



# Thunder Run

Vol. 27 – NO. 4

“Together Then – Together Again”

4th Quarter, 2012

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

### ORLANDO 2012, ‘WOW’

President Allen Hathaway with LTC (ret.) Sewall Menzel, 2012 Reunion Speaker in Orlando.

By Steve Page,  
Reunion Committee Chairman

Another great reunion has come and gone in what seems like a flash. Your reunion had a great attendance with over 1,150 dinners being served at the banquet. It is the members and their guests who make each and every reunion special. The Rosen Centre, according to all who attended, was a great place. The staff was excellent, very courteous and helpful. According to you who submitted the evaluation sheets the food was excellent. As usual the Moreno family did a great job at the registration desk. The “bunker” was heavily used and the Memorial Service and Membership Meeting were all well attended. The Sunday Worship Service was well done. As usual Larry Haworth did a great job. Jerry and Jan Beamon were very busy at the Quartermaster Store for the entire weekend and sales were brisk.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who stepped up to help and did a tremendous job. Another thank you goes out to all



who attended because without all of the numbers attending there would be no reunion.

We’re now turning our attention to the next reunion. The Indianapolis Marriott Downtown is ready to take your reservations. All the information to make your hotel reservations is in this issue of Thunder Run. The reunion registration form will be available in 1st quarter 2013 Thunder Run. This is our second reunion in Indianapolis. We’re looking forwarding to another great event. Start making your plans. We’ll see you there!

### UFO over Blackhorse

By: Dale Newcomb  
G Troop 66-67

Gather around troopers, as I have another tale to tell. For now as the names began to fade, and our memories began to wane; I have their photos just the same. A UFO briefly graced our sky, on that bright blue windy day, with a ‘pilot’ and ‘crew’, NOW listen... this story is TRUE.

I heard it was our copter pilots who spotted it, where it shouldn’t have been. Just the same my facts are within.

In ’66 we were detailed to the 2nd Squadron construction crew- no contrac-

Please turn to **UFO** on page 7



UFO in flight compliments of Dale Newcomb, Mike Dunwitty and their friends

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Allen Hathaway  
President

# From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



The 27th annual reunion was held on September 12-16 at the beautiful Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. A total of 1,152

people attended the reunion this year. Attendees began arriving several days before the official start of the reunion to take advantage of the many attractions offered in the Central Florida area.

Registration opened at noon on Wednesday. Folks were eager to pick up their reunion packets even before they were open. Following a long standing tradition, each "first timer" was announced as they checked in and greeted with a "welcome home" and round of applause from the crowd.

The first stop for many was Jerry Beamon and the Quartermaster Store to see what new insignia products were available this year. The store was fully stocked at opening on Wednesday. By late Saturday nearly everything was gone! Many troopers were seen throughout the weekend wearing some of the products offered.

The "bunker" also opened on Wednesday and remained opened every day through Friday. The bunker was one of the larger hotel ballrooms where tables are marked by unit. The arrangement gave those on hand an opportunity to meet up with others from their unit. Many brought their photos, old scrap books, newspaper articles and other memorabilia. It's interesting to note that several have had their pictures digitized and available on laptop computers. Don Snedeker, the Historian, set up several display boards of newspaper articles tracing the history of the regiment from 1966 until 1972. Many were seen gathered around the history boards reading the history they helped write.

Bright and early Thursday morning over 40 golfers headed for Shingle Creek Golf Club and the 21st Annual Marty Ognibene Golf Tournament. The golfers thoroughly enjoyed a round of golf followed by awards and lunch. This was the largest group of golfers in several years. Thanks to Joe Coopet for coordinating the tournament again this year.

Many others spent the day out at some

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**It's been long standing tradition to recognize the troopers attending their first reunion. A total of 82 "first timers" were asked to stand and receive a "welcome home" round of applause from the audience.**

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of the local attractions. By Thursday evening the bunker was humming with activity as more troopers, family, and friends arrived throughout the day.

Approximately 200 attended the annual Veterans Seminar on Friday morning. Our thanks once again to Dr. Candace Drake of the Veterans Affairs Gulf Coast Health Care System in Pensacola, Florida, for this excellent presentation on "PTSD and the Vietnam Veteran." It was gratifying to see so many attend including wives.

More attendees arrived throughout the day. By Friday evening the large banquet room used for the "bunker party" was full and bustling with activity. There were many stories of old buddies meeting for the first time after 40+ years. There were groups of men huddled around scrapbooks trying to identify others in the photos. Former track crews gathered to have their pictures taken together, posing much like the photos of younger days.

The Annual Business Meeting was held on Saturday morning. The Treasurer's report was given along with other committee reports. A brief overview was given on the project to move our memorial to Fort Benning sometime within the next two years. Steve Page was reelected for another three year term as Director. The Rio All

Suite Hotel in Las Vegas will be the site for the 2014 reunion (August 8-12). A brief discussion was also held to consider either Atlanta or Columbus, Georgia as reunion sites in 2015 after the memorial move is completed.

Chaplain Larry Haworth conducted the memorial service on Saturday afternoon. The names of Blackhorse troopers who passed away since the last reunion were read. Many members of the audience gave heartfelt tributes to friends or loved ones lost this past year and to those who were lost in Vietnam.

The Saturday evening banquet and program are the highlights of the reunion. We would like to thank our guest speaker, Dr. Sewall Menzel for his excellent remarks on the "Blackhorse Band of Brothers." As a captain he served as a troop commander with E Troop and G Troop in 1970.

We would also like to thank the current regimental commander COL Lanier Ward and RCSM Stephen Travers for attending the reunion and giving an update on the activities of the regiment. Included in the update was an outstanding video showing scenes of how our Blackhorse soldiers train America's Army at Fort Irwin.

We were pleased that LT David  
Continued on page 6

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



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

*Thunder Run* (©2000 11th ACVVC) is the official publication of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), P.O. Box 956, Colleyville, TX 76034; a notforprofit organization. It is published four times a year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907 (finisterre@islc.net) for members of the organization. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the 11th ACVVC.

*Thunder Run* covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Correspondence and inquiries concerning *Thunder Run* should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," C.E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr., 421 Fallen Leaf Dr., Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3577.

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# 11th ACVVC Annual Reunion XXVII



# Orlando, FL





# Editor's Corner

C.E. "Bill" Gregory

**If you send "Show Your Pride" pictures, let me remind you, that I am getting a lot of pictures that just are not of a good enough quality to publish.**

Bill Gregory, Editor  
*Thunder Run*

The 27th Annual Reunion is now in the history books, and from all accounts, it will go down as another great one. Like some of you, I could not be there, but hopefully you and I can still enjoy some of the flavor of it through this issue of *Thunder Run*. For those lucky enough to be at the reunion, it may be a reminder of some of the great times you had. We have pictures, lots of pictures, stories from the reunion, and stories from the 'Nam. We have things that I hope will make you smile, some to make you think and one or two may bring a little tear of nostalgia or sentiment.

We have some articles from writers you have read before, and some from writers new to our readers. They are all very good! Some are memories of battles, some humor from the battlefield and some memories from the reunion. Elena Brown writes of a touching meeting of a soldier and the daughter of his friend, who was KIA. Dale Newcomb tells us about how well UFO's and a Command Sergeant Major go together. There are some important changes in the Quartermaster Store, so look carefully at that section. We even have some information about the 2013 Reunion in Indianapolis; it is not too soon to start making plans. I was at the last Indianapolis reunion a few years ago, and

it is a great city with a lot of fun things to do in the downtown area, we had a great time when we were there.

The lady's group still has a few of their new cook books left, so don't forget to look for that information and order form as they are separate from the Quartermaster store.

We have some notes from this year's Scholarship winners that I think you will enjoy. This is another group of fine young people – our children – the reasons we did what we did and still do what we do.

I want to again encourage you to send in your "Show Pride" pictures and to write your stories for us. If you send "Show Your Pride" pictures, let me remind you, that I am getting a lot of pictures that just are not of a good enough quality to publish. Some are washed out, some out of focus, too dark or light, and many show great vehicles, but the Blackhorse portion is too small for most people to notice. We cannot publish it if the Blackhorse connection is not obvious to everyone.

Some people are hesitant to write stories or articles because they don't want to seem like they are claiming to be heroic, or at least more heroic than others. The way I look at it, as long as you tell what happened, and don't embellish it, and don't look down on the actions of others, you are doing fine. Many of us have things that we are not comfortable talking or telling about for many different reasons, and I understand that; those stories I am not going to write, and I don't expect you to. There are other lighter stories that we can all tell, I just encourage you to share those with us. Time is a great leveler and from my point of view, the 11th ACR was full of heroes. Some fought on the front lines and some got supplies out, but they were all a part of the team, enlisted, NCOs, and officers alike, they have all earned my respect. ALLONS!

## COMMAND from page 2

Buikema, D Company, 1/11 and PFC Avin Sumesar, G Troop, 2/11 were also able to attend the reunion this year. We send our thanks and appreciation to them and all Blackhorse troopers for their service and wish them all the best in their continued mission at the Fort Irwin, CA. They are no doubt "the best of the best."

We were honored to have family members representing five of the troopers killed in action in Vietnam. We hope they will continue to attend the reunions and encourage other Gold Star families to attend future reunions.

It's been long standing tradition to recognize the troopers attending their first reunion. A total of 82 "first timers" were asked to stand and receive a "welcome home" round of applause from the audience. Many of them commented that the reunion excellent. Many also commented that they waited far too long to attend a reunion. (Take special note for those who haven't yet attended a reunion!)

The Saturday evening program was topped off by the Blackhorse Salute. This is always a very powerful and sometimes emotional portion of the program as we salute the service of the thousands of Blackhorse troopers who served with this great regiment in Vietnam.

Our thanks to all who attended and especially the volunteers who worked tirelessly to help make this another successful reunion. We especially want to thank the many Blackhorse troopers, family, and friends who attend and support these great events. It's your participation that makes these reunions so successful year after year.

We heard so many comments from "first timers" on how welcomed they felt. I want to encourage anyone who has never been to a reunion to take make an effort to attend. These articles are intended to give you an idea of what to expect. The reunions are a casual, relaxed, and friendly atmosphere. We heard from several wives who "made their husbands attend." The only regret was they hadn't come sooner!

**We have already started planning the next reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana.** It should be another great event. We hope to see you there! It's great to be "together again" ALLONS!

