



# Thunder Run

Vol. 34 – NO. 4

“Together Then – Together Again”

4th Quarter, 2019

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

## State of the Reunion

By almost all measures this year's reunion in Las Vegas was a huge success. There were a few issues brought to my attention that were either missed by me or arose at a time that was too late for me to correct. Having to pay for sodas in the bunker should not have happened. It will not happen again. I did discover in time that there was also going to be a charge for beer and water and I was able to get that reversed.

More concerning to me was the fact that we ran out of chicken for the banquet.

### Westgate Resort Welcomes the 11th ACVVC

I must take some responsibility for this also and apologize to those affected. But the primary reason it happened was due to all of the last-minute registrations or added attendees. I try to maintain a meal count as accurate as possible but I have a deadline with the hotel for meal counts and meal choices. Changes after that can cause us to have too many meals and we pay for unserved dinners; if there is not enough, we pay a penalty for preparing more and someone has to wait to be served. This is why I stress the need to register on time and this is the real consequence of not doing so. Please register all those who are going to attend within our published time frames. Another real consequence is not having a seat for everyone. We were fortunate not to have that happen this year.

On the positive side everyone enjoyed themselves with the many things to do in Las Vegas and had a good time with their buddies and making new friends, not to mention the photo ops with all the beauty pageant ladies. Everyone I talked to was very pleased with the reception and food at Ft. Irwin. Anyone who was fortunate enough to have one of the young troopers with the Color Guard from Ft. Irwin sit at

their table during the banquet hopefully felt honored.

I have had more than a few inquiries about dates for next year's reunion and hotel reservations. I am amazed at the interest this early for next year. That information is being put together now but won't be finalized for a few more weeks. I can give you the dates. The reunion will be August 26 through August 30, 2020 at the J.W. Marriott, 10 S. West Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. I will have all the details in the 1st quarter 2020 Thunder Run.

*Frank Church – Reunion Chair/Vice President*

## Welcome Wisconsin!



Front row L to R: Mike Hackbarth, Bruce Canny, Bob Malewski, Sid Hanson, Bob Moreno, Henry Simon Back row L to R: Jim Van Matre, Mike Weynand, Jim Buechner, John Barbeau, Dave Solid, Paul Schutte, Lee Nelson, Will Strycker.

Blackhorse trooper Lee Nelson (HHT 1/11th 68-69) has been hosting a breakfast get together with Blackhorse Troopers from Wisconsin every three or four months for the past two or three years. They meet at Paul's Neighborhood Bar, 2401 Parmenter St. in Middleton, Wisconsin located just outside of Madison, Wisconsin

At the most recent gathering 30 Troopers residing in Wisconsin were expected to make the Breakfast on the 18th of July but due to severe thunderstorms and extreme heat we only had 14 Troopers make the Breakfast.

Please turn to **BREAKFAST** on page 15





## 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," Peter L. Walter, 8 Tallowood Dr., Westampton, NJ 08060-3721.

<b>President</b>	Peter L. Walter, (How, 3/11, 70)	<b>Quartermaster</b>	Jerry L. Beamon, (K Troop, 3/11, 1969-1970) 15926 Cedar Bay Dr Bullard, TX 75757 (903) 805-0703 <jerrylbea@aol.com>
<b>Funeral Honor Guard</b>	8 Tallowood Dr.		
<b>Calendar Editor</b>	Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 (609) 261-5629 <basepiece70@verizon.net		
<b>Vice President &amp; Reunion Chairman</b>	Frank T. Church, (G Troop, '69-'70) 5168 Laskey Road Rome, OH 44085 (386) 365-0487 <fchurch4@aol.com>	<b>Editor</b>	Peter L. Walter, (How, 3/11, 70) 8 Tallowood Dr. Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 (609) 261-5629 <basepiece70@verizon.net>
<b>Secretary</b>	Gregory R. Mason (HHT 3/11, 68 – 69) 4636 W Knights Griffin Road Plant City, FL 33565 (813) 754-2980 <gregrmason311@gmail.com>	<b>Information Technology/ E-commerce</b>	Otis Carey (F Troop, 2/11, 71-72)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ollie W. Pickral, (K Troop 3/11, 68-69) 571 Ditchley Road Kilmarnock, VA 22482 (804) 435-3658 <11cavalry@verizon.net>	<b>Assistant Information Technology/Ecommerce</b>	Paul Gruber (G Troop, 2/11, '68) 11047 Tung Grove Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32317 (850) 878-8425 <pgruber@polaris.net>
<b>Directors</b>	Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman. (G Troop, 2/11, 1969-1970) 5837 Habanero Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88012 (575) 915-2921 platoonmedic36@gmail.com>  Robert "Bob" Moreno, Reunion Registration (G Troop 2/11, '68-'69) 24284 Endeaver Ave, Tomah, WI 54660 (608) 372-5892 <gtroopbob@gmail.com>  Blandin W. "Bill" Karabinos, Chaplain (HHT 2/11, '71-'72) 7312 Little Creek Road Toano, VA 23168 (757) 566-8885 <blandinkarabinos@gmail.com>	<b>Public Affairs</b>	Eric Newton (K Troop 3/11, '68-'69) P.O. Box 956 Colleyville, TX 76034 (817) 239-3437 <armor11ACR@aol.com>
<b>Chaplain Emeritus</b>	Lawrence E. Haworth, (HHT 2/11, 69-70) 10000 Rhineland Dr., Unit 209 San Antonio, TX 78239-3139 (661) 860-0093 (cell) (210) 646-3835 <lehaworth@aol.com>	<b>Women's Group Coordinator</b>	Sheryl Myers 19155 Royal Troon Drive Monument, CO 80132 (719) 559-6695 <sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com>
<b>Membership KIA Issues</b>	Allen Hathaway (HHT Regiment, 66-67) 13194 Rettew Dr. Manassas, VA 20112 (703) 791-6610 <11thcav1966@comcast.net>	<b>Website &amp; Facebook Manager</b>	Robert Kickenweitz (HHT Reg't, 66-67) 155 Hickory Tavern Rd Gillette, NJ 07933 (908) 803-3455 <bobk11acr@comcast.net>
		<b>Veterans' Information</b>	Jack Morrison (A Troop, 1/11, 1967-1969) 542 Main St. Rockport, IN 47635 (609) 261-5629 <slumlord99@hotmail.com>
		<b>Historian</b>	Don Snedeker 2221 Tulip Dr Falls Church, VA 22046 (571) 215-8699 (C) <blackhorse7478@gmail.com>
		<b>Auditing Committee/ Judge Advocate</b>	William "Bill" Suhre, (I Troop 3/11, '68) 3620 W. 10th Street, Unit B, PMB 405 Greeley, CO 80634 (970) 381-0335 <william@suhrelawfirm.com>

