend, we look forward to seeing you there!

"11th ACR Horse Detachment in Action"



President's Message

By Pete Walter

Troopers, families, and friends, we are getting close to our 37th reunion, to be held this year in Birmingham, Alabama. This will be our first visit to “The Yellow Hammer State”, or as it’s also known “The Heart of Dixie”. This promises to be another great reunion as COVID finally seems to be under control and more people are taking to the highways and airlines to travel. Our reunion will be later than normal, and hopefully this will make travel a bit easier as younger folks will be back in school, and the roads and airplanes should be less crowded than in the last weeks of summer. Vice President and Reunion Chairman Frank Church has done his typical excellent job and the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel is ready to welcome Blackhorse Troopers from all parts of the United States. All the information you need to make your hotel reservations and reunion registration is included in this issue. We are getting 3rd quarter Thunder Run to you all a bit earlier than in other years in the hope that it will arrive in time to convince those of you who are still undecided about attending this year’s reunion to come. We have approximately 270 Troopers living in Alabama and another 950 in Mississippi, Georgia, and Tennessee, so there is the possibility of a huge turnout from those folks who haven’t had a reunion in their area.

There are some announcements and reminders that we need to mention.

ROOM RESERVATIONS – If you have trouble making reservations, please be persistent, keep trying! If you are planning to attend but haven’t made hotel reservations, please make them at the Sheraton as we need to reach a minimum of our room block to avoid any penalties. Besides, that’s where the Bunker is and where all reunion activities and the Saturday evening banquet will be held.

QUARTER MASTER STORE – Our Quarter Master Jerry continues to do an excellent job and works every day for you the Troopers of the 11th ACVVC but needs your help to make it all work perfectly. It is imperative that you provide a phone number on your order form so Jerry can call you if he needs to update you.

THUNDER RUN – If you would prefer to receive *Thunder Run* in a digital format via email, please let Allen Hathaway know. This will reduce our mailing costs. Thanks!

POOR RICHARD’S CAFE, THE EAST TEXAS ROUNDUP & WISCONSIN BREAKFAST – Twelve Blackhorse Troopers met for breakfast at Poor Richard’s Café in Plano, Texas on March 18. Troopers meet here regularly and are treated like the royalty they are! The East Texas Roundup was held May 17 – May 21 at the Capital RV Park in Gladewater, Texas. There was another great turnout of approximately 26 in attendance and as always, many thanks to our QM Jerry Beamon for all his work on these get-togethers! Lee Nelson organizes a Blackhorse breakfast at Paul’s Neighborhood Bar in Middleton, Wisconsin. See his report in this issue.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE – In the early years of the 11th ACVVC we had an “Area Rep Committee”. The assignment of the Rep was to spread the word of the 11th ACVVC and try to organize gatherings in their area to get Troopers together in a small, comfortable environment where they could get to know each other and possibly discuss plans to attend an 11th ACVVC reunion.

Over the years this committee was dissolved, mainly due to the success we had in reaching Troopers and the incredible growth of our reunions. As we continue our journey through our so-called “golden years” (more like “rust” for many of us!) we are seeing more of our members who are reluctant or unable to travel distances to our reunions. The Officers of the 11th ACVVC frequently discuss our past, present and future and we foresee the possible need to resurrect the Area Representative Committee, not so much to reach new members, but to hold smaller, local gatherings for those who may not be able to travel as easily as in the past, but still want to get together with their 11th ACR brothers. We’re still in the discussion phase, but we welcome your input and ideas. Please contact me or any Officer of the 11th ACVVC and provide your input. More on this to follow in the future.

11th ACR WREATH LAYINGS – Since 1986 we have met twice a year on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, through rain, snow, heat and even COVID at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (“The Wall”). Many thanks to Don Snedeker and Allen Hathaway for making the wreath and hosting these gatherings. Every year on February 2, there is a Blackhorse wreath placed at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. I’d like to thank Guillermo Guillen for his involvement and for arranging the luncheon afterward.

11th ACR CHANGE OF COMMAND - A Change of Command ceremony for the Regimental Commander was held June 17, 2022 at Fort Irwin, California. Colonel Todd Hook, 69th Colonel, relinquished command of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment to Colonel Timothy J. Ferguson, the 70th Colonel. COL Ferguson recently completed studies at the Army War College in Carlisle, PA. Welcome Colonel Ferguson, “ALLONS!”

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL – November 11, 2022, marks the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. As part of the commemoration, all 58,281 names listed on the Wall will be read aloud beginning on November 7. This is the 7th time since the dedication that all names have been read aloud in person. Thanks to Allen Hathaway for providing this information.

11th ACVVC 2022 CALENDAR – We have received record donations for the 2022 calendar. Thank you to all who have donated and if you have not, please do. As always, I can use high quality photos for the 2023 edition. Contact me directly.

11th ACVVC FUNERAL HONOR GUARD – Please tell your family about this function provided by the members of the 11th ACVVC. When it’s your time to travel to Fiddler’s Green we will try to have fellow Trooper attend your services, but to do so, we need to have visitation/funeral service information as soon as possible.

Finally, once again I want to thank all the members of the 11th ACVVC, for your support, your incredible generosity, your attendance at our reunions, your input, and suggestions to the Officers and most importantly your service to our country and your continued service to the Blackhorse Regiment!

I’ll see ya in Alabama!

Pete

VSO Information

Pancreatic Cancer

This Non- Presumptive cancer (as of this writing) affects 5.5 per 100,000 men in America. What is not noticeably clear is the actual percentage of Viet Nam veterans diagnosed with this widow maker. Not clear because the VA is not required to provide such data to the Center for Disease Control. However, I am confident many of our Black Horse members have known an individual who was diagnosed and succumbed to this condition. As mentioned above, as of this writing, Pancreatic cancer is not on the Agent Orange presumptive list, and I am frustrated by this.

If the reader of this article becomes diagnosed with Diabetes Mellitus II and is a Viet Nam vet - the reader will be com-

pensated for this condition as it is a presumptive illness. However, what causes DM II? Diabetes is a condition that either slows or stops completely the production of blood sugar. And what produces insulin? The pancreas. When cancer hits the pancreas, insulin production is affected. Okay – just so the reader realizes, this info is overly broad and not medically detailed. It is intended to simply highlight and question why pancreatic cancer is not considered to be included as a presumptive condition.

So, what is a vet or spouse to do when the vet is diagnosed with cancer or is the cause of death? Submit a claim for pancreatic cancer because of exposure to Agent Orange. I am currently assisting surviving spouses whose husbands have

died from this condition. Granted, these claims will most certainly be denied, unless the medically cited literature I am including is persuasive. Even though a claim may currently be denied, the VA may include pancreatic cancer on the presumptive list in the future. If this occurs, the claim can be resubmitted with new material evidence, the evidence being the new law adding the cancer, like the addition of bladder cancer, hypothyroid and Parkinsonism's.

My advice for this condition - when in doubt, fill it out and submit

Chuck Bosko
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708-205-3541

Allons!

2022 Elections

By Greg Mason
Secretary-Pro Tem, 11th ACVVC

Three positions will be up for election this year during the General Membership Meeting to be held Saturday morning, September 10th, during the 2022 Reunion. The three positions are President, Secretary and one Director.

The President and Secretary will serve two-year terms beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2024. The Director will serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025.

A special election will be held to fill the unexpired term of Secretary Jerry Beamon, who resigned earlier this year. An election to fill the office of Secretary on a pro tem basis was held in October 2021 among the incumbent Officers and Directors and Greg Mason was elected until a special election could be held to fill the unexpired term for the period ending December 31, 2022.

All candidates must be Life Members of the 11th ACVVC. Candidates will have an equal opportunity to state their qualifications at the General Membership Meeting. The elected candidates must be able to attend the annual reunion and two Board Meetings each year of their elected term.

The elected candidates must be able to

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

The position of President requires considerable time and superb organizational skills. The President needs to frequently multi-task in his responsibility to oversee all projects, programs, and activities of the organization.

Candidates for Secretary should be able to intently follow and record organized min-

utes, summarize reports, actions and decisions from official meetings, and maintain records of the 11th ACVVC and its numerous projects. He should have strong language and writing skills and know basic Robert's Rules of Order. Information management skills on a computer are required.

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

Nominations for these positions should be submitted in writing to the Secretary or submitted from the floor at the General Membership meeting. Please consider participating on the Board of Directors serving the 11th ACVVC.

Photos needed for 11th ACVVC 2023 Calendar

Note to all 11th ACVVC members! We need you to submit your high quality photos for possible inclusion in the 11th ACVVC 2023 calendar! Please send copies, not originals. I can work with any format; preferred would be a digital scan (300 dpi) that you can attach to an e-mail me or send me a DVD by surface mail; however, I can work from prints or slides. The best photos for reproduction purposes are 35mm transparencies (slides) or prints that have good contrast and high resolution (not blurry or grainy). Photos of groups, vehicles, landscapes, villages are all more interesting to the viewer than an individual photo of one soldier with his M-16. Please consider submitting your photos to me at the address below or digitally by e-mailing images to: basepiece70@verizon.net or mailing to Pete Walter, 8 Tallwood Drive, Westampton, NJ 08060

Thank you! Pete Walter, President, 11th ACVVC

11th ACVVC Wisconsin Troopers Welcome Guest

On May 19th, 11th ACVVC Troopers from Wisconsin held a breakfast at Paul's Neighborhood Bar in Middleton, Wisconsin.

Twelve Troopers attended and had the honor of Colonel Brian Parker (Operations Officer of the 115th ANG stationed in Madison, WI) addressing the group.



Lee Nelson and COL Brian Parker.

Colonel Parker spoke for an hour and took questions at the same time. All that attended listened attentively for the entire time. Colonel Parker thanked the members of the 11th ACVVC for their help in paving the way of his military career. There are many other career military people in his family.



Jim Swanson, Paul Tebo, James Buechner, Allen Andreasen, Dennis Emery, Richard Krebs, John Miller, James Jacobson, Larry Smith, Gary Timmerman, Hank Simon and Lee Nelson

Colonel Parker has flown combat missions in Afghanistan, Somalia, and Iraq, flying an F-16. His speaking of the F-16 and what it can do, surely would have helped in Vietnam if it were available.

For example, if you were on an ambush at night with night vision he could tell where the enemy was and what direction they were going and who was wearing a hat and who wasn't.

Here in Madison, the F-16's are going to be phased out and replaced by the F-35 which will be a game changer in air combat. The F35's will start arriving next year.

He spoke of the readiness that they have here in Madison - they have 3 F-16's fully loaded (bombs, missiles, etc.) for any emergency with 3 pilots on duty 24/7, whether it be in Green Bay, Milwaukee or

Chicago. Once they get the order to take off, they can be in Chicago in 10 minutes about 140 miles away.

In his last few minutes of speaking, he let us know that he had read up on the 11th ACR and had one question for us all - he said he saw a slogan in a book, but there was no name with the slogan, and he wanted to know who had said it - the slogan was "Find the Bastards and Pile On" and with one voice - all 12 Troopers said "Patton!"