### 2013 Newsletter Deadlines

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

- First Quarter 2013 .....Jan 15**
- Second Quarter 2013 .....Mar 25**
- Third Quarter 2013.....Jun 25**
- Fourth Quarter 2013.....Oct 1**

All submissions for publication must be sent to: C.E. "Bill" Gregory, Editor, 421 Fallen Leaf Drive, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3577. E-mail: Battle46A@epbfi.com

## UFO from page 1

tors then—the troopers did it all. I ended up driving the lumber truck, a duce-n-half [M37], for our 'lumber yard'. Our crew of 5 hauled the WABTOC kits, maybe 5 a day, to the build sites as each Troop area took form. A true corporal ran our show, an older trooper, whose sleeves had a darker area—the busted patch—we all knew.

As the jobs progressed we began to receive just lumber bales—no more kits—and so we assembled 'kits' for each job. Mess halls took 3 'kits', all custom built. We also discovered the benefits of 'furniture' and 'favors' for the rest of our squadron. Shaving stands, shelves, and custom tables all began to get built as the 'yard' had lots of scraps, and some tools had appeared. Waxed paper wrapped some lumber bales and it all had local use. Loading and delivering the 'kits,' cruising Blackhorse, looking for Ice and Beer; 6 days a week; it all became a bit tame. Too tame I guess. The combat units had left for the field, and so our comrades were gone. The weather had become dry, dust was a concern, and the wind was steady and strong.

Steady and Strong!?! We five hatched a plan. Everything we needed was all around, the waxed paper, the strips of light wood, the weather, the wind. Let's build a kite and have some FUN! Not just any kid's kite, but one Super Huge—6 ft., nooo, 8 ft. tall! A real trooper's kite. With new energy we set to work, strips of wood, heavy wax paper, tape, and some twine. Wait—no twine! Hey, we've got Wire! Fine black two-strand como wire was everywhere. So we had what we needed. The wire bent the crossbow wood, and the double strand made a fine bridle. Flying string or twine? No problem again. The como wire came two strands on a 1000ft reel with a handle and a crank! We were set. OOPS—no tail. We needed a rag tail—look around—new sandbags found! Ripped up into 3" wide strips, tied together like a jailhouse rope—it was perfect. Let's try 12 ft on the kite.

Now for a test flight—CRASH! Uncontrollable—needs more tail. We tried 12 more feet for 24 total and success was our reward! Stable and steady, she rose in that sky, above the trees, she made a real pull. [SP4] Mike Dunwitty is leaning back

hard, his boots are pushing the dirt—he plays out the wire and she soars out of sight! Cheers all around—sweet success—I'll bet that kite is now 500ft off the ground! The wire is singing, the reel spins, and Dunwitty 'the pilot' flies her amid our grins.

we're not at WAR, no Army, no green. We are just 5 kids at HOME in the summer, flying the biggest kite in the park. All the neighborhood was in our awe, we were the Best, and Mike strained to hold her in control.

Standing back, so as to get a good photo, I noticed a dust cloud way off to my right. It's on the perimeter road; who could be so rude? For we all knew that to control the dust, you drove slower than most.

The cloud was curious as it just grew like a haboob in the desert. It seemed to come our way. Past M Troop, then L, K Troop also, finally I Troop caught its Hell. Now, I could see, at its front, a jeep [M151] coming our way. The others eyes were on the sky, only I was aware of this other sight. Past the squadron HQ it zipped, and slid to a stop in our yard. Its antennas (4?) waving like reeds in the wind. Out stepped a left leg and arm in stateside green, so covered in gold that the hash marks, rockers, and stripes were from cuff to shoulder! An odd symbol was in the middle of it all. A COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR? Never seen one before!

Now standing there he prepared to

speak, but just as he took his first big breath, the dust CLOUD, that was chasing him, engulfed us all. We were choking, sputtering, coughing, and doubled over in pain. The sergeant was the worst, for he had inhaled to speak.

Now his words began to form, in fits and starts, sputters and chokes... something about this takes it all, for in his many years, he had never seen the source of a UFO! To find its 'pilot' and 'crew' happily flying it on two-strand WIRE—in HIS airspace! Still the words were strained, half-words, some \*\*###!! Also, partial phrases, single words, etc., for the dust wasn't done. By now the 'pilot' and 'crew' were catching the drift, for a time I had been alone. I think that the total surprise is what saved our group. The tongue-lashing was a wee bit tame—no notes were taken, no names for report, although our Troop (G Troop) was well noted. We were told to 'GROUND' that kite, never to fly it again, and all things would be right. Ten maybe twenty minutes at most, the 'UFO' was finished on its maiden flight.

Forty years later, I related this tale, to my G Troop First Sergeant. (1SG Embrey), who at the time was in the field. He enlightened me, that there was a call, about his 'pilot' and 'crew', and their 'UFO'. But as our luck would have it, the squadron was away, and it was just the detailed troopers around that day.

THANKS for the friends and fun!

### I Will Think of Them All

*Author Unknown*

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were willing to die for one another.

As long as I have my memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades. Ahhh... Such good men."

# 2013 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal

By: Pete Walter

The first of our 2013 Scholarship fundraising efforts will be in your mailbox in early December. The 2013 11th ACVVC Calendar will once again feature 12 new photos submitted by you and this year they will all be in color! The Officers and Directors believe the full color calendar will be well received and add to your enjoyment. We want to thank all who have sent photos for consideration. The calendar also contains information regarding significant historical events of your regiment in Vietnam.

We once again appeal to your generosity as we ask for donations to support our Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Fund is a separate, self-sufficient fund. That is, all scholarships awarded as well as the printing and mailing costs associated with the calendar are paid directly from donations made to the Scholarship Fund. Membership dues are not used to pay for the calendar. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the total donations made during that year. Without your support, the program would not be viable.

The calendar you receive is yours to keep and use whether you donate or not. We do however ask for your support with the most generous tax-deductible donation that you can make to assist the children of 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.

Your donations to the 2012 appeal generated \$49,000 after printing and mailing costs! Our combined fund raising activities throughout 2012 allowed us to award twenty-two scholarships for a total of \$90,000. There were fourteen female recipients and eight males. The average age was twenty-four and they hailed from fifteen states. Since the inception of the 11th ACVVC, you have donated \$1,034,000 to scholarships!

For the 2013 calendar appeal we again have two goals. Our first is to reach \$50,000 in donations. We will need your help in attaining this unprecedented level. Many of you have generously donated \$100

to \$500 for this cause. We ask that you continue your generous support of this project.

The second goal is to continue to increase the percentage of members donating. Over the past four years we have gradually increased the number of donors to 23 percent. We strive to increase this percentage each year. If half of our members participate, we could award scholarships to all qualifying applicants. To help meet this goal and to ensure that you receive a calendar every year we are asking that you please make a donation.

While all members will receive a calendar, a limited number of extra calendars will be available while they last. Instructions on ordering extras are included with the calendar. Look for your calendar in the mail in December then use the enclosed envelope to return your donation. Every donation helps, regardless of the amount.

The annual calendar is one of three fund raising projects that benefit our Scholarship Fund. We also conduct our annual raffle fund-raiser prior to the reunion where the winning tickets are drawn, and hold a Silent Auction of donated items at the reunion. All of these activities have flourished over the years. We thank you in advance for your generous support!

## Show Your Pride



Eddie Hardin (HHT Regiment, 66-67) shows his pride on both his Avalanche (top) and Camry, not to mention his golf cart (not shown).

## Show Your Pride



You might say that Grady Wayne Ferrill (E Troop, 67-68) is the rock of the Blackhorse as he displays his pride at his Ohio home

# The 11th ACVVC Annual Awards

The following awards were presented at the 2012 annual reunion for service "Above and Beyond" to the 11th ACVVC and its membership.

## Trooper of the Year Award

- Daniel D. Stroia, Coordinator  
– Funeral Honor Guard

## Quilter Award

- Jerry L. Beamon

## Womens Award

- Cathi Bower

## Outstanding Trooper Award

- Mark S. Crist
- Paul M. Gissible
- Robert A. Kickenweitz
- Jerry W. Mitchell



Allen Hathaway and Mark Crist with Mark's Outstanding Trooper Award - Sept. 2012.

## Outstanding Volunteer Award

- Deanna Haworth
- Raleigh Moreno

## 11th ACR Regimental Honor Scroll Inductees

- William W. Cobb  
(posthumous, 34th Colonel)
- Ollie W. Pickral

### A Note from the Secretary

11th ACVVC Secretary, Adrian Vaaler informs us that an election was held for one director's position at this year's reunion and Steve Page was unanimously re-elected for another 3 year term.



# 2012 Scholarship Winners and KIA Dedications

*Mike "Doc" Rafferty*  
11ACVVC Scholarship Committee  
Chairman

Since the inception of the 11ACVVC Scholarship program in 1996, our organization has awarded 317 college scholarships totaling \$971,000! These numbers include the twenty-two scholarships totaling \$90,000 we were able to award this year. Our 2012 scholarship winners submitted outstanding applications and are well-deserving of their awards. You can view some of the winner's photos and their feelings about receiving a scholarship in this issue of Thunder Run.

Each year one applicant is selected to receive the **Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship Award**. This year's winner is Taylor Brown, daughter of Ronald Brown (E troop, 69-70), who was selected by Bonnie Schmidt, Colonel Schmidt's widow.

As we have done for the past few years, each scholarship this year is dedi-

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**...our organization has awarded 317 college scholarships totaling \$971,000!**

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cated to one of our Blackhorse brothers who was killed in action in Vietnam or Cambodia. Each recipient received a certificate suitable for framing honoring the KIA name assigned to their scholarship. Duplicate certificates were sent to next of kin where possible. We received a number of thank you notes from next of kin who were very appreciative their loved one was honored and remembered in this manner.

The fact we have been able to help so many children of our members attain their educational goals is a tribute to your generosity. Your support of the calendar, raffle and silent auction have provided the bulk of the monies given to these deserving students. As you read their thank you notes in this issue, you can see they truly appreciate your generosity.

## THANKS! To the many volunteers who helped make the 2012 reunion in Orlando a success

**The Board:** Pete Walter, Ollie Pickral, Adrian Vaaler, Bob Moreno, Steve Page, and Mike Rafferty

**Reunion Chairman:** Steve Page

**Guest Speakers:** Sewall Menzel, Troop Commander, E & G Troop, 1970, COL Lanier Ward, 65th Colonel, CSM Stephen Travers, 20th Command Sergeant Major, 2LT Daniel Buikema, D Company, 1/11, Fort Irwin, PFC Avin Sumesar, G Troop, 2/11, Fort Irwin.