# President's Message

By Pete Walter

Troopers, families and friends, I hope you all enjoyed our 34th annual reunion at the Westgate Resort & Casino in Las Vegas! Like any reunion there were minor glitches (but no hurricanes or floods!) all which Reunion Chairman/Vice President Frank Church handled in his typical cool, composed and competent style.

Our Thursday trip to Ft. Irwin was a success with eight buses carrying ~370 people 180 miles across the Mojave Desert. Our convoy was escorted through the busy Las Vegas streets by the Patriot Guard Riders, a big time-saver and great experience for our travelers. The Troopers at Fort Irwin enjoyed our company as much as we enjoyed being there and COL Scott Woodward, 68th Colonel of the Blackhorse, was a congenial and knowledgeable host.

At our Members Meeting we had three offices up for election this year: Vice President, Treasurer and Director. As in some past years all three candidates ran unopposed, so "Congratulations" are in order for Frank Church (VP), Ollie Pickral (Treasurer) and Mike Rafferty (Director). I know what it's like to be elected when running unopposed. The two thoughts I had were: 1. No one else wants this job!. 2. I must be doing a great job! Frank, Ollie and Mike – I think you're doing a great job! For their years of dedication and professionalism, these men have earned our trust – we all continue to trust them to do an exceptional job!

Ray Majewski (1st HHT, 66-67), 2018 recipient of the Jack Quilter Award, presented the 2019 award to Russ Sanford (C Trp, 66-67). Congratulations Russ!

A few topics were brought up that we are looking into and after some research and discussion among the Officers, I intend to provide responses on the following topics in January, 2020:

- A request was made to have the QM carry CIB and Medic magnets for vehicles

- A tribute coin or token the QM will carry that can be left at grave sites or funerals

- The Order of the Spur was reviewed by COL Woodward; article to follow in *Thunder Run*.

- Availability of the Blackhorse Salute for purchase

At this meeting the Officers presented three sites for the 2021 reunion: The Sheraton, New Orleans, LA; The Marriott Grand, St. Louis, MO; The Hilton Anatole, Dallas, TX. After a detailed report by VP/Reunion Chairman Frank Church, the membership chose the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, TX. The dates are Aug 24 – 29, 2021; rates are \$139 single/double, \$149 triple/quad.

Our 35th annual reunion will be held at the J.W. Marriott, 10 S. West Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, Aug. 25 - 30, 2020. Room rates are \$159-single/double/triple/quad and \$179 for a premium high floor room. Be sure to tell the hotel you are with the 11th ACVVC reunion.

The Blackhorse Women's Group had another productive meeting with Dr. Barry Beaven (who was a Medic in C Troop, 68-69) as their guest speaker. Pat Smothermon was chosen as the "Blackhorse Woman of the Year".

Our annual Memorial Service on Saturday afternoon was hosted by our Chaplain Bill Karabinos with a special "surprise" video guest, Chaplain Emeritus Larry Haworth. Everyone enjoyed hearing from him again and Larry - we want you to know you and Deanna are always in our thoughts and prayers. Bill continues to do a great job and updates and improves the Memorial Service every year. Though it is a solemn and reverential service, I believe we all leave with our spirits lifted, because we will never forget those who have gone before us.

Our Saturday evening banquet was attended by 1,153 and I heard many compliments on the quality of the food and service. Our guest speaker was COL Brian Cook, (former "Blackhorse 3",

2004 – 2006) Director of Theater Strategy, Dept. of Military Strategy, Planning & Ops., US Army War College, Carlisle. COL Cook spoke eloquently about the Blackhorse, it's history and it's power. His speech was well received and he was presented with a commemorative plaque.

COL Scott Woodward, 11th ACR Regimental Commander, provided comments on the active duty Regiment and it's role as the OPFOR at Fort Irwin, CA. He focused on the quality and diversity of today's Blackhorse Troopers – men and women from all over the United States and the world. He and COL Cook were also able to enjoy the Bunker camaraderie on Friday night.