The 12 members present were, Jim Swanson, Paul Tebo, James Buechner, Allen Andreasen, Dennis Emery, Richard Krebs, John Miller, James Jacobson, Larry Smith, Gary Timmerman, Hank Simon and Lee Nelson

Lee Nelson
HHT 1/11th, 68-69

11th ACR HQ Building Dedicated in Honor of GEN Donn Starry

Reprinted from the 11th ACR Facebook page.

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's (ACR) new headquarters building, Starry Hall, was unveiled on June 10, 2022. The building is dedicated to the memory of General Donn A. Starry, who served as the 41st Colonel of the Regiment from 1969 to 1970 in Vietnam. He was also recognized as the first Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

After his time at the 11th ACR, where he led the Regiment during the Cambodian Incursion, General Starry worked to modernize U.S. Army strategy. He commanded the U.S. Army Armor School (1973-1976), V Corps in Germany (1976-1977), and the

newly formed Training and Doctrine Command (1977-1981). Starry conceptualized AirLand Battle doctrine, which prepared the Army for modern warfighting.

General Starry retired from the Army in 1983 as a four-star general, after serving as the commander for the U.S. Readiness Command (1981-1983). Starry passed away on August 26, 2011 in Canton, Ohio.

Starry Hall was dedicated at the conclusion of a visit from a group of approximately 70 Blackhorse veterans who were attending the 2022 Blackhorse Association Family Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada. Colonel Todd Hook, 69th Colonel of the Regiment,



Uncovering of the dedication plaque

Please turn to **STARRY** on page 25

Blackhorse Tales Continued 2022

Arlington National Cemetery – February 2, 2022

You expect it to be cold standing at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on the 2nd of February. When the air is cold and crisp, it makes the dome of the United States Capitol sharper in focus and more pronounced. The Washington Monument shows-up in three dimensions and the chill works its way into your backbone and holds there; makes you think about those you have lost over time. But on this Groundhog Day it wasn't. I arrived at the Tomb, at the top of the hill, having walked up from Section 60 at 10:20 AM.

One lonely sentry was on duty, walking his 21 steps, counting 21 seconds, and walking back 21 more steps. I was happy for him, as the last time I was there on the anniversary of the commissioning of the 11th Cavalry, it was bitter cold with a 30-mile an hour frigid wind blowing off the Potomac. As I watched him perform the studied ritual, I noticed that the marble steps and balcony overlooking that iconic Tomb were empty. The little hair I have left, stood up on the back of my neck and I got an eerie feeling. How rare is this, that only the sentry and, for a rare moment, and me, stood alone at that Tomb.

As I walked behind the chains and up the marble steps, I saw that I was wrong, for on the west side of the Amphitheatre, were two other Blackhorse Troopers: Glenn Snodgrass and Allen Hathaway. Both make that trek annually; rain, ice, snow or shine. And soon, within minutes, other troopers began arriving, wrapped in jackets and wearing decorated Stetsons, clearly marked with the red, black and white crest of a horse charging into battle.

But my delight and surprise continued as active-duty troopers, in full dress blues, with spurs and Stetsons, medals, ribbons, citations and proud broad-brimmed smiles gathered. The Regimental Colonel, three Squadron Commanders, four Command Sergeants Major, and a few enlisted men, coming from Fort Irwin in California, all the way across country, made an impressive entrance. They arrived in silence and with due respect for the sacred ground that

we stood on. What a great representation from the Regiment. It was to be a memorable and historic Wreath Laying and, indeed it was impressive.

The Flame of Honor - that is the Blackhorse brotherhood; that torch that continues to be passed, now for the past 121 years.

Other veterans from Vietnam, the Fulda garrison and the Gulf wars, and active-duty Troopers assigned to the Pentagon also arrived and by 1115 hours, when the Blackhorse Wreath was posted at the Tomb, our representation, included Lieutenant General (Ret.) Guy Swan, and exceeded two dozen. And out of respect, another 40 to 50 students and teachers from a Tallahassee high school remained to respectfully honor our Regiment ... and all of America.

They arrived in silence and with due respect for the sacred ground that we stood on. What a great representation from the Regiment. It was to be a memorable and historic Wreath Laying and, indeed it was impressive.

The Flame of Honor - that is the Blackhorse brotherhood; that torch that continues to be passed, now for the past 121 years.

One of the veterans in attendance, was a former Squadron Commander; Commander of the 1st Squadron with the Legion in Germany. He was there, supported by his gracious wife and a walking cane. Actually, he was retired Colonel Cane. I had not met him before, so we talked and exchanged names and places to find a commonality. We did. Once he realized I was a chaplain, he recalled with much affection and more than a little emotion, another former Blackhorse Chaplain. A chaplain who visited his squadron, with a guitar strapped to his back, and sang entertaining songs, yet could still play reverent melodies at worship services and who could even fill in at Jewish services when a Rabbi wasn't available. Colonel Cane was quick to tell me, that he and his wife are Jewish.

He struggled to recall that chaplain's

name, but when I suggested Father Walt Montondon, his eyes lit-up. But they just as quickly dimmed when I told him that Chaplain Montondon is buried on Chaplain's Hill, only three hundred yards from where we stood, at the National Cemetery. Both Colonel and Mrs. Cane were saddened yet the Colonel was quick to ask about the exact location of the grave. He wanted to bring his grown son, who had gotten to know Father Montondon, to visit his grave. The torch continues to be passed, the brotherhood continues to thrive, from generation to generation. The oral history of the Regiment is what we so gloriously share at these gatherings and in the Bunker at our reunions. The bond Blackhorse Troopers have with each other doesn't end when we pass on to our eternal reward.

As for Chaplain Walt Montondon, he took my place as chaplain for the Armor

School and the 194th Armed Brigade at Fort Knox in 1971, with a guitar strapped to his back. He wore the Blackhorse patch and had been to the Nam. He came only a few months after General Patton IV, who also wore the Blackhorse patch, assumed command of the Armor School. When I was assigned to Vietnam, I had no idea to which unit I was to report, but when the General asked me, to which unit I wanted to serve with, I answered smartly: "Well, your unit Sir, the 11th ACR." Both Chaplain Walt Montondon and General Patton smiled ... and when I landed in Bien Hoa, the destination manifest read: "Phu Loi, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment."

And I have been proud to say, ever since October 1971: "My name is Blandin Karabinos, and I am a Blackhorse Trooper."

THE WALSH COUNTY RECORD, GRAFTON, NORTH DAKOTA

Monday, March 2, 2020

Editor's note: The following letter and commentary [2 March 2020] are reprinted with permission from W. Todd Morgan (Editor, The Walsh County Record, Grafton, North Dakota) and James T. Foreman [SSGT, F Troop, 2/11 ACR, 1967-68] the author of the letter.

Every now and then something comes across your desk when you're county newspaper editor that if you didn't share you wouldn't be doing your job very well.

The communication came from James T Forman senior of 132 Sylvan Lane of Carmel, IN 460324.

Foreman wrote, "In August of 2018 my wife and I stopped in Grafton hoping to find family members of an army buddy who was killed in Vietnam. I wanted very much to tell them how well liked and respected Richard (Orsund) was within our platoon.

After many inquiries with no results, my wife and I finally talked to a Sergeant in the Sheriff's Office who gave us directions to the church (South Trinity) and cemetery where we found his (and his parents') grave sites.

We ultimately located a house on Kittson Avenue where I believe Richard's brother Rodney had lived prior to the present family. They did not know where he went after moving out.

I was very disappointed. I was eager to tell the family stories about their son and brother. I purchased a copy of your paper (The Walsh County Record) thinking it might come in handy someday. I decided to write this letter hoping that his boyhood friends and schoolmates might see it.

My most vivid memory of Richard was on January 15, 1968¹. Our unit was near the Cambodian border waiting for Prince Sihanouk to allow us to go into his country to attack base camps and cut off the Ho Chi Minh trail supply line. We were the first unit in this area of the jungle and the North Vietnamese Army was always watching our every move. That evening at the platoon sergeants meeting of the track commanders, the Sergeant directed me to lead the listening post that night. This was a three man team posted in front of the units perimeter to provide early warning in the event of an attack.

This was totally unprecedented as I was the second most senior NCO in the platoon, always before it would have been led by Specialist 4th Class. This decision was based on the dangerous position we were in that night. I responded that I wanted to choose who went with me (also unprecedented) and I picked Richard and another friend.² That night fortunately was uneventful but it shows the high esteem I had for Richard. Richard was killed two or three days before I left Vietnam. I have recently learned from the friend² who was the third person on the listening post, that an incoming mortar exploded near Richard and a large piece of shrapnel hit him in the head killing him instantly.

At our reunion at Fort Benning, Georgia, I reunited with a man who had been the commanding officer of F Troop, Captain Henry Morris. When the conversation got to Richard Captain Morris had glowing praise for him and said 'That's why I promoted him'. After I found the

I couldn't imagine graduating from high school getting drafted, given a new M1-6 and sent over to Vietnam or Korea to live or die. I could see the rationale of drafting young men fresh out of high school into the Armed Services by our government during World War II.

gravestone which had Richard's rank as Spec. 4, I asked Captain Morris why it said that and not Sergeant. He clarified that he had made Richard an Acting Sergeant' while waiting on the paperwork to go through.

My hope is that through the Walsh County Record, friends and acquaintances back home will come to appreciate how much the men in Richard's platoon in Nam liked and respected him."

In the notes in the notes Foeman wrote he and his wife hadn't just happened to pass through Grafton, but were traveling home to Indiana from Washington state and it was important to him to find Richard's family.

This letter Forman said was just his skeleton thoughts and he would be happy to flesh it in more fully if anyone would like and could provide contact info for Captain Morris and other Army friends of Richards. Foreman also included pictures of South Trinity Church where Richard and his parents are buried.

One of the pictures has 18 names of F Troop who were killed in action from December 1, 1966, through August 19, 1968³ which included Orsund's name and date of death, March 27 1968. Also on the list was the name of Jerry W Wickham, who according to Foreman was awarded the congressional Medal of Honor (posthumously).

I couldn't imagine graduating from high school getting drafted, given a new M1-6 and sent over to Vietnam or Korea to live or die. I could see the rationale of drafting young men fresh out of high school into the Armed Services by our government during World War II. After all, world domination was at stake. The Nazis, Japanese and at least at the beginning of the war the Russians (before the Nazis double crossed them) were looking to carve up the world for domination. Actually -Russia did.

More than 58,000 Americans died in Vietnam and close to another 40,000 were killed in Korea. Without doubt those young men or some....finest boys this country had to offer.

1 - "It was a full moon so I looked up where that happened in Jan. Never knew dates in the jungle", (Jim Foreman).

2 - Jimmy McSwain (Jim Foreman)

3 - From (11th ACR) memorial at Ft. Benning (Jim Foreman)

REUNION REGISTRATION – THANK YOU!

