



Thunder Run

Vol. 16 – NO. 4 “Together Then – Together Again” 4th Quarter, 2001

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

Gobble, Gobble and Ho Ho Ho

By Ollie Pickral

■ 2001 was a banner year for 11 ACVVC

As we get closer to the end of 2001, we need to reflect on what has transpired throughout the year. It was the 100th Anniversary of the 11th U.S. Cavalry and we celebrated hard with many activities all over the country. Here are a few of them. There were two activities on it’s birthday, February 2, with a gathering of troopers at the birthplace of the 11th Cav, Fort Myer, Virginia and a reunion going on in Las Vegas, Nevada. Both were successful gatherings. The 16th reunion in Washington DC this past August was attended by over 1,300 troopers and family members. Highlighting that weekend was our guest speaker, Secretary of the Army, Tom White. Just this past October was the annual picnic held in Davis, California hosted by Ron and Janet Krueger. A record number of Blackhorse troopers showed up for this gathering.

Your Officers and Directors want to wish each and every one of you a happy holiday. This is a time for all of us to be grateful for all the things we have and to share our blessings with our family and friends. Don’t forget to scan the

Quartermaster form on page 15 for all your holiday shopping. Every year, your better half asks what you want for Christmas and now you can let her know by showing her your list. Order early so you can get them by Christmas time. As you know, our quartermaster store is run by two volunteers, Rod and Elida George who will be donning their elf clothes to meet the demand. Scarf-up those 100th anniversary shirts and hats as they are limited in quantities and won’t be ordered again.

We are putting more and more photos in the newsletter each quarter and your editor would like to include your favorite photo from Vietnam. We must have the actual photo sent in and after being published, it will be returned to you. Please use a caption to identify who and what the photo is of. We are trying to include a variety of subject matter for your newsletter including poems, cartoons, stories and articles regarding health issues that affect veterans who served in Vietnam. Our members supply all of these stories and we need these articles from you. If you are sending articles via email as attachments, please be sure not to “double space” your lines and please use “lower case” letters and not “all capital letters” for your stories.

Please turn to 2001 on page 4

Inside this issue

The Scholarship committee selected another \$3,000 scholarship award for the year. This was a result of the raffle and silent auction at the reunion in August. See her photo and letter to all our troopers. Included are two additional letters from recipients of our scholarships

We’ve included an article on type 2 diabetes. This information should be of interest to all of us.

There are two articles enclosed that discuss our need to be a part of the Blackhorse family, both veterans, and active duty Blackhorse troopers.

You’ll find Chaplain Haworth’s article on “call signs and handles” as very amusing and it will certainly bring a chuckle from each of you. His messages come through “lima charlie” in his usual inspiring fashion.

Steve Page, this year’s reunion chair, has some lighthearted things to say about our next reunion in Nashville. In his article he informs you of all the aspects needed to make your hotel reservations and the tourist information necessary to making your stay in the Music City a memorable one.

“Times are a wasting”! Get ready, get set, and turn the page.

Allons

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From The Command Track

By Ollie Pickral, President



Ollie Pickral, President
11th ACVVC

By the time you receive this newsletter, two months will have passed since the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. I cannot express the

pain and anger I felt after seeing the second aircraft plow

into the World Trade Center. Then it happened a third time with an airplane slamming into the Pentagon, then a fourth where it appears gallant Americans foiled an attempt to hit another building, perhaps the Capitol building or the White House.

Many of you called, emailed and wrote, expressing the desire to “re-up” and “get” those responsible. You expressed your love for your country along with your willingness to fight again for the USA. However, there is another generation that’s highly educated and trained to serve on the fighting end of this new war. I suggest all of you support our military as it goes into battle. This war will differ from Vietnam, yet it is similar in that this enemy is determined much like the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army we fought against. This will most likely be a long war just as ours was. We must not walk away from this until the job is done and done completely.

Inside this issue, please read the Declaration of Support the 11 ACVVC issued and forwarded to the Secretary of the Army Tom White. I think the contents of that declaration speak the mindset of the majority of our organization and our country.

Now to update you on what is happening in your organization. There are several things going on..... the Officers and Directors will meet at the Cibolo Ranch in Southwest Texas for a “mid year” meeting in mid November of this year. This was made possible by A Troop’s John Poindexter. Inasmuch as our Officer/Director meeting and our annual membership meeting usually go over the allotted time at our reunions, some of the business

does not get completed. In the past, we generally had to settle that business via email or telephone calls once back from the reunion. Some of the topics to be discussed are the following: 1) Scholarships – What will be the volume of requests in the near future? 2) Short and long term uses of 11 ACVVC monies. 3) Reunions – Do we need to change our present procedures? 4) Volunteers needed now and in the future years. We plan to have 3 days scheduled for the meetings and of course some time for social functions too. I extend my sincere thanks to John for his generosity in contributing for this important meeting.

I’d like to remind everyone as the 2001 year comes to a close, donations to 11 ACVVC are tax deductible. Our scholarship program benefits tremendously by your cash gifts and silent auction items. Upon request, 11 ACVVC will provide you with a receipt for your donation.

Just around the corner is the holiday season. Please give your “better half” a copy of the quartermaster list on the back page and tell her to “go to town” with purchases from our excellent products that we stock. Order quickly as some items are limited in quantities and some are “one timers”. Rod George is standing by waiting for your orders. Wear your 11th Cav products proudly. It demonstrates your patriotism and love for the unit you served with. See Rod George’s quartermaster article next to the order form.

August will be here before you realize it so you may want to make your hotel reser-

vations at the Sheraton Music City now. The dates are Aug. 8-11, 2002. There are only 350 rooms available at this hotel. Call them at: (615) 885-2200. Also, go to their website at <http://sheratonmusiccity.com>. You can see what the hotel looks like and the services they provide. More information and the registration form will be in the 1st qtr. 2002 Thunder Run.

John Sorich, our VP and Scholarship chair, will be sending out our annual raffle tickets to benefit our Scholarship fund early in 2002. This function provides approximately four annual scholarships to our children. In addition, John is working on the 2002 calendar that will be mailed out to each member. The 2002 calendar also aids in benefiting the Scholarship fund. Complete the envelope provided and send in a donation.

Former Blackhorse trooper, Secretary of the Army Tom White was named Interim DoD Executive Agent for Homeland Security Oct. 2, 2001, by President Bush. As you are aware, our President authorized the new agency to protect the American homefront from terror. Secretary White was the guest speaker for our reunion in Washington, DC this past August.

Debbie, April, and I wish every one of you a happy Thanksgiving and blessed holiday season. May the New Year bring happiness to you all! We look forward to another good year for your organization.

ALLONS

MOVING?

We want you to get your copy of **Thunder Run** without a lot of trouble? Complete this form and mail it to: **11th ACVVC Membership Update, Warren Swinford, 2300 W 400 S., Clayton, IN 46118.**



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

From the 11th ACVVC Staff...

Season's Greetings

Newsletter Deadlines

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

First Quarter.....Jan 15
Second Quarter.....Apr 15

Third QuarterAug 15
Fourth QuarterOct 15

Blackhorse Picnic A Big Success

■ by Ron and Janet Krueger

11th Annual Blackhorse Picnic, Davis, CA

Gorgeous weather and good friends made the Northern California picnic a huge success. Attendees came from Louisiana, Oregon, and Arizona as well as all parts of California for a total of 63 vets, families and friends and including a party of 5 from Ft. Irwin.

The parents and family of Ralph Ramirez, an 11th ACVVC KIA, were honored guests. Isabel Ramirez, a Gold Star mother, Col. Mike Davis and Sara Krueger used an antique cavalry saber to cut the Blackhorse patch cake created by Janet Krueger. All activities in the park came to a halt when Adrian Vaaler blew Taps.

Many thanks to everyone who attended, because they all helped to make the day successful. Mark your calendar for next year's picnic, October 5, 2002.

