



# Thunder Run

Vol. 22 – NO. 4

“Together Then – Together Again”

4th Quarter, 2007

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

### The 11thACVVC Annual Awards

The following awards were presented at the Reunion Banquet for service “Above and Beyond” to the 11th ACVVC and its membership.

#### Trooper of Year Award

■ **Joseph R. (Joe) Willey:** For outstanding work in “Operation Embrace”.



Chuck Schmidt presents “Trooper of the Year” Award to Joe Willey, (HHT Regt, 69-70)

#### Outstanding Trooper Awards

■ **Jerry L. Beamon:** Special recognition for his work as Quartermaster.

■ **Dennis D. Freeman:** Special recognition for his work as tax advisor.

Please turn to **AWARDS** on page 11

### 11th ACVVC Reunion XXI



LEFT: General William S. Wallace, 55th Colonel, addresses the banquet Saturday as featured guest speaker.

BELOW: The renovated 11th ACR Monument along with the Colors at Saturday’s Ceremony



By Allen Hathaway with input from Chuck Schmidt and Steve Page

Louisville, the home of Churchill Downs and the site of the Kentucky Derby. But from September 6th - 9th it was the site of the 23rd Annual Reunion of the 11th ACVVC. More than 1,600 were present this year to once again reunite and enjoy the company of fellow Blackhorse troopers.

The Galt House hotel was the scene of this year’s reunion. This beautiful hotel is located on the banks of the Ohio River in downtown Louisville. The hotel features 1,300 rooms in two large towers. More than 800 rooms were booked by attendees of our reunion.

Although the reunion officially began on Thursday, troopers, family and friends

began to arrive as early as Monday! On Wednesday evening the “bunker” was opened (one day early) in order to give our attendees a place to gather.

Thursday was the annual Marty Ognibene Golf Tournament. Golfers were seen leaving the hotel early in the morning heading to Lindsay Golf Course on Fort Knox. This event always has a good turnout and all the players enjoy a fun day

Please turn to **REUNION** on page 10

From the Command Track.....	2
Reunion XXII Pictorial .....	4
Editor’s Corner .....	6
2007 Election Results.....	7
2008 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal .....	7
H Company Goes to Sea .....	8
Reunion Registration... ..	9
VA Home Loan Update 2007 .....	11
2007 11 ACVVC Donations.....	12
2007 Silent Auction, Louisville, KY .....	12
Welcome Aboard!.....	13
A Taps Odyssey.....	14

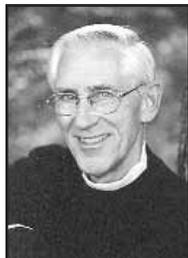
**Inside**  
**4th Quarter**  
**2007**

Son Gets Fuller Picture of ‘Sgt. Mac’ .....	16
My Reunion Experience .....	17
Lemonade .....	17
Chaplain’s Corner .....	18
The Ongoing Fight For Democracy In Vietnam.....	19
Meet the 2007 Scholarship Winners .....	20
Grooving With Gusto .....	22
Women’s Corner .....	23
Circle of Honor and Memorial Bricks.....	24
Journey to Fiddler’s Green .....	26
Incoming .....	27
From the 62nd Colonel of the Regiment .....	30



# From The Command Track

By Chuck Schmidt, President



Chuck Schmidt,  
President, 11th ACWC

time since leaving Vietnam.

The highlight of the reunion weekend was the dedication of the 11th Cavalry Memorial at Fort Knox. The monument now honors all Blackhorse troopers from all eras. We were very pleased that nearly 80 next of kin of our KIA's were able to attend the dedication and reunion. Many were unaware of this organization, our reunions or the memorial dedicated to their loved ones. Judging from their comments they all felt welcomed as part of this Blackhorse family and comforted knowing their loved one will never be forgotten.

Elections were held at the general membership meeting for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and one Director. See Frank Cambria's article *11th ACVVC 2007 Election Results* in this issue of Thunder Run for election results. The membership also chose Santa Clara, CA, as the site for the 2009 reunion.

This particular reunion took a great deal of planning and coordination. Our Reunion Chairman, Steve Page (B Troop, '66-67) deserves our thanks and recognition for an outstanding job.

We are engaged in the planning for next year's gathering, Reunion XXIII, at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare hotel in Chicago, IL. This promises to be another great reunion. Mark your calendars for August 21-24, 2008!

Our Scholarship Program continues to set records for fundraising and number of scholarship grants awarded. The Calendar appeal netted more than \$40,000, the Raffle over \$43,000 and the Silent Auction more than \$7,400. As the result of the outstanding generosity of our members, we were able to award 32 deserving children of our members Scholarships of

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\$3,000 each. Congratulations to all of our awardees. We will continue our successful program and anyone can donate to the cause at any time during the year. Thanks to all who were willing to support this worthwhile program. The complete list of recipients is included in this issue. Photos of 20 recipients are featured and more will be featured in the next issue.

I also want to thank everyone for their continued support of the Quartermaster Store. A few new items have been added recently, one of which is a long-sleeve blue denim shirt. This issue we are also featuring photographs of many of the items available through the Quartermaster Store. Our website has been updated to

reflect these new photographs. The sale of memorabilia and other items through the Quartermaster is one of the few sources of funding of our day-to-day activities. The holidays are fast approaching so I urge you to mail early to ensure your order is received in time.

Finally, we have learned that the 58th Engineer Company will be deploying later this year. This is their third deployment in four years. They, and all servicemen and women are contributing to the security of our country and our families. I ask that each of you reach out to the men and women in uniform, offer your handshake, and thank them for their selfless service. ALLONS!

## THE VIETNAM VETERAN

By Ed Hayes, D Company,(1966-1967)

They came from all 50 states  
To fight an enemy they were taught to hate.  
They came from cities, towns, and farms  
Many died in their buddies' arms.  
Most were young boys, must out of high school  
At that time in their life, everything was cool.

Some, with parents of wealth and connection  
They stayed home, went to college, had protection,  
Others, with whatever reason  
Turned their backs and ran, only to "beg" to return in a later season.  
Most that were called to serve their nation  
Did so willingly and without reservation.

We did the best we could, considering the situation not having the support of the people of this great nation. Over 58,000 young men died, and many were maimed. Wives were left without husbands, kids without fathers, Mothers lost sons, and brothers lost brothers.

The ones who survived are scarred for the rest of their lives.  
They returned home to find that few cared.  
Only their comrades understood the "hell" they had shared  
No parades, no thanks, no welcome home  
Only ugliness and resentment was shown.

The ones who returned home without having their names chiseled on the wall shall live having nightmares and shed lots of tears before "God's" final call. The Vietnam Veteran - "Brothers" without America's support but "brothers" we will always be.

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



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*Thunder Run* covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," James M. "Jim" Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 <Jgriff11@aol.com>

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## Show Your Pride



LEFT: Jerry Williamson, (D Co. 68-69) shows his new boat renamed "Blackhorse T.C."

RIG: Terry Foster (409th RRD, 68-69) shows 11th ACR plates on his Mustang.



# 11thACVVC Reunion XXII



At the Memorial Dedication, Front row (L-R) blue denim-Colonel James H. "Jimmie" Leach (USA Ret) 40th Colonel; 11th ACVVC President Chuck Schmidt, Bonnie Schmidt, and John C. "Doc" Bahnsen (BG, USA Ret.).



Standing room only crowd at Saturday's Memorial Dedication at Ft. Knox



Col Peter C. Bayer speaks on Operation Iraqi Freedom during Memorial Dedication



Unve



F Troop map debriefing (circa 40 years later) in the Bunker Party room.



A warm welcome to all.



"Bandit 6", an OH-6A that had been actually assigned to 3/7 Vietnam. It has been restored by Peter Bales (HHT 3/11, 70- and hovered over the Reunion all weekend.



New Completed Memorial.



Cavalrymen Steve Page (Reunion Chairman) and Chuck Schmidt (President of the 11th ACVVC)..



Saturday Night Ba

# Louisville, KY



Unveiling the renovated 11th ACR Vietnam Monument.



Barbecue lunch Saturday with the Odessa Chuck Wagon Gang.



11th ACVVC General Membership Meeting Saturday afternoon.



Items for silent auction (including a teddy bear) on display.



One of the two Friday night "Belle of Louisville" cruises that provided a pleasant experience for a thousand Reunion attendees.



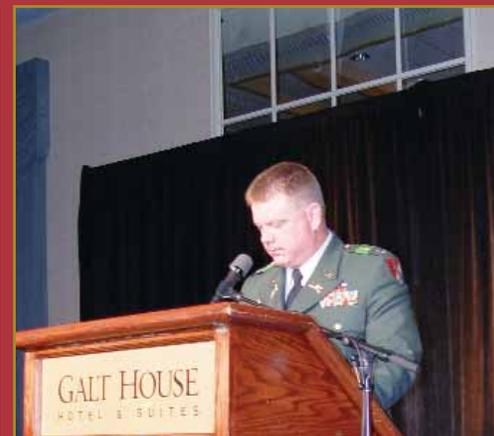
Troopers manning the ACAV (after a tough climb up) in Armor Park, Ft. Knox.



Banquet scene.



Missing Man-POW/MIA Table at the Banquet.



LTC Timothy Renshaw, Cmdr 1/11 ACR gives Regimental update.



Jim Griffiths, Editor  
*Thunder Run*

# Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths

During my earliest days with F Troop (June 1968), I heard fellow members of my Troop who were nearing the end of their tour talk about the "trip up north" or "being up north". Details of their conversations kind of went over my head as I was just struggling to understand and acclimate myself to my new life situation in a war zone. As time went on "up north" to me meant Loc Ninh or the vicinity of the Cambodian border. Later I was to find out that "up north" meant something totally different to the 2nd Squadron of the 11th ACR as it left III Corps, went through II Corps, and was located in I Corps from mid May through early November 1967.

I don't want to tell you too much about this unique and seemingly under-publicized activity. I had heard about it from the short time guys when I got there and somewhere it was in the back of my mind, so when Joe Gibbs (H Co. 1967) contacted me and asked if he could put an article called "H Company Goes To Sea" in *Thunder Run* I was just thrilled. Joe will tell part of the story. His article is about that time period with H, 2/11 and I hope it is informative, that you enjoy it, and it spurs more troopers of that era to submit stories about the trip "up north."

We all have been in discussions with other Vietnam Veterans and they naturally lead to a question of this sort "where were you located during your time in Nam?" If you are like me you tell them III Corps whereupon there invariably will be someone that says something like "You guys had it easy, you should have been in a *real war* like we had in I Corps."

I know better and you should also because the facts are that the Area of Operation in III Corps where the 11th ACR operated, casualties were just as high as any AO in the country. I will also quote CSM Bill Squires on the matter from p. 79 of his book *Find The Bastards....Then Pile On*. CSM Squires wrote referring to the move north "Everyone thought Charlie would eat them alive, however, only twice

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**Speaking of submitted stories, keep sending them. This includes written articles and "Show Pride" pictures.**

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did Charlie attempt to challenge the movement of the 2nd Squadron, once when they were leaving III Corps and once in II Corps, both times the Blackhorse Troopers greeted the contact with tremendous firepower, but actually pursued Charlie until he hid, not wanting to fight the Blackhorse anymore. Not once in I Corps did he attempt to enter into a fight with the Blackhorse and avoided contact at all cost."

There are, of course, in addition to the mentioned article a number of other interesting personal submissions in this issue including some from people who attended the reunion as a result of Operation Embrace. These along with our regular articles should hopefully provide you with an interesting *Thunder Run*.

Speaking of submitted stories, keep sending them. This includes written articles and "Show Pride" pictures. I understand that it can be a source of frustration for you when submissions don't get into *Thunder Run* and I will try to explain the circumstances that may lead to this.

*Thunder Run* usually contains 24 or 32 pages. (It used to be 16) It is published in increments of 8 pages. That means that if there is enough material for 32 pages we will have 32 pages. The problem occurs, for example, when we have enough mate-

rial for only 28 or 29 pages. That means that by increment of 8 we revert back to 24 pages and personal submissions must be cut as they are the first to not be published. That goes for 'Show Pride' pictures also. They are fit in by the publisher as fillers where possible. Be patient please. I keep them all and eventually with enough 32 page TR's everything should eventually get in unless they are no longer relevant time wise.

Keep in mind that it is easiest for me to deal with electronic submissions whether they are pictures or written material. It is also best to send written materials in Word format as anything else has to be converted and sometimes I cannot open certain files. Pictures should be jpg format or the same difficulty in opening them up may occur.

If you send hard copy, I can scan pictures in but the resolution needs to be 300 dpi. If you want your pictures returned please send a self addressed stamped envelope to facilitate the process. Written material from a typewriter generally is hard to scan and convert so hopefully you can use a word processor. If hard copy is sent please provide me with a telephone number so I may communicate expeditiously with you if I find it necessary. All these things I have mentioned aid in making things run more smoothly.

## MOVING?

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



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Old Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
**New Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2007 Election Results

By Frank R. Cambria, Secretary

Elections were held for the 11th ACVVC President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and one Director at the Annual Business Meeting in Louisville KY on 8 September 2007, with all positions effective on 1 January, 2008. Incumbents Charles L. Schmidt (President), Ollie Pickral (Treasurer), Frank R. Cambria (Secretary) and Jim Holt (Director) were re-elected for their present positions. The Incumbent Vice-President, Allen Hathaway, chose to not run for a second term. The resulting election for Vice-President proved to be one of the most interesting and challenging elections we've experienced to date. And it has led to a change being made in our vote counting process.

Four qualified members were nominated for the V.P. position. Two members, Charley Watkins and Pete Walter, accepted their nomination, I asked both candidates to briefly state their qualifications to the attending membership. The candidates were then asked to leave the room during the voting.

Our voting process throughout the day adhered to the traditional method (which does not necessarily mean it is the best method) the association has used in the past: Voting was done by a careful count of raised hands, with regular reminders to all to raise only one hand, to keep it raised until told the vote is complete for the candidate, and to vote for only one candidate. Dividing

## Pete Walter was elected at Vice President for the two year period of January 2008 through December 2009

the room into four quarter, four members of the Board made the count of raised hands, with each Director counting his designated quarter.

As Secretary and the person responsible for our election process, I was standing at the raised podium with best view of the entire room. During the vote counting for the V.P. position, it appeared to me that Directors Bob Moreno and Jim Holt might have cross-counted the votes during the counting of votes. Jim Holt later stated that he thought an error in counting might have occurred. The tallied votes showed only a 9-vote spread, representing only a 3% variance. Because of this close vote coupled with the strong possibility of a miscount based on my own observation, I made the decision to call for a second vote.