**Registration:** Bob, Barb and Raleigh Moreno

**Chaplain:** Larry Haworth

**Historian:** Don Snedeker

**Quartermaster:** Jerry and Jan Beamon, Jerry and Pat Mitchell

**Thunder Run Editor:** Bill Gregory

**Veterans Seminar:** Dr Candace Drake

**Silent Auction:** Paul and Teresa Gissible, Ron and Janet Krueger, Greg Mason

**Golf Tournament:** Joe Coopet / Pete Walter

**Reunion Photos:** Ken Jankel, Thomas Wood

**Reunion Shirts:** Chuck and Cathi Bower

**Internet Coordinator:** Otis Carey / Bob Kickenweitz

**Public Affairs:** Eric Newton

**Women's Group Coordinators:** Barb Moreno, Kathy Tandburg

And especially the scores of people who stepped up and volunteered a few hours of their time to help in the Quartermaster Store, registration desk and to sell cook books!

# Meet Our 2012 Scholarship Winners

Meet Our 2011 Scholarship Winners. This issue contains brief statements from 11 of our 2012 Scholarship Winners. Future issues will feature the remaining Scholarship Winners.

## Taylor Brown



Receiving the Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership award from such a prestigious group as the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia means more than one could ever imagine. From the way my father speaks about the men he fought beside in the war, I have the highest regard and level of respect for each and every member of the group. I am extremely privileged to be able to receive the very generous gift of \$6000 toward furthering my education as I pursue my interest in business at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. I feel as though this award is more than financial relief in the stressful process of paying for college; it is much more than that. This award gives me the opportunity to work relentlessly in my studies and always carry myself in an honorable manner while doing so, as I am now a representation of the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. I am so honored to receive this highly distinguished scholarship. My family and I highly thank the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia for their bountiful generosity and admirable service to our country.

Taylor Brown, daughter of Ronald Brown, E Troop, 69-70.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Charles L. Schmidt

## Cekeithia A. Barnes



I would like to thank the 11th armored Cavalry Veteran's of Vietnam and Cambodia for the scholarship. This scholarship will make a difference in my education financially and is truly a blessing. This scholarship will allow me the opportunity concentrate more on my studies. Again my sincere thanks.

Cekeithia A. Barnes, daughter of Charles Barnes, E Troop, 67-68.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: William F. Johnson, A Troop, Jan 5, 1967.

## Elena Brown



After a bit of squealing and spontaneous dancing to say I was thrilled to learn of my selection of the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia scholarship is an understatement. This award isn't taken lightly, your willingness to maintain

strong ties to the troopers and their children is an inspiration, and I feel a responsibility to uphold the expectations that accompany such a privilege. You have lightened my financial burden that allows me to focus more on learning, which is most important aspect of school. For this honor I am deeply appreciative of your support in acknowledging my hard work and perseverance in my educational career. With a skip in my step and a smile on my face I say, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

Elena Brown, daughter of Edward Brown Jr., A Troop, 67-68.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Jeffery Arnold Harvey, Air Cavalry Troop, April 27, 1969.

## Joanne Curran



This scholarship means so much to me. When I saw what it was I took it straight to my dad, and he almost started crying. The replica of the Black Wall visited our town and we found the Gene Lawrence Kuvik's name on it and my mom took a picture to remember everything. This scholarship means that I can further my education and become a vet-

erinary. I thanks you so much and thank you all who served our great country.

Joanne Curran, daughter of Jack Curran, E Troop, 69-70.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Gene Lawrence Kuvik, B Troop, January 29, 1968.

## Amanda David



I would like to thank the 11th ACVVC not only for the scholarship, but for your dedicated service to this country. You are all selfless individuals who continue to do great things. Because of my father's service and his continuing involvement with your organization, I was able to apply for and receive these funds and continue my dream of returning to school in my 30's to change careers. This scholarship only adds to my desire to perform well and make everyone proud. I look forward to saying that the 11th ACVVC helped make my dream possible when I graduate. Thanks!

Amanda David, daughter of Dennis Kelly, K Troop, 66-67.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Mitchell Lynn Kemp, C Troop, October 8, 1967.

### Rodrick Foster



I would just like to say how much I thank your organization for this scholarship. This scholarship means a lot to me in my endeavor to finish my schooling, due to the recent news I received from my school. The college had informed me, that my credit hours were above a certain amount and that I may not receive any more financial aid. My wife and I were discussing what we were going to do about this situation and that very night I received the exciting news of the scholarship via email. I greatly appreciate this scholarship as it will allow me to finish my degree on schedule. So in closing I would just like to say thank you to this wonderful organization for what it has done and what it is continuing to do today. God Bless you all.

Rodrick Foster is the son of Randy Foster, I Troop, 68-69.

This scholarship awarded in honor of Herbert James Gabriel, E Troop, December 29, 1966.

### Rosemary Hunt



I would like to begin by saying how honored I am for being chosen as a recipient of 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia scholarship. This scholarship means the world to me. It will allow me to continue my education at North Dakota State University. I would also like to thank my father Charles "Lucky" Hunt and all the other brave men and women who have fought for our country and our freedom. I view this scholarship as a great privilege and will strive for excellence in my continued course work.

Rosemary Hunt is the daughter of Charles Hunt, K Troop., 68-70.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Joseph David Esparza, F Troop, May 28, 1971.

### Lindsey Kirkpatrick



I would like to humbly thank the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia for selecting me as a recipient of this scholarship. This scholarship will do more than just help me as a Business major at the University of Kentucky. It has always been a dream of mine to study abroad and with this scholarship I can now help make that dream a reality. I could not be more thankful for this support and I feel honored to represent myself and my father on behalf of all veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Thank you again!

Lindsey Kirkpatrick is the daughter of Michael Kirkpatrick, Air Cav Troop, 1971.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Mickey Daniel Lang, F Troop, May 19, 1971.

### Joseph M. Lakner



I would like to express my sincere gratitude for making the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative for the support. I am currently majoring in Civil Engineering at Florida Atlantic University with hopes of becoming a Civil and Environmental Engineer.

The financial assistance provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying. Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard to insure the memory of Noland D. Byrd is honored by my scholastic achievements. In the future I would like to give back to others through engineering and other good deeds and possibly a scholarship to future students like myself.

Joseph M. Lakner is the son of Michael Lakner, How Battery 3/11, 69-70.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Nolan Daryl Byrd, HHT, 2/11, December 3, 1968.

### Bryan McClendon



It's an honor to receive a scholarship award from the 11th ACVVC. Being awarded this means a great deal to me, in ways that only a Vietnam Veteran son can hope to receive from such an honored Cavalry unit from the United States Army. The scholarship will help me further my education in hopes for a new career path in Criminal Justice, and in turn this new path may allow me to help others in their journeys through the road of life and choices they face. Thanks again 11th ACVVC for this award it means a great deal to me.

Bryan McClendon is the son of Steve McClendon, K-Troop, 70-71.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: John Lee Smith, A Troop, April 1, 1970.

### Twila Misenheimer



Thank you so much! I truly appreciate being selected for this scholarship. It will help tremendously in my pursuit for a degree in elementary education.

Twila Misenheimer is the daughter of Edward King, 398 Trans. Det., 70-72.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Ponder Ray Sims, K Troop, July 21, 1967.

# 11<sup>TH</sup> ACVVC DONATIONS

Donations to various 11th ACVVC activities since the 2nd Quarter 2011 issue of *Thunder Run*

Donor Levels:                      **Platinum Level \$500+**                      **Gold Level \$100-\$499**                      **Silver Level \$50-\$99**                      **Bronze Level \$1-\$49**

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Dolgae, Ronald  
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Barrett, Donald  
Beckman, Jack  
Bond, Robert  
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Bricker, Warren  
Brown, Robert  
Brueckmann, Jan  
Brumm, Errol  
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Caldwell, William  
Clement, Stephen  
Clodfelter, L  
Coffman, Richard  
Company, Craig  
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Corona, Gary

Cowell, Richard  
Creal, Dennis  
Crosby, Phillip  
Crow, John  
Edens, Joe  
Ertel, Richard  
Franks, Richard  
Furnelli, Elizabeth  
Gilbert, Robert  
Gourm, Dennis  
Gunderman, G  
Hain, James  
Halstead, Wayne  
Hertzog, Kristin  
Hines Jr, Donald  
Holzman Jr, Zachery  
Hotzman Jr, Frederick  
Houchins Jr, William  
Hummers III, William  
Johnson, James  
Kern, Paul  
Kerns, Timothy  
King, George  
Klinn, Lewis  
Kopecky, Chris & Blake  
Koziol, Richard  
Lakner, Michael  
McKinley, Martin  
Montgomery Jr, W  
Myers, Robert  
Nealis, Frederick  
Newman, Roger  
Nicklas Jr, Harold  
Oneill, Timothy  
Pehr, Bert  
Peters, Michael  
Pierce Jr, Leo  
Pimental, Frederick  
Pryor, Lee  
Quinones, Eladio  
Rentmeester, C  
Ryerson, William  
Schurtz, Gerald  
Seay, Thomas  
Sellars, Marvin  
Silch, William  
Silva, M  
Smith, Wade  
Stoll, Ned  
Sugihara, Martyn

Swan, Val  
Trubeck, William  
Turner, James  
Van Holsbeke Jr, Leon  
Vasey, Stephen  
Westbrook, L  
Wheeler, Richard  
Whitson, Thomas  
Wolfe, Fredrick  
Zuckerman, Daniel  
In Memory of Jerry Matelski  
Cartwright, Wavely  
Embry, James

### Silver Level

Arterberry, Orville  
Ault, Kenneth  
Brill, Grey  
Burke, Joseph  
Christeson, Frank  
Church Jr, Frank  
Cook, Timothy  
Corn, John  
Dowding, Arthur  
Egan, F  
Eichelberger, Jerald  
Field, Richard  
Freme Jr, Robert  
Grosh, Paul  
Higden, Ross  
Hogan, Sean  
Holt, George  
Horn, Donald  
Johnson, Gene  
Kelly, Ronald  
Klein, Earl  
Knowlton, William  
Koppenal, Kenneth  
Kotke, Larry  
Kotwica, Jerome  
Maggi, Edward  
Maloney, Joseph  
Mann, Harold  
Martz, Stanley  
Mashburn, Lewis  
McGregor, Steward  
Montague, Harry  
Morlock, Glenn  
Mowry, Robert