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



Thunder Run (©2000 11th ACVVC) is the official publication of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), 1602 Lorrie Drive, Richardson, TX 75080-3409. Telephone (972) 235-6542; a not-for-profit organization. It is published four times a year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, PO Box 70346, Beaufort, SC 2902 (finisterre@islc.net) for members of the organization. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the 11th ACVVC.

Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," Ollie Pickral, 1602 Lorrie Dr., Richardson, TX 75080-3409 <ktrp11acr@aol.com>

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A Memorial and Time Capsule

by Mike Gorman

Pownal, Vermont is the location of this memorial honoring the KIAs of the 11th Cavalry – Vietnam & Cambodia

This is a combination 11th Cav Memorial/millennium time capsule which I constructed starting in 1999. We finished the landscaping and added a flag this summer. I got the idea while in Ireland in 1978. There I saw countless memorials, some of very great antiquity, everywhere I turned.

I decided to construct a memorial, and the time capsule seemed an obvious bonus. The capsule is on a busy road in Pownal, Vermont. It's on Barbers Pond Road.

On the backside of the capsule is a stone bench facing the pond. The time capsule is sealed in the center. It is composed of many items from our time, including a lot of photos from Nam. All the photos are black and whites. My photographer friends assure me that they can last a long time, while color photos only last about 20 years.

There are also items peculiar to our times: a condom, playboy magazine, computer magazines, sports magazines, car magazines, newspapers, a mechanical clock, a cell phone, a calculator, coins, stamps, ammo, and about every other thing else that I could think of. Everything is sealed in 3 each .50 caliber army ammo boxes. The inscription on the front of the 8" inch thick granite stone reads:

Pilgrim, a prayer in memory of 767 troopers of the 11th U.S. Cavalry Blackhorse Regiment killed in action 1966-1972, Vietnam War. Erected 1999 Michael Gorman; Air Cavalry Troop 68-69

2001 from page 1

What a terrible tragedy it was on September 11! Our hearts and prayers go out to all those whose family members and friends killed or injured. Thank goodness this country has heroes we can all be proud of. Now the banner is being transferred to our armed forces to rid the world of terrorists. We need to give them all our support as they ready for the difficult tasks before them. We have included an article about our flag. Also included is the full text of a Declaration of Support sent to our nation's leader by our organization's President.

Web Site Contains Most Current News

by Eric Newton

www.11thCavNam.com

Ever wonder what the latest scoop is since you last received your copy of Thunder Run three months ago? Check out our own 11th ACVVC web page for the latest news. This becomes especially important as reunion time approaches. If you don't own a computer, ask a friend or neighbor to show you your website. Chances are, they will enjoy viewing the many topics and photos also. Many public libraries are also online and offer computers for visitors to use.

Our web staff works diligently each and every day on the content. Pete Echon has recently done some much-needed house cleaning by alphabetizing hundreds of topics. There are many help topics such as Veterans Health and Benefits that contain important information on exposure to Agent Orange and PTSD. The majority of the 11th Cavalry personnel operated in contaminated areas. With the recent national tragedy, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder has been given worldwide attention in the media. The public has now been indoctrinated to the problems that many combat veterans are faced with from past wars. This new awareness may lead to more understanding, better treatment and compassion for those affected.

When visiting our website, the very first place you always want to check out is the new information titled: *Current Website Updates*. Then move on to the *11thACVVC Message Board* and after that to *Relatives of Troopers Killed in Action*, (*seeking information*).

The *Member's Area* page is one of the most visited. Scroll down near the bottom to see if your old troop has a listing for it's very own site. This is where you will find more detailed information specific to your tour. Here are just a few of the main topic links that are available.

- ◆ Current Website Updates
- ◆ Trooper Chat Room
- ◆ Sign our Message Board
- ◆ Declaration of Support
- ◆ Member's Area
- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ Find An Old Friend List

-
- ◆ Quartermaster Gift Store
 - ◆ Hall of Honor 768 KIA Roster
 - ◆ Master Roster
 - ◆ Find an Old Friend Questions
 - ◆ Missing in Action
 - ◆ Sec Army Thomas White
 - ◆ Master Roster Updates
 - ◆ Relatives of Troopers KIA
 - ◆ Attack On America [Click Here](#)
 - ◆ Join the 11thACVVC
 - ◆ 768 Searchable KIA Database
 - ◆ Attached Units KIA

We Need Your Help to keep our web site growing. Volunteers are needed for the following areas: Quality Control (proofing) and Digital Photographer (reunions). We welcome items of interest for posting. For help or inquiries, go to the bottom of the main page for a list of the web staff so you can direct your E-mail to the right person.

The website will soon log in over 200,000 visits. If you aren't a regular user, you're missing out.

Public Relations

This year's 100th Anniversary Reunion received national news coverage from coast to coast. From a Los Angeles newspaper to a Salt Lake City television station who sent a camera crew to our banquet. I received a copy of the KSL-TV featured telecast. They did a very nice piece that ended with the names of Utah area Blackhorse KIA's scrolling across the screen in memoriam. Dick Nourse is the senior news anchor and got his start as a correspondent in Vietnam for the same station where he has worked ever since. The text of the story can be found on our website at <http://11thcavnam.com/news/wash.htm>

President Ollie Pickral sent a Declaration of Support to President George W. Bush on behalf of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Cambodia on October 1st. That declaration is in this issue of your newsletter. Also enclosed in the package was an official 11th U.S. Cavalry 100th Anniversary golf shirt and our color calendar. You can view these documents from our website's front page under Declaration of Support.

Patriotism Awakened

Patriotism after many years of neglect has been renewed. It was sad to know that when Americans wanted to display their

It was sad to know that when Americans wanted to display their patriotism they couldn't fly our flag because most did not even have one.

patriotism they couldn't fly our flag because most did not even have one. Before noon on September 11th, I had already posted a 3x5 foot U.S. flag at the entrance to our neighborhood and lined the curb with ten of the small wooden stick versions. Within four days all had disappeared, a few at a time except for the large one that I bring in each night. I can only say that I am glad those who purloined my flags are displaying them over a wider area than I was covering. The bad news is that I have been unable to replace them because every store is out of stock. There has been a nation wide shortage of U.S. flags.

The cowardly attack on innocent civilians on American soil has sparked an interesting change in attitude. Jarred by harsh reality, reconsideration is being given to the old thought that we were safe from all the worlds' villains. Instant appreciation and recognition for our public servants, police, and firemen who put their lives at risk is now being displayed in public. Heroes abound. As we call on our armed forces to retaliate and destroy the perpetrators of atrocities on humanity, veterans of earlier wars are once again being remembered for their sacrifices. The "me first" generation has come to realize that perhaps they should not have looked the other way all these years as the world's problems can eventually become our problems. The millionaire sports heroes aren't the ones who are going to make a difference in their lives.

A few days after September 11th, I was standing at the counter of an auto parts store when a man in his forties with an older teenage son entered. He immediately asked who was driving the truck with the Purple Heart license plates. My immediate thought was he had managed to hit my vehicle. I spoke up and claimed the truck awaiting the dreaded news that my two-month-old Avalanche was not new anymore. He walked over with arm and hand extended and said, "I have three sons and I want to thank you for serving our country."

All You Need To Know About Nashville – Reunion XVII

By Steve Page
Reunion Chairman

Things you always wanted to know about Nashville but didn't want to ask.

- What amount was on the price tag on Minnie Pearl's hat? \$1.98
- What year did the Opry begin? 1925
- What was the longest home of the Grand Old Opry? The Ryman Auditorium
- What country music star went into the sausage business? ...*Jimmy Dean*
- Who was the "King of Country"? ...*Roy Acuff*
- How many guitar pickers are there in Nashville? ...*1352*
- The Nashville studio in which Elvis recorded more than 200 of his songs. ...*RCA's Studio B*
- Name the 7th and 11th presidents that lived in the Nashville area. ...*Andrew Jackson and James K Polk*
- What is the shape of the driveway of President Andrew Jackson's home. ...*The drive is in the shape of a guitar.*
- What is Nashville's most famous nickname? ...*Music City, USA*

What famous Nashville candy is made of chocolate, caramel, marshmallows and peanuts? ...*Goo Goos*

Remember Reunion 2002 – Nashville, Tennessee, August 9, 10, and 11, 2002

Sheraton Music City Hotel, Rooms \$75.00 Dbl., Free airport shuttle and Free hotel parking; a special Memorial Service has been planned, so bring your cameras to this one.