The second vote was a virtual tie but with about 20 more total votes than the first vote count, which brought suggestions from the floor that we should have two counters for each side of the room (the chairs were divided into two sections). I decided the suggestion was a good one. I ordered a third and final vote, using two counters and two redundant counters to verify the vote count, with one of each counting one-half the room. Prior to the third vote, both candidates were given another opportunity to address the attendees. The third vote was also close with only a 4% variance, but the third vote reflected a verified true and accurate accounting of the votes for two superbly qualified candidates. Pete Walter was elected at Vice President for the two year period of January 2008 through December 2009.

*Frank R. Cambria, Secretary. Email Captain.Frank@covad.net*

# 2008 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal

By Allen Hathaway

The first leg of our 2008 Scholarship fundraising effort will be in your mailboxes around Thanksgiving. The 2008 11th ACVVC Calendar will once again feature 12 new photos submitted by you! I want to thank all who have sent photos for consideration.

**For 2007 we set a goal of \$35,000... For 2008, the goal will be \$37,000.**

I once again appeal to your generosity as we ask for donations to support our Scholarship Program. Without your support the program would not be viable. Remember—we are not “selling” calendars. The calendar you

receive is yours to keep and use whether you donate or not. We do however solicit your support with the most generous tax-deductible donation that you can make to assist the children of the 11th ACVVC members begin or continue their post-secondary education. The scholarships can be used for college, trade school, or any other educational training following high school.

For 2007 we set a goal of \$35,000 in donations in support of the Calendar project. You generously contributed over \$40,500! For 2008, the goal will be \$37,000. We will need your help in attaining that unprecedented level! Many of you have generously donated \$100 to \$500 for this cause – we need you to continue your ardent support and to add more to your rolls.

In addition to the calendar, we also conduct our annual raffle prior the reunion at which the winning tickets are drawn, and the Silent Auction of donated items at the reunion. Each of these activities has also flourished in the past few years.

In 2007 our combined fund raising activities allowed us to award scholarship grants of \$3,000 each to 32 of our children for a total of \$96,000 in assistance. We attained that level with only about 20% of our members making calendar donations. If we can get just half of our members to participate, we could award assistance to every qualified applicant! Thank you in advance for your generous support!

### Newsletter Deadlines

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

- First Quarter.....Jan 15**
- Second Quarter.....Apr 15**
- Third Quarter .....Jul 15**
- Fourth Quarter .....Oct 15**

**All submissions for publication must be sent to:** Jim Griffiths, Editor, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106. Email: JGriff11@aol.com.

# H Company Goes to Sea

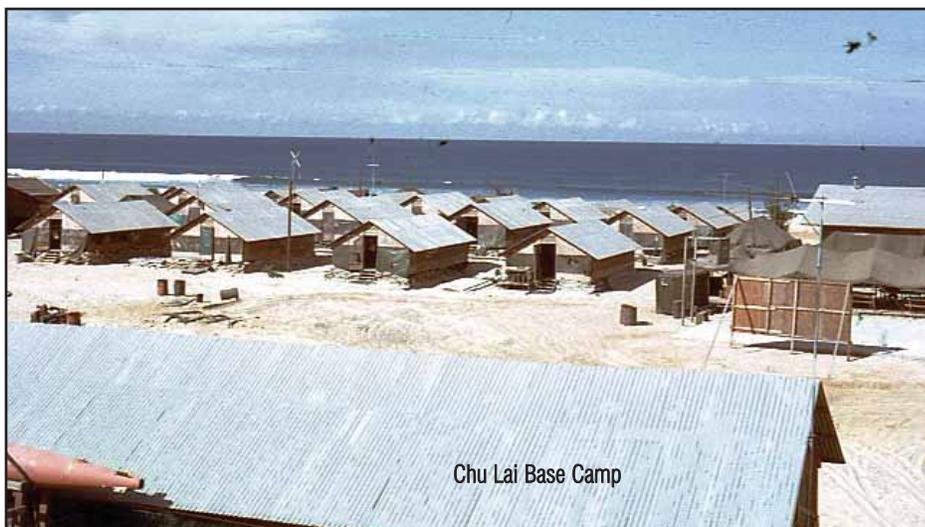
By Joseph A. Gibbs, (H Co. 2/11, 1967)

From mid-May through early November, 1967 the 2nd Squadron of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was deployed to I Corps and was under Operational Control of the Americal Division as part of Task Force Oregon. This story focuses on H Company of the 2nd Squadron.

When the monsoons of South Vietnam arrived in the spring of 1967, it placed new and different operational requirements on the tanks of H Company 2/11. Instead of becoming bogged down in the mud in the South, it was decided that the tanks would be better used by going north to I Corps since the rains had stopped there. H Company's destination would be the air base located at Chu Lai in the northern part of the country. The Commanding Officer of H Company was Capt. Arthur Russell. I was the Platoon Leader of the 2nd Platoon.

On the morning of the move, the company had staged their equipment at base camp. We then made the road march to the Saigon docks where the company spent the night. The next day was spent loading and securing our equipment on the LST ship. This was a new experience for the tankers and they did a fine job. The trip up north was a welcome break from the daily operations and gave the men of H Company a different environment. The ship sailed north for several days along the coast of South Vietnam until it arrived at Chu Lai. Even though the living conditions aboard ship were not deluxe and some men got a touch of sea sickness, it was still better than busting jungle.

Once H Company arrived at Chu Lai, we unloaded our equipment on the beach and set up operations providing security for the air base. That was the main mission while we were stationed there. However, during our stay at Chu Lai, H Company was attached to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade which was part of Task Force Oregon conducting operations in that area. A separate mission was assigned to the 2nd Platoon of H Company to move about 20 miles further north to the village of Tam Ky. Located at that village was a US Marine outpost manned by a Combined Action Company. Our mission was to provide security for the Marines and to conduct recon patrols. Needless to say, the Marines were glad to see us. They were a rifle company and we had five tanks in the platoon to



Chu Lai Base Camp

support them. We would conduct patrols and provide security for the forces. John Hien, a member of my platoon, recalls the night some Viet Cong tried to booby trap the shore area where the men usually swam and one of the tanks fired on the location with the .30 caliber machine gun. No bodies were found the next day, just some blood trails. The 2nd Platoon remained at the Tam Ky location for several months conducting recon patrols and providing security. In July, 1967, I was reassigned to become the Executive Officer of H Company and LT. Owens assumed command of the 2nd Platoon.

Back at Chu Lai, the company continued to provide security for the giant air base. We were also called upon to provide convoy escort duty when needed. On several occasions, a fire base would be established and the mission of H Company would be to provide security and conduct "thunder runs" to

keep the road open into the fire base for resupply missions. On several occasions, our tanks would hit mines that the Viet Cong had buried in the road. We would then drag the disabled tank back to our support area and perform repairs to make it operational again.

In the November, 1967, the mission of H Company at Chu Lai came to an end. It was time to load our tanks and equipment on the ship and sail south back to our home at Blackhorse Base camp. Once again, the men of H Company loaded their equipment on the ship and we sailed from Chu Lai. It goes without saying that we all enjoyed our time at Chu Lai. The sand was white and the beach was wonderful. It was a memorable occasion. But more importantly, the men of H Company and their tanks were there when they were needed and they performed the mission superbly.

## Show Your Pride

Alan Priddy, (1/HOW, 1HHT 1970) was honored to be able to live on and name an official street with 5 residences on it in North Carolina. In turn he honored his Regiment by naming it Blackhorse Trail.



# Reunion Registration...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who in any way helped to make this year's registration happen. It is so helpful when you the attendees, send in your forms early and use those wonderful address labels. Those labels certainly help when it comes time to make name tags. We were able to cut re-dos by about 80% this year alone.

We strive each year to make your check in process as easy and painless for you as we can. Your patience and promptness help tremendously. We are by no means perfect at what we do but each year we find ourselves getting closer and closer to that point.

As I said, I would like to thank all those who volunteered to help at the registration table; as usual Deanna was a huge help in keeping us organized, the ladies who thought they were going to be helping at the women's table but got drafted to the registration table instead, the couple (sorry I've forgotten your names) that helped set everything up when we arrived, the hotel night staff that got us through a LONG night the first night and most importantly to our son Raleigh. For those of you who did not see or meet Raleigh, I want to explain why. Raleigh spent a major portion of the reunion in the rear office dealing with computer glitches, and name tags for those of you who just walked in. Without him and his vast knowledge of the computer, things probably would have taken twice as long.

The best thing about having him there was not only spending quality time with him but having him see saw why Barb and I love this organization so much. He now has a better understanding of just what his dad went through so many years ago and was thrilled when he got to meet some of the guys I served with in G troop, especially my former driver, Mike Thompson. He now says he wants to continue to accompany us to future reunions. Thank you son a million times over, and we promise the next time we are in Louisville, we won't "forget" to take you to the Hard Rock Café. (That was one of two things he wanted to do while we were there, and we forgot. The other was to go see the house he grew up in at Fort Knox and we did that.)

Thanks to all of you who ate the candy we brought. It was wonderful not to have to haul it home with us. Actually there was no

room in the van on the way home anyway. Also thanks to Chuck, and the other board members, for deciding to give a joint Outstanding Trooper Award to Barb and I for our work with the registrations. While it was not necessary it was greatly appreciated. We do our job because we enjoy it and not for the recognition.

Now that everyone has been thanked, I would like to remind you that it is never early to sign up for next years reunion. The next nametag has been designed and we are ready to run. Check your future editions of the *Thunder Run* and the website for the form. When making your registration, please continue to use those name labels, it sure helps with the spelling.

Be sure to pre-register, no matter if you live far away or in the Chicago area. By not registering early, you will be required to pay a late fee. Even if you tell us that you sent it to Ollie in the past week or two it is very probable that he did not have a chance to get it to us before we left. There is about a week mail delay between him and us. So if we don't have your registration form at the desk then be prepared to pay the full amount (again) plus a late fee. If it turns out you did indeed prepay, than one of those fees plus the late charge will be refunded to you.

Remember you are not out anything by

sending in your registration early. If it turns out you can't make it for health reasons, or many other reasons, your money is refundable. So as you can see, there really is no reason not to register early. And again, even if you live right around the reunion area, you are still to pre-register. By pre-registering you get all the benefits of the reunion weekend to include the banquet. By simply walking in you may in the future not be able to attend the dinner or "if" there are still meals available you may not be sitting with your unit but instead in the overflow tables. And I think we all agree that, that is no fun.

In your packets you had an evaluation sheet. I can't begin to tell you the importance of that form. If you already filled it out and turned it in - Thank you. If you didn't and you still have it, please take a few moments to fill it out and mail it to Steve Page. It is through this form that we learn what went well and what didn't. We use it to help plan the next reunion. So be sure each year to turn them in.

Well, until next time this is your registration team saying thank you for another great year and we look forward to Chicago in 08.

Bob Moreno  
(and Barb and Raleigh too)  
Board Registration Director  
G Troop 68/69

## Everyone can always use a cookbook!

*Delight your palate ... Find out what's really cookin' in Blackhorse kitchens across the country!*

**Proceeds support the scholarship and troopers assistance programs! Your support is appreciated!**

*(Shipping discount for multiples of more than 4 books sent to one address. Contact Barb for shipping.)*

*Clip here and mail with payment to*

**Barb Moreno, Women's Coordinator**

**11th ACVVC Blackhorse Women**

**24284 Endeavor**

**Tomah, WI 54660**

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *What's Cookin' with the Blackhorse* at \$12 per copy and \$3.50 for shipping and handling per book. Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

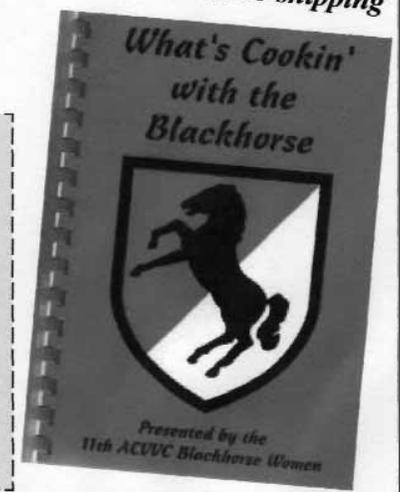
Mail books to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**\$12 plus \$3.50 shipping**



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## REUNION from page 1

of golfing. Meanwhile in the afternoon Bob, Barb and son Raleigh Moreno were kept busy at the reunion desk as more troopers, family and friends arrived to check in and pick up their nametags and reunion packets. Every trooper who pre-registered received a Certificate of Appreciation, pin and decal, courtesy of the U.S. Army. Many troopers were seen checking the long list of registered troopers posted near the registration desk and anxiously awaiting the arrival of old friends. Others enjoyed the sights of downtown Louisville and the views along the Ohio River.

The Quartermaster Store opened on Thursday. Jerry and Jan Beamon and several volunteers spent a great deal of time unpacking and setting up the store. A few new products were introduced at the reunion and are now available through our mail order Quartermaster.

Thursday also brought a special treat with the arrival of an OH-6A LOCH helicopter. Peter Bales towed the helicopter from his home in Janesville, WI. Peter located the helicopter several years ago and restored it to the original flyable condition. This helicopter was actually used by 3/11 in Vietnam and proudly displays the "Bandit" symbol! The helicopter remained on display in front of the hotel the entire weekend. Many stopped to take pictures and chat with Peter. It was a great extra touch to the reunion.

Thursday evening the "bunker" was alive with activity with hundreds of people. Tables were marked with troop guidons to give attendees an opportunity to meet with others from their unit. Troopers poured over old scrap books, pictures, maps, newspapers and other memorabilia as they recalled names, faces and places. Common phrases heard throughout the night were "I wonder what happened to...", "what was this guys name?" and "you old-son-of-a-gun." Many troopers met old friends for the first time since leaving Vietnam. Although the span may have been 35 to 40 years since they last met, it seemed like yesterday as they quickly got reacquainted. Another phrase was "you haven't changed a bit". That's the special bond that we all share.

Don Snedeker did an outstanding job

Common phrases heard throughout the night were "I wonder what happened to...", "what was this guys name?" and "you old-son-of-a-gun." Many troopers met old friends for the first time since leaving Vietnam.

again this year with his display of history story boards. Don assembled nearly 25 story boards focusing on the 1966-67 time frame. The story boards offered many photos and personal accounts of the training in the states, deployment of the regiment and first year in Vietnam.

Registration opened early on Friday as more were expected to arrive throughout the day. The Veterans Seminar was held in the morning hosted by Rick O'Dell and Chuck Schmidt. This seminar has been a very popular and is attended by both the men and women. It has been very helpful to many veterans. Dr. James R. Reckner, Director of the Texas Tech Vietnam Center, was a special guest speaker this year. The Women's Meeting was also held on Friday morning. This always has a good showing.

At 3:30 pm the steam calliope began to play music signaling all to begin boarding the first of two dinner cruises on the Belle of Louisville. Troopers and family enjoyed a buffet dinner and a relaxing cruise down the Ohio River. Each cruise could accommodate 500 people. Both cruises were full!