Murphy, L  
Newman, Roger  
Parkins, Tom  
Pemberton, Donald  
Ritchie, Jim  
Scheumann, David  
Selvidge, Mark  
Simmers, Vincent  
Smith, Larry  
Stroia, Daniel  
Sturley Jr, William  
Suberla, Edward  
Thomas, Richard  
Timmons, Donald  
Wardrope, Scott  
Warf, Kathy  
Webb, Gary  
Witzel, Terrence

### Bronze Level

Ames, Herbert  
Duke, Larry  
Hall, Clarence & Cynthia  
McClanahan, Thomas & Jackie  
Waters, Rebecca  
In Memory of Jerry Matelski  
Adams, Bobby  
Ballantyne, John  
Bartlett, Michael  
Brennick, Robert  
Brigman, Jimmie  
Brooks Jr, Edward  
Brookshire, Grail  
Brown, Danny  
Carroll, Patrick  
Cavinder, Larry  
Chain, Willerd  
Chau, Phung  
Cizmadia, Joseph  
Clark, Glenn  
Colmone, Salvatore  
Commons, Joe  
Connelly, Danny  
Cooke, James  
Cotton, A  
Cox Jr, Bernard  
Crowley, Thomas  
Davis, Henry

DeLong, Robert  
Demasi, Ralph  
Dennis, Arthur  
Derekowski, Arthur  
Desiderio, Timothy  
Dewit, Leray  
Dietz, John  
Dilling, E  
Dominguez, Jesus  
Drew, Donald  
Durr, Merritt  
Fisher, Paul  
Gillette Jr, William  
Glatzer, Ross  
Glenn, James  
Goff, Robert  
Gordon, Dalton  
Gray, William  
Greaves, Reginal  
Hanson, Jeffrey  
Harris, William  
Hertel, Herbert  
Hicks Jr, L  
Hideshima, Albert  
Icema, William  
Janairo, Antonio  
Kays, Danny  
Kuehner, James  
Kunst, Cornelius  
LaThrope, Edward  
Like, David  
MacDonald, Clifford  
Masley, J  
McNeil, Robert  
Mesaros, Anthony  
Michaud, Randolph  
Middaugh, Thomas  
Neloms, Henry  
Ralston, William  
Reed , James  
Rucci, Gerald  
Russell, Durwood  
Russell , W  
Russell Jr, Richard  
Saine, Dan  
Sayers, Kenneth  
Schofield, David  
Self, Gary  
Sheehan, William  
Sheldon, Dennis

Smiser, Dennis  
Stafford, Edmund  
Stevens, Elise  
In Memory of, Neil Keltner  
Suminski, Raymond  
Swords, Walter  
Uebelher, Francis  
Vanderbogart, Kirk  
Venhoff, John  
Walker Jr, Lawrence  
Walkner, Thomas  
Walters, R  
White, David  
Whitener, Ernest  
Young, Manuel

## Calendar

### Gold Level

Carraher, Joseph  
Godfrey, Thomas  
Higgins, Steven  
LaFontaine, Donald  
Prioleau, Lewis

### Silver Level

Grant, Robert  
Pledger, Murray  
Ritchie, Jim  
Swartz, Larry

### Bronze Level

Dickson, Robert  
Dunkle, Stephen  
Fulop, Frank  
Gordon, Ralph  
Hofstaedter, Thomas  
Kent, Thomas  
Klink, Robert  
Luke, Craig  
McDole, Harry  
O'Neil, Daniel  
Pisciotta, Michael  
Sevigny, Richard  
Ward, Charles  
Weller, William  
Willard, John  
Woodruff, Leon



# From the 65th Colonel of the Regiment

COL John Ward



COL John "Lanier" Ward

CSM Stephen Travers and I were honored to be able to attend the 11th ACVVC's reunion with many of you last week in Orlando and appreciate the warm welcome extended to us by Allen Hathaway and the Blackhorse Team. We were able to bring two of our great Soldiers with us: 1LT Dan Bukeima, who was the only true blue recipient of 230 candidates during our most recent Expert Infantryman Badge competition, and PFC Avin Sumesar, the Regiment's Soldier of the quarter. They left the reunion as inspired as CSM and I were by your stories, brotherhood and love of the Blackhorse Regiment.

The Regiment is very much alive, active and well out at Fort Irwin. Our current strength is 2800 and the current structure is 1st Squadron, 2d Squadron, and the Regimental Support Squadron. We also include 1/221 CAV and 1/144 FA, our National Guard brothers from California and Nevada. As many of you may know, our current mission is to replicate the operational environment for units preparing to deploy to theater. For the last few rotations,

we have been providing replication of the Afghan theater to include Afghan Security Forces, Taliban and other insurgent forces as well as the town populations. We provide the tough lessons to the Rotational Training Units here at the NTC versus them learning those same lessons downrange.

The way forward for training America's Armed forces is what we call a DA or Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE) rotation. The intent is to create a common training scenario for use throughout the Army featuring a threat reflective of the complexities of potential 21st century adversaries. This threat includes absolutely nothing we have ever seen before as it combines guerrilla, insurgent, criminal, and near-peer conventional forces woven into one dynamic environment or as we call it... the 11th ACR's "and there we were stories." During some of my initial briefings I took on the Rotation, I couldn't help but think, "this is nothing new to the Blackhorse, we've fought like this since 1901 and if anyone understands complexity.. it is this Regiment."

As we continue to prepare for future missions, we still remain diligent on training our own Troopers to meet the increased demand of the tough challenging training we are expected to deliver to today's Army.

The Cavalry Troops with Tanks and Bradleys have begun their preparatory tasks for the gunnery density in November through December. Crews are cycling through the simulators to prepare for the live fire. We are also making preparations for the annual December Regimental road march at the Veterans home of California in Barstow to honor those who have served this great nation with honor and distinction.

Since taking command, I have been amazed at the magnitude of what our Troopers have accomplished. The professionalism, pride and discipline in the execution of our missions have been readily seen by everyone who has seen them while visiting. This is our house, our community, and our Regiment. I am extremely proud of all who have served before us and have paved the way for our Regiment that is the pride of the U.S. Cavalry and properly coined as the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment. We still continue that legacy as we lead the Nation's Army in the future in the development of America's 'Force of Decisive Action.' You are always welcome to "come home" and visit us out at Fort Irwin and we thank you all for your sacrifices. It is an honor to serve as the Regiment's 65th Colonel.

*Allons!!*

## 28th ANNUAL 11th ACVVC REUNION

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# REGISTRATION NOTES

By: Bob Moreno  
Board Member/Registration Chair  
11th ACVVC

As we put the Orlando reunion to bed, I just want to say a huge thank you to all whom in anyway helped to make it such a big success. So many of you volunteered to help us at the desk that Barb, Raleigh and I actually had time to get away and grab something to eat and visit with a few of our Blackhorse friends.

Of course the fact that many of you arrived early to tour the sights of Orlando helped us because you also chose to check in with us early. By the end of the first day we had checked in over half of the people that had preregistered.

We had an amazing 82 first time troopers this year. I hope you enjoyed yourselves and will return year after year. To our Gold Star families, it is always an honor to have you join us. The sacrifice that your loved one gave so that the rest of us may get together to reminisce and remember is something that we will always remember and cherish.

We also had the joy of having a Donut Dolly with us this year. I sure hope all of you who remembered her or some of the others, had a chance to reminisce with her. Hopefully she and some of the other Dolly's will join us in the future.

On our trip home, Barb and I often talk about how amazing it is that even after all these years we are still finding 'new' folks to attend. Thank you all for taking the chance and attending our reunion. And we look forward to seeing you again.

## From a Volunteer Award Winner...

By: Raleigh E. Moreno

I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to the Ladies of the Blackhorse, the Board of Directors and all members of the organization for awarding me the Outstanding Volunteer Award.

It came as a complete surprise to me. It is really an honor to be the first child of a trooper to receive such an award.

Having worked at the registration desk since the Louisville reunion I have come to know many of the troopers. Having talked to them I have learned first-hand

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**I want to remind you that in your envelope there was a Reunion Evaluation sheet. If you already filled yours out, then thank you. If you haven't then please take a few minutes and do so now.**

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I want to remind you that in your envelope there was a Reunion Evaluation sheet. If you already filled yours out, then thank you. If you haven't then please take a few minutes and do so now. If you have misplaced it, just let me know and I will be happy to send you a copy. I can't begin to tell you how important these evaluations are. Without them we just assume that everything is great and therefore don't change or improved upon anything. We really do read every one of them.

I think we all owe Steve Page a big thank you for the superb job he did in setting up all the little contracts things with the hotel. From the rooms we used to the wonderful meal Saturday night. It really is a difficult job, I know.

In closing I just want to say, keep your eyes open for the registration form for Indianapolis and send it is early (you can always get a refund by letting us know if you find later that you can't attend). The sooner we get it the easier it is on making your name tag.

I will look for all of you next year in Indianapolis.

far more than anything the school history books could ever teach about what our troops must have gone through. This has made me more appreciative of not only my father but all of the troopers who so bravely gave of themselves for our freedom.

To be recognized for something that is an honor and joy to do means more than any award could ever say. I look forward to many more years of helping such a great organization.

*(Editor's note: Raleigh is the son of Barb and Bob Moreno, G Troop, 68-69)*

## Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing-2012

Joe Coopet, A Troop 1969

Amazing! We're not getting older, we're getting bigger, better, and stronger. This year's golf event was the best attended in the last decade. Forty six troopers and guests played at one of the best and toughest courses we have seen over the years. As part of the Rosen hotel complex which hosted our reunion, the staff at the Shingle Creek Gold Club bent over backwards to accommodate out golfers the entire reunion week. Thank you to Jamie Howie and your dedicated staff. You did a great job. Also, good detective work on finding Patrick Arble's (398th Transportation Detachment) mysteriously missing golf clubs.

Speaking of strong, we golfers cannot say enough about Terry Cioffi of K Troop. His fellow combat veteran golfers presented Terry with "The 2012 tough guy of the year award." After losing his right leg due to a medical emergency in April of this past year, the always affable Terry showed everybody he can still play better golf than most. What an inspiration. Terry's wife, Concetta, deserves kudos his for remarkable presence and attitude.