There will be Tours, Golf, Shopping and a good time for the whole family.

Contact the hotel directly for reservations: (615) 885-2200 or (800) 325-3535 for central reservations. Be sure to mention 11th ACVVC Reunion.

This will be a Reunion you won't soon forget. I hope to see you all there. Nashville Information may also be obtained from:

The Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau; 211 Commerce Street, Suite 100, Nashville, TN. 37201. Telephone: (615) 259-4730 or Fax (615) 244-6278.

ALLONS

Stephen Page
396 Pleasant St
Holyoke, MA. 01040
(413) 534-0720.

I can count the times over the last thirty years that something similar to this has happened on one hand with plenty of fingers left over. I was a bit taken back. It took a very long moment to compose myself and choke out a faint reply.

I believe that Vietnam veterans will see something positive come out of this national tragedy in terms of respect for their sacrifice in the war they fought and the reason it was fought. It has always been my belief that we had to take a stand against international evil as we did in Vietnam and many other foreign lands. Take the fight to them, rather than to allow their power to build until they were strong enough and brazen enough to mount an attack on the soil where our own families

lived. We have all witnessed first hand the horror families suffered in Vietnam. I would take up arms today to spare my family, friends and countrymen from ever having to know that kind of world. We were right in Vietnam.

If you browse the requirements stated in the White House website for appointees, "President Bush's top priorities is to select men and women of the greatest ability and highest ethical and professional integrity to serve in policymaking and key administrative positions in his administration." It is refreshing to see many appointments of Vietnam veterans to high positions in the current administration in Washington.

*Eric Newton
K-Troop 68-69*

Reflection

By Donald E. Horn
CSM U.S. Army retired

To the members of the 11th ACVVC:

Upon returning from DC, I reflected on statements made by some members of our association. These statements and other similar ones I have heard before. They concern the separation of the 11th ACVVC from any and all association with the 11th Cav national association and the active Regiment.

This sentiment I consider totally wrong, irrational and not in the best interest of our association or the continued history of our Regiment for the following reasons. Please understand what is stated here are my ideas, thoughts and beliefs. Many may disagree with me. That is their right.

My feelings are simple. Our regiment was born in 1901 and as it lived its' magnificent life, its members fought several wars, quelled civil strife, helped prevent a war and is now engaged in training our Army to fight any future war in which our nation may become involved. During our Regiment's life, many troopers came and left but regardless when or where they served, whether they preceded me or followed me, they are my brothers and I will treat them and their memories with respect and admiration. I will assist any and all whenever and however I can.

At Present, we have three entities, the 11th ACVVC, the national association and the active Regiment. Of the two associations, 11th ACVVC is the larger and the richer. This is to be expected. These troopers numbering in the thousands, have a bond that can only be forged by combat and a bond that can only be understood by those who have seen combat. But, this bond must not be such that it becomes a club with which to brow beat or exclude other brothers from close association. We must share our largess and show magnanimity. We must keep in mind that our younger brothers admire us, our deeds, and what we accomplished. We must not repay that admiration by exclusion or scorn. We are brothers of The Blackhorse regardless of when or where we served.

We are veterans of a war that was fought over thirty years ago. We are getting older and will not be around forever. Keep in mind some time in the future, the last remaining member of the 11th ACVVC will be wheeled up on a stage to be introduced.

Allow me to bring to mind a thought. Suppose the border legion formed their own association. Our membership would drop because some of our members would opt to join this new group. Then we would have four entities. The more entities, the more strain on our brotherhood.

No, we must not isolate ourselves, we must be cohesive and remain closely associated with the national association and the active Regiment.

Allow me to mention a somber thought I feel may have escaped some. We are veterans of a war that was fought over thirty years ago. We are getting older and will not be around forever. Keep in mind some time in the future, the last remaining member of the 11th ACVVC will be wheeled up on a stage to be introduced. He will be proudly introduced by a member of the national association and will be pushed on stage by a proud member of the active Regiment. Think about it.....

Now let me state my feelings on the subject of our relationship with the active Regiment. As some know, and I feel many do not know, our Regiment actively supports all our reunions. This support is costly in both dollars and manpower. The effects of the dollar support are not overly visual but are necessary. The manpower support is very visible and is also necessary to the success of our reunions. The manpower is the fine troopers we see act-

ing as ushers, assisting in ceremonies and performing multiple menial tasks. These troopers are volunteers.....I do not mean the "hey you" type of volunteers, but true volunteers who gave up their free time to assist us in assuring that our reunion was a success. They should be treated with the same respect and admiration they hold for us. These troopers and others like them are our Regiment's future and we should welcome them in our midst. They are as you were thirty years ago.

May I suggest that in the future, a portion of our reunion time be set aside to allow a representative from the Regiment the opportunity to present an update of Regimental accomplishments over the past year. Time should also be allotted to honor our Regiment's outstanding NCO and Trooper of the Year. I have made his suggestion before but apparently the suggestion fell on deaf ears.

In summation, I feel we must associate with the other Blackhorse entities. We are true brothers. In the future, we will be a part of our Regiment's history. Lets make it a part where as we are remembered not only for our valor, but also for our generosity and magnanimity.

Don Horn served with HH Troop, Regiment as the Command Sgt. Major from July 1967 to July 1968. He is the "Honorary Command Sgt. Major of the Regiment".

PHOTO FILE...



First Squadren takes a drive through downtown Saigon on way to Cu Chi.



Greg Bell relaxes at Long Bien. Greg served with HH Troop, 1st Squadren.

Scholarship Update

by John Sorich, Vice President

Greetings to all! For those of us who attended our 100th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, DC it was a wonderful time. Our organizations and the US Army really rolled out the Red carpet and showed us a great time at this once in a lifetime event. The magnitude of this event has never been seen at any of our previous conventions. Considering the events and the size of our crowd I want to salute all that were responsible for making it happen.

As I enter my second full year as the Vice President and Scholarship Chairman I have some information to share with you. The Scholarship is alive, doing well and growing. This last season 19 candidates submitted applications for scholarships. From this field of candidates an impartial panel of 3 judges narrowed the field to 14 recipients. Their were to two changes to the Scholarship this year. The financial consideration of what the parents make was lifted and the candidates were evaluated on there own merits. The second matter would not have been possible without the help and generosity of many, many people. For the first time since the inception of the Scholarship we have increased the amount of the award. The costs of college and inflation caused your Board of Directors to reevaluate. In the past a winner was awarded a total of \$ 2,000.00. Paid in two payments, one in the Fall Semester, one in the Winter Semester. For those candidates who applied and were not selected please remember to be persistent. The history of our Scholarship has had many recipients who were passed over once or twice before succeeding on their next try.

Starting this fall, recipients will see a 50% increase in their award for a total of \$3,000.00. During our dinner program at our convention I was fully prepared to pass this information on to you. As I nervously waited to address a room full of people and tell you who the

Scholarship and Raffle winners were. It never dawned on me that the master of ceremonies, though planned, would forget this part of the program. So my opportunity to pass this information to you as traditionally the Vice President does slipped away. I promise that it won't happen again.

Next I would like to thank everyone for making this another very successful year for our Scholarship program. The outpouring of support from our Brothers, wives, families and friends always brings a warm feeling to all whom participate. The time and effort put in by so many to make this success bring great credit to our organization. There are so many who help in big and small ways that to attempt to thank them all and not leave someone out causes me wish I had a perfect memory.

All of the items I received as donations for the Silent Auction sold very well. Two of these custom crafted items were noticed by all. They were, a huge hand made Blackhorse Blanket and a hand crafted stained glass Blackhorse window. The time involved in caring and making these items shows everyone who attends the pride and fellowship we enjoy as a unit.