The Silent Auction was opened on Friday evening in the "bunker". Rod George was overwhelmed with item donated by our generous troopers. The Silent Auction once again proved to be a huge success in raising funds for our Scholarship Program. Thanks to all those who donated items and special thanks to all those who bid on them.

Saturday would be a very busy day with many activities. Busses arrived at the hotel shortly before 7:00 am and began loading for our trip to Fort Knox. Thirty-two busses were used to transport our group. Once at Fort Knox many took the opportunity tour the Patton Museum or check some of the displays on the museum grounds. The ACAV was of particular interest to many.

At 9:30 am the memorial dedication ceremony began. Over 500 chairs were set-up in the memorial park and bleachers were

brought in to accommodate another 600-700. Still, it was standing room only. The group was entertained prior to the ceremony with musical selections by the 113th Army Band.

The ceremony began with the posting of the colors by the 11th ACR Color Guard. Chaplain Larry Haworth offered a prayer and welcomed all, especially the nearly 80 next of kin in attendance. Until this year thru the efforts of Joe Willey and "Operation Embrace", many of the next of kin were not aware of our organization, the annual reunions or this very special monument.

Allen Hathaway gave a brief history of the Vietnam Monument from its original dedication 40 years ago in 1967 to present. John Liljegren (ACT, 1970-71) followed with a song he composed as a tribute to the KIA's of the Blackhorse. John received a standing ovation.

Chuck Schmidt gave brief remarks on the regiment's participation in the first two campaigns: The Philippine Insurrection and Mexican Expedition. The first of three new monuments was unveiled.

Jimmie Leach (COL USA Ret), 40th Colonel of the regiment and World War II veteran gave remarks on the regiment's participation during WW II. The second monument was unveiled.

Colonel Peter C. Bayer, JR, 61st Colonel of the regiment, gave remarks on the regiment's participation, outstanding service and sacrifice during Operation Iraqi Freedom III in 2005-2006. The third monument was unveiled honoring the 21 troopers from OIF III.

John C. "Doc" Bahnsen, (BG, USA Ret), who commanded ACT and 1/11 in Vietnam, gave remarks on the regiments 5 1/2 year participation during the Vietnam War. The remarks honored the service and sacrifice of troopers of the regiment and especially the 729 whose names are listed on the monument. The Vietnam Memorial

was unveiled.

Jim Holt led the group in singing God Bless America. The ceremony concluded with the benediction, prayer of dedication by Chaplain Haworth and the playing of taps by Adrian Vaaler.

Following the official ceremony the names of KIA's were read. SGT Christopher Donaldson, 11th ACR, read the 21 names from Operation Iraqi Freedom III. John Sorich, Len McFarling and Pete Walter read the 729 names from Vietnam.

The circle of honor is also a new addition to the memorial. Many people used this opportunity to locate their brick or take photographs of the monuments.

Fort Knox provided a static display of military equipment. The Odessa Chuck Wagon Gang (OCWG) served a delicious BBQ lunch of beef, beans, potato salad, banana pudding and ice tea. Thanks to Jerry Hensley (D Co, 1/11) and the 40 members of the OCWG. A special thanks also to Otis Carey for his assistance (our "eyes and ears") in helping co-ordinate the activities at Fort Knox on Saturday and the months prior. After lunch, busses were loaded and the group moved back to Louisville.

The general membership meeting was held in the afternoon. Committee reports were given, elections were held and Santa Clara, CA, was chosen by the membership as the 2009 reunion site.

The Saturday evening banquet and program was another highlight of the reunion weekend. Chuck Schmidt served as emcee for the evening. Those attending their first reunion ("first timers") were asked to stand. Over 125 troopers stood and were applauded.

LTC Timothy Renshaw (CMDR, 1/11) and CSM Edd Watson (CSM, 1/11) represented the regiment on behalf of the Regimental Commander, Colonel Mark Calvert. LTC Renshaw's presentation included a video and update on the activities of the regiment's dual mission at Fort Irwin, CA. An open invitation was extended to all Blackhorse troopers to visit their regiment.

Our special guest speaker this year was General William S. Wallace, 55th colonel of the regiment (1992-1994) and current Commanding General of Training and

Doctrine Command (TRADOC). General Wallace gave a very moving and inspirational speech as he recalled the history of our regiment in Vietnam; a history that we helped make.

Awards were given to several for their outstanding work in support of the 11th ACVVC (see page 1). Five of 2007 scholarship recipients were introduced and helped draw the winning tickets for the raffle.

The banquet program concluded with the traditional "Blackhorse Salute", a 10 minute slide program that honors all troopers who served during the 5 1/2 years in Vietnam. This was followed by the always emotional Vietnam song by Jim Holt.

Chaplain Haworth held a well attended worship service on Sunday morning, and farewells carried well into the day as the 11th ACVVC concluded another successful reunion.

Final thoughts: To those who attended the reunion, we thank you for your support. We hope you had a memorable weekend. To those who were not able to attend, we hope the accounts of this article help you decide to attend the 2008 reunion. To all those who volunteer during the reunion weekend and throughout the year, we thank you.

**See you next year in Chicago!**

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## AWARDS from page 1

■ **James M. (Jim) Griffiths:** For outstanding work as editor of "Thunder Run".

■ **Robert (Bob) and Barb Moreno:** A team award for outstanding work on reunion registrations.

■ **Peter W. (Pete) Walter:** For outstanding work in coordinating the Funeral Honor Guard.

### Quilter Award

■ **Barry J. "Doc" Beaven:** For outstanding support to all Blackhorse troopers.

### Women's Group Award

■ **Lee Page:** For exceptional support of her husband the Reunion Chairman, Steven Page.

■ **Bonnie Schmidt:** Special recognition for her support of her husband the President, Charles L. (Chuck) Schmidt.

# VA Home Loan Update 2007

*Submitted by Frank R. Cambria, Secretary*

A VA-guaranteed home loan is a loan made by private lenders (such as banks, savings & loans, or mortgage companies) to eligible veterans. With a VA guarantee, you get a legal mortgage document that pledges a property to the lender as security for payment of a debt with a competitive interest rate, and you have the flexibility to purchase or improve a home. The lender you borrow money from is protected against loss up to the amount of the guarantee if you fail to repay the loan.

**Veterans who qualify for the home loan benefit may obtain a no down payment home loan of up to \$417,000**

- A VA home loan can help veterans...
- Buy a home or residential condominium
- Build a home
- Repair, alter, or improve a home
- Refinance an existing home loan
- Buy a manufactured home

Since its implementation in 2004, many veterans have misunderstood the "VA Home Loan Increased Entitlement." The Veterans Benefits Act of 2004 increased VA home loan eligibility substantially. Veterans who qualify for the home loan benefit may obtain a no down payment home loan of up to \$417,000.

There are five easy steps to a VA loan:  
**First** (and most important): Apply for a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) <http://www.homeloans.va.gov/>.

**Second:** Decide on a home and sign a purchase agreement.

**Third:** Order an appraisal from VA (your mortgage lender will do this).

**Fourth:** Apply to a mortgage lender for the loan.

**Fifth:** Close the loan and move in.

There are no age restrictions, so us "old" Vietnam Vets can still take advantage of this benefit. Don't hesitate to consider a VA-guaranteed home loan for your own needs.

[Sources: [www.military.com](http://www.military.com) and *American Legion Weekly Update 10 Apr 07*]

## 2007 11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donations to various 11th ACVVC activities since the 3rd Quarter issue of *Thunder Run*

### Scholarship Donations

#### Gold Level Donors

##### Donations from \$100 to \$499

William Bixler  
Tony Collins  
Rudy Contreras  
Aaron Gross  
Henry Manuel  
Robert Rawson  
Felix Villasenor

Carl Henley  
John Kuntzman  
Phillip Leatherberry  
John Liljegren  
Michael Magur  
Ernest Miles  
Carroll Walton

### To Memorial Restoration

Bronze

\$1 to \$49

James Gould  
Stephen Matthews

#### Silver Level Donors

##### Donations from \$50 to \$99

James Davis  
Eugene Hemner

### Trooper Assistance Program

Gold

\$100 to \$499

Mark Crist  
Lorraine Eriksen  
April Pickral

#### Bronze Level Donors

##### Donations from \$1 to \$49

Julius Austin  
Alvin Brison  
Richard DePaul

## REUNION XXIII ♦ CHICAGO '08

Plans for our annual reunion in Rosemont, Illinois, Aug 21 – 24, 2008 are well under way. The registration form will soon be on the website and will be published in the next issue of *Thunder Run*. *It's not too early to make your reservation with the hotel (Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 1-847-696-1234 or 1-800-233-1234). There is no charge to your credit card at this time, so book early to ensure your reservation.*

With all the new members being added each year, we are expecting a very large turnout. We are looking to provide some new and exciting events in Chicago. Some of the things we are looking at are of course, tours of Chicago, a shopping mall trip for the ladies, a Cubs game and a trip to Arlington Park Racetrack, where a race could be run in honor of the 11th Cav Blackhorse. Hopefully, by the next issue you will be able to sign up for some of these great events. It will be first come, first serve, as we will be limited to tickets in certain events. Also, get ready for the greatest Friday night bunker party ever !!

More to come in the next issue.

See you in CHICAGO !!!

*Allons, Jim Kaszubowski, HHT 3-11 66-67  
Chicago Reunion Coordinator*

### ☆☆ Membership is Our Strength ☆☆

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

## After Auction Report

# 2007 Silent Auction Louisville, KY

Greetings to all:

The silent auction at the Louisville Reunion was an outstanding success!

You, the troopers and families, are absolutely amazing!!!! I was amazed by the quality and quantity of the items that were donated to the silent auction. I can not thank you enough! The auction is totally dependent upon your support and you came through like champions! Every one cannot always give the time it takes to serve on the board or the committees, but I see the silent auction as a way for many people to show their support for our organization in a meaningful manner.

**donations brought in the sum of  
\$7477.00 to the 11th ACVVC  
Scholarship Fund.**

I am pleased to announce that your donations brought in the sum of \$7477.00 to the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund.

As you know we are now committing to fund 32, \$3000.00 scholarships each year. That is a monetary commitment of \$96,000 by your organization. The silent auction is an important fund-raiser for the Scholarship Committee and we thank you each most kindly for helping us to reach this goal that is so important to our troopers and their children. All of you that participated in the silent auction by providing items or in bidding on them can be very proud of your accomplishments.

*Rodney H. George  
Silent Auction Chairman*

### 11th ACVVC 2007 Silent Auction Donors

The following is the list of donors for our silent auction in Louisville. I apologize for any inaccuracies or mistakes in donors.

Thank you all so very much for making this a very successful auction for the 11th ACVVC. I would also like to give out a special thank you to my two helpers who made the difference between chaos and success! Thank you Pat Smothermon & Elida George!!

Michael Bishop	Ron Krueger
Chuck Bower	Robert R. Lee
Gordon Boyes	Harold Mann
Don Brown	Jack Morrison
Andrew Caines	Patrick Murphy
Ed Carroll	Eric Newton
Daniel A. Chavez	John Poindexter
John Cramer	Gary Rieth
Blade Tank D. Co.	Brenner Sayers
Earl J. Edwards	Chuck Schmidt
James Hain	Mike Thompson
Jim Holt	Dick Vail
Ben Hotchkiss	Rita Waldorp
Jerry Howerton	Randall J. Waller
Doris Kinbeck	Mike Weynand



# Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) since our last issue of *Thunder Run*.