(Editor's note: This article was to run in earlier editions of Thunder Run but was omitted due to space limitations.)

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone who helped with this year's (2021) Reunion. At the Registration desk we had Zenaida Avila (aka Cookie), Mike Rafferty, Sara Evens (who also helped with the Silent Auction), my brother Juan (Johnny) and his wife Alice Moreno, (They covered Barbara and Raleigh's spots), this was their first time attending our reunion and they said they were honored and happy to be able to help and would like to come back every year. I also had a trooper help us on Wednesday, but I can't recall his name.

With your attendance we had the opportunity to honor our fallen Comrades in Arms, 730 of them. We also acknowledge those who have moved on to Fiddler's Green this past year. I think that seeing each other every year gives us an extraordinary Joy in our hearts. BIG thanks to all of you for attending this year's reunion.

Missing from this list is my wife Barbara and my son Raleigh. Barbara was not well enough to take the trip, so she stayed home with Raleigh and her sister Carol Hess from Pennsylvania. This is the first reunion that Barbara has missed since the first one we attended in San Antonio, Texas in 1992.

I would like to thank all of you who sent a get-well card to Barbara. Every day she looked forward to seeing if she was getting another card in the mail. Your cards sure lift her spirits. I'm hanging all the cards on the wall next to her bed. Again, I want to thank all of you for your get-well cards and prayers for Barbara.

Reunion Planning

As we all know planning is very important. Early in life we start with a plan for our future. Reunion planning is no different, we are now nearing our 2022 reunion in Birmingham. This planning process started over three years ago. As I write this, we are in the process of planning

We all had a wonderful time at the Reunion this year [2021]. I had 775 people registered for the Reunion this year. From this number we had Seven Gold Star family members and Seventeen Next of Kin family members in attendance.

We all had a wonderful time at the Reunion this year. I had 775 people registered for the Reunion this year. From this number we had Seven Gold Star family members and Seventeen Next of Kin family members in attendance. We had 183 people cancel and many of them called or emailed me or Ollie before the cutoff date, and they received a refund. I want to thank the ones that donated their registration fee to one of the following funds (Scholarship fund, Trooper Assistance fund, Memorial fund, and the General fund).

I want to thank you all for sending in your registration forms so early. This helps me in so many ways. It gives me time to make up your name tags and input all the information on to the web site.

If you have a new address, phone number or email please indicate it on your Registration form. We update the Master Roster with the information you give us. The Master Roster is what we use to mail out Thunder Run and the 11th ACVVC Calendar to everyone. If we don't have a good address on file, you won't get your copy of *Thunder Run* or your Calendar. The Post Office will return it to us and not forward it to your new address. So please,

let us know if your address information has any changes.

If you have any guests attending the reunion, they need to be registered as a guest and pay the registration fee. The registration fee covers, among other things, all the material that we use to make up your name tag. It also covers the meal at the Banquet.

If you have guests coming and they live in a different state or city than yours, please indicate it next to their name on the Registration form. I will use that information and print it on their name tag. Now, to keep their names under your name on the web site list of who is coming to the reunion, I will use your city and state as their home address on the list that you see on the web site.

As always if you have any questions that you may have about registration, please call me (Home) 1-608-372-5892, (Cell) 1-608-387-3346 or e-mail me at gtrouppbob@gmail.com.

"ALLONS"

*Roberto (Bob) Moreno
G Troop 2/11TH (12/68-12/69)
11th Acvvc Board Of Directors
Reunion Registration*

for 2023 and 2024. This process includes site visits, hotel capacity, food and beverage costs, room rates, parking and many other concerns. As you know we present two sites at the membership meeting for your approval. When The Members choose a site, we will go forward with the negotiations. This process

goes on for every Reunion. The Committee and the BOD's mission is to always keep the cost a low as possible and have a quality reunion. Without your attendance and support there would be no reunions. We thank you for all your support.

Steve Page Director

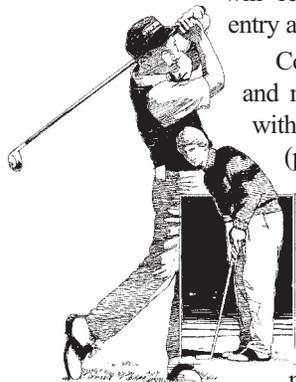
THE 29TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Thursday, September 8, 2022, 0830, Roebuck Golf Course, 8920 Roebuck Boulevard, Birmingham, AL 35206, (205) 836-7318

Roebuck was designed by British architect Herbert Barker debuting in 1911 as Roebuck Springs Country Club. This municipal course was the site of Bobby Jones first tournament win in 1915 with Joe Coopet on the bag.

The course is an old-school parkland layout, where what you see is pretty much what you get. The majority of the holes are straightaway and there is only one blind shot on the entire track. Length is not an issue, measuring 6,324 yards from the tips and a shade over 6,000 yards from the regular men's tees. Accuracy is a must, as all fairways are tree-lined and there are a few holes that require navigating a canal that runs throughout.

\$95 will get you golf, cart, balls, tees, lunch and prizes. Note: Roebuck does not offer club rentals. If you need to rent clubs, you can contact ClubHub at 1-888-978-1022. Roebuck is approximately 8 miles northeast of the Sheraton Birmingham hotel. It is the golfer's responsibility to get to the golf course by 0800. We will have a shot gun start at 0830. All registered golfers will receive confirmation of their entry and info in the mail.



Complete the adjacent form and mail it to the address shown with a check for \$95 per golfer (payable to Peter L. Walter).

Form must be received by Aug 25, 2022 to guarantee your entry! We cannot guarantee late registrations or walkups as the golf course will not be able to accommodate this. You do not need a

foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and you'll be paired with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. This outing is open to men and women. Dress code: no denim, shirts must have collars, shorts must be Bermuda length, soft spikes only! Call 609-261-5629 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation of your registration in the mail. All entries must be prepaid; shotgun start @ 0830, lunch and prizes following golf. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! **"FORE!"**

29TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

(Please include e-mail address if you have one)

Name _____ Average Score _____
 Address _____ Home Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Name _____ Average Score _____
 Name _____ Average Score _____
 Name _____ Average Score _____
 E-mail _____

Mail Checks To: **Pete Walter, 8 Tallowood Dr., Westhampton, NJ 08060**

2022 11TH ACVVC REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

All pre-ordered shirts will be available for pick-up at the Quartermaster Store during the 2022 reunion in Birmingham, AL.

Orders must be received by August 6, 2022.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Shirt Color: Ash w/reunion logo embroidered on left side; name, unit, date, year on right side.

Adult Sizes: S, M, L, XL - \$44.00 each / 2XL, 4XL - \$46.00 each. **Shirt size:** _____

Shipping: If you can't attend the reunion, you can still order the shirt. Add \$7 for shipping and we will mail your shirt to you.

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

PLEASE PRINT

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____

Card No. _____ CVC Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

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

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



2022 Silent Auction

The 2021 Silent Auction raised \$6,593 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 199 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many hand-crafted items and one-of-a-kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We are not allowed to have alcoholic beverages or firearms in the auction as many state laws prohibit it. We look forward to another successful auction.

The auction process will be as follows:

1. Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 37th Annual Reunion in Birmingham, Alabama. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cavalry related or not.

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

5pm, Thursday from 1pm to 5pm, and Friday from 1pm to 4pm.

3. You can ship items to John Welch, to collect, hold and bring the items to the reunion for display. If you plan to ship items, please use the convenient Silent Auction Donor Form printed in this issue. If you bring the items to the reunion, also complete the donation form and include it with the item.

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

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

6. If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bid at 9:30 or auctioned off at 9:45pm

Friday evening. The bid form will have a place for you to leave a cell phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.

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

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

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

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

11th ACVVC Silent Auction

Donated Items Information Form

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

Description of item donated: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Address of Donor: _____

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

I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

Mail silent auction items to: 11th ACVVC, C/O John Welch, 3248 Crossings Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242-4475



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





**11th ACVVC 37th Reunion
Schedule Birmingham, Alabama
September 5 - 11, 2022**

(Schedule subject to change!)

**Tuesday, September 6
3:00 PM**

Rooms available for set up

Storage - Room 5C East

Wednesday, Sept. 7

10:00 am - 5:00 pm
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
2:00 pm - 12:00 am
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Quartermaster Store open
Registration open
Bunker open
BOD Meeting
Silent Auction Items Accepted

Room 5M East (proposed)
East Registration Desk
Birmingham Ballroom
Room 5B East
East Registration Desk

Thursday, Sept. 8

8:00am -3:00 pm
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
2:00 pm - 12:00 am
1:00 pm- 5:00 pm

29th Annual Marty Ognibene Golf Outing
Quartermaster Store open
Registration open
Bunker open
Silent Auction Items Accepted

Roebuck Golf Course
Room 5M East (proposed)
East Registration Desk
Birmingham Ballroom
East Registration Desk

Friday, Sept. 9

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
10:00am - 12 noon
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm
2:00 pm - 12:00 am
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
9:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Quartermaster Store open
Veterans Seminar
Silent Auction Items Accepted
Registration open
Bunker open
Silent Auction sell off
Silent Auction Pay/Pick up

Room 5M East (proposed)
Room 5A East
East Registration Desk
East Registration Desk
Birmingham Ballroom
East Ballroom A
East Ballroom A

Saturday, Sept. 10

9:00 am - 12:00 pm
9:00am - 12:00 pm
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
5:45 pm - 6:45 pm
6:00 PM
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
10:00 pm - 1:00 am

Annual Membership Meeting
Women's Meeting
Memorial Service
Quartermaster Store open
Registration open for late arrivals
Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)
Banquet Room Doors Open
Banquet, Presentations and Salute
Dancing (DJ)

East Ballroom B
Room N East
East Ballroom B
Room 5M East (proposed)
East Registration Desk
Birmingham Ballroom Foyer

Birmingham Ballroom
Birmingham Ballroom Foyer

Sunday, Sept. 11

10:00 am - 11:00 am
All Day

Worship Service
Farewell and Safe Travels

East Ballroom B
No space Required

(Subject to change!)

REGISTRATION FORM



37th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion
Birmingham, Alabama September 5-11, 2022



Sheraton Birmingham Hotel
2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. North, Birmingham, Ala. 35203
Reservations- 205-307-5000

Registration fee is \$100 per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner.

All registrations must be received by Monday, August 8, 2022. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer no later than Monday, August 29, 2022.

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

Name Telephone No:

Address

City/State/Zip

E-Mail Address

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

KIA Relative? Yes, Name of KIA:

Relationship to KIA: Unit:

ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)

Table with 2 columns: Name, Amount (\$). Multiple rows for listing attendees.