I was a very busy guy from Wednesday evening through Saturday night. I begged my wife, Barbara to let me do my job and forgive me that I couldn't be by her side. She hooked up with some other Blackhorse folks and had a great time seeing all there is to see in our nation's capitol. When I told her that I was reelected to be Vice President for another 2 years..... She asked me if I was crazy. My answer to herI was in good company.

I look forward to our next convention in Nashville and continuing to serve our membership. I will be asking for your help again and know that I can depend on your support. My most sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Allons

Letters of Appreciation from our Scholarship Recipients

The following letters of appreciation have been received by recipients of scholarships awarded by 11 ACVVC.

Mr. Sorich and 11th Cav Troopers:

My name is Aaron Malnarick and I am a recent recipient of the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Award. I first would like to thank you and all of the 11th Cav vets for selecting me for the scholarship. Thank you for assisting me in my pursuit of becoming an architect and providing me with the opportunity to expand my architectural studies.



John and 11 ACVVC:

I would like to show my appreciation to all whom made it possible for me to receive the 11 ACVVC scholarship. First I would like to thank you all for serving our country during the Vietnam War. I was not alive yet, but you all were there with my dad risking your lives to ensure I would be able to live in the same free country your grandfathers did. Now, over thirty years later you are still investing in our country's future by awarding a scholarship to me. My wife and I can't thank you enough; we really needed this.

Thank you and God bless

Jim and Jenn Foreman



Carra Osborne

To The 11th ACVVC:

The 11th ACVVC scholarship I am receiving for the 2001-2002 school year will ease the financial burden on my family and postpone the necessity for taking out a student loan. This year is the fourth year of my studies in biology at Southern Arkansas University. I am enrolled in a 5-year program and hope to continue my education at the graduate level.

My father is Michael Osborne, who served with G Troop. I would like to say thanks to the Blackhorse (11 ACVVC) for what you have done for me and for this nation. I have attended most of the Blackhorse reunions. At these events, I learned that often our military have made sacrifices, sometimes the ultimate sacrifice, to ensure that its citizens can live in freedom.

Continued on page 8



Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno

Okay this is the fourth time in the past two days that I have sat down and attempted to write an article for the Thunder Run. Somehow I start it and then suddenly my mind wanders back to that horrible day of September 11th. A day that touched each of us in so many ways. Perhaps some of us knew people who were directly involved in this tragic event but even if you knew no one there, we each in a way lost a brother or a sister. A brother or a sister in that we are all Gods children. We are all created in his image. So to each and every one of you I extend my love and my sympathy.

As the weather and the seasons change, I often take a day off from work and go for a drive or even for a walk around the neighborhood. I look at how the flowers in the yards are slowly wilting and the trees take on a beautiful assortment of reds, oranges and yellows. It is also a time for me to think back to the summer that has just all too quickly left us. For the most part it was a wonderful, fun filled summer. We enjoyed each others company in D.C. and then many of us returned to our homes or continued on vacation.

For Bob and I, it was a vacation of historical events in our great country. We visited places like Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown and Philadelphia. All places where so many people gave so much to help a new nation grow and prosper. As we visited each place we talked about how lucky we are that today we don't have to endure a lot of the hardships that they did. As much as I love camping and cooking over an open fire, I'm not sure I could have done it everyday! And I really do greatly enjoy the modern conveniences that we have today. You know things like indoor plumbing, microwaves and computers.

I must tell you all about something that happened to me last weekend. We live in the heart of cranberry country and therefore have a festival each year that celebrates the cranberry harvest. It is held in the town next to ours and people come from all over the United States as well as many foreign countries. Anyhow, on this particular weekend each year the whole town becomes filled with many craft and

flea market booths. As Bob and I were walking down the street looking at some of the wonderful things people had for sale, a woman jumped in front of me and said, "Where did you find that sweatshirt?" Since I don't very often wear a sweatshirt, she startled me and I had to look down to see what I had on. It was my Blackhorse sweatshirt. She went on to explain that her husband had served with the 11ACR in Cambodia and that she is always on the lookout for anything that has a black horse on it. We soon got our two husbands together and they began to talk. We told them all about the reunions and what fun we have at them. We gave them our name and address and are now waiting to hear from them again so that we could get them registered and active. So you see it pays to wear your Blackhorse clothing at places other than the reunion. You never know who you may run into or where.

Well, summer of 2001 is now past and as President Bush has said "we must go on with our lives.". So now I turn my sights to he upcoming holidays. Halloween is the end of this month and I haven't even started my decorating. This is perhaps my most favorite holiday of all. Why? Because for one day out of the year it's all right for a grownup to act like a little kid again. Play dress up and act silly. Each year Bob and I transform our front yard into a spooky and scary (but fun) place for all the town children to visit. Actually most of the children who stop by to trick or treat are not scared at all but you should see how some of the parents jump and scream as we pop out from behind trees or bushes.

Christmas is just around the corner. Have you finished your shopping yet? Okay, have you at least started it? I must admit I'm one of those strange creatures who start next years shopping the day after Christmas. So I am almost done. But there are still one or two things that need to be purchased. Our own 11th ACVVC quarter-master store is an excellent resource for buying something that means a lot to our spouses or friends of the Blackhorse.

I always get very nostalgic as I take out the Christmas ornaments. I have some that my parents have saved for me since I was

little and there are some that I have from when my own children were little guys. This year there are new ornaments to add. Things I have bought for my new grandchildren. So I assume that instead of it taking me two days to completely decorate the house and the trees, it will now take me three days. Why so long you may wonder. Well it seems like for almost every ornament there is a story to go with it and someone has to tell it over and over again. But, that's okay, because that's part of being a family.

So my dear friends as I close this article, I want to wish each and every one of you the happiest of holidays and may you all have peace and love in the upcoming new year.

God Bless You and Bless the USA.

Barb

*Barb Moreno
mailto:Mreno@mah.com
Women's Coordinator 11th ACVVC
417 North Glendale Avenue
Tomah, Wisconsin 54660*

11th ACVVC General Fund Donations

(All donations are tax deductible)

Terry Davis	Charles Olmstead
Horrace Eaton	Douglas Renkel
James Harris	Alexander Shogan
Stanley Hauser	Frank Werker
William McShane	Victor Westerberg.

SCHOLARSHIPS from page 7

I place high value on the excellent standards of the Blackhorse, especially the loyalty among group members and the concern for it's families. That concern includes providing educational benefits to members of our families. I have learned important values and traditions from the 11th ACVVC and intend to pass these on to my future family.

I'm proud of you all. Thanks for making me part of it and helping me with my education.

Sincerely,
Carra Osborne

Our Lost Warriors in Hiding

■ by *Frank R. Cambria*,
Secretary, 11th ACVVC

Another Blackhorse trooper is cut down. It could be from a bullet, shrapnel, a mine explosion, or a booby trap. His wounds are serious but he is alive. Doc is working feverishly to stop the bleeding and stabilize him. The Lieutenant is calling in a medevac and the platoon is nervously on alert as the Platoon Sergeant shouts instructions to secure a LZ. We have all seen it. Been there. Done that.

Soon the chopper comes in, creating a powerful, whirling dust storm. The buddies of the wounded trooper carry him through the blinding dust to the open door of the Huey and with the help of the medevac's crewchief, slide his stretcher inside. If an arm or leg was severed, the mangled limb was wrapped in a poncho and set beside the trooper even though we knew the evacuation hospital could not reattach it. He is one of our Blackhorse brothers and it just seemed right that his missing limb should go with him.

After just 60-90 seconds, the chopper is gone. His buddies stand there; listening to the fading WHOMP-WHOMP-Whomp-whomp as the chopper disappears. And when the sound can no longer be heard, the troopers take a deep breath, shrug off the incident, and return to the war. Odds are they'll never hear a follow-up report on the casualty. Someone mutters the infamous words of denial, "...It don't mean nothin'..." as he wiped the blood off of his hands and a tear from his eye.