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
<b>HHT REGIMENT</b>		Tullier, Francis P	69-70	Hampton, Glen R Jr	71-72	Mason, Gregory R	68-69
Cebalo, John G	70-70	Wallace, Peter P	69-70	Huff, Charles M	71-71	Pyke, William L	70-70
Clark, George A	68-68	Yancy, William C	70-70	Miller, John H Jr	70-70	Russell, Richard G	68-68
Cowan, Roscoe	69-70	<b>C TROOP, 1/11</b>		Rouland, James M	71-71	Tripp, Louis D	68-69
Henson, Johnny W	67-67	Alexander, Ronnie D	70-71	Silhanek, Dale J	67-68	<b>I TROOP, 3/11</b>	
Kuntzman, John C	69-69	Christian, Charles H	70-70	Villasenor, Felix J	67-68	Christensen, Michael J	70-70
Schurtz, Gerald P	67-67	Collins, Tony D	70-70	<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>		Cota, Rudolph	69-69
Vanmatre, Jerry H	67-68	Davis, Colleen	70-71	Anderson, Harold	66-67	Hemner, Eugene F	69-69
Wellman, William A	70-70	Davis, Richard W	70-71	Christiansen, Thorleif R	70-70	Kent, William B	67-70
<b>AIR CAVALRY TROOP</b>		Dehoyos, Jesse C Jr	69-69	Davis, James H	71-71	Kuntzman, John C	65-67
Barclay, William B	68-68	Owens, William B	70-71	Gilland, Fairl	70-71	Miles, Ernest L	69-69
Christian, Charles H	70-70	Richeson, George E	69-70	Meadows, Ronald E	67-68	Norman, Tommy F	68-69
Firestone, Daryl R	68-68	Rouland, James M	70-71	Petrella, Frederick	69-69	Pryor, Mitchell W	70-70
Gutierrez, Cipriano	69-69	Smith, Horace P III	69-70	Ryle, Patrick E	68-69	Shivers, Robert C	70-70
Warner, Karl A	68-68	Stewart, James V III	66-67	Williams, Charlie F	71-72	Swanigan, Delin E	69-70
White, Jack C	67-69	Webb, Dempsey L	70-71	<b>G TROOP, 2/11</b>		Walker, John L Jr	69-69
<b>31st ENGR BN</b>		<b>D COMPANY, 1/11</b>		Bridgewater, Clark G	70-71	Walton, Carroll E	68-69
Henley, Carl W	68-68	Holcomb, David C	70-70	Cozby, John P II	71-71	<b>K TROOP, 3/11</b>	
<b>398th TRANS DET</b>		Neiford, Douglas A	68-68	Dickinson, Paul W	69-70	Davis, James H	70-70
Mccurdy, Rodney N	69-71	<b>HOW BTRY, 1/11</b>		Moreno, Arturo A	71-71	Derosia, Donald K Jr	69-69
Nash, Brent T	67-68	Ellis, Luther H	68-69	Olivier, Frankel J	69-70	Gee, Cova S	69-69
Rich, Curtis H	69-70	Little, Andrew	68-68	Pennington, Robert W	68-69	Komaransky, Anthony J	69-69
<b>53rd SIG BN</b>		Molstad, Jerry A	70-70	<b>H COMPANY, 2/11</b>		Madrid, David A	70-70
Graham, Dennis J	70-70	Powell, Marvin	68-68	Austin, Julius	69-70	Robinson, Charles K	69-69
<b>919th ENGINEER CO</b>		Roggow, Danny R	66-67	Byrd, Carson T	66-67	Williams, Kenneth R	70-70
Jackson, Daniel K	67-69	<b>HHT, 2/11</b>		Mcrae, Glenn E	68-68	<b>L TROOP, 3/11</b>	
Sloan, Sanford R	68-70	Allan, Donald	68-69	Moss, Leon J	69-70	Bigley, Robert S	67-68
Wiebicke, Gary C	68-69	Barber, Charles D	67-68	Russell, Dennis P	66-67	Cox, Kenneth W	68-68
Williams, Ray J	70-70	Bolen, Roy	70-72	Smith, Major L	70-70	<b>M COMPANY, 3/11</b>	
<b>HHT, 1/11</b>		Brown, Richard E	71-71	<b>HOW BTRY, 2/11</b>		Mcrae, Glenn E	68-68
Henry, Freddy W	70-71	Chevalier, David J	71-72	Bryan, Allen M	71-71	Russell, Richard G	68-68
Hilsmeyer, Lonnie D	69-70	Dickinson, Paul W	69-70	Hilburn, Mitchell D	71-71	Somervell, James W	66-67
Howard, Harvey E III	68-68	Garner, Haskell D Jr	71-72	Pearson, Milton E	70-70	Tidwell, Phillip E	69-70
Mervin, James M	67-68	Gorko, Paul F	70-71	Powell, Marvin	70-71	<b>HOW BTRY, 3/11</b>	
Rodriguez, Filiberto Sr	69-69	Huff, Charles M	70-71	Terry, Willie L	71-71	Cardenas, Ramon A Jr	68-69
Rosenbalm, Allan W	69-70	Laurance, Donald W	72-72	<b>HHT, 3/11</b>		Garmon, Patrick E	69-69
Schurtz, Gerald P	67-68	Lomangino, Nicola J	68-69	Depaul, Richard E Jr	67-68	Gruchow, Lynn V	68-68
<b>A TROOP, 1/11</b>		Morin, Donald R	69-70	Gilmore, Jeffery G	69-70	Manuel, Henry L	69-69
Condon, Elizabeth B	66-67	Salisbury, Ronald F	67-68	Hutchinson, David	69-70	Wilt, David T	69-69
Contreras, Rudy N	69-69	Spivey, Charles D	70-71	<p><b>So that his brethren shall know...</b></p> <p>Please report the death of any member of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia to Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew, Manassas, VA 20112; Email: 11thcav1966@com-cast.net; phone: (703) 791-6610 for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."</p>			
Giles, Charles E	70-70	Thompson, Harold A	69-69				
Lee, Johnny H	70-70	Thurman, Jerry W	69-69				
Turner, Edward	68-68	<b>E TROOP, 2/11</b>					
<b>B TROOP, 1/11</b>		Billips, Eugene	70-71				
Darland, Allen M	70-70	Brison, Alvin H	72-72				
Derosia, Donald K Jr	69-69	Davis, Charles E	71-71				
Groomster, William	69-69	Estep, John B	71-71				
Mcfarland, Thomas G	70-71	Groomster, William	69-69				
Russian, Charles J Jr	68-69	Gutierrez, Cipriano	69-69				
		Hampton, Glen R Jr	66-67				

For the 145 years that the 24 notes of Taps have haunted listeners, it is one of the most recognized bugle calls of the military. General Butler of the Union Army composed the call during the summer of 1862, working with his bugler to complete the arrangement. He wanted to replace a call "Lights Out" which he hated. After the first evening Taps was played, buglers from around the area came and wanted to find out what this new melody was. It quickly spread throughout the Union and Confederate armies. Within a few months it was used for a memorial service.

After the dedication of The Wall in Washington, DC in 1982, I came out of my Vietnam closet. With the help of other Nam vets, we organized a chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America. Through the chapter I was contacted to play Taps at many memorials and graveside services. These occasions were for guys who died of cancers, suicide, or other causes. Up until then I had played the piece sporadically over the years.

By 1984 our little group of Nam vets was interested in going to The Wall. We found out that Frederick Hart's bronze statue of three soldiers would be dedicated on Veteran's Day. After reviewing our travel options we decided to ride the train. We felt it would give us time to acclimate ourselves to the idea that we were going to visit our very own national monument. We had plenty of time on the train to listen to each other's stories. It turned out to be a fortuitous event.

For me I had a very difficult time remembering names out of my past. At first I couldn't remember any names from Nam. Finally, I remembered three friends from my high school who had died in combat. I didn't know the names of any other casualties. However, my duties in HHT, Regiment, included being an awards and decorations clerk. For those who died, their awards came across my desk with a black border. The award had to be processed before all others. That was a difficult issue on this trip. The other twelve guys I was traveling with knew the names of friends who had died, so they were preparing to find them. I would do the same for Bob, Bill, and

# A Taps Odyssey

By Adrian Vaaler  
HHT, Regiment, 1969-1970

**On a wild hunch I walked up to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and asked to play. After auditioning in the bunker, I was escorted to a spot. The sergeant turned and faced me. His eyes told me to not screw up.**

Kurt. I had to deal with the black borders. Those intruded into my dreams and there were no names associated with them.

We arrived at Union Station in DC after more than three days of travel and consuming large quantities of alcohol. We were ready to stay on land for a few days. The hotel beds were a great relief when we reached them. The weekend was planned. It was the first time we had seen large numbers of Nam vets. It was incredible. A highlight for me was finding Blackhorse patches on jungle fatigues worn by guys who served with the regiment. I wore jungle fatigues with a Blackhorse patch. I hadn't seen any since Nam. I discovered where the reception for the Blackhorse was located. We crammed ourselves into the hotel room and drank again like old times. From this gathering, Ollie Pickral developed the

first membership roster for the 11thACVVC.

Saturday, November 10th, was memorable. We spent hours at the memorial and looked up the names of friends. It also was the first time I played Taps. The crowd was enormous. It seemed the right thing to do. From on top of the memorial I played. I felt relieved.

On Sunday, Veteran's Day, President Reagan dedicated the statue. It appeared he was wearing a heavy coat, most likely with some kind of body armor. I think his staff was afraid of Nam vets. Our group reveled in the excitement of the moment and we spent more time there.

We went from party to party. By Monday, we were ready to depart back to Olympia. I wanted to return to The Wall one more time before our train left, so with my friend Dave, a Nam vet from the 7th Cavalry, we returned. There was a sparse crowd in front. We gathered a group of vets and walked on top of the monument to the center. I turned and played. I didn't know the guys next to me, but we had the commonality of serving in Nam.

Two extraordinary things happened. First, a photographer for *National Geographic* was there and took a picture of myself and part of the large group of vets. The picture was used on the opening pages of the May, 1985 issue for the story about The Wall. Secondly, a CBS film crew recorded the event for the CBS Evening News and used my playing of Taps at the beginning and ending of the half hour show, as well as during the story itself. I didn't know that occurred until I returned to Olympia.

On our trip home I was inspired to play at every Amtrak stop. It usually took about a minute and a half for me to play. The Amtrak crew was very accommodating and always waited for me to finish.

As we were traveling through Montana, a woman approached me and said her son was killed in Nam. Taps had never been played for him. She asked me if I could honor her son. We agreed to perform a Taps ceremony at the next stop, Havre, Montana. It was a fifteen minute stop; my friends gathered outside where there was a lonely tree. The woman stood by me as I played with tears in my eyes.

During the eighties, several Nam memorials were built and often I was asked to play at the dedications. I often found a Nam memorial in my travels and would play there.

I remember the first 11ACVVC reunion in Arlington, Texas as being a bit wild. I don't think I had my trumpet with me. I'm not certain which reunion I began playing. It might have been the third.

At our Philadelphia reunion I went with a large group to DC and played at the Wall again with the troopers of the regiment in formation. On a wild hunch I walked up to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and asked to play. After auditioning in the bunker, I was escorted to a spot. The sergeant turned and faced me. His eyes told me to not screw up. My escort prompted me and so I played. Afterwards, I was shaking. It was an incredible honor for them to let me play. I believe I signed a guest book, but on recent trips to DC and the Tomb of the Unknowns they no longer maintain a registry of guests. I wanted to take a picture of my signature as a remembrance of that day.

Another opportunity to do something special came in September, 1992. With my friend, Dave, we traveled to Australia for the dedication of the Australian National Vietnam Memorial. We were hosted by Australian Nam vets. After the official dedication, the Americans came together in a formation and again I played in honor of the Aussie casualties. One side note, no names are visible on their memorial. During the planning stages they decided not to display any names and put them away in a chamber on top of the monument.

In 2005 a Vietnam memorial was dedicated at my high school in Eugene, Oregon. There the names of my friends and seven others were brought together on a long overdue granite monument. That helped bring closure to my memories of them.

It wasn't until 1996 that I returned to our reunions and have played Taps every year since. It continues to be important to me to honor the casualties of the regiment and those who have died since. Those names are read every year at the

memorial service.

I've known that some of my friends who I served with have died after they returned home. I haven't been able to track everyone, but in recent years I knew where two friends had lived.

Bob Salter was a close friend in Nam, but I lost track of him after returning home. Finally, in the early 1990's I found out from Gary, who was part of our close knit group that Bob lived in Newberry, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula. I called information for his phone number but the operator gave me the number for his parents. I was shocked to learn that Bob had died of an accidental legal drug overdose over a year before. He had married and had three children. Bob had suffered from PTSD for a long time. He had been a clerk like me. I hoped that one day I could visit his gravesite and pay respects to him.

I found out about Jim Lawler during the reading of the names at the Eugene reunion. Years before I had sent him prints of Nam pictures I had taken. He wrote one letter to me. Through a friend of his, his wife, Linda, contacted me. She had many questions about his Vietnam service, but he had never explained anything to her about Vietnam.

This past June there was an opportunity for me to visit both places where my friends had lived. Going by Amtrak again I met Linda in Shakopee, Minnesota, spending a couple days there. She and her family told me about Jim's life and how active he had been in the VFW. I remembered that he had been a very heavy drinker in Nam. Linda said he had been sober for over seventeen years. They had come to one of our reunions but Jim didn't want to return. I had a wonderful time visiting with his family. With friends and family around, I was able to honor Jim at a local memorial and bring closure to my thoughts about him. He had been a clerk too and had died of an Agent Orange related cancer.

The next major stop was in Michigan. Gary lived outside of Flint in Swartz Creek. I hadn't seen him since I left Nam, however we had talked on the phone a few times. We talked about our time together and shared pictures. He was one of the few people I met after

Nam. Over the years I had met three others at reunions who shared the same experiences.

From Flint I drove to the Upper Peninsula and Newberry. I had tried to contact Bob Salter's son, but had only talked to him by phone briefly. I was unable to reach him after arriving. It took me over a day to find Bob's grave. With help from a local family who was visiting in the cemetery I was able to look in the right area to find Bob. He had died on October 2, 1989. I regretted not reaching him before his untimely death. Once again playing Taps was the means to remember my friend and bring closure. We had been significant drinking buddies in Nam. Having easy access to liquor in the rear area allowed us to consume almost a bottle a night toward the end of my tour. My last act was to leave some 11thACVVC memorabilia including the book about the Cav for Bob's son at his door step. Hopefully he'll gain a better understanding of the regiment.

My Amtrak trip ended in DC. As usual The Wall drew me to it. I don't believe I can ever visit that area without seeing The Wall. There continues to be a large crowd along the path. I found the names of my high school friends again. There are 729 11th Cav names also.

To the right of the Hart statue there are some benches. I went there to contemplate about the memorial and to remember my friends and the regiment's casualties. Once again I pulled my trumpet out of its case and played the familiar tune. A man from Kentucky came up to me and thanked me for playing.

The summer ended in Louisville at our annual reunion. The revamped Nam memorial is a monument befitting the regiment's casualties. I was asked several times if I was ready to play at the memorial service. It was kind of the lead trumpeter in the Ft. Knox band to be available just in case something happened to me. This was an important dedication and a chance to see all the regiment's casualties' names in one location.

I am honored to be able to play these twenty four notes at our reunions and never forget those who have died because of their service in Nam.

# Son Gets Fuller Picture of ‘Sgt. Mac’

## ■ Vietnam unit reminisces at reunion

This article and accompanying photo are courtesy of Elena Brown and are reprinted with permission of her and *The Gazette*, Colorado Springs, Co., where it originally appeared 9/10/2007.

By Elena Brown (Daughter of Edward Brown, (A Troop 67-68)

**LOUISVILLE, Kentucky** - Mike McCullough has been trying to find information about the man in the family photo albums alongside his mother. The man whose picture sits in a frame on her china cabinet. The tall man with the piercing blue eyes, similar to his own. The man who was his father.

“I used to sneak around the house and look at the old photo albums and newspaper articles that my mom had,” he said. “I’ve always been wondering just who my dad was.” Sgt. 1st Class Alfred McCullough was killed in Vietnam when Mike was 1 year old. “I wonder how I would have turned out had he been around,” Mike McCullough said. After his father’s death, his mother moved the family from Germany to Colorado Springs, never remarrying.

Mike McCullough was 37 when he started going on the Internet to search for information about his father. Now 40, the Pikes Peak Community College employee hit pay dirt over the weekend after he and his mother were invited to attend a reunion of his father’s unit in Louisville.

Silver-haired men gathered around a table to meet and share their 40-year-old memories and thoughts about “Sgt. Mac.” Alfred McCullough served in the Army for 12 years and was 33 when he was killed by small-arms fire in Binh Tuy, South Vietnam. He is buried at Fort Riley in Kansas. He left behind five children; Mike is the youngest.

“I knew right off the bat that was Sgt. Mac’s kid when I looked in those blue eyes,” Ron Betz said. Alfred McCullough “was a tall quiet man with a thick reddish mustache. I remember he died in the morning. We lost three men that day.” Retired Sgt. Edward



Ron Betz, Edward Brown Jr. and Johanna McCullough looked at pictures of her husband, Alfred McCullough, at a reunion of his unit in Louisville, KY. (Photo Courtesy Elena Brown.)

**Mike [McCullough] and his mother, Johanna, represented one of about 60 families that attended alongside the 1,500 members in Louisville over the weekend.**

Brown Jr. added, “He was a gentleman’s soldier. He brought his point across in a smooth way. He was a real good man that took good care of us.” Both men served under Alfred McCullough in Blackhorse 11th Armored Cavalry A-Troop in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968.

The McCulloughs were contacted by the Blackhorse 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia this year. The organization aims to honor those who fought and died during Vietnam. It formed Operation Embrace last year to locate, notify and welcome the families of men who died into the “Band of Brothers,” said Charles Schmidt, president of the organization.