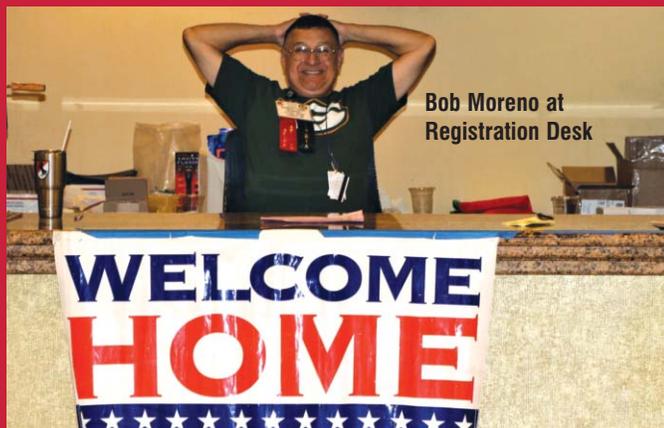
The Blackhorse Salute is always the highlight of the banquet and especially for the one hundred "first timers". Welcome Home brothers!

My personal highlight of the banquet was the honor and pleasure I had in selecting and presenting the 2019 "11th ACVVC Trooper of the Year" award to Chaplain Blandin "Bill" Karabinos (Chaplain, HHT, 2/11, '71-'72). Congratulations Bill!

Finally, I need to say "Thank you!" to so many people, I'm sure I'll miss someone, but here goes. Thanks to COL Scott Woodward, SFC Meacham, Chaplain Kim, CPT Foy, Spc Kennedy Dougherty, Dr. Chris Hogan, SSGT Ramin Ott, Spc Johnny Zhuzhingo, CPT Hunter Nixon, MAJ Pat Merriss, MAJ Chris Sadoski, CPT Drake Rogney, COL Brian Cook, Sheryl & Gary Myers, Carrie Holton, Pat Smothermon, Jerry & Jan Beamon, Joanne & Greg Mason, Bob Moreno, Jim Young, Paul Foley, Wayne Glass, Sara Endres Evans, Sherri Church, Pam & Allen Hathaway, Elaine & Mike Rafferty, Alfred Lopez, Theresa & Paul Gissible, Janet & Ron Krueger, Jen Quinn, Ken Jankel, Ed Brown, John Casterman, Bill Suhre, Bill Madej, Bill Madej, Jr., Jim Brigman and special thanks to Barb Moreno and as always thank you Frank!

*Pete Walter, President  
11th ACVVC*

# The ACVVC Annual Reunion XXXIV



Bob Moreno at Registration Desk



Quarter Master Store



Blackhorse Women's Group Reception



B Troopers



Elvis is in the building!



Enjoying lunch



Our Photographers, Jen Quinn & Ken Jankel



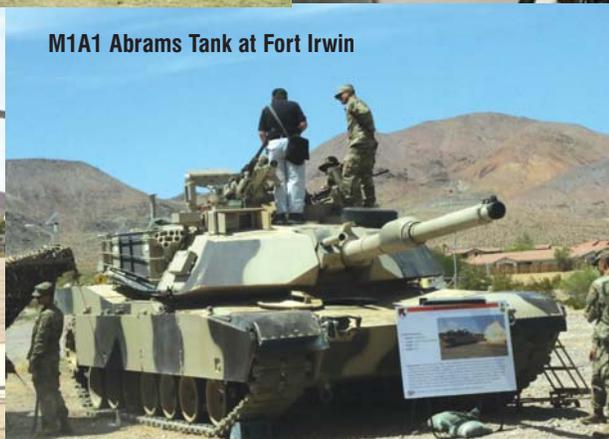
Color Guard at Fort Irwin



Weapons Inspection at Fort Irwin



Helicopter at Fort Irwin



M1A1 Abrams Tank at Fort Irwin



# Las Vegas, NV



Silent Auction



Greg & Joanne Mason hard at work



A "Thorn amongst Roses"

Steve, Gary, Nash (Ken "dismounting")



Steve and "The Great Pyramid"



Firing .50 Cals at Fort Irwin



Mortar Crew at Fort Irwin



WORKHORSE

Eric Newton presents

framed K Troop

scarf, patch, etc.



Membership Meeting



Memorial Service

# Report of the Reunion Registration Chairmen

I hope everyone had a great time in Las Vegas and maybe picked up a few Jackpots. We had over 1100 folks in attendance and from that number we had over 500 Blackhorse Troopers. From that number we had 48 Troopers who were attending their first Reunion. To all, I hope you and your guest enjoyed yourselves and will return year after year. "WELCOME HOME" To our Gold Star families; it is always an honor to have you join us. The sacrifice that your loved one gave so that rest of us may get together to reminisce and remember is something that we will always cherish. They will not be forgotten.

I heard that most of the folks that went to Fort Irwin had a good time. I know that the regiment put a lot of hard work in showing us a great time. Thanks to all the great Troopers of the 11th ACR for showing us what great soldiers we have in the CAV and our Army.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that helped in any way in making this reunion a great success. Without your support and understanding we wouldn't

I would like to remind you that it is never too early to send in your registration for next year's reunion in Indianapolis Indiana.

have had such a great reunion. Barb and I would like to personally thank Sherri Church and Cookie Avila for all the time and help they gave at the registration desk. With them being there it gave Barb and I time to get something to eat and it also gave us some time to visit with some of you. A big thumbs up to all the board members and committees for all they do year-round to make our reunions so successful and fun every year.

I would like to remind you that it is never too early to send in your registration for next year's reunion in Indianapolis Indiana. We are working on designing the name tags and as soon as we can we will start printing them. Check your future editions of the *Thunder Run* and the Website for the Reunion Registration Form. When filling out your registration form please continue to use those name labels that you get in the mail, it helps

us with the spelling.