Where are our most seriously wounded troopers today? Where are our troopers who suffered terrible burns or were blinded? Where are our multiple amputees? Where are our troopers with horribly disfiguring wounds? What happened to these gravely wounded Blackhorse troopers after they were medevac'd? Frequently nobody knows because they rarely heard reports after the medevac disappeared. These severely wounded warriors have suffered the most and the longest. Now, 30+ years later, there are still scores of these "missing" Blackhorse troopers. They are not Missing In Action, but Missing From Society ... and certainly missing from our reunions!

Those whose names are on The Wall only

Where are our most seriously wounded troopers today? Where are our troopers who suffered terrible burns or were blinded? Where are our multiple amputees? Where are our troopers with horribly disfiguring wounds?

surpass the sacrifices of these "lost" warriors. Some are still suffering because a "normal" life with "normal" opportunities was taken from them. Some died quietly incognito after years of physical suffering and hospitalization, and have never been honored by having their names engraved on The Wall. Some were in hospitals for years, and tragically, some are still hospitalized over 30 years later.

Lieutenant Jim Burg may be one of those lost or missing troopers. Jim was a well-liked and respected lieutenant in G Troop. He was compassionate, strong, good looking and athletic, rarely wearing a shirt. One morning in September 1970 Jim was point man on a small dismounted patrol when he triggered a booby trap and received a massive head wound. Captain Gordy Crupper, our troop C.O. at the time, told me the bad news with tears running down his face. Jim was my friend. Four days later I managed to make my way to the rear to visit Jim in the hospital. What I saw led me to believe that he could not possibly live. Even the nurse told me she would be surprised if he lived more than a few more days.

At a reunion in the mid-1990s, a G Troop vet told me that he heard Jim was alive. It was a shock to me, and no one had any details on his condition or location. How could Jim have recovered from such severe head wounds? In Washington D.C. 2001, my former C.O. Sewall Menzel LTC (Ret) and I decided we would do anything possible to locate Jim. We would clean VA bed pans if we had to. After two weeks of research, Sewall found that a Jim Burg from the Vietnam War was confined in a VA hospital in Florida. Was this the same Jim Burg? Sewall made telephone contact with a hospital staff person, but very limited information was disclosed. The indication was that Jim has been in various V.A. hospitals for 31 years when the person talking abruptly terminated the conversation saying

that he already divulged too much and hung up the telephone. As of 08/20/01, further calls to that person were not returned.

We want to tell Jim that his Regiment has not forgotten about him and the 11th ACVVC may be able to provide some comfort to him. If Jim is physically able to travel, the 11th ACCVC could help him attend a Blackhorse reunion so that he could experience the unforgettable camaraderie that only men who fought together can understand. If he needs an escort, Sewall, a hundred other Blackhorse troopers and myself would be honored to be his eyes or ears or hands, or to provide whatever would be needed.

How many other "Jims" are there? VA hospitals have thousands of "Jims" who suffered disabling, debilitating, or disfiguring wounds. We need to know which ones wore the proud Blackhorse patch so that we can reach out to them. The 11th ACVVC and BHA have the people and resources to provide some measure of help and comfort to the "lost" Blackhorse warriors in this category. It is not too late to help them. Some of them may feel like forgotten warriors. Others may have intentionally stayed out of mainstream society because of the severity of their wounds. In either case, they are our Blackhorse brothers. We owe them our supreme effort to reach out to them. We need your help to identify these lost Blackhorse warriors. We have a Trooper Assistance Fund, and President Ollie Pickral has stated his support for this cause.

Do you remember any trooper who was badly wounded and "disappeared" after being medevac'd? If this missing trooper is not listed on The Wall, he may be disabled or debilitated, or afraid, or physically not able to communicate with other members of his unit. If you can identify one of these men, take it to the next step by contacting others in your platoon for any information which could lead to his whereabouts. When you locate one of these men, please pass the information along to the 11th ACVVC and the BHA so that the organizations can reach out to him.

Frank R. Cambria (G Trp & S-2, 2/11 ACR 1970-71) was medically retired in 1972 as a Captain because of combat wounds. He is a founding member & an original Director of the 11th ACVVC.



Call Signs and Handles

"Battle 6!!, Battle 6!!, Battle 6!!" came excitedly over the TOC radio one bright and hot day in the jungles of Viet Nam. We were set up at our FSB along QL14 between Loc Ninh and Bo Duc/Bu Dop. I was standing there by the map board with the S3 air and whoever else was in the TOC at the time. The ole Man, our squadron commander, had just taken fire in his Huey command helicopter flying at about 500 feet over QL 14. He was coming down from visiting F Troop. I believed then, and still believe now, that he was one of the best squadron/battalion commanders in the US Army at the time. Those Dinks should never have shot at him. They put a round through the floor of that helicopter that went right between the Ole Man's feet. He got so "excitable" that he was calling his own call sign. Battle 6 was his call sign. When he realized what he was calling he changed it to the TOC call sign, the S3, or whomever it was he wanted to get the action he was after. They proceeded to make those dumb VC sorry they'd ever thought of shooting at our CO.

Whenever I think of call signs I remember that incident. It was funny in a way but it was serious in a much bigger way. It was funny to hear our CO calling his own call sign. But it was dead serious knowing what he was after and what he got. When he got past the hype, which was immediate, he brought skunion upon the heads of those VC. Whoever was at the TOC listening in knew exactly who was talking and what it was about. There was no mistaking who it was. We knew Battle 6 very well, indeed. Know what? Battle 3 also knew just whom his call sign meant. It meant S3, the operations officer. Battle 16 knew who he was too; he was the E Troop commander. And Battle 26A knew who he was. He was F Troop first platoon leader. And so forth. If you were a machine gunner on an ACav, you knew which track was being called because you had a call sign and you knew what it meant when the commo came.

Call signs had a precise and important function. It was to identify the officer, NCO or trooper occupying an exact position within the organization. When the call sign

You might not have known your buddy's real name but you knew him real well by his handle.

came over the radio or you were referred to by call sign at a meeting you knew just who was being talked to. Identification was not a problem. That was you if you held that position. If you left, PCSed, went on R and R or whatever, then someone else took the position. It wasn't the name of the person that counted, it was the position. I was Battle 11. I don't know why I got eleven, but I knew who was being talked to when my call sign was used. Maybe your job didn't call for a specific call sign of your own. But you still knew you were included when your personal leader's call sign came over the net. So call signs took in everyone. No one left out. Remember? Do you remember yours?

These call signs were very useful, of course. After all, that's how you communicated. Names were funny over there in Viet Nam. Many of the guys had "handles" which you surely remember. I won't talk about that here except to remind you that it was a regular way of communicating in those days. You might not have known your buddy's real name but you knew him real well by his handle. You probably remember a lot of handles. You probably remember a lot of call signs too. You heard them enough. Like in a firefight you'd hear the troop commander or the platoon leader or platoon sergeant's call sign hollered back and forth for support or giving fast and frequent sitreps. Your life depended on understandable and clear communication. Call signs did that. When you wanted the leader you didn't care what his mama named him when he was born, you wanted to say something to him about what he had to do because of his job right now. The call sign made that connection. When you had to have ammo, you talked to Battle 4. If the water came out to the field contaminated with diesel you got on the net, got ahold of Battle 4 Rear and gave him the what-for. Remember? How could you forget?

Call signs changed from time to time. You probably remember that too. I think mine went from Battle 11 to Workhorse 11

or something. I'm not sure. My memory is foggy now. After all, it's been over thirty years and I feel pretty good just remembering one squadron handle/call sign for sure and that was Battle. I realized we needed to change for security, though. After all, the VC weren't always as dumb as the ones who shot at the ole man's helicopter that time. They would listen in and learn pretty fast what our call signs meant. Then they could interpret what was going on. That was to our detriment, of course. This was opposite from what we needed. So we changed call signs from time to time. It was to confuse the VC (and NVA, of course) and not us. It worked pretty well, as far as I know. At least most of the time.