C Troop's Rick Wagner and Jan Wagner (spouses) cleaned up in most categories of scoring and prize presentations. Rick was the overall champion. As we say in golf speak, boy, Rick and Jan can really golf their ball. Additionally, Terry Earley and Melanie Scheumann gave a close chase in each of their divisions.

Prizes for tournament play and blind drawings were beyond abundant due to the huge financial support of Ed Buening(F Troop), Tom Doll (HHT, 3/11), John Quinn (B Troop), and Pete Walter (Howitzer Battery, 3/11). These troopers donate generously every year to the Ognibene Memorial event. They deserve acknowledgement for what they so quietly do.

Lastly, it was decided that the statue/trophy of the Vietnam soldier carrying golf clubs in lieu of a weapon, representing Marty Ognibene, would be retired and presented to his family. Marty was a

# Silent Auction

By: Chuck & Cathi Bower  
L Troop, 69-70

Thanks to all who participated in the silent auction. A special thanks to all those who donated items for bid. The auction is totally dependent on your support and those who participated came through once again. A total of 111 items were donated this year for a net of \$7,500 toward the Scholarship Fund. Many of the items had a military or 11th Cavalry theme.

A special thanks goes to Paul and Teresa Gissible (G Troop, 2/11 items), Ron and Janet Krueger (HHT, 1/11 items) and Greg Mason (HHT, 3/11 items) for their help again in coordinating the silent auction during the reunion. Their help in collecting and tagging items, setting up and monitoring the silent auction was invaluable.

The following is the list of donors for our silent auction in Orlando. Several individuals donated more than one item. Start thinking of items that may be donated for next year!

- Larry Abrams (3 items)
- Bill Austin
- Dale Austin (2 items)
- David & Linda Bailey (3 items)
- Joanne & James Beckwith (3 items)
- Chuck & Cathi Bower
- Ed Brown (2 items)
- Daniel & Loida Chavez
- SS Choice LLC (3 items)
- Frank Church (2 items)
- Dee Cofty
- Dennis H Creal
- Wayne (Randy) Cribbs (2 items)
- Tim Dunphy

- Bill & Patricia England (2 items)
- Dennis D Freeman, E.A. (3 items)
- Paul & Teresa Gissible (2 items)
- John Graber
- Kristen Graham
- William and Janet Griffin (2 items)
- Jay Hall
- J B Howerton
- Ronda Jackson (5 items)
- Ernest & Jean Kauppi (3 items)
- Ron Krueger (7 items)
- Bob Lee
- Dave Ludwig
- Greg Mason
- Wayne Mollhoff (2 items)
- Barb & Bob Moreno (2 items)
- Charles (Tom) Morrison
- Jack Morrison (12 items)
- Terri Morrison
- Eric Newton (7 items)
- Johns Plaques (9 items)
- Fred & Cherry Platt
- John Poindexter
- Mike Rafferty
- Reynolds Family (7 items)
- Gerald P Schurtz
- Fred Sheetz
- Mike & Mary Shepler
- James A Smith
- Dan Tores
- Rick & Jan Wagner
- Mike Weynand
- Jerry Whitten
- Eddie Wood



member of A Troop and Air Cav Troop 1969-1970. He attended his last reunion at Philadelphia in 1991 and passed shortly afterwards due to brain cancer. God bless Marty and his family. Pete Walter (Howitzer Battery, 3/11) initiated the memorial golf tournament and was responsible for the commission of both Ognibene trophies. Thanks Pete for your continuing care for your fellow troopers and their families.

Hoping to see lots of golfers in Indianapolis.

*Allons!*

## 2012 Raffle Prize Winners

- The first place winner of \$500 was **John Grimme**.
  - The second place of \$400 was **Jim Bielser**.
  - The third place winner of \$300 was **Doyle Smith**.
  - The fourth place winner of \$200 was **S. Baker**.
- The fifth through fifteenth place winners were: • **Robert O'Neal**, • **James White**, • **Gary Rieth**, • **Thomas Colameco**, • **R.J. Onofrey**, • **Frank Ekert**, • **David E. Wright**, • **Jackson Reed**, • **Johnny Mann**, • **Brianna Zumbrun**, and • **Mike Dinardo**.

## Find an Old Friend

All Troopers, please check the "Find an Old Friend" section on the 11th ACVVC web page and make sure if you have signed up there, that your email us up to date. If you have an old email address listed – no one can find you!

If you check and find you have an out-dated email address, send a correction to Bob Kickenweitz at bobk11acr@comcast.net .



### Visiting The Rear

Soc Trang Army Airfield was the American installation furthest south in the whole of South Viet Nam. I mentioned once before about my first tour in country there. We were eighty-five air miles south of Saigon. Our advantages were that we had a little PX, a six bed hospital, clubs, a swimming pool (muddy water, of course), Red Cross donut dollies, and other such amenities. Our disadvantages were significant. Our airfield had been built by the Japanese during World War II so our hootches were situated parallel to the runway and revetments where the helicopters and Bird Dog spotter planes were parked. When the VC hit us their rounds would hit the hootches when they missed the aircraft. Our airfield was very small and isolated. The closest other Americans were infantry about 20 miles north at My Tho. Our mission was supporting ARVN infantry. We were truly isolated from American forces and made a good target, especially during Tet '68 (another story).

When I rode with the Blackhorse, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, it was different. That tour I lived in the jungle in a tent with my enlisted assistant who I've talked about before. We set up with the medics alongside the tanks and artillery. (I actually learned to sleep through 155mm howitzers firing off and on throughout the night). I rode around the bush with the troops on ACAV's or M-48 tanks during the week and flew over the bush in a helicopter to have church on Sundays.

We had troops in the rear too. I considered that they needed chapel services same as everyone else. My routine was flexible, except when controlled by circumstances such as being in fire fights when we took casualties. I went to visit them to wherever they were medevaced, such as to the aid station at Quan Loi or the evac hospital at Long Binh. Usually I visited our forward support area at Quan Loi to see our troops on Sunday evenings to have church for the huge crowds who wanted to come (huge crowds being open

**The PXs were in the rear, of course. What a wonder! They had everything PXs at home had - only more! Cameras, Seiko watches, Noritake china, binoculars, luggage, tailored clothes, and stuff like that. And it was all unbelievably cheap.**

to interpretation). On Monday mornings I went to visit troops in the hospitals, wounded and otherwise. This was important because: Number one, they needed to know about their buddies still out in the bush. Number two, they needed to be assured that everyone cared about them and wouldn't forget them. I represented their buddies and the squadron. This was important when a guy was messed up, about to be evacuated out of country, and knew he'd probably never see his buddies again. Number three, his buddies in the field needed to know about their trooper's condition in the hospital. One of my most important activities when I got back to the field was to tell the troops how their buddies were doing. Like I said, these guys usually knew they'd probably never see each other again so they needed a message to stay connected. It was hard enough just being in that situation without also being cut off, just like that, from brothers they'd bonded with under fire.

You and I both have plenty of rear-end, base camp stories that are worth remembering. Our squadron rear base camp was at Di An. One of the hootches had a room (a space with plywood around it) that I used whenever I came in for a night or two. It had a steel cot with an actual mattress, a concrete floor, a roof, and plywood doors. Outside was a hot water shower which was a 55 gallon drum on a rack with a diesel heater. You stood under the drum, pulled the rope, and got hot water over your grimy body. It was very refreshing. This hootch was state of the art, by our standards. Like, the door closers were strips of inner tube rubber nailed from the door to the door jam. It did a great job of slamming the door shut. Door knobs? No such thing.

Hinges? Whatever could be scavenged. Paint? Many designer colors to select from, as long as they were white, gray, black, red, or OD. The Air Force had it really rough on their side of Bien Hoa Air Base. In our regiment's area troopers lived in GP medium tents upgraded with wood floors. The Air Force had two story wood "dormitories" with doors painted different pastel colors and brass door knobs, hinges, and locks. Of course, we thought anyone had a thinking problem who would want to sleep upstairs in a wooden dormitory when rounds started incoming - mortars, rockets, and other exciting items. After all, we were in a war. Maybe they forgot.

The PXs were in the rear, of course. What a wonder! They had everything PXs at home had - only more! Cameras, Seiko watches, Noritake china, binoculars, luggage, tailored clothes, and stuff like that. And it was all unbelievably cheap. I still kick myself for not buying more. Bargains like that don't exist anymore. You'll recall that anyone who was out in the bush lived (survived) by a different standard than those in the rear. This isn't knocking rear-areaers; I'm just saying how it was. For example, personal appearance wasn't important in the field like in a base camp. In the rear you could usually stay fairly clean, you could shower, get a haircut, and clean your clothes whenever you needed to. Not so in the bush. I don't need to prove this point because you already know. Now get this, the big PX at Long Binh had a policy that no soldier could come into the PX with dirty boots. "Huh?" you say. "That's right," I reply. Our troops in the jungle never ever shined boots. What for? They wouldn't stay shined for five minutes. So they got to looking really grubby. I'll

admit there wasn't a speck of polish on them. But what did they expect? Even fresh from the field, right from a fire fight, they told you to shine your boots or you couldn't come in. Get this, the PX even provided shoe polish for you at the door! No shine, no enter. How's that for a rear story? Kinda funny, actually - and sure not important in the long-range scheme of things.

There are a lot more stories about visiting the rear, but we're about out of time. In the rear there was paperwork to do, people to see who were part of the squadron too, you know. There were supplies to get and meetings to go to which helped keep the whole thing together. For you troopers who lived and worked in the rear, you counted too. When you did your job well, it meant the troops in the field got the support they deserved, the med-

ical treatment they needed, the food they needed, orders cut for their R&R, orders cut to DEROS out of country (go home), get a promotion, an award, or whatever. And don't forget, combat sometimes happened in the rear too.

In a way, the rear was where the support and supplies came from to defeat the enemy wherever he was. It reminds me of something Jesus said to his disciples. He was sort of describing God's base camp, "I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well." (Luke 12:22, 31). I visited the Blackhorse rear, our base camp, when it was important for several reasons. God's base camp is even more important. I need to visit it all the time. You do too.

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

## So that his brethren shall know...

Please report the death of any member of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia to Allen Hathaway, 13194

Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112; Phone: (703) 791-6610; Email:

*11thcav1966@comcast.net*; for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Membership is open to all troopers who served with or were attached to the 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 ACVVC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd., Kilmarnock, VA 22482.**

# A Connection to Heal

By: Elena Brown

**O**n April 8, 2004 Sandra Fillon was on her computer. She clicked the 'submit my comment' button. She closed her eyes and let out a small breath of air. It wasn't a comment but more of a plea; and it was sent.