Total Registration Fee \$

Banquet Meal Selection (Indicate number for each selection) Chicken Beef Fish Veg

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

Visa MasterCard

Card No. Exp. Date

Signature (Required for credit card)

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

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

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

Blackhorse Mounts: The equipment that Blackhorse Troopers rode to war in Vietnam was, conceptually, not dramatically different from that used by their predecessors in World War II. Scouts in the 11th Cavalry Group (Mechanized) in 1943-45 were mounted on M8 'Greyhound' scout cars, M3 half-tracks, and ¼-ton jeeps. While the Greyhound mounted both a machine gun and a 37mm cannon, the half-track (originally an infantry carrier) featured only a single, forward-facing machine gun (.30 or .50 caliber). Over time, however, innovative Troopers mounted two additional .30 caliber machine guns, one on each side of the half-track. Some jeeps carried machine guns, while others carried 60mm mortars. The 11th Cavalry Group also was equipped with M5 'Stuart' light tanks with a 37mm gun (replaced late in the war by the M24 Chaffee with a much more effective 75mm gun) and M8 assault guns with a 75mm howitzer as their primary armament. These vehicles, organized into tank and assault gun companies respectively, provided the direct and indirect firepower needed for reconnaissance and screening on the European Theater battlefields. Post-war analysis of this equipment determined that "reconnaissance units almost without exception found that the armored car, M8 equipped with a 37mm gun and its companion ¼-ton truck, 4x4, were unable to effectively overcome the type of resistance which platoons normally encountered."

Following WWII, the Army conducted a massive review of combat lessons learned. The results of the various branch-specific boards helped to determine the organization, equipment, and doctrine of the Army that went to war in Vietnam two decades later. For example, the armor board established a requirement for an armored vehicle to carry up to 12 infantrymen or cargo on the battlefield; it was this requirement that led to the development of the M113 ACAV. That same board also identified the need for a medium tank (M48), engineer tanks (M728), armored vehicle launched bridges (AVLB), flame throwers on an armored chassis

(M132), armored recovery vehicles (M578 and M88), cooperation between ground and air reconnaissance systems (H23 and OH6), and a host of other items, ranging from CVC helmets to machine guns. While the equipment was conceptually like that employed in 1944-45, the ACAVs, Sheridans, tanks, and howitzers that the 11th Cav used in Vietnam and Cambodia were far superior in virtually every aspect. These tools of war allowed Blackhorse Troopers to move, shoot, and communicate in a manner that their fathers and uncles in World War II could have only dreamed of.

The ACAV – designed and developed by Blackhorse Troopers in 1966 – could cross virtually any terrain, on and off road; the M48 tanks had the power to bust jungle and, along with the M551 Sheridan, packed a punch no bunker could stand up to; the M109 howitzers could shoot further and with far greater accuracy than the notoriously inaccurate 75mm assault guns. All Blackhorse tracks had radios and were relatively easy to maintain (with the notable exception of the Sheridan). The addition of air cavalry and engineer units enhanced the mission capability of the Regiment even further. Thus, in the decades between 8 May 1945 – when 11th Cavalry Group Troopers celebrated Victory in Europe (VE) Day on the Elbe River – and 7 September 1966 – when 11th Cav Troopers came ashore at Vung Tau – Army research and development and American industry had made dramatic strides in producing armored vehicles for the U.S. Cavalry.

Canadian-born Gordon Boyes was the Alpha Troop motor sergeant in 1968-69. He remembers that the Blackhorse did things with their mounts that were never intended by the designers. ACAVs – the lasting symbol of their wartime service for thousands of Blackhorse scouts – "out-performed their design parameters." The M113A1 diesel was never designed to be a fighting vehicle, but oh what a fighter vehicle it was. The M551 Sheridan, for all its idiosyncrasies, "was the start of the electronics age" in Gordon's opinion. Today's armored dread-

naughts owe their information-age battlefield superiority to this imperfect, but powerful mount.

In the days of horse cavalry, Troopers named their mounts, sometimes after their mothers or girlfriends, sometimes after the beast's temperament. Vietnam-era cavalrymen weren't any different. They, too, named their mounts. Some were sentimental, some topical, some political (but not too much – no FTAs allowed). Some troop and company commanders insisted that any names began with the letter of the unit – 'C' for Charlie Troop, 'M' for Mike Company. Carol, Helen, and Louise were the results. Others were more imaginative, such as "Add 1 Cannister for Instant Death" on a Sheridan and 'Birth Control' on a Cobra. 'Mud, Maintenance, Misery' said a lot about the state of mind of the ACAV crew that named it. Some names were plays on then-current expressions – such as the 919th Engineers ACAV 'VC for Lunch Bunch'. 'Cambodian Express' (ACAV) appeared in 1970, as did 'Crystal Blue Persuasion' (ACAV) and 'Mystic Crystal Revelation' (Huey). Bill Reinhart named his ARP lift ship 'Mr. Groovy' as a sort of "flashback" to his days in Haight Ashbury in between enlistments in 1967-68. If a crew had to turn in their vehicle because of battle damage or high mileage, they often added a Roman numeral to the original name – such as the 919th Engineer's tank 'Wild One', I, II, III, and IV.

In 1970, the Regimental Aviation Platoon decided to name their Hueys after famous mounts from the War Between the States. The crew chiefs selected the names from a list provided by the chairman of the history department at the Citadel military college in South Carolina. Among those chosen were 'Cincinnati' and 'Fox' (General Ulysses S. Grant's horses), 'Ajax' and 'Traveller' (General Robert E. Lee's horses), and 'Lookout' (General Joe Hooker's horse). Among those not selected were 'Nellie Gray' (General Fitzhugh Lee's horse), 'Baldy' (General George Meade's horse), and 'Kangaroo' (another of Grant's horses).

Now, why wouldn't a crew chief want to name his aircraft 'Kangaroo' (boing, boing, boing)?

These names personalized the vehicle for the crew, allowing them a little relief from the stress. These vehicles were their homes. People talk about the poor sailors who have to live aboard a ship with only a bunk and a small locker for their personal items. Blackhorse Troopers had all that and less – maybe a cot, probably a used ammo can for a locker, and mud, rain, heat, RPGs, and red ants. Grunts, who had to carry everything they owned on their backs, were envious of the armored vehicle-mounted Troopers. Bob Alexander, who served in Alpha Company, 1/8th Cav (1st Air Cav Division), hitched a ride on a Blackhorse ACAV in the fall of 1969. He recalls:

I noticed, quickly, that the Armor Dudes carried a LOT of water with them... They had supplies of DRY SOCKS, lots of them. ALL of them had peaches & pound cake, nobody was arm wrestling over the most desirable Cs of all times... One night, while we were set up like a wagon train, I spotted an Armor Dude going into the back end of an APC. I noticed an unfamiliar (for Viet Nam) light flicker. I went over and knocked, they invited me in to watch a bit of TV!!! Jeez, out in the field? Looked like about a 5-6" screen, B&W, and they were watching the American TV channel in Saigon ...

Mike Company's David Wright saw a similar reaction from another Air Cav Grunt. On his second tour with 3rd Squadron, David was working in the Song Be area in February 1969. He and another tank were directed to support a dismounted ambush being set up along the road to the Song Be Bridge. It wasn't long before one of the airmobile infantrymen came and asked if he had any extra water on board. David distinctly remembers:

They said they only had a couple of canteens to fill and would only fill them half way. I told them to bring all of their canteens and fill them completely up. When I informed them that I had eight, five-gallon cans of water, they ran back to get the remainder of the canteens. I asked them if they wanted some C-rations to go with their LRRP's and they quickly agreed, especially when they found out that I had sixteen cases on board my tank. I was told by the patrol leader to sleep good that night because they were going to make sure that

I was covered all night.

Four decades later, David "can still see the looks on the faces of the soldiers that I gave water and C-rations to." They could not visualize the relative 'luxuries' of an armored vehicle. David continues: "They soon realized that my tank was my home away from home, my ruck-sack, my sleeping quarters, and my foxhole to fight from, all rolled into one."

But it was not all beans and glory around armored vehicles. Some Grunts wanted nothing to do with these 'metal (as in metal bullets) magnets' that were far bigger targets in the jungle than a single infantryman. They were noisy, stinky, and something was always breaking – leaving the crew alone in the middle of nowhere waiting for help. And they were always getting stuck. Like many, Jim Bland didn't know much about the unit when he joined the 919th Engineers in mid-1968. "But having grown up on a dairy and tobacco farm in south Georgia, I was very comfortable in 'big' equipment so I was not shocked about being in tanks but my farm experience with big equipment in south Georgia swamps and wetlands told me that tanks in jungle and rice paddies was NOT going to be fun!" The other thing that many Grunts didn't want any part of was the after-operation maintenance that armored crewmen had to do. Every day. Every single day. If you took a day off, your mount or your weapon might just quit in the middle of a fight. Troopers died when that happened.

When the 41st Colonel of the Regiment reported in for duty, he received strict marching orders from his first battalion commander – General Creighton "Abe" Abrams, who was now the man in charge of all US forces in South Vietnam – to focus on improving maintenance. After three-plus years of combat, the equipment was starting to break down with alarming frequency. The average daily availability rate was hovering at around 50 percent, mostly due to the non-availability of repair parts, but also because of poor first-echelon (operator/crew) maintenance. But Donn Starry wasn't fazed by Abrams' instructions. While growing up, he had been the "mascot" of his father's Kansas National Guard infantry unit. He accompanied them to their annual summer training at Ft. Riley. It was there that he first learned about the U.S. Cavalry.

Fort Riley was the home of the American cavalry during all those years. My father had some good friends in the regiments that were stationed at Fort Riley in those years. The thing that always impressed me about the cavalry was the officers. One is, they always spent more time, at least as much time, taking care of their animals and their weapons as they did taking care of themselves. Most units had a rule that you had to take care of the animals before you could take care of yourself. So the equipment and the weapons and the animals, the mode of transportation, if you will, were always of more concern than the individual soldier. That made a big impression on me as a kid even.

So, drivers and track commanders and gunners and loaders all pitched in; tighten the end connectors, clean the air filter, check water and oil, refuel, reload ammo ... All the myriad tasks that had to be done whether it was daylight or moonlight, 100-plus degrees, raining, or filthy dusty. On a good day, with everyone pulling their weight, it might take an hour. On a bad day – and there were plenty of them – it might take all night. Joe Willey, who TC'd a regimental scout section ACAV in 1969-70, recalls that whenever you came back from a mission, you always prepared your vehicle to go "at a moment's notice" first. You took care of your mount "before you did anything else. And generally, after you did that, the next stop was wherever the beer was." Alpha Troop's Ray Tarr recalls a day in the spring of 1970: "We got back to our N.D.P. [might defensive position] late that evening. We had to reload our ammunition before we could eat and this took some time. It was a lot of work. Then it started to rain. I went over to the mess line to get my supper, or what was left of it, and it was raining so hard that my paper plate folded in two. I was also upset because we didn't have our tarp up for the night, and everything was soaked. This meant that we would have to sleep being wet."

Such was life in the armored cavalry in Vietnam.