I'll tell you about my original call sign. It's one I still use when I email people. I don't have any good reason except I just like doing it. It brings back old memories, good memories, mostly. Maybe that's because I liked the guys who tagged it onto me. It's probably about the same way you got your handle too, a handle being a personal call sign. Mine was acquired like this: My first tour in Viet Nam was down in the Delta at Soc Trang. It was the southernmost American installation in Viet Nam except for an advisory team south of us. We were 35 air miles south of Can Tho and about 85 air miles south of Saigon. We had two companies of assault helicopters and a company of Bird Dog fixed wing spotter planes plus everything that went with them on that little airfield. It use to be Japanese then became French in the days before we came. On my first day there I walked into the club since that's where we ate our meals, including the pilots. The bar was there too, of course. So when I walked in the pilots started calling me "Sin 6." Well, I have a sense of humor too. So I said, "Hey" (or "Hay"), I'm not in charge of the sin department. But I'll be in charge of the saint department, if you want. So it stuck. I was called Saint 6 after that. It was just in jest, of course. And it became my call sign. Like being called "Sky Pilot," "Padre" or "Chap." Even if it was in jest, it still became my call sign that year. It was also my handle.

It may be news to you that God has call signs too. Did know that? I'll tell you about

Declaration of Support

it. You can check it in the Bible. God goes by many names, all of them expressing an attribute, which means characteristic. This isn't a Bible study so I'll just mention one divine call sign to make my point. God goes by the name of Jehovah, or Yahweh which, as I recall, is Hebrew. In the Bible's original language, which is Hebrew, I understand it's spelled YHWH. Know why it isn't spelled out completely? Give up? It's because the Jews of Bible times had so much respect for God that they wouldn't spell out his whole name. It was considered grossly disrespectful to do that. I understand that, even to this day, Orthodox Jews won't print the name of God because of their respect for his name, his handle, his call sign. That's profound. Sure is a different world from a lot of people I know who drag God's name through the mud the way they abuse it as a normal way to talk. That's in addition to how they ask God to damn everything from soup to nuts whenever God's name crosses their lips.

Jesus has call signs too. These are important beyond words because they are so loaded with meaning for what he is all about. For example, one of his call signs is Christ. Jesus is his name, Christ is one of his call signs. It means he's the Messiah, the Savior. It means he has the divine ability to forgive sins and qualify anyone for eternity in heaven that believes and commits to him. Or Lord. That's a call sign too, a title and a "handle." It tells what place Jesus occupies in the life of whoever believes in him. It means that he is the authority, the guide, the teacher and, voluntarily speaking, "the Boss."

A section of the Bible, written way before Jesus was born, talks about what some of his call signs will be. This'll finish what I have to say for this article: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this." (Isaiah 9:6-7).

God bless you. God loves you. So do I.
Chaplain Larry Haworth
LEHaworth@aol.com

We, combat veterans of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse), fought for the United States of America in Vietnam and Cambodia.

During this war against communist aggression, our nation was bitterly divided and many American citizens rose in protest against our involvement. Members of our armed forces were the objects of disdain and ridicule. We returned home to a national landscape of public opinion and political division unchanged until the morning of September 11, 2001.

On this day, our nation suffered the largest loss of life in her history. As dusk fell on our land, we, as a people, were through infamous acts of evil, again united as never before.

As our nation now prepares for a long struggle against a new enemy, our freedom and way of life are threatened. Many brave American men and women have suffered the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom. From the Ardennes Forest, to the beaches of Normandy, to the jungles of Vietnam, to the sands of Iraq, Americans have fought and died to defend liberty and freedom.

On September 11, 2001, our fallen caretakers of freedom welcomed new heroes – those valiant and heroic victims who perished on American soil in New York, Virginia

and Pennsylvania. As a nation, we grieved our loss, mobilized to again defend our country and pledged to lead the world against the threat of terrorism. We, a nation of diverse religions and cultures, turned our collective eyes to the Lady in the Harbor who welcomed those tired and poor; those yearning to be free and stood unified as one people, Americans!

Now we, combat veterans of another generation, are once again stirred by the hallowed words of General Douglas MacArthur: "Duty, Honor, Country".

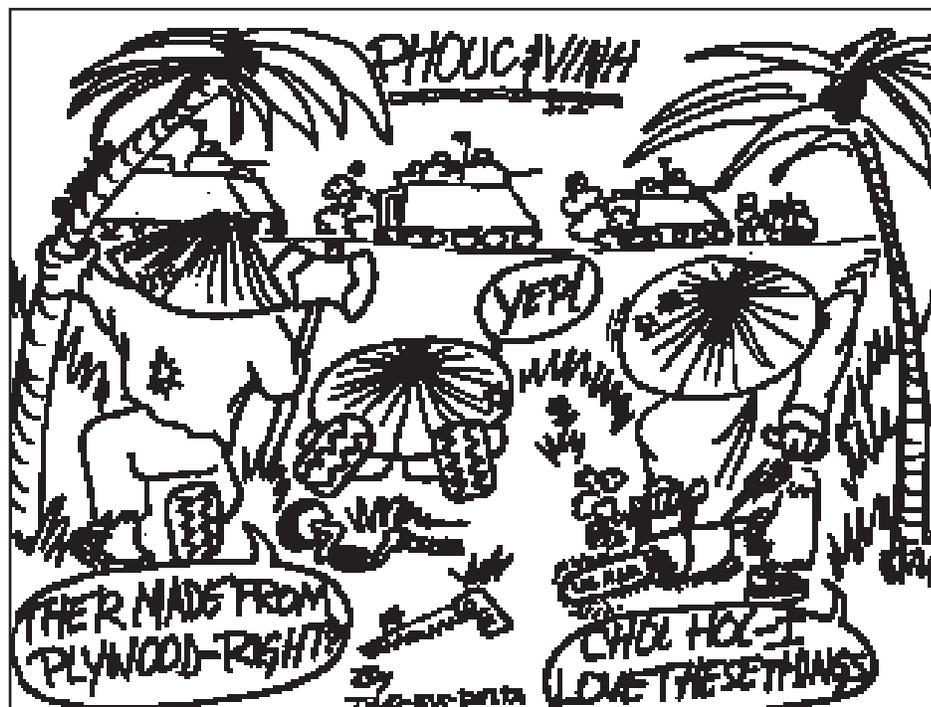
We solemnly offer our unqualified Declaration of Support to our President, our civilian and military leadership and the valiant men and women of our armed forces. We ask all Americans, regardless of race, religion or creed, to do nothing less.

As resolutely spoken by our President, George W. Bush, "We will not tire, We will not falter and, We will not fail"! Strong, simple words – the foundation of our Resolve.

May God bless the United States of America and all freedom loving nations of the world.

ALLONS!

(Special thanks to Tom Reese, the author of the above, with Eric Newton's and Gene Johnson's input)



Incoming...

John Tillman: When the 1/11th Cav deactivated in February 1971, I was assigned to A Troop, 4/12th Cavalry, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry (Mech.). A bunch of us are trying to locate everyone who served with A Troop in Vietnam. I am asking everyone who served with A Troop, 4/12th Cavalry in Vietnam to contact me. John T. Tillman; 1350 East Flamingo Road #3173; Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. Email me at eleventhcav@msn.com

♦♦

Jessica Johnson, daughter of Mitsi and our Reunion Committee chairman, was selected as 1st Runner Up in the Ms. Nevada Teen Pageant on Sunday Evening October 7, 2001. That's a very good showing for her very first pageant. Congratulations Jessica!!

♦♦

From **Ruth Ann Maynard** on losing the photo album of her brother Roger, one of our E Troop KIAs. An employee who works at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, DC called and told her they had found her brother's photo album!!! She and her family are so grateful for this wonderful news. The hotel is mailing it out to her. She is thankful to all for their help, and for their prayers. As you recall, when Ruth Ann packed her display

away in the Bunker, the photo album was missing.

♦♦

Sandra Case, the younger sister of our KIA, CW2 Phillip Mohnike is looking for troopers who served with Phil in Air Cav Troop during his tour. Phil served as a chopper pilot prior to his death and his sister would like to talk to any Air Cav Trooper who either flew with him or served with him while there. Phil was killed on April 27, 1969. Please contact Sandra at: 237 Kreutzberg Road; Boerne, Texas 78006.