"I am looking for anyone that knew my father Robert Graham Curl. He was KIA 12/2/69 in the province of Phuoc Long. I never knew my father; I was almost 3 years old when he was killed. He is a stranger that I know from pictures. I am now 37 years old and with a child of my own and long to speak with anyone that knew him or was with him on the day he died. My mother passed away and all the answers to the many questions that I have of him passed away with her. I basically know his name, that he was from Walled Lake Michigan and he was only 24 years old when he died. He was a SSGT with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment F Troop 2nd Squadron. Any information you might have would be greatly appreciated."

The posting was placed on the Blackhorse 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11ACVVC) guestbook for those seeking information about people killed in action (KIA). Sending out the plea wasn't the hard part. The hard part was the waiting. And once the fifth anniversary of her web posting came and went she frankly admitted that she sort of forgot about it. "I was kind of fishing anyway," she rationalized.

One afternoon, Terry Thomas, 63, hopped on his computer and began looking through his old regiments' website. While he'd known of the 11ACVVC he joined the organization this year. It was on their website he saw Fillon's posting on the guestbook. He said his only thought was, 'I've got to get a hold of her'. He immediately called the number and left a voice message. "Hi. I served with your father in Vietnam. Please give me a call."

The pair separated by more than 1,300 miles—Thomas lives in Kansas and Fillon lives in Florida—were united by a seven-year-old web posting.

"When I got that message, I just about



**SSG Robert Graham Curl**

fell out my chair." Fillon said. "I couldn't wait to give him a call!" They spoke for hours. "We both cried and laughed and cried some more," said Thomas. "So much for me being a manly man. I was just so happy to have found her." By that weekend they had spoken on the phone numerous times were already Facebook friends.

Thomas began filling Fillon in on how he knew her father. Thomas a Vietnam volunteer, first met SSG Robert Graham Curl, his drill sergeant, during basic training in Ft. Knox in 1969. The last time Thomas saw SSG Curl was just a few months later in December. "I didn't think 'Oh, that's my drill sergeant,' I was just happy I saw somebody I knew," said the M16 gunner. Thomas wasn't in Vietnam long before he was hit on his right side and left temple during the firefight in the Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam. He was standing in-between SSG Curl and SSG Robert Raines. Thomas lay wounded and a few inches from him, SSG Raines and SSG Curl were dead. Both men were on their third tour of duty in Vietnam.

"Of all the people that I could have found it's the one guy that was next to him when he died," said Fillon. "Listening to Terry, I was bawling like a baby."

The September reunion of the 11thACVVC in Orlando was just the perfect time to meet face-to-face. As the day approached, Thomas had some trouble sleeping, this time triggered not by the memories of Vietnam but by the excited

anticipation of meeting fellow troopers and most importantly, meeting the daughter of his dead sergeant, Sandra Fillon. "I really couldn't sleep then. When something you know is about to change your life it's hard to rest," he said.

The Blackhorse 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia is a non-profit corporation that aims to honor those that fought and died during Vietnam. They were founded in 1985 and began having annual reunions in 1986. More than 1,100 people and 82 "first-timers" were in attendance during the reunion. "Many (first-timers) didn't know what to expect but they felt right at home as soon as they walked in the door and saw the first Blackhorse insignia," said the president of 11thACVVC Allen Hathaway. "Once I was there I felt a warm welcome," said Thomas. "This reunion, even though it's my first, has sparked something in me and will not be my last." With next year's reunion in Indianapolis, IN, the pair hopes to make a stop in Michigan to visit SSG Curl's headstone.

On a sunny Florida Sunday Sandra and Terry sat poolside and shared 43-year-old memories. "He'd carry a picture in his breast pocket and no matter how many times you'd seen it he was happy to brag about his daughter," said Thomas. "He loved her deeply." Fillon knows that picture. She has a picture of her father holding up a picture of her. "Finding Terry is like finding a lost family member," she said. Thomas agreed, "I have another daughter in Sandra."

The pair discovered that as Thomas dealt with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) memories and the 'survivors guilt' of losing a friend. Fillon never knew he died in Vietnam. Her Korean mother was notified of his death a year afterwards when a birthday card returned. She was later told her father died in a car accident. "Because my mother could never speak or write English. I think the misinformation was due to the lack of translation," said Fillon. In the early 70s her mother married and brought her to America. Sadly her mother died never knowing the truth. It would take 30 years before Fillon discovered her father's name and the circumstances surrounding

“Of all the people that I could have found it’s the one guy that was next to him when he died,” said Fillon. “Listening to Terry, I was bawling like a baby.”

his death on the Virtual Wall ([www.virtual-wall.org](http://www.virtual-wall.org)). SSG Robert Graham Curl’s, (F Troop, 2nd squadron) name is on the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C at Panel W15, Line 16 and is buried in his home town of Walled Lake, Michigan.

“Once I discovered this I began digging. Searching for any and all information about him,” said Fillon. SSG Curl wasn’t married to Fillon’s Korean mother and as Fillon tried to reach out to her father’s family she was met with chilly reaction. “Me, a mixed raced child of their dead baby brother who died while fighting in Vietnam was like opening a very old and painful wound. It hurt, but I understood. Maybe they’ll be open to speaking to me later,” she said. “Meanwhile I figured I’d try other ways to find out about my father.”

She has discovered various websites

such as [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) and [togetherwe-served.com](http://togetherwe-served.com) where she was able to find more people that knew her father, including her fathers’ high school classmate.



Headstone - SSG R G Curl

Just before getting Thomas’ message Fillon posted this on [myfallensoldiers.com](http://myfallensoldiers.com): “I am now 45 years old; almost twice the age you were when you died at 24. We never met in person; we’ve only seen pictures of each other. My mother never got

over you and somewhere in the background your memory was always kept alive. I wish life turned out differently and you would be a 66 year old grandfather enjoying the latter part of his life but that wasn’t God’s plan. You have lived on in my heart though and you will never be forgotten.”

This meeting astonishes Fillon and Thomas, a meeting 43 years in the making.

“I’m sure Sandra is missing some pieces about her father,” said Terry as Sandra’s brown eyes swelled with tears. “And I’m excited to fill in those missing pieces,” he said as he cupped Sandra’s hand. Their new relationship is sealed. They vow to be a part of each others lives because when it’s all said and done, Sandra misses her dad and Terry misses his friend and through their union SSG Robert Graham Curl’s spirit remains. Thomas said, “After all these years I’m glad to let Sandra know she was high on his love list.”

*Editor’s Note: Elena Brown is the daughter of Ed Brown Jr., A-Troop, 67 – 68.*



## Fiddler’s Green

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

**Jeffrey P. Benson**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1968-1969) and E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on July 17, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Walton, NY. He was laid to rest in Walton Cemetery, Walton, NY.

**William W. Biehl**, HHT Regiment (1966-1967) passed away on August 18, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cheswick, PA. He was laid to rest in Mount Royal Cemetery, Glenshaw, PA.

**Jerry H. Bromley**, H Company, 2/11 (1970) passed away on August 11, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bolton Landing, NY. He was laid to rest in Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, Schuylerville, NY.

**Edward L. Carroll**, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 8, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sardis, TN. He was laid to rest in Enterprise-Evergreen Cemetery, Deltona, FL.

**Patrick D. Courter**, F Troop, 2/11 (1970) passed away on August 12, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Carlton, OR. He was laid to rest in Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, OR.

**Edgar Dasher**, G Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 3, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fitzgerald, GA.

**Robert J. Dinger**, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on July 28, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Edmond, OK.

**John R. McClain**, HHT Regiment (1969-1970) passed away on April 9, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Terre Haute, IN. John was a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

**Richard W. Paine**, M Company, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on May 12, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Antonio, TX. He was laid to rest in Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.

**George L. Price**, A Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on June 26, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Germany. He was laid to rest in Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Bear, DE.

**John A. Sams**, HHT Regiment (1968-1969) passed away on September 10, 2012. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pendleton, OR.

**Melvin J. Tefner**, HHT, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 21, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Akron, OH.

**Frederick W. Way**, D Company, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on May 23, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Corry, PA.

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



# 'INCOMING, EVERY MAN TO THE BUNKER!!!'

**H**ow many times had you heard this command over a loud speaker? We don't remember because we wanted to forget. We were also good at ignoring danger. Why? Because we would not have been able to function effectively any other way. Doing our bit as part of the 11th Cavalry combat team meant thinking clearly and keeping emotions under control. Most of us did not ask to go to war, but we were committed and loyal to our nation and its leaders. We the few!

Danger always came when least expected and in many different ways. Aside from ambushes, regular combat operations and the occasional snake, there were other threats that we mostly ignored. While tenting in our Long Binh staging area, a sniper picked off one of our troopers while he was taking a shower. The shower could be seen from a long distance away. The incident prompted us to stop using the shower and we then resorted to strip baths. Baths were taken inside out tents, with steel pots filled with hot water and behind hastily erected sandbag walls. After a bath we'd crawl onto our bunks, tucking in mosquito netting and lying down on our backs with arms and legs spread apart to avoid malaria and heat rash. The heat in the daytime especially was often unbearable.

Our staging area at Long Binh was reasonably safe. Our tents adjoined a guarded installation that housed the local PX, a military headquarters and Bien Hoa airbase. [Air Force bases and major headquarters were always located in the safest areas.] Security was tight. Yet, one night we heard a loud explosion coming out of that compound. I rushed out of the orderly room tent and saw one huge dirty orange mushroom cloud in the sky, reminding me of Hiroshima. An ammo dump had been sabotaged and was exploding in a large fire ball. We huddled behind our sandbag walls<sup>1</sup> until the "all clear" was given. A few nights later, one senior, slightly inebriated NCO stumbled into the sand pit used for filling sandbags. The monsoon had just started and the unfortunate soldier took a sobering swim.

After a year of facing all sorts of dangers some of us were getting decidedly "jumpy." Today one might call it, "post traumatic stress disorder." In World War I it was called "shell shock." One of my men could not accept the conditions and took his life with a bullet.