These, then, were the mounts ridden to war by the Blackhorse Troopers between 1966 and 1972. Although their mounts had changed in the previous six decades, the lingo hadn't. Sergeants still told the Troopers to 'mount-up' when the mission called. So, let's mount up and charge!

The Old Veteran



By James D. Burney L Troop, 3rd Squadron (66-68)

[Ed. Note: So many of our veterans continue to serve their brother veterans in a variety of ways. Their unselfishness is noted in commentaries, stories, obituaries and endorsed by the loving testimonies of their friends, family or associates. One such story is the narrative that follows by Trooper James Burney, who continued to expand the legacy of The Blackhorse Regiment while serving as a day-sitter at the VA Hospital in Cheyenne.]

While setting quietly and watching an old veteran lay there resting in the early morning light, I wondered if he was asleep or dreaming of times past? Maybe he was thinking of what to say to a family member, when he finally makes that call ... will it be his last?

He awakens and looks at his breakfast that has been there for some time now. A doctor comes in and speaks to him, asking questions while he checks his vitals. The nurses (two, this morning) are helping him to sit up. Then fluids are given and more questions. His day has started early and with full force. Doctors, nurses, therapists, and the chaplain follow closely behind. Yes, the chaplain's visits are welcome. Just the calming effect this chaplain's presence gives him hope for the day. His requests are noted and prayed for. I silently join in the prayer.

The old veteran is coughing a lot, choking on his own saliva. He is on oxygen and a heart monitor. Finally, he settles and begins to eat his breakfast, now cold. He just looks at it more than anything. I continue to watch the veteran, monitoring his every move to see what happens next; to see who comes in the room to do what. Believe me, it's busy.

I try to learn something about him; when and where he served, even some personal talk. Most of the guys like to talk, some continuously, others not very much. I do say that most like the company, even if they get drowsy and fall into a catnap, they are reassured by my presence: someone on guard duty, protecting them. They anticipate and look forward to visits from the friendly nurses and doctors. When they come in, you can see their countenance lift in their face.

We all try and treat them with dignity and not be too intrusive, and yet keep their minds occupied. Is death lurking in the shadows or, is he going to be OK? As an aging veteran, I ask myself "Will I be here some day?" I get my chance to reflect on how short life is.

Coffeeoh sure. He reaches for that cup of coffee that was served some time ago and getting cold. I was tempted to drink it when he is not looking, but just as I thought this, he finally reaches for it. He tells me, cool coffee is what he likes.

Around 10:30 AM, he asks me to push him outside for some fresh air. It was to only last about 15 to 20 minutes: it lasted about 1 hour and 10 minutes. Of course, we went out a door that said "No

Smoking." He insisted on smoking. So, I guess I didn't see the sign. Duh! I would be told not to let him do that again. I must be hard of hearing, they had to tell me many times. When we got back to the hallway leading to his room, the nurses were looking for us.

Lunch time is always extra hard, to see the food, good as it is, prepared just for this individual patient, and how he struggles trying to eat. Sometimes I help when I can, but then it is time to clean up, most of this is done by the nurses aide or assistant.

Soon another nurse comes in, cardiopulmonary this time. Daily progress notes are filling up faster than I would have thought. It keeps me alert though, especially not knowing when and who will be coming to do their rounds. They doze most of the time between visits, seem too tired to talk in the afternoon. In the quiet times while they are asleep, I get a moment to read. I often read a book by Norman Vincent Peale: Spirit Lifters. It is a 30-day devotional printed by Guide Post. One segment is about "God, the Source of all Energy." Boy, do I need that strength to sit here all day. I pray and thank God for this. "Thank you, Lord Jesus. Help me to cultivate and maintain a right attitude of doing your will while here. Humble me. Guide me and keep me in your loving care while being a day-sitter."

As afternoons wear on, I realize the pain and frustration, the suffering, even the loneliness that these men and women are trying to suppress. Sometimes these feelings are expressed, either with verbal anger or not. Later, more vitals are checked, fluids given, even some physical therapy – some moments in the day are gang buster busy.

On another day, I was in the room with another veteran I'll call, Fred. The room was a little dark, the hall was more lighted. I had trouble seeing. He was on oxygen, as most patients were. Fred doesn't talk very plainly, most of the time he mumbles. I think maybe he doesn't like to talk a lot, like myself. However, I hate to ignore

Blackhorse Marathon

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment reignited the tradition of the Blackhorse Marathon that began in the late 1970s in Fulda, Germany. The race started as an opportunity to bring the Regiment's Troopers and the community together. It is understood that Major General Sunell, the 48th Regimental Commanding Officer, is responsible for the institution of the Blackhorse Marathon. Our organization continues this tradition today in memory of him.

The event was held September 25, 2021, at Fort Irwin, California. The Full Marathon (26.2 miles) 1st place finisher for men was Capt. Evan Cain.

Congratulations Sir!

him, so I give it my best shot and agree with a yes, no, or, - is that right? I've learned not to answer with a question, it just leads to more mumbling and a one-sided conversation. Later I found out that part of his tongue was missing as a result of a fire-fight years ago.

Henry, another Vet, I was visiting with, told me he was 100% disabled medically with mental issues as well. One of the nurses came into his room and turned on a music CD. This was to provide background music to help with comfort and to help him with reflection on his life. He didn't respond to this, until she turned on the Christian channel, he really loved that.

As I continued to watch Henry, I saw a patient riding by slowly in a wheelchair, shuffling his feet. He stopped to say "Hi", but you could tell that he couldn't talk well either - something to do with his brain functions. He keeps staring at the floor, pointing and dragging his finger on the floor, convinced that he saw something there. At different times during different shifts, I saw him doing the same thing up and down the halls. While he was doing this, it brought to mind Jesus writing in the sand. We don't know what He wrote, but I remember He said "Let he who is without sin, cast the first stone."

Nurses are diligent and observant, but every once in a while, they miss something. Later that day the nurses were looking for a patient. The one who came by my location while I was talking to another vet. I told the nurses that I had seen him, but didn't know where he was. They looked into the adjacent rooms, but he had a new hiding place, a bathroom, but ironically, not his. We all had a good laugh about the incident. I apologized for my forgetfulness. Can you imagine losing a patient?

A Social Worker once told me that when she was working in the Alzheimer unit at an old folk's home, she could not handle the job. She always dressed nice (that I could see). But when she was leaving for the day, a certain old man would walk to the door and wave, pat and rub the window, as she walked away. She would leave in tears every time. The guy I was watching that day hadn't moved since I walked in and she looked at him for a long time and then said, he was probably on his way out. I asked, "out?" "Yes," she said, "he is on his last leg." He hadn't eaten his breakfast yet at 10 am; he still slept, not moving for 9 hours. We both teared up.

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

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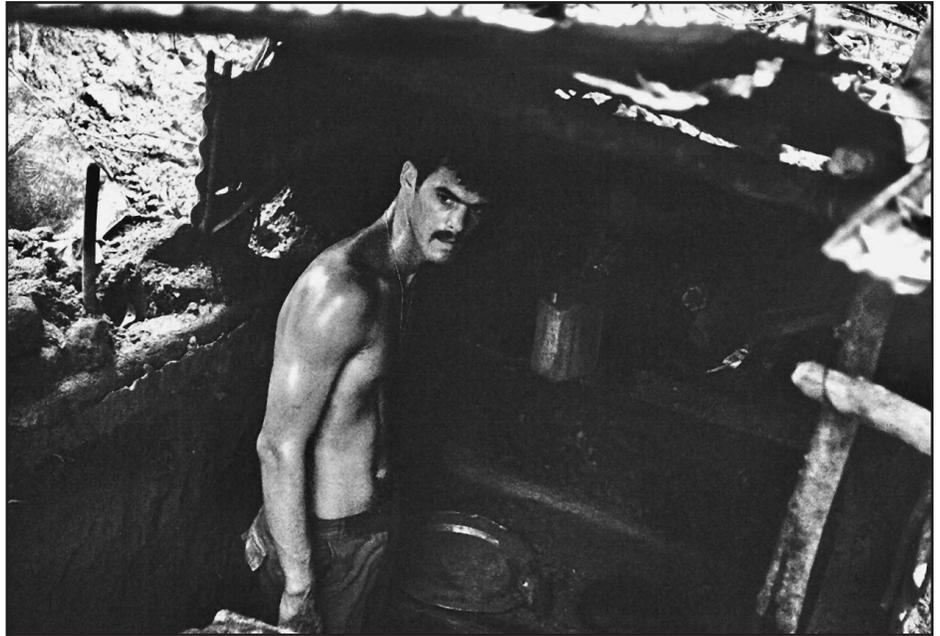
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My Tunnel Rat Training or 'Moore and I got It!'

My brother-in-law Bob knew I had some experience as a Tunnel Rat, so when he saw an article about the special requirements and training that tunnel rats in Vietnam had to go through, he asked me about my own training. He said that tunnel rats were not supposed to be over 5' 5" tall. They couldn't weigh more than 130 to 140 lbs. and were sent to Australia for special training in detecting and disarming booby traps and mines.

I told my brother-in-law that my tunnel rat training started about 8 months into my tour in country, in a Viet Cong bunker complex just North of Saigon. We had just finished a firefight and were clearing the bunkers. Our FO (forward observer) track 5 9er Charlie, was stopped by a VC (Viet Cong) bunker entrance. A grunt (infantrymen) threw a frag grenade into the opening and a Viet Cong threw it right back out. Fortunately for us the grenade hit the top of the bunker and bounced back inside, exploding. Captain West's command track was right in front of us. The Captain turned towards us and yelled, "We need Intel from that man. That's when Rocky, my fellow 60 gunner, yelled back, "Moore and I got it!" Rocky, dropped his flak jacket, grabbed his flashlight, K-bar knife and 45 pistol and jumped into the bunker. That's when my Tunnel Rat training began. "Moore and I got What?" I thought, as I muttered "Oh Sh**!" I dropped my helmet and flak jacket. My 45 was already on my hip. I grabbed my flashlight and told my TC (track commander) not to move from this spot until he heard me calling his name. I then jumped into the hole after Rocky.

Squeezing into that dark tunnel was not easy being 6'4" and weighing 180



Tunnel Rat Dick Moore

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pounds. I was immediately aware of why Tunnel Rats can't be over 5'5" and weigh more than 140 lbs.

By the time I caught up to Rocky he had already made the first of several turns in the tunnel. I knew the guy we were looking for could be around any of those corners and could fire off a clip or toss a grenade and we wouldn't be able to back up fast enough to survive.

All of a sudden Rocky stopped. He was listening for the enemy. I whispered, "What's up?" He said, "There's a booby trap here." I said, "Let's get out of here." He whispered, "It's OK, I already disarmed it." He then passed me a mortar round and a VC hand grenade. "Why are you handing me this stuff? Don't touch it!"

Rocky left the booby trap and we con-



Tunnel Rat Dick Moore at 6'4" and 180 pounds exiting a tunnel built for a smaller Rat.