Mike and his mother, Johanna, represented one of about 60 families that attended alongside the 1,500 members in Louisville over the weekend. Johanna McCullough, 72, brought military photos and newspaper articles to the reunion, including an article about her receiving her husband’s Silver Star for service in combat. “There are more

photos I can bring next year” when the unit will reunite again in Chicago, she said.

“When I saw ‘McCullough’ on the name tag I thought, ‘That’s Sgt. Mac’s boy!’ and gave him a big hug,” said Jack Morrison, 59. “I didn’t cry, but I was close.” “McCullough was my platoon sergeant,” Morrison said. “My memory is not what it used to be, but I told him (Mike) what I could about his father.”

It was far more than Mike McCullough had known before going to Kentucky. “I do wish there was more discussion about my father when I was younger, but I’ve discovered it’s never too late to learn about your family,” he said. Mother and son said the weekend brought them closer. “It’s so nice to know our family was not forgotten,” she said.

Mike said all he wanted was to get a bit of information about his father. “And now, through these men, I have a stronger bond to him,” he said.

# My Reunion Experience

I don't feel that I achieved any closure. I am not even sure that I even want to. I did get peace in my heart from knowing that there are so many Blackhorse brothers whom have never forgotten my brother and that I am not alone in my grief.

By Donna Collins

My brother, Rick Weiss, served with the 11th ACR, 3rd Squadron, I Troop and was killed in action on June 23, 1969. Through Operation Embrace, I have been corresponding with a couple of men who had served with my brother in Vietnam. They bravely responded to my request for information. It can't be easy talking to your friend's next of kin. They grieved as well. They have been very kind to me and have shown in many ways their friendship and respect to my brother. This has meant a great deal to me.

The rededication of the 11th Armored Cavalry Memorial Monument at Fort Knox, Kentucky induced my husband and me to attend the reunion. I was very apprehensive about attending the reunion for many reasons. I wouldn't really know anyone there and I didn't want to make anyone uncomfortable or diminish any of the joyful camaraderie of friends getting together. I did want to stand up for my brother so I found myself at the reunion.

We all wore name tags, so it was easy to know people's names, what troops and the years that they served. Next of kin wore blue name tags. All the veterans and their families were very friendly to us as we passed in the halls or shared an elevator ride. When my husband and I were leaving dinner, at one of the hotel's restaurants, there were some Blackhorse veterans waiting to be seated. One gentleman approached me and asked why my name tag was blue. I told him about my brother and the next thing that I knew, I was in a fierce hug. This is how the whole weekend went. Men and their wives gave me hugs, cried with me, and shook our hands. These people were strangers but felt so much like friends.

The rededication ceremony and the "Circle of Honor" bricks reinforced the fact that our loved ones have never and

will never be forgotten by their Blackhorse brothers. The entire ceremony was touching and heartfelt.

The banquet was memorable as well. There was a slide presentation that couldn't have left a dry eye in the house. It was a beautiful event.

I was also very blessed to have had several members of my brother's troop, who had served with him, attend the reunion. These men were great! They were so generous; they shared their time, their memories, and their pictures with me. They made it extra special for me, and this is something that I will never forget. From the men who served with my brother to the ones who didn't even know him, my husband and I were made to feel so welcome and such a part of the Blackhorse family.

I don't feel that I achieved any closure. I am not even sure that I even want to. I did get peace in my heart from knowing that there are so many Blackhorse brothers whom have never forgotten my brother and that I am not alone in my grief. I could have wished that it was my brother telling me about his experiences at the reunion instead, but this is not what life dealt us.

My only regret concerning the reunion was that it went so fast and I was so overwhelmed with the honor that was shown to my brother that I may not have shown how truly appreciative I am. I wanted to thank these wonderful men for their service to our country and to express how glad I am that they made it through that time in Vietnam.

I can't speak for all the next of kin, only for myself. I can't say if your experience would be the same as mine was. I do know how fresh a 38 year old wound can feel. All I can say is that I am so very glad that I did go. We made so many new friends and I have memories that will last a lifetime. I feel no hesitation in attending future reunions, in fact I am looking forward to it.

# Lemonade

By Charles W. Abbey (HHT 2/11, 1966-1967)

About the last week of March 1967, Major Robert Bertrand (aka Black Bart) Battle Squadron (2-11) Executive was tasked by LTC Kibbey Home, Battle CO to negotiate with a Vo Cat, RVN area land owner for access in some future Squadron operation.

Nearly a forty-five minute flight out of Blackhorse to a location I remember as almost 10K south of Highway 20 near a hamlet named Bon Do brought Bertrand and me to our destination. Prominent was a beautiful and remote estate, well off the beaten path, in the mountainous foothills south of the II Corps boundary. The place had a swimming pool, formal garden, horse barns and paddock, trim meadows and whitewashed buildings all around. The main house was a substantial abode. The rancho was clearly a civilized spot in a dusty, violent, discordant South Vietnam.

Before we had departed on this flight, I asked about possible VC presence at or near the site. Bertrand calmed my uncertainty with a brusque, "There are no VC around there!" I said "I'm good with that!"

After landing on the estate's grass strip Major Bertrand instructed me to get refueled, if possible, and wait. No fuel was to be found but shortly a French speaking fellow in a white jacket appeared with a cooler of iced lemonade. "Nice touch" I thought, drinking it down.

During my halting discourse with this man, I observed the approach of Bertrand and the owner accompanied by a female. The three were all smiles and prattling briskly. Major Bertrand did the introductions and in an aside to me, growled, "This is important military stuff! Take the 'nice lady' up for a ride, she has never flown before!"

My passenger was not your ordinary "nice lady". She was movie star gorgeous! I proceeded to strap my petite sightseer in as the land owner and Bertrand backed away. (Note: It should be understood that I had seen no round-eyed female up-close in eight or more months).

Our proximity in this minuscule helicopter (OH-23G) demanded a very professional control touch. Furthermore, I admit that sitting thigh-to-thigh with this attractive

Continued on page 19



## CHECKING IN

Let's talk about "checking in" today. You probably remember that during the Viet Nam War soldiers in uniform could fly standby on the airlines for half price. You showed up at the ticket counter, checked in, and waited. When boarding time came you took whatever seat was open in coach. But get this: if there were seats open in first class, the stewardess could let you sit there. It happened to me once. Yes, I liked first class; wouldn't you? Now things are more complicated. Now you have to go through a lot more checking in to get on board. Recently, my wife and I flew from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Houston, Texas. We had to go through eight check stations to get on that airplane. I won't bore you with the details - besides, it would strain my credibility.

I'm sure you remember the days of the draft. That was when the government mailed you a "Dear John" letter "inviting" you to come on down to your local induction center. They wanted to examine your body to see if you could carry a rifle, pound the ground, and become a soldier in the U.S. Army. They examined your mind too - but it was your body they were really after. Your mind they could teach if your body could carry your mind around, especially in the mud of rice paddies or the trails of jungles of you-know-where. Flying around in helicopters and busting jungle in tanks and ACAV's counted too.

I took my draft physical in downtown Los Angeles in 1959. That exam was the first stage of checking in for the U.S. Army. Yep. I took the first step for becoming a soldier draftee. I remember the dingy (grubby) induction center. Us young guys (no girls) had to fill out forms, wait around, answer questions (none of which do I remember), and wait around some more. Then we went to this back room, lined up side by side, stripped down and got examined - right alongside each other. The guy next to me had something that looked funny on his chest which probably embarrassed him greatly. I think it kept him out of the Army which wasn't hard to do in those days. We had to let the doc push his fingers into places we didn't like, which I'm too mod-

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**I'm sure you remember the days of the draft. That was when the government mailed you a "Dear John" letter "inviting" you to come on down to your local induction center.**

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est to say out loud here. Then we turned our heads and coughed. Why? You know - so the doc could see if we had a hernia. It was important in those circumstances to know. Is it important now? I would think so - but I'm of the older generation now and somewhat out of touch. Anyway, that was the "checking-in" process for the draft board to decide if they wanted to make us into soldiers.

The next "checking in" process was the one that could send chills up your spine. It was "Basic Training," or, more accurately, "Basic Combat Training." BCT. "Do I know about BCT?" you ask. I reply, "Yes, I do." In the late fifties we didn't have a war, but I still didn't prefer being in the Army so I joined the Air National Guard and went to Air Force Boot Camp - (Basic Training.) I don't think they called it basic combat training what with being Air Force - although my memory might be fuzzy on that detail. Later, Viet Nam came along and I joined the Army because God called me to be an Army chaplain. Being Army yourself (unless you're a civilian, Marine, or something else) you know all about the Army "checking in" process which we've talked about. I suspect that BCT is where "Hurry up and wait" was invented. I think we invented it. If it was already invented, then we sure kept it Army Strong.

What about your BCT? How about all those lines you had to wait in? I don't think you could ever forget the lines for issuing uniforms with their extensive selection of clothing excellence: all OD - olive drab - a good name for the color. Actually, the Class A uniform really did look good. It's pretty obvious where the word "uniform" came from: we all looked alike - great, of course, but still alike. We looked greater in Class A's than in those wool field pants, but that's OK. If you weren't issued wool field pants, then take my word for it, they looked awful. Remember the lines where you were issued clothes that came close to fitting - maybe? You'd wait in line in an old WWII

wood or a Korean War cinder block building, light green or gray in color, moving a half step every minute or two. You'd get up to the plywood counter and a "friendly" buck sergeant would push something your way to take as your very own - pants (trousers to the Army), boots (unshined!), baggy boxer shorts (way too big), green T shirts, those wool field pants, a gas mask (uh-oh - what's that for?), and whatever else the Army wanted you to wear. Now that you had your uniforms, what came next? More waiting, of course - chow lines, barber white-sidewall haircut lines, PX lines (to buy Kiwi shoe polish), medic shot in the arm or cheek lines, and so on.

Soon enough came the Viet Nam checking in process. That's where you probably went right after AIT. Right? Maybe you went to Korea or Germany, but most likely you wound up in the Nam. So there you were fresh out of a nice, cool airliner - TWA, Pan-Am, World - and onto the hot tarmac. Now it's hurry up and wait again. Only this time it's hot, muggy, smells like fish sauce, and your gut feels like jelly. Then you get on the bus with the grill work over the windows (to keep hand grenades out?). You ride over to Long Binh or Cam Ranh Bay to get checked in to country. More lines. More uniforms - jungle fatigues, jungle boots, gas mask (maybe the old kind, maybe the new smaller version). Mostly hurry up and wait - get processed in. More questions, more orders. Then on to \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank).

So you've checked in to country. Finally, there was checking in to your troop or company, platoon, and squad. The troopers that you would spend the next year with were checking you and you were checking them; sniffing each other out for good reason. This is where you would bond. This is where you would become brothers. This is where the rubber hit the road. This is where "what it was all about" would happen, and you knew it. The processing was over. You were checked in.

Our time is about up, so I'll finish by referring you to the last checking in process that I'll mention today. I'll quote from the Bible where Jesus is talking about people being like sheep and himself being like their shepherd. This is a very beautiful teaching and describes checking in better than I can. "... Jesus said again, 'I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'" (John 10:7-10 - NIV). I'm checked in. Are you?

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

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

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## LEMONADE from page 17

woman while keeping the flying machine right-side-up required (yet another example of my) great flying skill!

We lifted-off and climbed to circle the property. The woman proceeded to "Ohh" and "Ahh" while pointing at familiar landmarks. Shortly, I began to notice that light turbulence and corrective control inputs seemed to slightly unnerve my passenger. At each "bump or drop" she tried to re-establish her spatial orientation by gripping my thigh with her left hand, unnerving me. But turbulence being what it is, what was I to do except to smile a lot? No, I did not jostle the collective, much either. I was in no rush to land this aircraft but our fuel situation dictated that Bart and I soon take our leave. The hoped-for fogbank or monsoon downpour failed to materialize.

We departed and I neither saw the place again nor did planning continue for any operation in the area. Rather, the Staff began planning and the Squadron executed the giant leap to Chu Lai in I Corps and Task Force Oregon service on 28 April 1967.

I have wondered from time-to-time whether this was more of a sightseeing trip or an actual, if unusual, mission. Troubling too, I never received a response to my memo volunteering to be a member of that advance party.

# The Ongoing Fight For Democracy In Vietnam

*By Frank R. Cambria, Secretary*

Very few Americans are aware of the ongoing struggle made by our former South Vietnamese allies to transform Vietnam from a communist dictatorship to a democratic society with a government accountable to its people.

By the time Blackhorse arrived in South Vietnam in 1966, the South Vietnamese had been fighting the growing communist insurgency from North Vietnam (backed by the Soviets and China) for eleven years. Although South Vietnam was defeated three years after Blackhorse left the country, the Blackhorse warrior legacy left its mark as demonstrated when the ARVN 18th Division at the former Blackhorse Base Camp in Xuan Loc was the last major ARVN base to fall in April 1975. The ARVN defenders of the former Blackhorse Base Camp battled overwhelming odds for two weeks without air support, fighting literally to the death before being overrun by Soviet T54 tanks that also reduced the city of Xuan Loc to rubble.

Shortly after the communist victory, tens of thousands of former South Vietnamese acted on their burning desire to break free from the communist dictatorship and to truly rebuild their homeland. But these motivated Vietnamese had no country to back them, and no means of outside support or supplies. Yet they began to fight for their beliefs in the late 1970s as never before.

Some of those former South Vietnamese who had fled their homeland seeking freedom also came together to join the struggle. However, due to the effectiveness of the communist secret police network, most of those freedom fighters within Vietnam were eventually eliminated.

At the same time, those patriotic South Vietnamese abroad consequently encountered increasing difficulties because they were unable to link up with their counterparts within Vietnam.

But the desire for freedom and democ-

racy persisted. Patriotic Vietnamese, some who escaped to freedom after 1975 and some who remained behind in Vietnam, organized and established Viet Tan, the Vietnam Reform Party, in 1982.

Viet Tan began building its own network of members and cells within Vietnam, and established safe havens to support a possibly long-term resistance movement. At the same time, Viet Tan worked to organize the people to resist communist government policies of mandatory forced labor and conscription in Laos and Cambodia. Unfortunately, in August 1987, the Viet Tan party Chairman and a number of other Viet Tan leaders "mysteriously died" during an announced return visit to Vietnam. Their deaths also triggered a massive wave of persecution by the communist authority against Viet Tan members inside Vietnam. Despite heavy losses, Viet Tan's network inside Vietnam survived into the 21st Century and continues to operate today.

Over one million Vietnamese have experienced freedom, civil rights, and equal opportunity in the USA, Canada, and Australia. Communicating their experience with democracy and freedom to family members still in Vietnam has fueled a renewed desire for a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Today Vietnam is still among the most impoverished and backward nations of the world. Furthermore, the communist dictatorship today is the root cause of Vietnam's widespread corruption, abuse of power, destruction of human dignity, lack of civil rights, and social injustice.