Remember, after you send in your registration and if it turns out that you won't be able to make the reunion, let us know before the cut-off date (to be determined) and your money will be refunded. So, as you can see, there really is no reason not to register early. If you live right around the reunion area, you still need to pre-register. We need to get the count in as soon as possible to the hotel and the chef (count for the meals, head count for tables and chairs for each Unit). No walk-in will be allowed at the reunion so if you plan to be there please register before the deadline.

If you registered and don't make it to the reunion, please let me know so I can update the list that we have on the web site. If you have any question about registration please call me at home 608-372-5892 or on my cell phone 608-387-3346 if no answer please leave a message or email me at: gtroop-bob@gmail.com

I hope you all had a safe trip home. Stay healthy and safe until we meet again!

ALLONS

Robert "Bob" Moreno  
G Troop 2/11th ACR (Dec 68-Dec 69)  
11th ACVVC Board of Directors  
Registration Chairman

## 2019 Election Results

The results of the elections held at the Membership Meeting on August 24, 2019 at the Las Vegas reunion are as follows:

Elected for 2 year terms beginning January 1, 2020:

**Frank Church:** Vice President

**Ollie Pickral:** Treasurer

Elected for a 3 year term:

**Mike "Doc" Rafferty:** Director

## 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; Email [11thcav1966@Comcast.net](mailto:11thcav1966@Comcast.net)



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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pat Smothermon Chosen as Woman of the Year 2019!

Pat Smothermon was chosen as the recipient of the 17th Annual 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia "Woman of the Year" for her exceptional service to the 11th ACVVC and The Blackhorse Women's Group.

The award was presented at the Blackhorse Women's Group meeting at the reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"Congratulations" to Pat!

# The 2019 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason

Thanks to all who participated in the Silent Auction and a special thanks to all those who donated items. The auction is totally dependent on your support and those who participated came through once again. A total of 237 items were donated this year generating \$9,353 in gross receipts for the Scholarship Fund. This amount is equivalent to 3.1 scholarships at \$3,000 each. Many of the items had a military or 11th Cavalry theme, which are

always popular. We also had a number of hand crafted items and to those who made these items a very special thanks as some of them were ones that had the highest bids. We hope you will continue to make and donate these items.

A special thanks to Joe and Yolanda Gehring, Paul and Teresa Gissable, Ron and Janet Krueger, Joanne Mason, Sara Evans, Terry and Tom Morrison, Russell Nelson, Art Ehrenberg and for help in collecting, organizing, tagging items, setting

up and monitoring the Silent Auction. Thanks to Bob Moreno and his staff for receiving items in our absence. Thanks to Jerry Beamon for assistance at the end of the auction in processing credit card payments. All of these folks helped make the auction a success.

The following is the list of donors for our Silent Auction, many who donated more than one item. Start thinking of items that may be donated for next year's reunion!

## Silent Auction Donors

Anonymous (17 items)	Eileen Feia (9 items)	Tom Koch (1 item)	Joe Rooney (6 items)
Rick Alford (2 items)	Richard Florio (2 items)	Ron Kruger (21 items)	Jim Scahill (3 items)
Dale & Marguerite Austin (1 item)	Richard Forehan (1 item)	Craig Luke (1 item)	Fred Sheetz (2 items)
David & Cookie Avila (3 items)	Dennis Freeman (1 item)	Robert & Peggy Malewski (1 item)	Steve Sinclair (1 item)
Ervin Bryne (4 items)	Teresa & Paul Gissible (2 items)	Robin McCarthy (1 item)	Anna Smith (1 item)
Tim & Rose Burke (2 items)	Pam Gonder (1 item)	Stephen McEvoy (1 item)	Cathy Stewart (2 items)
Timothy Burke (1 item)	James & Kristen Graham (1 item)	Wayne & Janea Mollhuff (1 item)	Dr. Ned Stoll (1 item)
Young Cho (2 items)	Rex Harold (5 items)	Richard Moore (2 items)	Tom & Donna Stone (2 items)
Frank Church (15 items)	Robert Hepler (1 item)	Barb & Bob Moreno (1 item)	Solfko Terlecky (1 item)
Tony Cook (1 item)	Deb Herndon (15 items)	Robert Moreno (1 item)	Georgia & Mike Thienes (1 item)
William Cook (8 items)	Carol Hess (1 item)	Tom & Terri Morrison (6 items)	Cpt. Mike Thompson (3 items)
Dennis Creal (4 items)	Stephen Hofflander (1 item)	Jack Morrison (5 items)	Mark Van Atta (6 items)
Leo Deege (5 items)	Kendall L Hunter (1 item)	Gerry Oden (1 item)	Dennis & Pat Weachter (7 items)
Ralph Demasi (1 item)	Rondo Jackson (5 items)	William Pion (3 items)	Tom Welch (1 item)
James Dickey (1 item)	Dorothy Jahnke (1 item)	Cherry Platt (2 items)	Harry Williams (2 items)
Sharon Dimberg (2 items)	Dennis Jancart (2 items)	Danny Powers (1 item)	Jerry Williamson (3 items)
Bill England (2 items)	Maryan Jenkins (2 items)	Mike Rafferty (1 item)	Eddie Wood (1 item)
Stanley England (2 items)	Bill Karabinos (1 item)	Patty Rambo (1 item)	Vanessa Young (1 item)
Sara Evans (1 item)	George King (1 item)	Curt Rich (15 items)	

## A Soldier's Story

Written by Stephen H. Bligh when he served as a Medic in Vietnam 1970

It's night now, but morning has to come.