I turned back to Rocky, sweaty body, no shirt, and all covered with mud. ...“Look at me! What do you think our guys are gonna think when they see you crawling out of this hole?”

tinued on through the tunnel. The VC had decided not to stick around and blow us up. He had pushed open a little camouflaged spider hole and “Di di mau” (Vietnamese for hurry and get out of here) without being seen by our troops. Rocky stuck his head up out of the spider hole and started to crawl out. I grabbed his belt and jerked him back into the bunker. “What in the hell are you doing?” He said he didn’t want to go back through that tunnel. I peeked my head out of the spider hole and could see our tracks (M113s Armored personal carriers) still milling around 200 yards away, with anxious 19-year-olds sitting behind their 50’s and 60’s (machine guns) ready to light-up anything that moved. I turned back to Rocky, sweaty body, no shirt, and all covered with mud. I shined my flashlight on my own face and body and said “Look at me! What do you think our guys are gonna think when they see you crawling out of this hole?” “Oh, I guess you’re right” he muttered. I led the way back the way we

came, through the tunnel. I was careful to skirt the booby trap. As I came out of the tunnel I hollered out to our TC John. He yelled back that it was safe to come out.

I promptly forgot about that incident and tried to forget my entire 15 months of combat, along with the loss of 13 young warrior friends, 3 high school buddies and 10 fellow Blackhorse troopers.

It wasn’t until 45 years later, while attending a mens retreat with my son-in-law, that it all came rushing back to me.

I told my son-in-law that I was just hoping to get some good bonding time with him on this retreat. But he insisted that God had something special for me too.

He was right. This was to be a healing time for me.

At one of our crowd breakers we were asked to share the craziest thing we’d ever done. Even though many adventures came to my mind the Tunnel Rat story stood out. As I shared my story with our small group things got pretty quiet.

The men were very candid with each other, and it made it easier to be open with them. As I listened to their stories and shared my own, a bond was building.

Another one of the exercises we did at the retreat was to confront the lies that we believed about ourselves. We had to write down the false names that had to do with our identity. I wasn’t aware of the garbage I was still carrying around after all these years. There was grief I had never fully processed. I had guilt and shame I had buried deep in my subconscious. I also grieved over a marriage I couldn’t save even after 23 years of trying.

The next day was our last, a Sunday. Our speaker started by drawing two lines on the whiteboard. He started speaking, “Most men go down the road of life thinking they are in control. Or at least that’s

what they want their friends to think. Then there’s a sharp turn in the road.” He extended the lines at a 90 degree angle. “Fear grips them” he continued, “They don’t know what’s around the corner. Will they be able to deal with it? Will people think they are weak? They try to push through their fears, and then some new threat shows itself. Will they be able to disarm it?”

With my jaw hanging open I looked around the room. Was anybody else seeing what I was seeing. The speaker was drawing my tunnel! The speaker continued, ... “Perhaps a friend or family member is about to make a huge mistake, and you don’t think you can “save” them, but you think it’s your responsibility to “try.” It was as if I was the only person in the room. And the lesson that morning was just for me.

My son-in-law came up to me after that service and asked, “By the way Papa, who else went into that tunnel with Rocky?” “Nobody,” I said. He let that sink in for a while. Rocky, was my friend and that meant I had his back. I was ready to lay down my life for him, the same as I knew he would do for me, the same as my KIA friends and the rest of the fallen warriors listed on that black marble in D.C. would do. They stood in harm’s way for their brothers and paid the ultimate price.

Later that day before we packed up to go home I went to the Name Chart and wrote the new names God had impressed upon me: Loyal, Faithful, and a Danger to the Enemy!

While I may have thought I wasn’t worth much, God thinks I am worth more than the whole universe; “He gave His one and only Son, Jesus.” Jesus died in my place, “...that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) That meant that I could let the false guilt and shame go. My debt had been paid in full!

I’ve since learned that, ...
“Grief never ends, ...but it changes.
It’s a passage, not a place to stay.
Grief is not a sign of weakness
nor a lack of faith.
It is the price of love.”

(Author unknown)

*Dick Moore (one over sized Tunnel Rat!)
1/11th Charlie Troop '69-'70*



Fiddler's Green

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

Over 500 U.S. newspapers are checked daily for the keywords "11th Cavalry" or "11th Armored Cavalry". Information is then posted on our website to allow us to post notices. Please check the "Funeral Honor Guard check daily" at www.11thcavnam.com

Charles W. Abbey, HHT, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 1, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Advance, NC. He was laid to rest in Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC.

Robert E. Abbott, F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on April 9, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Birch Run, MI.

Gerald R. Abney, 7th Army Postal Unit (1968-1970) passed away on May 1, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kokomo, IN. He was laid to rest in Albright Cemetery, Kokomo, county, IN.

Terrence J. Alexander, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on February 4, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Coatesville, PA. He was laid to rest in Hopewell United Methodist Church Cemetery, Downingtown, PA.

Dennis W. Ashby, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 29, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Effingham, SC. He was laid to rest in Prosser Cemetery, Florence County, SC.

William S. Bray, 37th Medica Company and F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on June 1, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cudahy, WI. He was laid to rest in Union Grove Memorial Cemetery, Union Grove, WI.

Roy E. Burke, HHT Regt (1967-1968) passed away on September 17, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Morro Bay, CA.

George J. Butler, A Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on June 20, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Stone Mountain, GA. He was laid to rest in Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA.

Frank A. Caley, 398th Transportation Detachment (1968-1969) passed away on August 10, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sandy, UT. He was laid to rest in Utah State Veterans Cemetery, Riverton, UT.

Robert W. Carlson, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on May 3, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Troutdale, OR.

Thomas G. Chambers, 398th Transportation Detachment (1969-1970) passed away on February 7, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gurley, AL. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. Thomas is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War.

Wallace R. Clopton, M Company, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on 01/00/2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bay Minette, AL.

Eugene C. Corliss, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 12, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waterbury, VT. He was laid to rest in Hope Cemetery, Waterbury, VT.

A. C. Cotton, Air Cavalry Troop (1967-1968) passed away on September 7, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Killeen, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.

Kevin J. Crane, G Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away according to his family. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Clayton, CA.

Wayne E. Cross, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on July 29, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lexington, NC. He was laid to rest in Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC.

Stanley L. Derringer, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1970-1970) passed away on January 31, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brinkhaven, OH. He was laid to rest in Wolf Creek Cemetery, Holmes County, OH.

Hugh F. Eads, HHT Regt (1967-1968) passed away on April 17, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Phoenix, AZ. He was laid to rest in National Memorial of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ.

Robert E. Emery, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1971) passed away on July 2, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kansas City, MO. He was laid to rest in Leavenworth National Cemetery, Leavenworth, KS.

Edward Fagundes, I Troop 3/11 (1970) passed away on January 7, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chowchilla, CA. He was laid to rest in San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Santa Nella, CA.

Charles T. Fishback, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 8, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Abilene, KS. He was laid to rest in Indian Hill Cemetery, Chapman, KS.

Herbert F. Foster, C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 8, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Concord, NC. He was laid to rest in Cabarrus Memorial Gardens, Concord, NC.

Earl L. Fowler, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1970) passed away on September 25, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Halifax, NC. He was laid to rest in Cedarwood Cemetery, Roanoke Rapids, NC.

Glynn E. Francis, 37th Medical Company (1968-1969) passed away on May 28, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Monroe, LA. He was laid to rest in Gwin Memorial Cemetery, Mangham, LA.

Arnold H. Gaylor, D Company, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 14, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Williamsburg, VA. He was laid to rest in Union Cemetery, Mcconnellsburg, PA.

Doyle W. Gonzales, A Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on January 15, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Talent, OR. He was laid to rest in Eagle Point National Cemetery, Eagle Point, OR.

Donald S. Hayman, (1970-1970) passed away on June 2, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Richwood, OH.

Ronald L. Henry, HHT Regt (1969-1970) passed away on January 7, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Nashville, TN. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Leonard E. Hofmeister, C Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 12, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fenton, MO. He was laid to rest in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

Ronald Hollis, A Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on June 12, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Carlinville, IL. He was laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery, Gillespie, IL.

Dennis G. Johnson, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 8, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Summerset, SD. He was laid to rest in Black Hills National Cemetery, Sturgis, SD.

Robert J. Kasni, I Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on December 2, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Snowflake, AZ.

Charlie J. Kea, HHT Regt (1968-1969) passed away on November 11, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbia, SC. He was laid to rest in Ft. Jackson National Cemetery, Columbia, SC.

Lawrence W. Klein, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 2, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Griffin, GA. He was laid to rest in Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Milledgeville, GA.

Robert J. Kornelis, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on November 26, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lynden, WA.

Roy E. Lee, 33rd Chemical Detachment (1970-1970) passed away on December 13, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Antonio, TX. He was laid to rest in Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.

James E. Lewis, G Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on May 18, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Shawnee, KS. He was laid to rest in Leavenworth National Cemetery, Leavenworth, KS.

Stephen K. Matthews, F Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on January 18, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Estero, FL.

William L. MCGar, H Company, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 17, 2022. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Madisonville, KY. He was laid to rest in Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens, Madisonville, KY.

Clinton J. Meshew, HHT, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on June 15, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Arlington, VA. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.

Gary L. Miller, F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 29, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tamaqua, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.

Raymond J. Modzel, HHT, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 25, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Vernon, CT. He was laid to rest in Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Romulus, NY.

Fred L. Montgomery III, E Troop 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on March 30, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cincinnati, OH. He was laid to rest in Oak Hill Cemetery, Glendale, OH.

Ronald L. Moody, HHT Regt (1967-1969) passed away on December 13, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hinesville, GA. He was laid to rest in Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery - Glennville, Glennville, GA.

Keith Morgan, M Company, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 18, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Harker Heights, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.

John P. Mutter, K Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on March 6, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Englewood, FL. He was laid to rest in Lakeside Cemetery, Hancock, MI.

Herbert A. Norris, 398th Transportation Detachment (1968-1970) passed away on June 3, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Redford, MI.

David W. Palmer, HHT Regt (1969-1970) passed away on January 14, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Albuquerque, NM.

Frank W. Petering, 409th Radio Research Detachment (1968-1969) passed away on December 14, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Thompson, MO.

James A. Priddy, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1970-1970) passed away on August 8, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Thomasville, NC. He was laid to rest in Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC.

Michael D. Pullium, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on January 20, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Augustine, FL. He was laid to rest in Jacksonville National Cemetery, Jacksonville, FL.

Terry W. Purvis, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1970-1970) passed away on February 7, 2022. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Grand Junction, CO. He was laid to rest in Veterans Memorial Cemetery Of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, CO.

Freddie E. Roach, M Company, 3/11 (1969-1969) passed away on May 14, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hillsboro, IL.

Lloyd A. Shuke, HHT Regt (1969-1970) passed away on January 7, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Monmouth Junction, NJ.