If you would like to learn more about what is really going on in Viet Nam today, I recommend that you visit these websites:

- *Viet Tan at [www.viettan.org](http://www.viettan.org) and click on English at the top right of your screen*
- *Government of Free Vietnam at [www.gfvn.org](http://www.gfvn.org).*
- *Committee for Religious Freedom in Vietnam at [www.crfv.org](http://www.crfv.org)*

Frank Cambria may be contacted at [Captain.Frank@covad.net](mailto:Captain.Frank@covad.net)

# Meet Our 2007 Scholarship Winners



**Natalie Alberg**, Daughter of Wayne Alberg - How 2/11 - 71-72

I would like to express my gratitude for selecting me for this prestigious scholarship. The financial support this scholarship will provide me in pursuing my career in Veterinarian Medicine is beyond beneficial. More importantly, I am touched by the endless generosity you all have provided to not only students, but to our country. I am eternally grateful. Thanks so much.



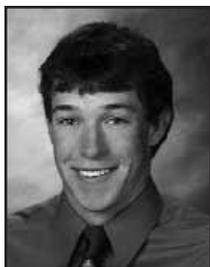
**Rebecca Atchison**, Daughter of Daniel Atchison - 541 MID - 69-70

Thank you for awarding me the 11ACVVC Scholarship for the 2007-2008 school year. I greatly appreciate the financial assistance.



**Peter Bligh**, Son of Stephen Bligh – K Trp 3/11 - 70-71

Thank you so much to the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veteran's of Vietnam and Cambodia Scholarship Committee for awarding me this very generous scholarship. My dad has always been proud that he served his country in Vietnam. It makes me feel good that I can make my Dad even prouder by being selected to receive this scholarship. Thank you so much for greatly helping with my educational expenses at the New York State University at Buffalo.



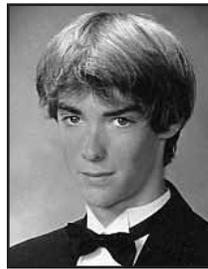
**Joseph Burke**, Son of Joseph Burke – HHT 3/11 – 68-69

I greatly appreciate being awarded the 11ACVVC Scholarship. I feel that this scholarship will give me more opportunities during my time at Rockhurst University. It means a lot to me that I was awarded this scholarship and I plan on showing that I deserve it by performing well in school and getting the most out of my college education. Once again, thank you for awarding me with this wonderful opportunity.



**Raina Cavallera**, Daughter of Michael Cavallera – B Trp 1/11 – 68

Thank you SO much for getting back to me with such GREAT news. THANK YOU Thank you again so very much,



**David Casterman**, Son of John Casterman – M Co 3/11 – 66-70

I am honored to receive this recognition and the valuable scholarship that the 11th ACVVC has bestowed upon me. Please accept my heartfelt thank you to the 11th ACVVC organization for acknowledging me as a son of the famous Blackhorse Regiment.



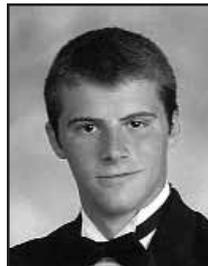
**Nathaniel Cook**, Son of Roger Cook – 919 Engr – 69-70

Thank you for awarding me this scholarship. It will help aid my goals of becoming a music teacher as I attend Eastern Michigan University this fall. Thanks again for everything.



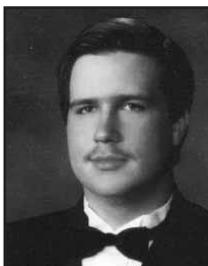
**Nicholas Cook**, Son of Roger Cook – 919 Engr – 69-70

Hello, this is Nicholas Cook, one of the scholarship winners for 2007. I would like to thank 11ACVVC for the scholarship and believing in me and helping me reach my goal. Thank you.



**Jeffrey Dawson**, Son of Ronald Dawson – G Trp 2/11 – 71

Thank you very much for the honor that the 11ACVVC has granted me. Both my family and I are very appreciative of receiving the scholarship, as it will relieve some of the pressure caused by exorbitant costs of higher education. Because my sister applied for and was granted this same scholarship two years ago, our whole family is very grateful for your generosity. Thanks again 11ACVVC, I will always be very grateful for the honor you have granted me.



**Matthew Ferguson**, Son of Ronald Ferguson – F Trp 2/11 – 69-70

I want to express my appreciation for the very generous financial support from the 11th ACVVC scholarship fund. These funds will allow me to more fully devote my time to my studies. I would especially like to thank the members of the 11th ACVVC for their donations which allow the continuation of these scholarships. I hope you will all continue your support, so that many other students such as myself may further their education through your organization.

**This issue contains brief statements from 20 of our 2007 scholarship winners**



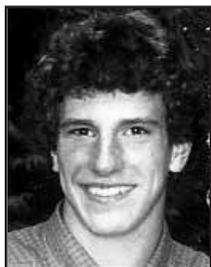
**Jennifer Graham**, Daughter of Raymond Graham – L Trp 3/11 – 66-67

Thank you so much for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. It is greatly appreciated and will be a great help financially. Thanks again to the members of the committee for this wonderful opportunity and gift.



**Katherine Pivrotto**, Daughter of Robert Pivrotto – HHT 2/11 – 70

Thank You.



**Luther Kraxberger**, Son of Walter Kraxberger – HHT Regt – 70-71

Thank you! I would like to thank all of the donors who make this scholarship possible. I am honored to be a recipient of this award. I am proud of my father and his fellow veterans who served in Vietnam and Cambodia. Thank you again.



**Paul Sargent**, Son of Daniel Sargent – HHT Regt - 68-69

Thank you very much for selecting me to receive one of the 11th Cavalry's scholarships. I wish to add my gratitude for your generous support. I will always consider this scholarship an honor for me, as well as my father, who served in Viet Nam with your unit. It is truly a privilege for me to receive this honor from veterans who have served their country so proudly. Thank you again for the scholarship. As my dad would say..."Allons!!!"



**Jenna Lang**, Daughter of Michael Lang – 37 Med – 69-70

It is truly an honor to be accepted as a recipient of a scholarship for your organization. I have attended a number of reunions with my father. A scholarship is, by definition, financial assistance. What makes this truly special is that it came from you, Members of the 11th ACVVC. It is something that I will cherish the rest of my life. Thank you again for your generosity.



**Bobbi Shewmaker**, Daughter of Douglas Shewmaker – H Co 2/11 - 67

Thanks so much for the scholarship! Thanks again.



**Cheryl Londos**, Daughter of Christopher Bredwell – A Trp 1/11 – 70-71

I thank everyone with a big hug. I am both grateful and excited. College can be tough and this helps a lot. I cannot thank the 11th ACVVC enough for this great honor of a scholarship. I am forever grateful for this and my family gives many thanks also. Thanks again.



**Heather Wagers**, Daughter of Gary Wagers – HOW 1/11 – 69-70

To the members of the scholarship committee, thank you for selecting me to receive this scholarship. This scholarship will help me get through my last year in college and reach my goals. Thank you for the sacrifices you made during your tours in Vietnam and Cambodia and for supporting this scholarship fund so that the next generations can have opportunities for higher education.



**Jill Paulsen**, Daughter of Michael Paulsen – A Trp 1/11 70-71

I wish to thank you and the entire committee for this wonderful scholarship. It will be a great help to me in the pursuit of my degree. I will do everything in my ability to make you proud and know that you have picked a worthy recipient. Thank you again.



**Rebekah Wilson**, Daughter of Roy Wilson – HHT Regt – 69-70

Thank you for selecting me as recipient of an 11ACVVC Scholarship. These funds will enable me to complete my Bachelor Degree and are much appreciated....Thanks again!

**See the complete list of 2007 scholarship winners on page 27**

# Grooving With Gusto

David R. "Doc Berger" (D Co. 1967-1968)

It was good duty. Actually, it was almost great duty, except for one thing. Boredom was starting to affect everybody. We were assembled alongside a runway at Bien Hoa airbase. It was a couple of months after the first Tet Offensive and everyone was glad to have a company of tanks parked nearby.

We had our own mess hall located with us (They served good food, something we didn't always get when we were detached to other companies or troops). We swiped a nice multi stall outhouse from one of those rear echelon company areas. Actually, the rear echelon company didn't seem to be using such a necessary outbuilding, so we not only acquired it, but cleaned it up and made it quite serviceable. We were quite proud of our acquisition. No more using a shovel or having to use necessary facilities in the rain.

During the daytime we were allowed to send a couple of members of each platoon to a nice sized PX a couple of miles down the road. Yep, life was really good considering we always had to be ready to move out just in case someone got ambushed. Life was good but as we sat around at night talking, we always had the feeling something was just missing.

It was odd, you could be sitting there in the dark drinking one of those unauthorized beverages and life seemed really good and all of sudden the person that was your social guest would stop talking and both of you would almost say simultaneously "Something is missing." (No we weren't talking about women). It was just like we were missing out on some kind of social gusto. Like the song says, "If this is all there is to life, let's keep on dancing." And we didn't have any desire to dance.

About this time, someone found a little unofficial club run by some administrative clerks in a company area across the road from our parked tanks. The company had a tall webbed fence with three strands of barbed wire across the top of the fence surrounding the company and administrative area. During the day there was an open gate that allowed you to go straight to the club and of course we were all welcome. The private club was – very private with generally two or three off duty base camp commandos lounging around. The club had been used as a barracks but was empty except for a few acquired tables, a makeshift bar and a stereo and a TV. It was nice to be able to sneak over during the day but much more desirable at night.

The problem with roaming over at night was the gate was one of those electric sliding gates and it was shut at night. There was no way you could pry it open, bust a chain or lock and sneak in. As hard as we tried we could never find who possessed the controls to open the gate. The only way in was over the top of the fence, unless you were willing to walk a good two miles to get to the main gate. Those three strands of barbed wire across the top looked pretty vicious.

Being from West Virginia and a farm boy, I said "No problem". After all, I had crossed many a fence going up hill. Crossing a fence going up hill is much harder than crossing a barbed wire fence on level ground. I was the self proclaimed expert fence crossing person in our group.

As the self proclaimed fence crosser I was expected to lead the way. I led the group of about four of us up or down the fence line

**I did a little serious thinking and came to realize we had whiskey nearby. That would kill those germs and take care of pain if the whiskey was applied locally.**

until I found an area of fence where the barbed wire was loose or at least not very taut. The idea is you climb up the webbed fence, pull the barbed wire down as much as possible and then swing one leg over and then the other leg and then let yourself drop to the ground.

Being the expert, I was expected to go first, which I did. I climbed right up and pulled down on the barbed wire and swung myself right over. No problem, except I did put a rip in my pants leg scratching my leg. The reward was going to be worth it. The rest of the group followed without any real problems except one guy scratched himself pretty good in the groin area. It did look a little rough and the guy complained but it was going to be a small amount of pain. There we were listening to real good old rock and roll on a stereo. We could even watch combat on TV.

I remember the guy with the scratch in the groin area complained time and time again. I was the platoon medic and I didn't have my aid bag with me and I wasn't about to cross that evil fence and then have to cross again just to treat a simple scratch. We were in such a nice calm relaxing atmosphere, the least the guy could do was think positive thoughts and the pain would go away.

Well, that piece of medical strategy didn't work and it was time to see what kind of medication was located nearby. I did a little serious thinking and came to realize we had whiskey nearby. That would kill those germs and take care of pain if the whiskey was applied locally. I bought a shot of whiskey and without saying anything to the crewman just poured it in the ripped area of his pants. My fellow trooper came up out of the chair like a bullet coming out of a gun barrel. It was like he was doing a song and dance routine, pattering his feet and singing "ooch, ooch, ooch", and "I'm going to kill you".

I called him a big baby and he dared me to pour that whiskey on the scratch on my own leg, which I did. It did burn. I did a little ooch, ooch myself. I couldn't understand why good American whiskey bottled in bond, would cause such burning.

That was the only bad part of the evening. We had to come up with a little better system for crossing the fence. We enjoyed the rest of the evening, just leaning back under real lights and grooving. (The in term that was used at that period of time).

The second night we got a piece of long wood with a hook to pull down the barbed wire and a piece of something to cover over those barbed wires so we wouldn't get any scratches. We were real sophisticated intellectual tanker commandoes. Only a few fellow tankers would attempt crossing such a fence so they could have a few drinks and listen to music or watch TV under lights. At this point we felt like we were grooving with gusto. We had our own private club with limited admittance. We were staying up pretty late just grooving under the lights. Because of our intellect and team work we had climbed the social ladder.

About the fourth night, we were sitting there grooving and looking at our drinks (We had to pace ourselves because we were start-

Continued on page 27



As I start this article it is Friday night of this year's reunion. There are still quite a few people to check in at the registration, so there may be a few interruptions. But I'll give it a shot anyway.

All in all this year's attendance has been awesome. I believe our attendance is near the 1700 area. Way bigger than we had ever imagined.

Our women's meeting was held on Friday this year instead of the normal Saturday. This was because there were so many things going on this year and one of us had to be at the registration area all the time. Next year it will be back to our normal time frame. We still had a wonderful turnout. There were about 84 women present (and two guys for a matter of a few minutes). Yes there were guys. The first left quickly when we told him that for him to stay he would have to wear a dress and don a wig. The second said that was okay he's done worse. Hmm wonder who that was?

We held a very productive meeting filled with suggestions for upcoming fund raisers. Many wonderful ideas for Kathy to research were brought up. Next year's project will be —. No wait I think I'll let it be a surprise for awhile. It will be a good one. In fact there may be more than one item available. Perhaps a neat, inexpensive stocking stuffer will be one of them. So keep an eye on the Thunder Run, and the Women's Corner of the web site for further developments.

Our project of the lap blankets this year exceeded all our hopes and dreams. When I left the hotel Sunday afternoon all I had left were about 100 blankets, a few more than enough to cover the pre-orders that had come in prior to leaving for Louisville. I am now in the process of filling and mailing them, so please have patience. You will get yours. When we arrived home on the 14th there were about another 25 orders waiting in the mail. You may notice in this edition of Thunder Run that the ad for them is gone. This is because we have decided not to reorder. The only way to do this is if we order at least 50 more and since we still have a lot of the cookbooks left over, we don't want to be stuck with blankets too. Thank you to all who purchased them at the reunion. I really hope you are enjoying

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**Our project of the lap blankets this year exceeded all our hopes and dreams. When I left the hotel Sunday afternoon all I had left were about 100 blankets, a few more than enough to cover the pre-orders ...**

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them. As I said we still have cookbooks available. They make wonderful Christmas gifts and we cannot do a second book until the first are all gone.