It's so dark out, you would never know there was a world around.

Black is all you see.

There is this feeling, your mind wanders and you start getting scared.

Here you sit in your little hole, cold and damp from the rain.

You have another two hours before your guard is over and then you can get a little sleep.

But it's so dark out, could it be there isn't anything left.

It was a rough day and you lost many a friend.

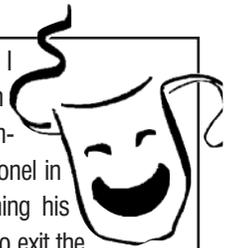
But you're still here to keep the battle going and protect your other friends.

Oh, if it would only get light, so I would know how it happened.

That I lost my best friend.

At one of our reunions, I was in the Men's Room and noticed a very spit-polish Marine Corps Colonel in full dress uniform washing his hands. As I was about to exit the Colonel stopped to ask me about the large number of vets in the building; I explained it was a reunion of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. The Colonel then mentioned "I noticed you did not wash your hands. In the Marine Corps Officers are taught to wash their hands after using the latrine." To which I responded, "In the Army the NCO's are smart enough not to pee on their fingers."

(Anonymous Blackhorse Trooper)

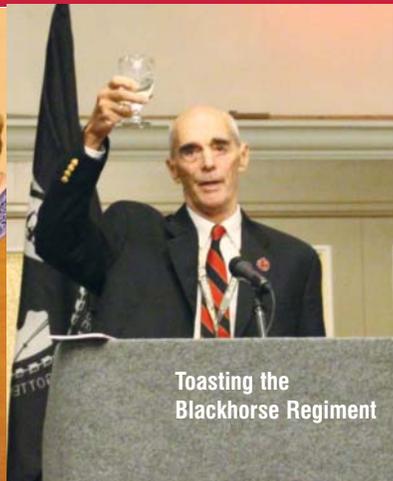




Mike "Doc" Rafferty,  
Scholarship Xhairman



Woman of the Year Pat  
Smothermon with Carrie Holton  
and Sheryl Myer



Toasting the  
Blackhorse Regiment



Color Guard Presenting the Colors



Guest Speaker COL Brian Cook  
(Blackhorse 4)



COL Scott Woodward, 68th Colonel of  
the Blackhors



11th ACVVC Trooper of the Year,  
Chaplain Bill Karabinos



Beauty & the Blackhorse



Terry Stivers (Robin McCurthy) &  
Mike Cricco, 68 Reunions



Blackhorse Women's Group  
Meeting

# Wildhorse Golf Club hosts the Blackhorse Friday of reunion week

For the second time in five years, the Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament was held at the Wildhorse Golf Club in Henderson, Nevada. The event was held on Friday of reunion week.

Forty three participants from all corners of our country took leave of our Vegas reunion to play at one of the premier golf courses in the valley. More than a few players mentioned the conditions. It was Vietnam hot with the temperature reaching 108 degrees. Not the first time our brothers 'weathered' the heat of the day.

Host golf professionals Sarah McGuire and assistant Robert Zoucha made the Wildhorse experience top notch and a memorable one. After the day's competition, all present were treated to a barbeque luncheon and, importantly, air conditioned coach rides back to our reunion hotel.

Family members of troopers showed off their skill sets making all of us proud. Overall champion, Matthew Drey, son of Randy Drey, posted an outstanding gross (actual) score of 71. Ricky Howerton, son of B-trooper J.B. Howerton, posted a second low of 76 and crushed a drive of 317 yard drive to win the long drive contest. Sook Stoll won the ladies division handily while she also figured as a winner along with Barbara Suhre and Melanie

Shumann in on course skill contests. The competitions were extremely close. Congratulations to every participant.

All competitors and a few guests enjoyed round trip coach transportation, a fine meal, a few adult beverages and great hospitality due to the generous support provided by Ed Buening, Pete Walter, Ken Miller, Harold Mann, Ron Krueger, John Sorich, Vince Simmers and Paul Graney. Great gratitude needs to be extended to this bunch for continuing to support our event. Annually, they contribute in order to see us succeed.

Lastly, we cannot forget to mention Marty Ognibene. Our memorial tournament started by Pete Walter in 1992 honors one of the founders of the 11th ACVVC. Marty began his RVN tour with 1/69th armor in 1968. He then joined A-troop along with the Sheridan tanks in 1969. Marty had so much 'fun' he transferred to the ARPs in 1970 as a helicopter gunner and crew chief. Marty indeed was a bonafide combat veteran. As a civilian, Marty loved his family, loved the 11th ACVVC and loved his golf.

Marty passed in 1991 due to Agent Orange related cancer. Marty, we miss you and look forward to watching you beat all of your buddies on the greens at Fiddler's.

*(The Editor of Thunder Run sends his sincere thanks to Jaci & Joe Coopet for running the outing!)*

## Heroes of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

By Allen Hathaway



In July 2019 a new book was published that honors many of the Blackhorse troopers who served in Vietnam. The book "Heroes of the 11th Armored Cavalry

### Regiment During the Vietnam War".

Hailed as the most complete compendium of the awards to heroes of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the "Blackhorse Regiment" in the Vietnam War, this book includes the names and citations for the 3 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 1 Distinguished Service Medal, 463 Silver Stars, 11 Legions of Merit, 269 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 89 Soldier's Medals awarded to members of the Regiment in the Vietnam War. It includes a history of the Regiment and concludes with Appendixes that analyze awards by criteria such as Rank, MOS, Troop/Squadron, Month/Year, and Hometown. It also includes a listing of the 730 Blackhorse Troopers who died or were killed in action in Vietnam.