Gary L. Taff, HHT Regt (1970-1971) passed away on May 4, 2022. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Louis, MO. He was laid to rest in Valhalla Gardens Of Memory And Mausoleum, Belleville, IL.

Thomas F. Temple, HHT, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on October 13, 2021. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Atlanta, GA.

Richard S. Titilah, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 2, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Santa Rosa, CA. He was laid to rest in Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon, CA.

Victor R. Vela, B Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 2, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Milwaukee, WI. He was laid to rest in Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Union Grove, WI.

Dwayne R. Walker, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 1, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mountain Home, AR.

Jerry L. Weicht, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on May 19, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Inverness, FL.

Marion R. Woods, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 26, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Charlotte, NC.

Duane W. Wright, B Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 13, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY. He was laid to rest in Resthaven Memorial Cemetery, Louisville, KY.



SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman



I have received a total of 102 scholarship applications this year. 99 of the applicants are grandchildren and 3 are children of our members. There are 70 female applicants and 32 male applicants. As in past years, most of the applicants are high school seniors.

The 11th ACVVC Board of Directors are pleased to be able to award **53 scholarships for a total of \$161,000 this year!** Since the establishment of our scholarship program in 1996, we will have awarded 691 scholarships totaling \$2,186,000 by the date of our reunion in Birmingham! This is a tremendous accomplishment for an organization of our size and is only possible because of the generosity of hundreds of our members who support the Calendar, Raffle, and Silent Auction fund raisers every year.

Each of the scholarship recipients will receive a \$3000 award except for the winner of the Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Award scholarship who will receive \$5000. The winner of this scholarship will be chosen by Bonnie Schmidt, Colonel Schmidt's widow.

All the applicants should have been notified of whether they qualified for a scholarship by the time you receive this issue of Thunder Run. The determining factor for scoring applicants is their unweighted Grade Point Average for their most recent two years of education.

11th ACVVC Raffle to Benefit Scholarship Program in 2022

The proceeds from this year's raffle will go towards providing scholarships for our children and grandchildren. From 1996 through 2021, the 11th ACVVC's Scholarship Program has awarded **638 scholarships totaling \$2,025,000** to children and grandchildren of our members! This year we will award 53 more scholarships totaling \$161,000. This is an incredible accomplishment due solely to the generosity of our membership.

You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in the 2022 raffle. The drawing will be held Saturday, September 10th during the 37th annual reunion in Birmingham, Alabama. You need not be present to win. The suggested ticket price is

\$1.00 per ticket and is not tax deductible. The prize pool consists of:

- 1st place (\$500) 3rd place (\$300)
- 2nd place (\$400) 4th place (\$200)
- ...and eleven \$100 prizes.

Raffle tickets were mailed to all 11th ACVVC members on May 16th. If you have not already done so, please consider purchasing tickets to help fund this important program. If you do not wish to participate in the raffle you are still welcome to send me a donation for the 11th ACVVC scholarship program.

GEORGE S. PATTON IV QUOTES

- If everyone is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking.
- The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his.
- Urge all of your men to pray, not alone in church, but everywhere. Pray when driving. Pray when fighting. Pray alone. Pray with others. Pray by night and pray by day. Pray for the cessation of immoderate rains, for good weather for Battle. Pray for the defeat of our wicked enemy whose banner is injustice and whose good is oppression. Pray for victory. Pray for our Army, and Pray for Peace. We must march together, all out for God.
- Do not try to make circumstances fit your plans. Make plans that fit the circumstances.
- May God have mercy for my enemies because I won't.
- Better to fight for something than live for nothing.
- Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.
- A civil servant is sometimes like a broken cannon - it won't work and you can't fire it.
- It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.
- Fear kills more people than death.
- The highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is bearing arms.
- I don't measure a man's success by how high he climbs but how high he bounces when he hits bottom.



Blackhorse Women's News

By Sheryl Myers, Women's Group Co-coordinator

Dear Ladies, the 37th Annual 11thACVVC Reunion is around the corner. We hope you all are planning on attending.

The Blackhorse Women's Group will be meeting as usual on Saturday morning of reunion week. Spouses and/or family members are welcome to attend, while our Troopers are attending their Annual Business Meeting.

At the request of many spouses & family members, we have invited a VA Service Officer to speak at our meeting on how the VA serves our veterans and their families at this time in our lives. Please bring along your questions and concerns, as there will be an opportunity to ask questions following the VSO's presentation. We hope you will join us for this valuable meeting. Please arrive by 9:15 am

One of our Women's Group fundraisers is the sale of site-specific lanyards that keep your registration tag visible. We unfortunately did not receive our lanyards for the Dallas Reunion last year. So please drop by our Fundraiser Table and pick up your beautiful Birmingham Reunion lanyard. Our Fundraising Table will be located near the Quartermaster Store. Also on that table will

be our beautiful Blackhorse Tote Bags. Sales of these two items allow our group to donate to the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund, the Assistance Fund, etc. We will need volunteers to work at our Fundraising Table, so if you would like to take a 2 hr. shift sometime

on Tues, Wed, Thurs, or Fri please let us know. It's a lot of fun !!!!

We hope to meet you in Birmingham !
Sheryl Myers, sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com / 571-721-9189 and Lajaunda, Marguerite, Cherry, Renae, Kathy, Jan & Cathi

Blackhorse Women's Group Offers Tote Bags For Sale!



Blackhorse Women's Group Fundraiser!!

These two-colored black and red heavy duty totes are offered for \$10 each plus shipping.*

All proceeds raised benefit the women's group Prayer Shawl and Wreaths Across America projects and our group donation to the 11th ACCV Scholarship Fund.

Please complete the order form below and mail with payment to:
Marguerite Austin 34578 Kimble Shores Dr. Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Number of bags _____ X \$10 each = \$ _____

Shipping* \$ _____

Total \$ _____

*Shipping: \$7.50 for 1-3 bags; \$15 for 4 or more bags.

Thank you for supporting the Blackhorse Women's Group!



STARRY from page 8

gave his remarks to the veterans at the dedication ceremony.

“As our Army has come out of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and other threats are emerging...we are going through an evolution in the Army that I think General Starry, when he was the TRADOC commander, was leading,” said Col. Hook. “We continue to serve our Army in what we do for our current mission. That is to go out there every month and give the Rotational Training Unit the hardest day in the desert. The men and the women of this Regiment take their mission very seriously.”

Prior to Starry Hall, the Regimental leadership had occupied the same Regimental headquarters building since the activation of the 11th ACR at the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, Calif., in October 1994. Previously, the building was the headquarters of the 177th Armor Brigade.



A portion of group of approximately 70 Blackhorse veterans at the dedication who earlier were attending the 2022 Blackhorse Association Family Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Moments before uncovering the new signs, Col. Hook said in closing: “We have dedicated our time in command preserving the history and traditions of this great Regiment and you are a part of that. Know that we have dedicated our time not just for the here and now but those who came before us. That is you standing here right now.”

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

serves as the U.S. Army's premiere Opposing Force, providing a near-peer adversary in a complex and multilayered exercise. In addition to force-on-force armored engagements, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment also conducts dismounted urban operations; electronic and information warfare with drones, jammers, and radar; and mounted reconnaissance as well as all the activities to keep a brigade-sized force functional.

'Team M' 50 Years Ago

(Editor's note: This story originally appeared in 2017. It is being reprinted by popular demand.)

On May 7, 1967 while leading a force designated as "Team M" I received wounds which required my medical evacuation from the battlefield and from Vietnam. That's 50 years to the day, but I can still see most of those events clearly in my mind. I've certainly relived them many times over in the middle of the night.

It was a bright morning way far north on route 13 not too far from the Cambodian border where the 3d Squadron was in a laager around the howitzers. Cpt. Charles Hertel, formerly CO of M Company, had been reassigned to squadron staff, and I was acting CO until his replacement arrived. I was ordered to take a reconnaissance team further north and swing left, or northwest, to look for the enemy. The team consisted of the 2d platoon of M Company, the HQ tank, M66, and elements of one of the line troops of 3d Squadron.

We took off at daybreak and were soon off the highway and into no man's land, heading west. The terrain was level and dry and not very heavily vegetated. There had been a lot of bombing and defoliation and you could actually see quite a ways ahead; it was fairly open. We were in a single file column on what was almost a road. In any event, it was somewhat hard surfaced and very crude but ran in a fairly straight line and provided good visibility ahead for some distance.

I was in M66 at the head of the column and the 2d platoon consisting of 5 tanks was at the rear, with the ACAVs in the middle. I believe that the 2d platoon leader, Lt. Gail Burton, and I were the only two officers. All or most of the ACAV commanders were NCOs. We were all on the company net, and I also had the frequency for the TOC which we were reporting to which was, I believe, the First Infantry Division's. It could have been the 3/11th's TOC, but if it was, they were relaying to the BIG RED ONE because when we made contact a bunch of HUEY's arrived and hovered over the fight, and I don't believe they were the Cav's.

In any event, up ahead in the road was a

hooch or a brushed-up structure, and as we rumbled down the "road" towards them, four or five guys ran out and headed left for an area of blown over trees about 50 meters or so away. These were not pajama clad boys. They were regular soldiers, probably NVA, because they wore green uniforms with pith helmets, one of whom I came face-to-face with a few minutes later. They all had weapons: rifles or RPG's, and I took it that they were running to get back to others they were probably with. I have no idea what they were doing in that hooch away from the rest of their unit, but they knew that if they stayed there they'd be run over.

My first thoughts were: Hooray, we've finally seen the enemy up close and in the open. We'd been sniped at, mined and booby trapped for so long without getting a clear shot at the little bastards that to finally flush some real bodies out was a treat. Also, it should be recalled that at that particular time the official Army doctrine in country called for maximum body count, not just blood trails, and our whole effort up in War Zone D and the Ho Bo Woods had been in furtherance of that announced program. This was the era of Search and Destroy and "Find The Bastards and Pile On".

I radioed in that we were in contact, and told Lt. Burton to break off his platoon from the rear of the column and swing around to the right of the position the runners had gone into so as to flank them and block so they wouldn't run out the other side. The rest of us charged. I must have given some kind of command over the radio because everyone did the same thing, and we all rushed that position head-on. Even if I didn't all the vehicles instinctively did what was expected due to the excellent discipline, training and experience of the young vehicle commanders. Since I was at the head of the column, I got there first and came face to face with the guy in the pith helmet who had an RPG 7 slung over his shoulder pointed straight at my tank. Couldn't get the turret over fast enough and he got off the first shot. The rocket projectile went into the turret near the ballistic shield on the left front with a big bang and I wound up on the floor of the tank

with leg wounds. I remember at this point that the HUEY's arrived. I looked up at about the same time that the RPG guy popped up and saw a whole bunch of helicopters hovering at ridiculously low altitudes right above us. They were positioned so that the door gunners could help us with fire and they were doing that. One was right over me and he was pointing to the ground in front of us, either trying to point out positions of the enemy in the brush or maybe even pointing out the guy who was in the process of shooting me.