The night of April 3, 1967 a VC unit mortared us in the field, while we had hunkered down for the night. We buttoned down the steel hatches of our tracks and hoped to avoid a direct hit. Howitzer and Mortar Batteries fired counter mortar concentrations, causing the VC to have a quick change of heart and the assault was defeated. The next morning a Bell chopper flew me back to base camp. Upon arrival, Top<sup>2</sup> explained that our Regimental base camp had also been mortared that same night. Top always expertly managed our personnel in base camp and performed administrative matters. For more than a year and a half he had made my job easier. I was surrounded by good people, but he was my main support. Top told me that someone was killed in a tent close to mine. I walked over to view the damage and noticed a large gaping hole in the tent's canvas. Through the hole I saw an open book lying up side down on a night stand. The title of the book was, "How to Survive In Vietnam." The irony did not escape me and especially when I heard that the man had stopped to put on his boots before running for the bunker.

After a year of facing all sorts of dangers some of us were getting decidedly "jumpy." Today one might call it, "post traumatic stress disorder." In World War I it was called "shell shock." One of my men could not accept the conditions and took his life with a bullet. Another man took an overdose of sleeping pills. A chopper pilot, while risking his own life, volunteered to transport this man overnight to a hospital. Once in the hospital the man

emptied his M-16 thus endangering other troopers, but luckily missed. [He escaped Vietnam for a prison.] Danger always lurked. One could still get mortared when on the runway in a plane about to take off for the States. One night towards the end of my tour, I found myself [while I was still asleep] running to a bunker. When I suddenly woke up, I realized that my own howitzers had just fired a routine harassment and interdiction [H&I] mission. Survival instincts had kicked in.

One night, a friend [CPT Halstead] and I were having a drink in a make-shift Officer's Club of the 3rd Squadron. We were discussing the Israeli war, the riots back home and a letter that I had just received from a "wavering" girlfriend. Suddenly the dreaded alarm went off, "Incoming, every man to the bunker." We spilled our drinks and rushed to a bunker. Our Commanding Officer<sup>3</sup> looking very grim was already animatedly talking on the landline with the TOC<sup>4</sup> duty officer. Mortar battery had been ordered to start firing counter mortar concentrations and soon thereafter the "incoming" ceased. Col Pete grabbed me by my arm and marched me to our perimeter [where the rounds had landed] to perform a crater analysis.<sup>5</sup> I was forced to conclude that the incoming rounds had come from the middle of our base camp, where my mortars were firing an H&I mission. Egg on my face. Col Pete wanted the results of a full investigation on his desk by 08:00AM the next morning. Thus began the rest of my night. "No excuse, Sir," would not suffice. I still have a copy of a lengthy 4 page report filled with detailed rationalizations, which concluded that the blame lied with 1. Faulty maps furnished by the Corp of Engineers, 2. Unusual atmospheric conditions and 3.

By  
Leo Deege,  
HOW 3/11, 1965-67

Continued on page 26

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## 11th ACVVC LIFE MEMBERSHIP PIN DESIGN BALLOT

YOUR LIFE MEMBERSHIP # \_\_\_\_\_

(If you don't know it print your name below)

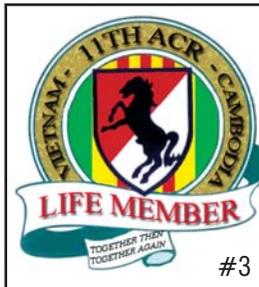
YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print the number of the design you like best)

Please mail this ballot to the address below postmarked not later than Dec 31, 2012.

PETE WALTER  
11th ACVVC LIFE PIN  
8 TALLOWOOD DRIVE  
WESTAMPTON, NJ 08060-3721

or e-mail your name, life membership # and choice to:  
[basepiece70@verizon.net](mailto:basepiece70@verizon.net)



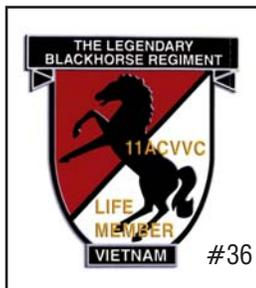
#3



#4



#25



#36



#40

## Life Membership Pin Voting Process

By: Peter Walter  
Vice President, 11th ACWC

At the 2011 reunion in St. Louis the Officers & Directors of the 11th ACVVC agreed that Troopers who are Life members should receive special recognition for their commitment to the 11th ACVVC in the form of a "Life Membership" pin. All Life members will have the opportunity to choose the winning entry.

Over forty designs were entered; the top five were displayed at the reunion in Orlando and those in attendance voted in person. Those five designs are also shown here along with a paper ballot and will also be available on-line at our website.

You may cast your vote by e-mail to:  
[BASEPIECE70@VERIZON.NET](mailto:BASEPIECE70@VERIZON.NET)

Or you can use the printed ballot and mail it to me. Your e-mail or surface mail ballot must be received or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2012. The votes will be tallied and the winning design and designer announced in the 1st Quarter Thunder Run, 2013.

Thank you all for your participation and special thanks to all of you who submitted designs!

## Show Your Pride



Russell Dove (G Troop, 69-70) shows his pride at the entrance to his West Virginia farm.



Robert Heuston (How, 3/11, 67-68) can be seen "commin' at you" with his "ACA" van in New Jersey.



# Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
<b>HHT REGIMENT</b>		<b>A TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>E TROOP, 2/11</b>		<b>L TROOP, 3/11</b>	
Foxworth, Roy G	70-71	Gale, John C	70-70	Boyett, Morris I	67-68	Neloms, Henri L	71-71
<b>AIR CAVALRY TROOP</b>		Mitchell, Michael F	68-69	Brackett, Charley	67-68	Ruocco, William J	67-68
Foxworth, Roy G	71-71	<b>B TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>		<b>M COMPANY, 3/11</b>	
<b>7th ARMY POSTAL UNIT</b>		Buczowski, John R	66-67	Swords, Walter W	66-67	Gaskins, Walt T	70-71
Valando, Carlos W	70-70	Martinico, John	68-71	<b>G TROOP, 2/11</b>		<b>HOWITZER BATTERY, 3/11</b>	
<b>506th S&amp;S COMPANY</b>		Russell, Durward E	69-70	Fuller, Herbert H	66-67	Walter, Raymond R	67-68
Ronne, Ralph O Jr	69-69	Williams, Keith L	69-69	Parfitt, George J	67-67		

## Get Your Blackhorse Cookbook Before It Sells Out

By Kathy Tandberg, Fundraiser Chair,  
11th ACVVC Women's Group

Sales for the second edition of the Blackhorse Women's Group Cookbook, "Party with the Blackhorse," got off to a rolling start at the 27th annual 11th ACVVC reunion held in September at Orlando, Florida.

Proceeds from the sales of this one-of-a kind collector cookbook are earmarked for the donation of several wreaths for the Arlington National Cemetery.

A small portion of the proceeds will also be retained as seed money for future Women's Group fundraisers, as well as for the Women's meeting time projects.

This second cookbook, created to feature the party aspect of life, is filled with new recipes not in the sold-out first edition. The delicious recipes in "Party with the Blackhorse" will be welcomed delights at any party function, whether for family or friends. In fact, the recipes in it have all been submitted by 11th ACVVC troopers, families and friends. Recipe selections include desserts, breads, dips, hors d'oeuvres, party snacks, soups, salads, beverages and much more. You will want this cookbook in your kitchen to share its offerings with guests in your home.

There are approximately 132 cookbooks remaining after Orlando. There is still time to buy yours before Christmas. Speaking of Christmas, "Party with the Blackhorse" is the perfect gift for anyone on your list, so why not buy several and help the cause?

Troopers, why not buy a few to sell to fellow members of your local VFW, American Legion or AmVets organizations? The cookbooks can be purchased by mail with the price of \$15 each plus \$5 shipping/handling per cookbook, a bargain that should be on everyone's shopping list.

The Women are well on their way to another successful fundraiser and you can make it more successful with your purchase. They ask that you keep the cookbook in mind as you make your gift lists for any occasion in the coming year.

But buy yours now before this second edition sells out like the first edition.

A big "Thank You" goes out to each and every one of you who sent in recipes. This mission wouldn't have been accomplished without you. It also wouldn't have happened without the support of the men's association board and President Allen Hathaway. For further information on purchasing a cookbook, mail your order with payment to Barb Moreno "BLACKHORSE COOKBOOK," 24284 Endeavor Ave., Tomah, WI 54660, or contact her by email at [puppytoes8@gmail.com](mailto:puppytoes8@gmail.com) with "Blackhorse Cookbook" in the subject line.

**Order Form**

**"Party With the Blackhorse" Cookbook**

Please send me \_\_\_\_ "Partying with the Blackhorse" cookbooks. I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$15/book plus \$5/book S&H, \$20 total/book) in the form of:

check     money order

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form or a copy of it along with full payment to:

Barb Moreno  
'Blackhorse Cookbook'  
24284 Endeavor Ave.  
Tomah, WI 54660

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

By: Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

• **Birth of the Dum-Dum School.** From the beginning of November until mid-December 1966, the three Squadrons were responsible for providing in-country orientation training for all newly arrived personnel. On the 12th of December 1966, the Regimental Training Officer, assisted by a cadre of two NCOs from each Squadron as well as support from the 919th Engineers, the 37th Medical Company, and the Regimental Aviation Platoon, established the Blackhorse in-country training school. The 52-hour course lasted six and one-half days and covered subjects ranging from basic combat dismounted patrolling to armored cavalry mounted tactics, weapons familiarization, field sanitation, airmobile operations, map reading in the jungle, and radio communications. Between 12 December 1966 and 31 January 1967, 148 new Blackhorse Troopers completed the training.

• **Chieu Hoi!** Operation Cedar Falls in January 1967 was the first time US forces had entered the Iron Triangle in large numbers. In addition to finding numerous caches containing tons of rice and extensive underground tunnels, storerooms, and hospitals, Blackhorse Troopers, working with Sky Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade also convinced a large number of Viet Cong to come out of their jungle hide-aways under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) program. The official after action report describes one particularly successful operation by the psy-ops: "On the 19th of January, two VC rallied to the GVN [Government of Vietnam] cause. On the following day, they were photographed together and gave the names of six of their friends among the VC ranks. The two men, who happened to be brothers, composed a message aimed directly to their six friends. On the same day, the leaflets were dropped. Shortly thereafter, the six Viet Cong rallied, following the good advice of their comrades. In addition, a woman refugee was permitted at her own request to broadcast a message to her husband and brother. Three hours after her plea, both men turned themselves in under the Chieu Hoi Program." The next day, three VC walked up to Lima Troop and turned themselves in, saying that the Psychological Operations broadcast mission flown the day before had convinced them to surrender.