For those of you who may not be aware, the 11th ACVVC women's group holds the copyright to the design on this blanket. Please do not sell yours on E-bay or to the Ft. Irwin store. In fact if you do find it anywhere other than our organization, please notify me so we may get it back.

Many of you asked how Bob got a phone with the Blackhorse logo on it. Well, folks Raleigh made that for him from a program he found on the internet. The web site is: [www.mytego.com](http://www.mytego.com).

Bob and I would like to thank everyone who helped this year, especially our son Raleigh. Without their help things would not have run as smoothly as they did. We would also like to thank everyone for the award we were given. It was truly a surprise. Our job is a labor of love and when everyone registers early and is calm at check-in it makes it a great joy.

Believe it or not we have started on the Chicago reunion already. We have the new name tag designed and have started stamping the envelopes. So you see things start again right away.

Following the reunion this year we went on a week vacation. Leaving Louisville, we went back to Fort Knox to revisit where Bob and I had met, fell in love and married 37 years ago. We visited the places we had both worked at, our old barrack areas, the church we married in and of course the housing area where we raised our children for many happy years.

We then traveled south to Metropolis, Illinois which lays fame to being the home of Superman. There is a HUGE statue in the center of town of Superman and two very interesting museums dedicated to him and other comic book/Hollywood stars.

Leaving there we drove north toward

Michigan. In Michigan we spent a day in Frankenmuth. Now if you have never been there you really should go. The town is very Bavarian with lovely Bavarian shops and restaurants. There is a store there called Bronners. Bronners is the world's largest Christmas store. You (or at least I) could spend hours and hours just looking at all the different Christmas displays and decorated trees. I personally love our trips there, next to Disney World it's the best. Onward and upward we went next to Mackinaw. Having grown up on the ocean I have a fascination with lighthouses and the stories that surround them. There is a beautiful lighthouse there and besides it's the only place out here in the midwest that I can get really good salt water taffy.

Next stop – after crossing the Mackinaw Bridge (butterflies raging in the tummy) we drove across the Upper Peninsula. Unfortunately none of us enjoyed this part of the trip like we usually do, as we were all suffering from very bad colds. After crossing the UP we stopped in Green Bay at a casino. I would rather have visited Packer stadium, but hey! Four hours after entering, we finally headed home. We did okay at the casino, we left about \$100 richer than when we went in. Since we were now only two hours from home we decided to keep driving till we got there. Ah, so good to be home and in our own beds.

Of course being home also meant doing a lot of laundry and going back to work. Oh well, it is kind of nice to be back into our normal routine again.

Well, I guess I really should stop now and get some work done here at the hotel. So until next time, I want to say how wonderful it was to see you all again and look forward to hearing from you all and seeing you again in Chicago in 2008.

Always,

*Barb Moreno, Women's Coordinator  
puppytoes@charter.net*

# Circle of Honor and Memorial Bricks

By Allen Hathaway

After four years of research, planning and preparation, the 11th Cavalry Memorial at Fort Knox, KY, was rededicated during a ceremony on September 8, 2007.

The centerpiece of the memorial area is the Vietnam Memorial, originally dedicated 40 years ago in 1967. During the months preceding the rededication, minor repairs were made to the memorial. The four bronze plaques listing the names of our 729 KIA's were replaced. Three new memorials (obelisks) were also added to honor the 11th Cavalry Troopers who served in other wars and campaigns beginning with the Philippine Insurrection in 1902-1904, through the latest deployment in sup-

port of Operation Iraqi Freedom III in 2005-2006.

The entire memorial project was funded in part by the sale of granite bricks. The "Circle of Honor", the area surrounding the monument, consists of approximately 1,100 granite bricks that can be inscribed with any appropriate message. The bricks add a very special and personal touch to the memorial. Many chose to have their name, unit and years of served with the regiment inscribed on their brick. Some of the messages are very touching: "IN OUR HEARTS", "BROTHERS 4-EVER", "I NEVER FORGET", "SOLDIER HUSBAND DAD GRANDPA U R MISSED" and "ALL GAVE SOME-SOME GAVE ALL" are just a few of the personal messages on the bricks.

## Brick Order Form

Instructions: Print your message in the boxes below exactly as you want your brick to appear. Be sure to leave a blank box between words. Each line accommodates 15 characters, including blank boxes and punctuation (commas, periods, hyphens). If ordering more than one brick, photocopy this form or use a separate sheet of paper.

LINE 1:														
LINE 2:														
LINE 3:														
(Use Lines 4 and 5 for 8" x 8"x 2" bricks only)														
LINE 4:														
LINE 5:														

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

- 4" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$100 enclosed
- 4" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$25 enclosed with 3 additional payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months (\$25 x 4 = \$100). Bricks will be inscribed when the full amount is paid.
- 8" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$175 enclosed
- 8" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$85 enclosed with 3 additional payments of \$25 in 3, 6, and 9 months (\$85 + 3 x \$30 = \$175). Bricks will be inscribed when amount paid in full..
- Visa Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Required for Credit Card transactions): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Prior to the rededication, nearly 450 bricks had been inscribed and placed in the “circle”. The remainder of the 1,100 are blank bricks set in place for future orders. Many who attended the rededication saw the bricks and were inspired to place an order. Since the rededication we have received nearly 100 new orders.

The bricks are a lasting tribute to your service to this great country and our great regiment. We urge you to support this worthwhile project by ordering a brick.

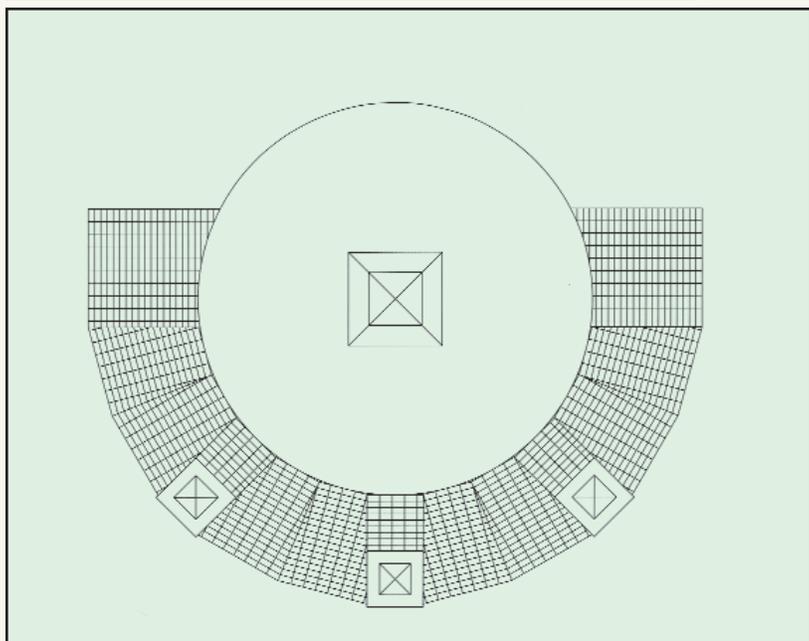


ABOVE: Completed monument with “Circle of Honor”



BELOW LEFT: Layout sketch of “Circle of Honor”

BELOW: Inscribed bricks



This is a special way for you to join your fallen comrades in spirit. Since your name will never appear on the monument, this allows an avenue for you to honor your Brothers and include your presence with theirs.





## Journey to Fiddler's Green

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

- James D. Allen**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970), passed away on April 26, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in El Paso, TX. He was laid to rest in Ft. Bliss National Cemetery, El Paso, TX.
- Robert B. Ausseresses**, K Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967), passed away on March 9, 2007. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Santa Rosa, CA. He was laid to rest in Pleasant Hills Memorial Park, Sebastopol, CA. Robert was a veteran of Korea and Vietnam.
- Gary M. Barlow**, HHT Regt (1969-1970), passed away on July 15, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dry Ridge, KY.
- Donald L. Bentley**, C Troop, 1/11 (1970), passed away on August 13, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Austell, GA.
- Michael D. Bola**, E Troop, 2/11 (1971), passed away on September 14, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brownsville, OR. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.
- Ralph M. Bourgeois**, K Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967), passed away on July 21, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pensacola, FL. He was laid to rest in Pensacola Memorial Gardens, Pensacola, FL.
- Boyce Campbell**, G Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967), passed away on February 26, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dallas, TX. He was laid to rest in Mt Olivet Cemetery, Hugo, OK.
- Dennis R. Cantrell**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968-1969), passed away on November 24, 2006. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Laura, OH. He was laid to rest in Mote Cemetery, Pittsburg, OH.
- William R. Carmon**, HHT, 3/11 (1970-1971), passed away on July 9, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pittsfield, MA.
- Dennis G. Cornwell**, C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970, 1ST PLT), passed away on April 20, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Stafford, VA. He was laid to rest in Quantico National Cemetery, Triangle, VA.
- Gerald D. Daulton**, HHT Regt (1969-1970), passed away on August 21, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Union, KY.
- Richard W. Davis**, C Troop, 1/11 (1970), passed away on April 26, 2007. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kannapolis, NC.
- Richard J. Dreiling**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1969-1970), passed away on May 29, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Richmond, IN. He was laid to rest in Crown Hill Cemetery, Centerville, IN.
- Richard D. "Woody" Ellwood**, HHT, 1/11 (1970-1971), passed away on July 12, 2007. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Albany, OR.
- Joseph A. Fuks**, HHT Regt (1967-1968) and Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1971), passed away on October 19, 2004. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brookings, SD. He was laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery, Brookings, SD.
- Gary T. Gilbert**, L Troop (1967-1968), passed away on March 20, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Roanoke, VA.
- Jerry M. Holloman**, A Troop, 1/11 (1970), passed away on August 13, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bloomfield, IN. He was laid to rest in Biloxi National Cemetery, Biloxi, MS.
- Arthur K. Hughes**, G Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968), passed away on June 20, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fowlerville, MI.
- Donald M. Humphrey**, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972), passed away on December 22, 2006. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Paxton, IL. He was laid to rest in G.A.R. Cemetery, Homer, IL.
- Frederick A. Jablonski**, HHT, 2/11 (1968-1969, Flame Section), passed away on March 24, 2007. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Toledo, OH. He was laid to rest in National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ.
- Ronnie N. Johnson**, F Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969, 2ND PLT), passed away on February 16, 2007. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bon Aqua, TN.
- John M. Kessinger**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1965-1967), passed away on August 13, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbia Falls, MD.
- Kenneth N. Lance**, F Troop, 2/11 (1971), passed away on April 23, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fallbrook, CA.
- Steven C. Lipscombe**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1970-1971), passed away on August 1, 1997. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Bernardino, CA. He was laid to rest in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.
- David E. Lockerby**, D Company, 1/11 (1970), passed away on May 8, 2007. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbus, GA. He was laid to rest in Fort Benning Post Cemetery, Fort Benning, GA.
- James K. Mcgrain**, HHT, 2/11 (1966-1967), passed away on May 10, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Severn, MD. He was laid to rest in Crownsville Veterans Cemetery, Crownsville, MD.
- Jimmie C. McNeely**, HHT Regt (1969-1970), passed away on May 16, 2007. He was a member member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Seneca, SC. Jimmie was a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.
- Zekus L. McPherson**, I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970), passed away on March 21, 2007. He resided in Killeen, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.
- Gilbert W. Moreland**, HHT Regt (1967) and Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1967-1968), passed away on December 22, 2006. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tallassee, AL. He was laid to rest in Bullard Cemetery, Eclectic, AL.
- Bobby G. Morrison**, K Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967), passed away on July 2, 2007. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sale Creek, TN.
- James E. Newell**, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969), passed away on August 20, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Byron, NE. He was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery, Superior, NE.
- Bruce R. Nichols**, I Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968), passed away on August 5, 2007. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Muskegon, MI.
- Ronnie L. Parton**, HHT Regt (1968-1969), passed away on May 24, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bessemer City, NC.
- Eli W. Price**, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968 and 1969-1971), passed away on March 19, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Morristown, NJ.
- Richard D. Read**, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970, 3RD PLT), passed away on June 22, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Leandro, CA.
- Amado B. Reyna Jr**, G Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972, 1ST PLT), passed away on February 1, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mesquite, TX. He was laid to rest in Dallas - Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX.

**John D. Rogers**, L Troop, 3/11 (1970), passed away on June 11, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Elyria, OH.

**Richard S. Rowley**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1968-1969), passed away on February 18, 2007. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Skyforest, CA. He was laid to rest in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

**Michael C. Sena**, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968), passed away on July 1, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Massapequa, NY. He was laid to rest in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

**Dennis J. Strouse**, F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971), passed away on July 24, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gilbertsville, PA.

**Thomas R. Swindler**, B Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967, platoon sergeant), passed away on October 10, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Culpeper, VA. He was laid to rest in Culpeper National Cemetery.

**Gilberto G. Tanguma**, L Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967), passed away on June 22, 2007. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mercedes, TX.

**Gerald R. Watkins**, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968), passed away on November 5, 2006. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Louis, MO. He was laid to rest in Memphis National Cemetery, Memphis, TN.

## Incoming...

### Information provided by and for our Troopers

**From Lee Page**.....I would like to thank all who we involved with the awarding of The Women's Award. I am deeply moved and very appreciative of being the recipient for 2007. The presentation came as a shock and was a complete surprise. Again thank you all so very much.

**From Jeremy Dobos**....Other Reunions (not to be confused with the 11th ACVVC Reunion)

■ 2008 Blackhorse Reunion-Las Vegas-sponsored by the Blackhorse Association

- Who: Blackhorse troopers from all eras of regimental service
- What: Blackhorse Reunion 2008
- When: 15-18 May 2008
- Where: Las Vegas, NV

Contact information: See [www.blackhorse.org](http://www.blackhorse.org) for further details or call Gene Johnson, BHA Reunion Committee Chairman, at (702)-466-3969

**From Steve Spriggs**.....The Newport Beach American Legion Post 291 is going to host its 3rd annual Hoedown Fundraiser from 5-11 pm on Saturday, March 1, 2008, at the American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291, 215 15th St., Newport Beach, CA. 92663. This year's fund raiser will be devoted to support 11th ACR Troopers at Ft. Irwin and the Ft. Irwin Blackhorse Scholarship Fund. Donation is \$20.00. For tickets, please call (949) 673-5070 (no tickets sold at the door) Dress: hoedown duds

**From Adrian Vaaler**....."The 5th Annual Eugene Blackhorse Picnic will be held the Saturday after Labor Day, September 6, 2008. Please contact Adrian Vaaler, P. 541-344-2113 or Email: [adrianvaaler@gmail.com](mailto:adrianvaaler@gmail.com) for further information. My address is: 2610 Baker Blvd., Eugene, OR 97403. The picnic is held from noon to five. Bring your memorabilia from your Blackhorse service."