This book is a result of several years of research at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, and other sources. It is estimated that the book contains at least 95 percent of the nations highest awards earned by Blackhorse troopers in Vietnam.

There were countless acts of valor and heroism by Blackhorse troopers that occurred every day in Vietnam. There are another 3,000 citations for Bronze Star Medals for Valor and Army Commendation Medals for Valor that are available, equal to another 4 books of this size. This particular book contains the citations for those troopers who earned the nations highest awards for valor.

This is a book that every Blackhorse trooper should have. The detailed accounts of valor are a reflection of the personal bravery and courage of these and all Blackhorse troopers and of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Paperback: 506 pages, Dimensions: 8.5 x 11 x 1.1 inches, Author: C. Douglas Sterner, Price: \$20.00

### 2019 11 ACVVC Raffle Winners

- 1st Place Winner - \$500 .....Robert Bigley
- 2nd Place Winner - \$400.....Ronald Glynn
- 3rd Place Winner - \$300 .....Floyd Clark
- 4th Place Winner - \$200 .....Dennis Weachter
- 5th through 15th Place Winners - \$100 each:

Linda Aguilar - John Beas - John Justice Catherine Kovatch - Joseph Miller - Johnny Riley Prudencio Corderio - Ronald Sieja Benando Urrea – Robert Wiskur - James Traner (donated winnings to Scholarship)



## Admission Price Paid

Over 300 years ago the rock of Gibraltar was ceded to the British who built a fortress that controls the passage from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic. That fortress is carved into a great mountain of stone and scratched into the granite at one of the sentry posts are the words: *"God and the Soldier all men adore; in time of trouble, then no more."*

With delightful memories and happy thoughts about our reunion in Las Vegas, especially the inspiring visit to Fort Irwin, I anticipate the next gathering of Blackhorse troopers this Veterans Day at the Vietnam Memorial at the National Mall.

Veterans Day doesn't just bring together Blackhorse troopers, but veterans of every branch of service, together with their families, friends and appreciative Americans. The gathering in Washington includes a few treasured and revered veterans of World War II, stalwart and aging survivors of Korea, our own Vietnam brothers, as well as the superb young men and women who spat dust, sand and grit in Operation Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and still now continue to fight Islamic Terrorism in the Middle East, parts of Africa and places we don't even know about. It is a time when we also salute the veterans who stood their ground so alertly and laughed at the overwhelming odds at Fulda Gap in an extended Cold War. We stand tall and salute as does the nation, all the veterans who have served with honor and indeed, with unselfish valor.

Thankfully, most of the citizens of this providential Republic have not been so fickle as to forget the soldier who paid the price for their freedom. From the beginning we have cared for our warriors and kept our faith in Providence. Washington, Adams, Hamilton, Madison and most of our Founding Fathers echoed their Faith in God and thanked Him for His Providence.

For over twenty generations of this nation's existence, native and naturalized Americans, suckled on the healthy milk of patriotism heavily laced with a genetic faith in God, have seldom intentionally slighted God nor our soldiers. They knew, and still know that we only enjoy our freedom to explore and savor this beautiful and prosperous land deeded us by Divine Providence because it has been protected by brave warriors who have paid our admission price.

Yes, at times we lapsed (some of us did), in our respect for the defenders and even neglected to acknowledge our Eternal Father. When we did so, it was because we got caught up in ourselves, our comfort, our myopic personal preferences and our self-inflated righteousness, and only then did the second stanza of that poem etched in the granite of Gibraltar echo harshly: *"And when war is over and all things righted, God is neglected and old soldiers slighted."*

When we returned from Southeast Asia, we found a nation wallowing in a post-Vietnam despondency until the Vietnam Memorial was dedicated and many began to understand the excruciating sufferings the warriors of that era endured. The Gulf

---

**Chatting with many of our 21st century warriors, I left each cadre thinking, that they must believe that the Vietnam Troopers walked on water. They consider us old veterans as if we were mystical spirits who had driven through rice paddies and not got our tracks muddy.**

---

War parades and National Mall exhibits reinforced our national pride and old soldiers were once again cheerfully recognized and even tearfully acknowledged. It was then a decade delayed: *"Welcome Home Brother."*

But as often happens, arms grow tired of waving Old Glory and appreciation waned until the twin towers were attacked and Americans once again turned to God and the soldier. Flags unfurled on porches and car windows; Old Glory crowned the tops of new bridges and overpasses, prayers for our Armed Forces sang prominently at religious observances. Patriotism soared again and monuments were added on the National Mall and adjacent to Arlington Cemetery to honor our fighting men. And America was well again.

Yet, once again hate fills the airways and the print media. War becomes weary in Afghanistan and we become divided and tend to forget God and the Soldier. The country is still in turmoil, we have taken sides as if another civil war approaches, and it is good that we still have a Veterans Day to unite us. Our peace time struggles these last few years are as difficult and terror-filled as the many war years we might remember.

On this Veterans Day, Americans ought to fall on their knees in thanksgiving and stand to praise those who bore the burden and paid the price of our Freedom. We need to again renew our faith in the pillars of our freedom: God and the Soldier.