• **Four Regimental Commanders in Ten Days:** Over a ten day period in March 1968, the Regiment had four different Regimental Commanders. This was only six weeks after Tet of '68 had started, and the action was still hot and heavy around Saigon. On 12 March 1968, the 36th Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel Jack MacFarlane was wounded in battle while directing Third Squadron against a reinforced enemy battalion 15 miles west of Saigon. The Regimental Executive Officer, LTC John F. McArdle, assumed command, until he was replaced by Colonel Leonard Holder three days later. Colonel Holder, the 37th Colonel of the Regiment, was killed in a helicopter crash near Long Binh seven days after taking command. Again, LTC McArdle temporarily assumed command of the Regiment. Colonel Charles Gorder, the 38th Colonel of the Regiment, assumed command one day later on 22 March.

• **Mud, Sweat, and Tears:** From the November 1969 edition of the Blackhorse newspaper: "Mud is a hazard which can be overcome with proper application of muscle and wit, as 2nd Squadron's G Troop proved a few weeks ago. The troop was moving north to Fire Support Base Marge after operations to seek out enemy base camps in the Quan Loi area. Three Armored Vehicle Launched Bridges used to cross streams during the operations were accompanying the ACAV's [Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles] and Sheridans... Moving over the slush in a jungle clearing proved no problem for the lighter fighting vehicles, but the 60-ton AVLB just couldn't cut it. A quick-thinking member of G Troop reached back into the history books and came up with the idea of a corduroy road. Such roads were used more than 100 years ago in the U.S., before macadam advanced the art of road building. Grant also used them in the wilderness campaigns of the Civil War. The Troopers were soon hauling timbers out of the surrounding woods and making a straight path across the clearing. Raw muscle and sweat did the job where mechanical power couldn't."

• **Mines-a-Go-Go:** Mines were one of the most effective weapons the Viet Cong used against the Blackhorse Regiment. But on March 20th, 1970, First Squadron's Delta Company and the 919th Engineer Company's Third Platoon had some remarkable success in finding mines while sweeping Highway 246 west of Tonle Cham, about ten kilometers south of the Cambodian border. In the space of three and one-half hours, the tanker-engineer team found and destroyed eight anti-tank mines, ranging in size from 20 to 25 pounds, and all recently emplaced. In one case, a 20-pound mine was found emplaced on top of another 20-pound mine – 40 pounds of explosive capable of blowing a big hole in the road, as well as in whatever rolled over and detonated it. But in this case, the efforts of all those VC and NVA soldiers, shlep-ping 175 pounds of explosives south along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, was for naught. All of the mines were discovered before they were able to destroy any tanks or ACAVs – or, for that matter, any civilian busses.

• **"Buddy, can you spare me a \$50?":** In July 1970, a member of the staff of the 1st Battalion, 274th VC Regiment surrendered to friendly forces in Bien Hoa. He told of meeting with the head of his unit's rear services section and saw him with a "roll of [US] \$50 bills estimated to be four inches thick" and that the Chief of the 274th Regimental Rear Services Section "had two flour bags full of this type of currency." He went on to say that individuals would infiltrate into Saigon or Bien Hoa and convert the US dollars into Vietnamese Piaster, which they would use "to purchase on the open market large quantities of low quality rice for the enemy's use. According to the source, the 274th VC Regiment received enough \$50 bills from the Headquarters, MR [Military Region] 7 in late June to purchase all the food, medical supplies, and military equipment needed for the unit until the end of 1970. The capture of a cache in Binh Tuy Province on 15 August containing \$22,300 (US currency) lends credence to the source's statements about the enemy's use of US currency."

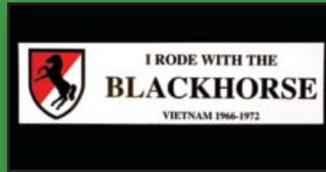
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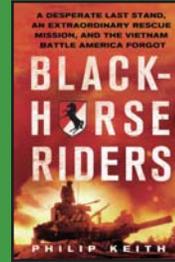
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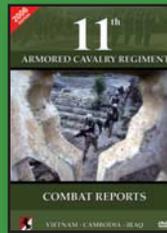
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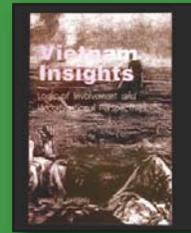
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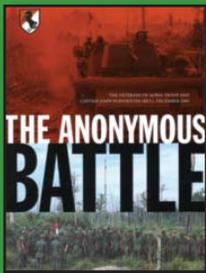
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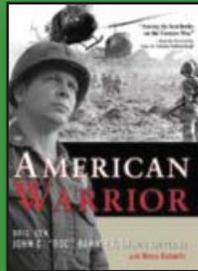
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#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00





# Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

Well the party is over for another year and it's now time to wrap up all those little odds and ends before starting on next year. You know, things like typing up all my notes. Of course that is after deciphering my own handwriting, and answering all the emails that mounted up while I was gone. Oh of course there is the pile of laundry to do and put away. But it will all get done in due time.

We had an amazing turn out at the Women's Meeting. There were 73 ladies present. After a very short meeting we got on to our project. We each had a square of material and some fabric ink pens which we used to draw designs that we each thought represented our organization.

I actually was quite surprised at the variety of ideas the ladies came up with. I'm really not sure the word ladies best described us, as it was more like watching a room of 5 or 6 year olds or even one of my old Brownie troops. We all suddenly went back to our childhood as we called out things like "who has the red marker" or "who has some carbon paper or a pattern they can share with me". It really was a joy to watch each of us turn into laughing, giggling little girls again. Such fun.

Our fund raiser for this year went over pretty well. We sold out of the Orlando reunion lanyards early and had folks begging for more. All of the funds that we raised from them were given to the organization to assist in helping move the monument to Fort Benning. The cookbooks went pretty well but we do still have a few left. So if you didn't get yours while you were there or maybe you were not able to attend this year and want one. You can still get it. The cost for each book is \$15 and an additional \$5 for each book for shipping and handling. Just send you check or money order made out to BLACKHORSE LADIES and mail them to Barb Moreno 24284 Endeavor Rd. Tomah, WI 54660. Remember these make awesome gifts for the holidays for family, friends, neighbors or teachers. I even purchased a few extra to keep around for a forgotten anniversary gift, for a coworker or a housewarming gift. And if you have purchased a cookbook at the store lately, then you know ours are at a really great price. So buy a few extras.

Congratulation to Cathi Bower who

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received this year's Women's Award. She certainly deserved it. That's a lot of work to design and make all those shirts, while still running a business, and support the women's organization by keeping our Facebook site up and running. I know I would be lost without not only her help but her friendship also.

Cherry Platt brought us all up to date on the Prayer Shawl program. We now have nine folks helping to make them. We have given out over fifty shawls and a few lap robes since the program started just a year ago. Great job ladies. Keep up the great work.

Two years ago it was suggested by several of the ladies that my son Raleigh really should be considered for an award. As many of you know Raleigh designs our name badges as well as helps to keep all of our electronic devices at the registration table in tip top running condition. And he does this while taking time off from work with no pay. So Kathy Tandberg presented it to Allan Hathaway and the members (with the excep-

tion of his dad) of the Board of Directors for approval. This year unbeknown to us, he was presented with a beautiful award at the Saturday night banquet. And boy is he proud of it. Of course now he teases his dad because both he and I have our own awards, his dad doesn't. Thank you to all of you for suggesting and promoting this award.

Well ladies, it is time for me to get busy and think about dinner so I will close for now. Please order your books because unless we sell them all we will be unable to have a new item next year. And that would mean we would not have the funds to continue to do fun things at our meetings. Be sure to check out our Facebook page (11thACVVC Blackhorse Women) and our site on the Blackhorse web site. I post frequently on both and will in the next few weeks tell about the amazing trip my husband and I took following the reunion. It was wonderful. Also keep a watch out for ideas I have for next year in Indianapolis.

## INCOMING from page 20

The location of the "short shooter" used. Col Pete much respected by all, had rightfully made us sweat and be introspective, but must also have had a good laugh when he read the detailed report. We thus escaped Col Pete's ire.

Why did you and I expose ourselves to these conditions? We had taken an oath and believed in our nation and a strong military. I still vividly recall a radio broadcast in German occupied Holland, when the allies had landed on the beaches of Normandy. Our living room exploded with shouts of joy. Many millions were eventually liberated from the Hun. Only a strong

military and a commonly resolved population made that possible. Everyone sacrificed and military deferments or hasty immigrations were deemed unpatriotic. As long as peoples are unable to get along with one another we will always need a strong military. You did your bit and I am proud to have served with you. Allons!

- 1 Courtesy Lt. Ruggle's sandbag brigade
- 2 First Sergeant Boyd
- 3 LCol Peterson
- 4 Regimental Tactical Operations Center
- 5 To determine where the rounds had come from.



# Quartermaster

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36.	T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L)	20.00			
37.	Book, American Warrior" by "Doc" Bahnsen	20.00			
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## From the Quartermaster...

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**Jerry Beamon**

Hello to all Blackhorse Brothers. I would like to thank each of who made this Reunion in Orlando such a great success. Thank you for all your hard work to each of you who help out in the Quartermaster Store. Without your help it would have not gone as smoothly as it did. Again thank you All.

As we reopen to finish out this year PLEASE, PLEASE, take a good look at your order form, as things have changed a lot. We may not be able to fill your orders as there were some of the Polo Shirts we had at the Reunion are for Special Order we do have them in stock, for a limited time only. For Reunion Polo's you need to contact Chuck & Cathi Bower at Pen Sport .com, I know they will do their best to help you out any way they can.

As we are closing out this year the Holidays will be here before you know it. So please send us your orders early to avoid the last minute rush. The mail will run as usual, slow, so please order early. Also do not forget to put down your size and color, as well as a phone

number so we can get in touch with you if you do leave all this off.

Our congratulations go out to Jerry Mitchell for his Outstanding Trooper Award. Jerry and his dear wife Pat have been a main stay in helping us out in the Quartermaster Store. Jan & I really do appreciate their help in every way. I would like to give a special thanks to Mr. Otis Cary who oversees the web site; Otis had always been there to help when we have trouble with a lost order. And I cannot forget Mr. Bill Gregory who makes everything come together in the *Thunder Run*. And a special thanks to Janet Kruger and some others who jumped in to help when they have some spare time to give. All of our helpers are volunteers who give their time to see that we run smoothly and are able to serve all of our troopers not only at reunions but all the rest of the time as well. Jan & I are waiting to hear from you so send those orders in.

*Allons!*