## Meet Our 2007 Scholarship Winners

Natalie Alberg	daughter of Wayne Alberg	HOW 2/11	71-72
Rebecca Atchison	daughter of Daniel Atchison	541 MID	69-70
Peter Bligh	son of Stephen Bligh	K Trp 3/11	70-71
Joseph Burke	son of Joseph Burke	HHT /11	68-69
Raina Cavalera	daughter of Michael Cavalera	B Trp 1/11	68-68
David Casterman	son of John Casterman	M Co 3/11	66-70
Nathaniel Cook	son of Roger Cook	919 Engr	69-70
Nicholas Cook	son of Roger Cook	919 Engr	69-70
Jeffrey Dawson	son of Ronald Dawson	G Trp 2/11	71-71
Allyson Drozd	daughter of Andrew Drozd	HHT Regt	69-70
Allan Eggleton	son of Andrew Eggleton	HHT 2/11	67-68
Matthew Ferguson	son of Ronald Ferguson	F Trp 2/11	69-70
Jennifer Graham	daughter of Raymond Graham	L Trp 3/11	66-67
Lauren Kemper	daughter of Robert Kemper	L Trp 3/11	69-70
Luther Kraxberger	son of Walter Kraxberger	HHT Regt	70-71
Jenna Lang	daughter of Michael Lang	37 Med	69-70
Cheryl Londos	daughter of Christopher Bredwell	A Trp 1/11	70-71
Michael Monacelli	son of Paul Monacelli	HHT 1/11	70-71
Bethany Newman	daughter of Roger Newman	HHT 2/11	69-70
Michael Northrop	son of Ronny Northrop	HHT Regt	69-70
Jill Paulsen	daughter of Michael Paulsen	A Trp 1/11	70-71
Christian Pfamatter	son of Christian Pfamatter	G Trp 2/11	68-69
Katerine Pivrotto	daughter of Robert Pivrotto	HHT 2/11	70-70
Angela Prattas	daughter of James Prattas	ACT	69-70
Paul Sargent	son of Daniel Sargent	HHT Regt	68-69
Bobbi Shewmaker	daughter of Douglas Shewmaker	H Co 2/11	67-67
Allison Solid	daughter of David Solid Jr	98 Trans	69-70
Heather Wagers	daughter of Gary Wagers	HOW 1/11	69-70
Michelle Wehner	daughter of Charles Wehner	G Trp 2/11	69-70
Robin Willey	daughter of Joseph Willey	HHT Regt	69-70
Rebekah Wilson	daughter of Roy Wilson, Jr	HHT Regt	69-70
Matthew Wolfe	son of Okey Wolfe	H Co 2/11	66-67

## GROOVING from page 22

ing to get a little low on money). Activity was really slow and we were telling the bartender war stories. The bartender was some kind of personnel clerk and he thought our stories were great. Finally the bartender asked "How do you guys get in here?"

Someone in the group replied with something like "Well, we just walk the fence line until we find a place where we can get in." The bartender then said "You mean you guys are walking clear down to the main gate to get in here, that's about a two mile walk. Let me show you guys something. All you have to do is go to the fence post where the gate closes and reach up about halfway on the post there is a little button. You push that button and the buzzer on the wall over there goes off. When I hear that buzzer go off, I'll hit this switch and the gate will open and when you are all inside, push the button again and I'll close the gate".

All of us just sat there in amazement. Finally, someone said "That's nice!" Then someone else said "That's really nice." After everyone else echoed pretty much the same thing, something was said to the effect that the common tanker trash will be coming in at night. We all nodded and laughed.

We had a few more tankers join us in that private club, but the thrill was gone. We were still pulling a little something on the company hierarchy, but we weren't overcoming any great obstacle. Somehow the gusto was gone.

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

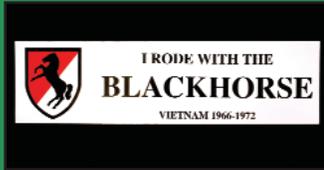
# Shop the QM Store for Christmas!



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#5 Blackhorse Watch w/Leather Band \$20.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band \$20.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#9 Coin, 11th ACVVC \$10.00



#10 Belt Buckle, brass \$25.50



#12 Lighter, Zippo \$15.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$7.50



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$4.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$4.00



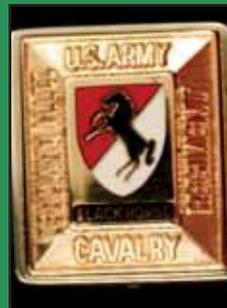
#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#21 Blackhorse Women's Pendant \$125.00



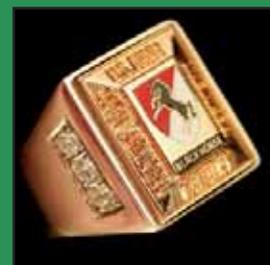
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$225.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$280.00



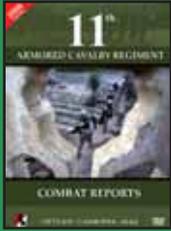
#25 Lapel Pin, Support Troops \$3.00



#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



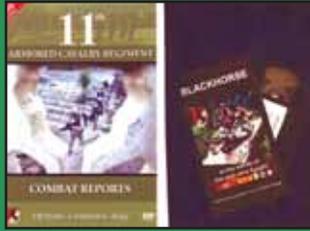
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



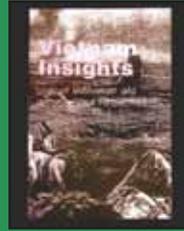
#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



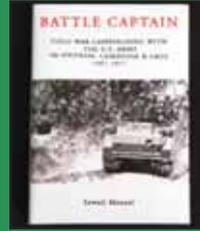
#29 Video Combo #1 \$50.00



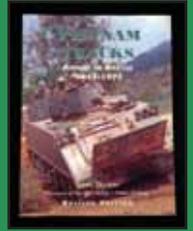
#30 Video Combo #2 \$40.00



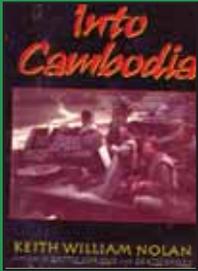
#31 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



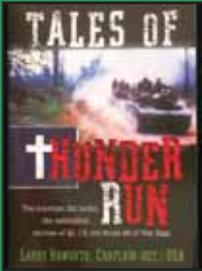
#32 Book: Battle Captain \$20.00



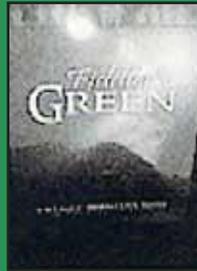
#33 Book: Vietnam Tracks \$26.95



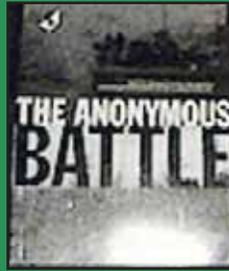
#34 Book: Into Cambodia \$23.00



#35 Book: Tales of Thunder Run \$11.00



#36 Book: Fiddlers Green \$16.00



#37 Book: The Anonamous Battle \$16.00



#38 Book: The Blackhorse Reg't in Vietnam \$25.00



#48 Guidon (all Troops, etc.) \$30.00



#39a Old Blackhorse Hat \$10.00



#39b New Blackhorse Hat \$10.00



#40a/b T-Shirt, black/ash \$16.00



#42a/b Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, red/white \$25.00



#41a/b T-Shirt Long Sleeve, ash/black \$15.00



#44a/b Sweatshirt, ash/black \$25.00



#46 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$75.00



#43 Golf Shirts, gray/black, Crossed Sabers (mens, womens) \$30.00



#45 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$30.00



#47 Windbreaker, white w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, \$35.00



# From the 62nd Colonel of the Regiment

Mark E. Calvert



To all the Veterans of our great Regiment,

On behalf of the Regiment, I would like to congratulate the 11th ACVVC on a successful 22nd Reunion. I know that LTC Timothy Renshaw and CSM Edd Watson, along with Troopers from the Regiment, were well received. We thank you for letting us be a part of this outstanding event.

The Blackhorse has had a successful summer. The winter months will bring new training opportunities and challenges for both Soldier and staff alike.

Fort Irwin recently welcomed a new Post Commander, Brigadier General Dana J.H. Pittard. BG Pittard is a former Cavalryman having served as the Commander for E Troop, 2nd Squadron in 1985.

The Regiment was successful in executing the largest NTC rotation to date. Rotation 07-10 hosted over 8,000 Soldiers. The large number of Soldiers brought a substantial challenge for our Regimental Support Squadron. Packhorse answered the call and

made 07-10 a successful training event.

The Blackhorse joined Coalition Forces in August and September for Operation Bold Quest. Bold Quest was a joint exercise to test and evaluate digital systems designed to reduce the risk of fratricide when operating with allied nation air and ground forces. 2nd Squadron, along with Soldiers from the Canadian, Dutch, French, and Swedish Army, combined with the US Marine Corps, US Air Force, and the 4th Infantry Division to conduct this important demonstration under the over all control of United States Joint Forces Command. The data compiled during this event will help Coalition Forces to execute target identification and air to ground communications for the Global War on Terror.

The Blackhorse Staff was put to the test during our latest Leaders Training Program (LTP) on September 22-27. The LTP allowed my Staff to come together as a group to execute the military decision making process

and campaign planning. Lessons learned during the LTP will be used in our upcoming rotation.

Rotation 08-01 will put the Regimental Headquarters, 1st Squadron, the 14th Engineer Battalion, and the Regimental Support Squadron in the NTC training area to train counter-insurgency operations.

I ask that your thoughts and prayers remain with the Troopers of the 58th Combat Engineer Company. The 58th Engineers will soon be deploying for a third combat tour as part of our Global War on Terror. The Regiment will host a farewell ceremony for the Troopers on November 5. As we once again prepare to send Blackhorse Troopers into harms way, the remaining elements of the Regiment will continue to support the training of Army and keep our sabers sharp to answer our Nation's call if needed.

**BLACKHORSE!!!**

*ALLONS!!!!*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NL4Q 07

### 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) \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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, Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd., Kilmarnock, VA 22482.**



# Quartermaster

## ORDER FORM

### 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	.C	10.00		_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	.A	3.00		_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse w/full color BH insignia	.A	2.00		_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	.A	2.00		_____	_____
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's	.B	20.00		_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's	.B	20.00		_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	.B	4.00		_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	.B	4.00		_____	_____
9.	Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed sabers, together then, together again	.B	10.00		_____	_____
10.	Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	.B	25.50		_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	.B	50.00		_____	_____
12.	Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	.B	15.00		_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	.B	5.00		_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	.C	7.50		_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	.C	30.00		_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	.B	20.00		_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin	.A	4.00		_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	.A	4.00		_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	.A	5.00		_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	.A	5.00		_____	_____
21.	Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia	.B	125.00		_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	.C	35.00		_____	_____
23.	Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	.A	225.00		_____	_____
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	.A	280.00		_____	_____
25.	Lapel Pin: "Support Our Troops"	.A	3.00		_____	_____
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	.A	5.00		_____	_____
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	.A	4.00		_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	.C	30.00		_____	_____
29.	Video combo #1: "Combat Reports" & Blackhorse Video (DVD only)	.C	50.00		_____	_____
30.	Video combo #2: "Combat Reports" (DVD & Blackhorse Video (VHS)	.C	40.00		_____	_____
31.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	.C	10.00		_____	_____
32.	Book, "Battle Captain" by Sewall Menzel	.C	20.00		_____	_____
33.	Book, "Vietnam Tracks"	.C	26.95		_____	_____
34.	Book, "Into Cambodia" by Kieth Nolan	.C	23.00		_____	_____
35.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Larry Haworth, Chaplain	.C	11.00		_____	_____
36.	Book, "Fiddlers Green" by Jack Stoddard	.C	16.00		_____	_____
37.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	.C	12.00		_____	_____
38.	History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	.C	25.00		_____	_____
39.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new)	.B	10.00		_____	_____
40.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black	.B	16.00		_____	_____
41.	Blackhorse Long T-shirt, Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	.B	15.00		_____	_____
42.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White	.B	25.00		_____	_____
43.	Golf Shirt, crossed sabers, Specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Mens <input type="checkbox"/> Womens <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Gray	.B	25.00		_____	_____
44.	Blackhorse Sweatshirt, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic w/full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black	.B	25.00		_____	_____
45.	Denim Shirt	.B	30.00		_____	_____
46.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left)	.B	75.00		_____	_____
47.	Windbreaker, white w/snap front, crossed sabers w/11BH patch logo, VN Ribbon, Vietnam 66-72 on left breast. Sizes: Small thru 3X available	.B	35.00		_____	_____
48.	Guidon (order by Troop)	.B	30.00		_____	_____

**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: A items = \$3.00; B items = \$5.00 (max shipping is \$7.50 per order); C items = \$7.50

Visa  Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$7.50. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to "11th ACVVC." Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **Prices effective until 12/30/07. Previous price lists invalid.** Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757.**



# From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello to all our Blackhorse Family.

I would like to start out by saying to all those who nominated me for the "Outstanding Trooper Award" thank you so very much. It means so much to me to have been a part of this great Regiment, then and now.

Secondly I would like to send out to all the volunteers who gave up their time to help Jan and I in the Quartermaster Store our heart felt thanks. These few gave so much to help so many. We were pleasantly surprised at the great turnout in the QM store. Our sales were simply great and we could not have done this without the volunteer's hard work and sacrifice.

Thirdly, we hope you will like the new listing of our QM items. We had to stop carrying some items and replace them with new ones. Please

check out our new items. These include men's (sizes M-3X) and women's (M-2X) denim shirts for \$30.00, new black and grey golf shirts in men's (M-3X) and women's (M-2X) styles for \$30.00, and guidons that can be ordered by troop, etc. affiliation for \$30.00.

Clearance items sales include past reunion golf shirts while they last. Louisville XL and 2XL only for \$15.00 and Washington red 2X and 3XL as well as Washington white in 3XL are available for \$5.00.

Don't forget that all QM items can be ordered at the 11ACVVC Website <http://www.11thcavnam.com/> as well.

Jan and I again thank all of you for the meaningful support you give us and we hope to see all of you in Chicago '08.

Jerry

## QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & NEW ITEMS

Clearance items sales include **past reunion golf shirts** while they last. Louisville XL and 2XL only for \$15.00 and Washington red 2X and 3XL as well as Washington white in 3XL are available for \$5.00.

Don't forget that all QM items can be ordered at the 11ACVVC Website <http://www.11thcavnam.com/> as well.

### NEW ITEMS



#43 Golf Shirts, gray/black, Crossed Sabers (mens, womens) \$30.00



#48 Guidon (all Troops, etc.) \$30.00



#45 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$30.00



**11ACVVC**  
**13194 Rettew Dr.**  
**Manassas, VA 20112-7800**

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