Talking about pillars and soldiers, well they aren't just memories or spun stories, they still exist and are ready to serve. I found in the soldiers at Fort Irwin, "Pillars of Granite" in multiples. Encouraged by "Top" Meecham (SFC Charles Meecham) I visited the Day Rooms of four Troops. I was overwhelmed and elated just talking with the young men of our active duty Regiment at Fort Irwin.

Chatting with many of our 21st century warriors, I left each cadre thinking, that they must believe that the Vietnam Troopers walked on water. They consider us old veterans as if we were mystical spirits who had driven through rice paddies and not got our tracks muddy. At the same time, I saw in their faces and heard in their voices: dedication, fidelity, loyalty, willingness to sacrifice – a camaraderie like I hadn't seen before. They are truly an inspiring cadre. President Reagan used to say of our veterans: *"Where did we get such men?"* These young men of the current 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment are still willing to pay our Admission Price.

Are we not ever forever blessed for being a part of the history of **The Legendary Blackhorse Regiment?**

# The Wall of Faces

By Allen Hathaway

For the past 10 years, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) has been collecting photographs of each of the over 58,000 men and women whose names are engraved on the Wall in Washington, DC.

The project, called "The Wall of Faces", now has photos of over 57,000 of those listed on the Wall. As of May 2019, fewer than 1,000 photos are now needed to complete this project. Countless number of volunteers throughout the country have helped in this project to collect photos.

We all know the old saying "a picture is worth a thousand words." In this case, a photo brings a whole new dimension to the name. They are not just a name on the wall but now the photos bring us closer to those who sacrificed everything.

Among those listed on the Wall are 730 Blackhorse troopers. We now have collected photos of 726 of those troopers. Photos of only four troopers remain to be located.

We need your help locating photos of these four troopers. Below are the names of these Blackhorse troopers along with information that may help to recognize them. Some of you may have served with these individuals or know someone from your hometown or local community who knew them. We're asking that you please make an effort to locate any photo you might have for these troopers. We only have four more photos in order complete the 730 fellow troopers.

Photographs can be hardcopy or digital form (scanned). Hardcopy photos will be scanned and returned to the submitter. Please mail or e-mail scanned photos to:

Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Drive, Manassas, VA 20112  
or 11thcav1966.comcast.net

.....  
**JENKINS, ISADORE (SP4)**, E Troop, 2/11 ACR. Home of record: New York, New York. Date of birth: September 2, 1952. Started tour: October 8, 1971. Casualty date: December 11, 1971 in Tay Ninh Province. MOS: 11D20. Father: Erbert E. Jenkins.

**JOURDAN-FONT, JORGE LUIS (SP4)**, HHT, 11th ACR. Home of record: Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. Date of birth: April 10, 1949. Started tour: October 25, 1970. Date of casualty: November 27, 1970 in Bien Hoa. MOS: 94B20. Father: Jose A. Jourdan-Font.

**PRESTON, JOHNNY CALVIN (SGT)**, E Troop, 2/11 ACR. Home of record: Fort Valley, Georgia. Date of birth: December 28, 1939. Started tour: August 20, 1966. Date of casualty: May 24, 1967 in Quang Ngai Province. MOS: 11D50. Wife: Elizabeth Preston, two daughters.

**VINCENT, IVAN LORENZA JR (PFC)**, G Troop, 2/11 ACR. Home of record: Detroit, Michigan. Date of birth: October 6, 1946. Started tour: January 19, 1968. Date of casualty: August 24, 1968 in Binh Long Province. MOS: 11D20. Wife: Karen A. Vincent, one son.

# IT DID NOT MATTER

The Memorial Service at our annual reunions honor not only our fallen in Vietnam, but likewise those who have died since. Specifically; we acknowledge those who have passed since our last gathering.

After reading the names of our honored dead there are moments when we may offer some insight, fulfill a pledge, say a prayer or remember a particular friend or comrade-in-arms. In recent years, because of the increasingly longer list of names read, those moments have been shortened. But they are still there, and our tradition permits anyone of our troopers, our family, to offer a remembrance.

It was particularly moving in Las Vegas, when the daughter of Brad Endres (G Troop, 69/70), Sara Evans, came forward to salute not only our fallen but also those of us still surviving. Sara Evans started coming to our reunions with her father in 2015 and as she says: "I really appreciate the honor I have in spending time with so many heroes" Sara took the stage at the 34th Annual Memorial Service and told us that we should indeed honor those who died in Vietnam, but it is just as important to honor those who have been lost since. The "proud daughter of a Blackhorse Trooper" [her words], speaking to a room of Vietnam Veterans and their family members read the following poem to express her love and appreciation for all you do and have done.

**It did not matter to many,  
It was not your choice.**

**It did not matter to many,  
You were obeying your country.**

**It did not matter to many,  
The United States Flag meant so much to you  
That you did not run ... from a duty given.**

**It did not matter to many  
who went straight to a hell  
For what that flag means.**

**It did not matter to many  
that so many lives were lost  
For the sake of being honorable.**

**Those many never knew and ... will never know  
The true meaning of Honor, Bravery, Dedication and Hero.**

**No matter what the outcome of  
Those men and women being sent to hell,  
The lives that were lost then**

**The lives that have been lost since;  
Those men and women were, and are,  
the true meaning of these words.**

**For going when there was so much opposition,  
For coming home to a "much less" than Hero's Welcome.**

**I am proud to honor - Loud and Proud  
Those we lost then and  
all those we have lost since.**

Sara Evans, 24 August 2019

# Belated Award of the Bronze Star to Sp4 George Miller

George Eric Miller's selfless act of heroism in the area of Loc Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam, in March 1970 would have been forgotten if it weren't for several of his Blackhorse Troopers recalling what George Eric Miller's actions were back then and finding out that the Department of The Army (DOA) had failed to award him for his act of heroism.