Now, as might be expected, the gunners in the ACAVs were going crazy with all weapons firing. At this point we were all bunched up fairly close together in more or less a line abreast. Nothing can withstand all that concentrated firepower, and it was soon over. I wasn't able to get off any rounds from M66 because the hydraulics were shot and the turret wouldn't traverse. I did manage to fire my .45 a couple of times but didn't hit anything. One of the door gunners got the RPG guy before he could reload and shoot again. I understand the rest of the enemy unit, which may have been a platoon size unit, was wiped out. I got medevaced out soon so wasn't able to survey the damage afterward. Here's an excerpt from a recent email exchange with Charlie Hertel in which he recounts his observations of the battlefield upon arriving shortly after the engagement:

"As I remember 7 May, we counted 7 dead NVA on the ground including one just in front of the stalled M-66. It was a macabre sight; the top of his head was blown off (as by a load of canister) and then M-66 had knocked a tree over on top of him. Jerry, you can claim this one as revenge for your wounds. For the life of me, I cannot remember whether SSG James, Danny Carrizales, and Sp4 Bogel were still there when I arrived, although I took over the company for another 2-3 weeks before Werner got over his malaria."

Now, a word about cavalry tactics. During our early officer training, we were all imbued with the notion of aggressiveness: Shock action, firepower and mobility. Be aggressive. Move, shoot and communicate. When possible, charge. Well, there are

By Jerry Stapleton



Be aggressive. Move, shoot and communicate. When possible, charge.

small area. Might have been different on other terrain. There have been many instances in RVN where the U.S. commander didn't comprehend the real size of the opposing force, e.g., Col Hal Moore in another 7th Cavalry situation in the Ia Drang Valley could have gone either way.

Finally, it all came out OK for me after the 2001 reunion. Until I was reunited with Charlie and Mike O'Farrell, M Company 3d platoon leader, I had worried that I might have or should have been court martialed for being carelessly aggressive and getting people killed. I figured I wasn't going to get court martialed because the Statute of Limitations had probably run out, but I was still terribly worried that my actions had gotten someone killed. Turns out that that didn't happen, but it could have. As everyone knows there is such a randomness in war. Luck plays such a big part of it. But I've always been lucky. There's a saying in golf when you get an undeserved good bounce: "I'd rather be lucky than good.", and I would. (Jerry Stapleton is a retired lawyer who lives in South Texas. He is indeed lucky because he managed to get himself wounded in combat three times before being finally medevaced from RVN in May of 1967. He is a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.)

charges and there are charges. Generally, against an entrenched enemy, who has the advantage when he's in a defensive position, a well mounted charge will partially offset that advantage. You can either stop and call in indirect fire or airstrikes, fire and maneuver, or, charge. But you better be right, or lucky, in making that split-second decision because a lot of things can go wrong. Take Custer, for example, at Little Big horn. He underestimated the size of the enemy, split his forces so that the disparity in numbers was compounded, and became the chargee. Plus because he had so few choices and so little time, he had to select a piece of ground

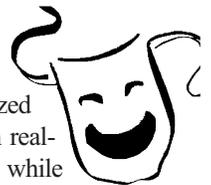
to now defend on which allowed the enemy cover and concealment while turning the tables on him. Take H.R. McMaster and Eagle troop of the 2nd ACR at 73 Easting. His unit was the tip of the spear of a larger unit which was itself charging. He had the advantage of superior technology which overwhelmed all other disadvantages of the moment. In my situation, I was lucky. The size of the opposing unit was not so large that it overcame the advantage that our speed and aggression gave us. That was not too hard to see immediately due to the openness of the terrain and the likelihood that there couldn't be too many of them hiding in that relatively

A Little Latrine Humor

It was a dark and stormy night..... just kidding..... it was a sunny afternoon, about 4:00 PM, and I needed to make a trip to the four-hole latrine on the edge of the compound. The place was Quan Loi, Viet Nam and the compound was the 37th Medical Company on the edge of the berm. In the Spring of 1970 Quan Loi was often referred to as "rocket city", as we were frequently (almost daily) visited by one or more Kadusha rockets so popular with the VC. This was largely harassment fire to keep us awake and on the watch. Usually, these attacks came in mid to late afternoon. As mentioned earlier, I was visiting the four-holer and engaged in my business when I was startled by what I thought was an incoming exploding rocket. I immediately leapt off the toilet seat, grabbed a handful of toilet paper, stuck it where it belonged, and crashed out the door headed for the ice bunker. The ice bunker was the nearest shelter to the latrine, and I dove in trailing toilet paper behind me. Once inside

and presumed safe, I waited for additional incoming. That is when I heard and distinctly recognized the explosive sound of outgoing artillery. I then realized that I mistook outgoing from incoming while secluded in the latrine. When I emerged from the ice bunker I observed two Vietnamese day workers laughing hysterically while looking in my direction. Needless to say, I was pissed off at myself and more than a little embarrassed. Afterall, my pants were down, and I was trailing toilet paper when I ran for the ice bunker. Must have been quite an amusing sight for the Vietnamese ladies. Without further delay, I proceeded back to the latrine to finish my task. Just another day in Viet Nam. True story.

Steve McEvoy, SP5
91B20, 71B20
37TH Medical Company, 70 - 71



A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week.

.....George S. Patton

Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

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

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

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

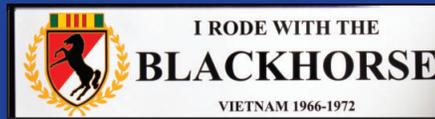
QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



#2 Key Ring \$6.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



#8 Mouse Pad \$12.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



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



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$22.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



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



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



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



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



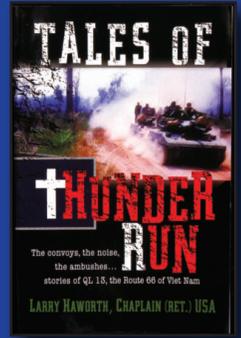
#26 Large Magnetic Patch (8" x 7 3/4") \$7.00



#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



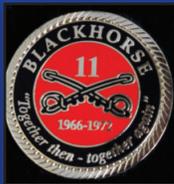
#35 See through Window Decal Sabers and Patch, 12" x 13" \$15.00



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



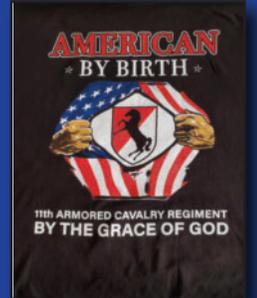
#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#31 Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs \$7.00



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



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



#27 Golden Boot Spurs \$30.00



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



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



#38a



#38b



#38c



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



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



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



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



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



From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

HELLO TROOPERS and TROOPER WIVES...

WELL!!, it's getting closer to Reunion time, and as you know that means that you should have been making plans, some time back, to be registered for Birmingham, Alabama and our 37th Reunion. If you haven't started, BEST do it as soon as you can. It is shaping up to be another good one. So go ahead and make your plans now to attend and should something come up to where you can't attend you can still cancel before the deadline. As in some cases the cost of travel is WAY up there, well let's look at it this way. Several weeks ago we had our East Texas Round Up as to our surprise we had a couple pull their camper ALL the way from California to East Texas. WOW!! what a surprise we had. Well just think what a

Blackhorse Trooper or trooper wife can do when they make plans even when time is short to get signed up and get with it.

Just a mention of Round Up, we had a number of campers who came again from last year. And Two new Troopers and Wives who came for the First time. One of which caught up with us late last year and has never been to a Reunion. We are hoping they get to come this year to renew some old acquaintances from bygone years. And YES, you don't have to be a camper to attend Round Up. Just come on by and spend some time with us, we will be glad to have you join us.

As Quartermaster sometimes I have to do something that really bothers me to the utmost. I had to send as many as four orders back to guys who had sent

them to me. Each one had NO PHONE NUMBER for me to call back; NO SIZE ON SHIRTS that I needed: NO CORRECT RETURN ADDRESS for me to use. And lastly the use of OLDER order forms where prices have changed a lot since then.

Lastly, pay closer attention to the order form, we have started to reduce the number of items we are carrying because our numbers of Troopers are beginning to dwindle. So please, if you can, make plans to attend as many Reunions as possible.

So come on by your QUARTERMASTER STORE and say hello. Jan and I will be looking forward to seeing you in BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA...

ALLONS

Qm Jerry

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

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

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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

SER NO RANK (during tour) _____ SSN NO _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

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

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

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

(Sign) _____

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

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



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 3rdQtr 2022

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

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

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

Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple items)

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

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

Signature _____

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

*Name _____ Phone _____

*Address _____ Email _____

*City/State/Zip _____

Check if address change

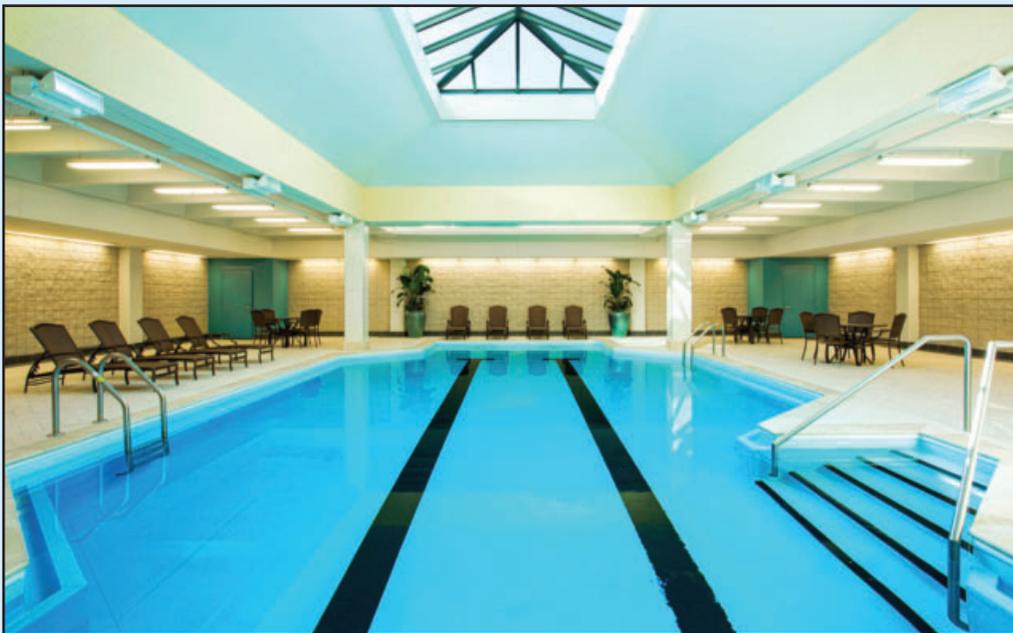
Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC. ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.** Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com**

*** Required info to process your order**



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

REUNION 2022 SHERATON BIRMINGHAM



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 Pontiac, Illinois
 PERMIT NO. 592

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