♦♦

From **Dave Spalding,** city councilman for the city of Belle Plaine, MN. and a Blackhorse trooper (Germany). In May of this year, he took a trip to Fort Rucker, AL to transport a retired Huey for their city's Veterans Memorial Park. As it turns out, the helicopter, tail # 68-15369 was assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam in 1969-70. They are refinishing it to go on a ten foot pedestal for display. If anyone in our organization has a personal story relating to the Huey, and wants to share it, he'd like to here from you. Contact Dave at email: spaldingbp@gateway.net

Cinderella, Blackhorse Style

by Jim Murray, KIA Liaison
11 ACVVC

Northern fairy tales begin with "Once upon a time..." but Southern fairy tales begin with "Y'all ain't gonna believe this stuff."

I'm a Yankee, born and bred in Western Pennsylvania, however, I'm now a wannabe Southerner, living in South Carolina and loving every minute of it. So, what does this have to do with Cinderella? Please, read on!

Once upon a time, there were 3 sisters, first Shirley then Ruth Ann. Mom and Dad thought, "Wow, we sure do need more of these cool people", so brothers Roger, Ronnie, Donnie and Tommie arrived! All were happy for many years as family dynamics, relationships and vacations continued to enhance the love felt by all. Squabbles happened, friendships were forged and 'bumps in the road' was navigated without harm to any. Egos may have been bruised along the way, but recovery was rather guaranteed.....until the dark days.

Tommie always dreamed of having his own trucking company and his older brother Roger, encouraged him at every point. Tommie's nickname, Porkie (imposed, of course, by his older brother Roger) became "Porkie's Express", until 1999 when Tommie died. Roger's letter from Vietnam, suggesting the company name, was buried with Tommie. Roger Lee Byus, E Troop, 2/11 was Killed In Action, 24 November 69.

Fast-forward 31 years to April 2000. I received a message on the website area of 'Relatives of Troopers Killed in Action requesting information' from Roger's sister Ruth Ann. My team and I researched the info and encouraged Ruth Ann to attend the Reunion in Buffalo, NY. She heeded our advice and came to Buffalo (Active Duty Troopers from Ft. Irwin were present) with great apprehension, as most of us have experienced. Ruth Ann not only attended, she carried Roger's bronzed combat

Type II Diabetes and Agent Orange

Submitted by Ron Brundage
C Troop; 1st Sqdn. '68-'69

Vietnam veterans with type II diabetes are now eligible for disability compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs based on their presumed exposure to agent orange or other herbicides while serving in Southeast Asia.

The VA's decision to add diabetes to the list of presumptive diseases associated with herbicide exposure followed a report last November by National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine. The institute found "limited suggestive" evidence of an assumption between the chemicals used in herbicides during the Vietnam War and adult onset type II diabetes.

The VA estimates that nine-percent or 220,000 of the 2.3 million living veterans who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War have type II diabetes.

Veterans affected by the new rules will

receive a priority for VA health care, and depending upon the severity of their illness, monthly disability compensation that ranges from \$101 to \$2,107.

The number of diseases recognized by the VA as associated with Agent Orange has steadily increased since the early 1990's. They include chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, acute or sub-acute peripheral neuropathy, and certain cancers, including non-hodgkin's lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, prostate cancer and respiratory cancers, as well as spina bifida in children of Vietnam veterans.

If you feel you have any of the above diseases, contact the nearest VA hospital in your area. The 11th Armored Cavalry's primary AO was in III Corps, near the Cambodian border. III Corps was the highest sprayed area of Agent Orange and other chemicals in all of Vietnam

boots and put them on display at the reunion, spoke with guys that were with Roger when he went to Fiddler's Green and learned of all that happened that fateful day. The weekend concluded with Ruth Ann feeling emotionally drained, extremely happy and instantly befriended by 1200 Troopers.

Thanks for your patience! Here comes the Cinderella part! The Reunion in Washington, DC (2001) quickly approached. Ruth Ann & company (daughter Christie, Granddaughter Brooke, Grandniece Brittany, Niece Stephanie, Sister-in-law Becky, niece Heather, friend Cheryl) braved the Amtrak ride to our nations Capital. Upon arrival, the usual greeting of buddies ensued. The Active Duty Troopers were present in full Cav dress uniforms and most impressive, to say the least. I think you know where I'm headed with this, but there's more!!!

Erich (Active Duty 11th Cav), met Heather. I told Erich to make sure that Heather was safe, protected and respected, in keeping with the honor of the Cav. Actually, I lied to him and said I was her Dad and that he better take care of her!! Later, I told him that I was merely a friend and former Cav. Since August, 2001, much has happened. Heather and Erich are to be married 29 December 01 in West Virginia!!

Uncle Roger and Uncle Tommie, we all hope you approve and agree that our Cinderella Heather and Fellow Blackhorse Trooper Erich, live happily ever after. ALLONS!



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, (11th ACVVC)

Terry Barnes	HHT, 1/11	69-71	Keyes Hudson	HHT, 1/11 & G Trp.	68-69
Feliciano Coretti	HHT, 2/11	68-69	Al Jankowski	HHT, 1/11	67-68
Edmond Dougherty	F Trp., 2/11	70-71	Robert Kennedy	HOW, 3/11 & K Trp.	66-67
Horrace Eaton	HHT, 1/11	69-70	Sande MacDonald	D Co., 1/11	67-68
James Harris	E Trp., 2/11	1969	Charles Williams	HOW, 3/11 & M Co.,	69-70



Journey to Fiddler's Green

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

Norman D. Kelley 68, died of a long fight with cancer. He was a Life member of 11 ACVVC. He served with HHT REGT from 7/1/66 through 7/31/67 in S-3, S-4 as a Major.

Kenneth Orton died July 17, 2001. Ken was a member of 11 ACVVC. He served with HH Troop, 3rd Sqdn. from October 1968 to October 1969.

Frank M. Root passed away on October 13, 2000 from cancer. Frank served with K Troop; 3rd. Sqdn. in 1968.

Thomas Mandelke passed away in 1999. Tom was a life member of 11 ACVVC who became a police officer in San Francisco after returning from Vietnam. He served with the Air Cav Troop as a chopper pilot in 1968-69.

The following deceased troopers are all from L Troop as researched by John Effinger:

Name	DOD
Jerry L. Ball	16 November, 1998
Robert M. Bailey	04 August, 2000.
Steven A. Best	11 May, 2001
Sam F. Bivins	03 March, 2001
James A Alvarado	09 October, 1999
Bob E. Barstad	28 March, 1999
John E. Bell	27 February, 1999

Joseph N. Cardinelli	15 October, 2000
Edmund G. Chamberlain	29 April, 1999
Richard A. Coombe	20 October, 2000
Jerry C. Cottrell	18 January, 1998
Clifford W. Dexter	25 April, 2001
Marvin E. Egdahl	15 February, 1989
Jose A. Beltran-Garcia	19 March, 1999
John J. Goodbody	14 December, 2000
Jerry W. Goodrich	12 August, 2000
Alvin D. Harris	10 August, 1996
David E. Hutchinson	21 May, 1997
Richard D. Kalmbach	17 March, 2001
David E. Kennedy	14 January, 2001
Curtis C. Knox	02 April, 2001
William D. Knox	27 November 1999
Ralph A. Miles	30 October, 2000
Charles E. Perri	17 January, 2001
Neal Reynolds	01 February, 1999
Charles H. Robinson	19 May, 1999
Donald J. Schuster	18 October, 1999
Warren F. Stearns	15 March, 1999
Ralph J. Stetson	23 August, 1998
Lynn J. Tharpe	30 June, 2000
Charles O. Trent	28 July, 1999
Richard D. Trujillo	09 May, 1999
Robert D. Turner	31 March, 2001
James E. Webster	22 June, 2000

Donations to 11thACVVC Scholarship Fund – (\$1,873.00)

The following troopers have made donations to our Scholarship Fund: (donations are tax deductible)

Jerry Andrews	Willis Embree	Gary Ingram	Anthony Manfredi	Lawrence Richardson
Larry Arft	Gabriel Escobar (in memory of Carlos Medina)	F. Edward Jones	William Meyers	Homer Rusteberg
Charles Arnold	Richard Fisher	John Jordan	Donald Middleton	Clinton Sanford
James Beckenhaupt	Walter Flick	Charles Hebb, Jr.	Earl Minor	Mark Schwarm
Roy Bissinger	William Frantz	Warren Huff, Jr.	Ray Moreno	James Settle
Danny Brown	Harold Fritz	Harold Basier, Jr.	Dennis Morgan	Donald Stevens
Clyde Canny	Gary Grams	Mark Kersey	David Nelson	Robert Stuedemann
Jess Carpenter	Benjamin Harmon	Christopher Kopecky	Joseph Nemetz	Robert Taylor
Charles Crase	Paul Harris	Richard Koziol	Scott Nicholson	Larry Thomas.
Robert Crowley	James Helm	Janice Lemasters	Robert Oracz	Glenn Tonks
Robert Cummings	Phillip Henry	Myron Lemperte	Michael Otoman	Eddie Trosper
Lee DeNault	Richard Henson	Charles Linaberger	John Palazzo	Joseph Wetmore
David Dewitt	Joseph Hessburg	John Long	Ernest Pilkington	Jeffrey Williams
Larry Earl	John Hien	Claudia Lunning	John Reiterman	Kenneth Worthey
Fredrick Elliotte		John Maiuri	Phillip Reynolds	Michael Yost

The Reason

by Eric Newton,
Director, 11 ACVVC
K-Troop 68-69

The next time one of our 11th ACVVC members wonders why we mix our Vietnam veterans reunion with border legion and active duty, give them a copy of this message from a current Blackhorse Trooper. The men and women serving now are no less important than our own children are. They are just as much our family and our heritage. Perhaps, if our Vietnam guys would have some personal contact with these young troopers at the reunion, they will understand we all share a mutual pride and respect for all eras of Blackhorse soldiers. When you look into their eyes, you are looking at yourself some 30 years ago. And I can assure you, you will be proud.

★ ★

My name is Robert McKnight and I'm proudly serving as a Blackhorse Trooper in Headquarters and Headquarters Troop 11th ACR. I'm anxiously awaiting our departure to Washington D.C. I was fortunate enough to be a part of the 100th Anniversary Reunion in Las Vegas, NV, and I'm looking forward to seeing the Troopers of the Blackhorse past again. You may remember me as the young guy in the Vietnam Era period uniform from the Las Vegas Reunion. I learned so much at the reunion this past February, and enjoyed talking to each of the veterans who shared

their stories with us. You have no idea what a profound effect the former Blackhorse Troopers had on us younger guys. It was a wonderful experience and I'm looking forward to learning more this August. Remember that we keep in mind the thoughts shared with us as we try to continue the esteemed tradition of the Blackhorse Regiment.

Thanks a million,
SPC Robert McKnight

★ ★

I have visited Fort Irwin on two other occasions since my first trip for the re-flagging. Each and every young Blackhorse Trooper I came in contact with has treated me as royalty. I was only an enlisted man in Vietnam, but you would think I had been a general.

I observed them train in the desert and in their daily environment one on one. These young soldiers are most impressive and a credit to the Blackhorse patch they wear. There is no doubt they are the best in the world and I am proud they represent this part of our glorious history.

They look up to the veterans of the Blackhorse as mentors. Their desire is to make us as proud of them as they are of us. I can say without a doubt they will succeed. I urge each of you to visit Fort Irwin, the museum and find out for yourself.



From the Quartermaster...

Rodney H. George

By Rodney H. George

Greetings to all. Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way. Yes, that is a not-too-subtle way of saying that this is the last issue before the Christmas Holidays!!!!

In other words, it is time to leave your own not-so-subtle hints for your dearly beloved. Now is the time to remind them of that special Blackhorse jacket, book, flag, golf shirt or other item that you have been longing for all year. Also think how good that special lady would look wearing a Blackhorse Pendant in your honor.

Besides our regular items on the QM order form there are still some Washington DC reunion items available. Numbers are limited, as are the available sizes. Don't delay any longer or they will all be gone! These special items include golf shirts with the VN service ribbon and full color direct embroider patch and 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment 1966 - 1972, Blackhorse, Washington DC Reunion 16 and the black POW-MIA patch direct embroidered on the left sleeve. We have currently available:

- Size Medium - 4 red shirts Size 2XL - 32 red and 30 white shirts
- Size XL - 6 red shirts Size 3XL - 21 red and 26 white shirts

These are collector items and no more will be made. Prices are \$30.00 + "A" shipping. First come first served. Just include written request for size and color of these Reunion shirts with your regular order form or just the note if only item ordered.

We also have the 100 year anniversary pin available for \$3.00 + "A" shipping and the 100 year anniversary hat for \$10.00 + "A" shipping - Cavalry Blue with 100 year logo. Supplies limited to stock on hand.

In light of the events of 09-11-01 I urge you to wear your 11th Cav colors to honor not only our hallowed heroes but those in today's military that are once more going in harm's way to protect us and our way of life. As we answered the call thirty-five years ago, they are answering the call today. God Bless us all!

Allons

Do you remember?



Regimental Headquarters area of Blackhorse circa 1968.

Submitted by Gerg Bell, HHT
1/11-S2, '68-69



Quartermaster

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

ORDER FORM

Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
Coffee Mug, white 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	B	6.00		_____	_____
Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia.	A	10.00		_____	_____
Key ring, 1.5 " Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	A	3.00		_____	_____
Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse w/full color BH insignia	A	2.00		_____	_____
Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	A	2.00		_____	_____
History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	B	25.00		_____	_____
Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) Man's Woman's	A	20.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, (indicate choice) colored subdued	A	4.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Challenge Coin, Antique silver 1.75" BH insignia/VN map on faces	A	12.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse 100 year memorial coin, 1.75" crossed sabers/BH insignia new	A	12.00		_____	_____
Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	B	15.00		_____	_____
Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00		_____	_____
Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	15.00		_____	_____
License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	B	5.00		_____	_____
License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse - 11th US Cavalry in white	B	6.00		_____	_____
Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	B	30.00		_____	_____
Tote Bag, white, 12x12x6 w/full color BH insignia new	A	20.00		_____	_____
Barbeque Apron, white, 24x30 w/full color BH insignia new	A	25.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Pin	A	3.00		_____	_____
11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	3.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Xuan Loc"	A	3.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00		_____	_____
Reunion pin (indicate choice), Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Appleton New Orleans, San Diego, Buffalo	A	1.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia	B	70.00		_____	_____
Gear Bag, red with color BH	B	35.00		_____	_____
Men's Ring, 10k gold w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	B	275.00		_____	_____
Note: all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL Specify size and color preference of item requested.					
Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, pre-shrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	A	16.00		_____	_____
Henley Shirt, 100% cotton, short sleeve, round neck w/full color BH insignia and VN ribbon. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White	A	20.00		_____	_____
Golf Shirt, 100% cotton w/full color BH insignia on left front. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one)	A	30.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Sweatshirt, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic w/full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	A	25.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left)	A	70.00		_____	_____
Shipping Costs: A items = \$4.00; B items = \$6.00 (max shipping is \$6.00 per order)					
Subtotal					_____
Shipping and Handling					_____
Total					_____
Prices effective to 12-31-01. All price lists previous to 04-01-01 invalid					
Name _____					Phone _____
Address _____					
City/State/Zip _____					
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if address change					
Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$6.00. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to "11th ACVVC." Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. Prices effective until 12-31-01. Previous price lists invalid. Mail order to: 11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Rodney H. George, 21450 West Ninemile Road, Huson, MT 59846					

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

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

our Troopers killed in action.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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

SER NO RANK (during tour) _____ SSN NO _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

TYPE MEMBERSHIP: NEW RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

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

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

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

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

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACV VC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Bill Holford, 8515 Shoal creek Blvd., Apt. #108, Austin, TX 78757-7548.**

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



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