Over the past ten years efforts on Miller's behalf have been unsuccessful. However, at the last reunion in Grand Rapids, "L Troopers" Luther Gee and Ron Worley along with several other L Troopers met again, determined to right this wrong. They discovered that over such a long period of time the forms that were originally submitted were no longer valid and that new forms would be required by the DOA. Starting from scratch, the band of brothers reconstructed all the requisite documents, along with the required 1970 chain of command signatures. With assistance from the DOA Awards and Decoration Branch and Senator Todd Young's military liaison officer, the packet was resubmitted in September 2018 to the DOA. Last month, Miller received a phone call from his Senator's office informing him that the Bronze Star Award for Valor was approved and that Senator Todd Young wished to formally present Miller with the award. That ceremony took place on June 7th, 2019

*(Editor's note: Thanks to Robert "Gary" Myers, [1Lt, Platoon Leader; 1st Platoon, L Troop] and Kristy Miller, daughter of George Mille for this article and the accompanying photos.)*

## Sergeant George Eric Miller's Bronze Star for Valor Narrative

On 2 March 1970, L Troop, 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was OPCON to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (AM) in the area west of Loc Ninh, Republic of Vietnam (RVN). L Troop was to conduct reconnaissance operations in the rubber plantation and the jungle area west of Loc Ninh, RVN. Specialist George E. Miller was a track commander in L Troop's 3rd platoon and he was tasked to spend the day on 2 March 1970 establishing a night defensive position (NDP) for L Troop. When the 3rd platoon entered the area to establish L Troop's NDP Specialist Miller discovered sandal tracks on the dirt road near the troops area where it was to set up the NDP. Specialist Miller reported his findings of the sandal marks on the dirt road to his platoon leader who decided to take a small team to investigate the sandal trails leading into the forest and rubber tree area approximately 500 meters west from the troops newly established NDP where Specialist Miller and his track L36 were located. The platoon leader and his small reconnaissance patrol were on line when the NVA began heavy fire on them using small arms fire and RPGs on the small patrol. Several L Troop ACAVs began returning fire at the well secured and fortified NVA enemy (estimated to be of NVA company strength) but the platoon leader quickly realized that his small team was outnumbered. The enemy had used the drainage ditches which ran along hills and between the rows of rubber trees. The enemy had spanned the small ravines with logs covered with foliage to create well concealed and adequately fortified fighting positions as well as scattering "Spider Holes" throughout the enemy's well set-up defensive position to defend their fortified fighting positions. The platoon leader quickly recognized his small team was outnumbered and radioed Specialist Miller to leave L Troop's NDP and come to his aid. Specialist Miller quickly mounted his track crew up and rapidly moved his track to rescue the lieutenant and his small fighting team. Upon entering the fire fight Specialist Miller received small arms and RPG rounds on himself and his track. The lieutenant radioed Specialist Miller to engage in the fire fight and move his track forward to the enemy's bunker position and neutralize it. Specialist Miller while receiving heavy enemy fire moved his track to the right flank of the lieutenant's track and began firing on the enemy using his main gun and 50 caliber machine gun. While driving the enemy out of its bunker using well established fire and maneuver tactics Specialist Miller drove his track over the log covered top of the bunker driving the enemy to flee as well as collapsing the bunker's log covered top. After rescuing the lieutenant and his small patrol and causing the enemy to either have been killed, captured, or fled, they discovered 6 to 8 enemy bodies under the bunker's collapsed cover Specialist Miller's track caused during his attacking the bunker.



LEFT: Spc George Miller, 1970, L Trp, 3/11 ACR



RIGHT: Daughter Kristy Miller, Martha Miller (wife of 49 years), George Eric Miller, Indiana Senator Todd Young



# From the 68th Colonel of the Regiment

**COL Scott Woodward**

Greetings to the Best Damn Regiment! CSM Walker and I, on behalf of all the Troopers of the Regiment would like to extend our appreciation for the time you spent with us this summer. Your trip to Ft Irwin is still being talked about by the Troopers who had the honor of enjoying your company. One of the greatest aspects of YOUR Regiment is that we still get a chance to connect veterans like you with the current generation of Blackhorse Trooper.

Remembering our history and staying connected to those who served before us is special to military units. One of the stories I told you of this summer makes that clearly evident. SGT Austin Leo, a sapper with the 58th Combat Engineer Company is a 4th generation Blackhorse Trooper. I don't know of anyone else whose family has served for four generations in the same unit! SGT Leo's great-grandfather served in WWII with the 11th Cavalry Group, his grandfather served in the Regiment in Vietnam as an Air Force Combat Controller, his father served in the Regiment twice (once in Germany with a deployment to Operation Desert Storm and once at Ft Irwin) and now SGT Leo is taking his rightful place as a Blackhorse Trooper where he is proudly serving – and doing a fantastic job.

Just recently, your Horse Detachment, led by 1LT Smith and SFC Tomlinson, won the 2019 U.S. Cavalry Association's National Cavalry Competition for the second year in a row. The Regiment won 21 out of 48 top-3 places, placed first in the Major Howze Mobility Test, defended the General Casimir Pulaski Award, and was named the Outstanding Cavalry Unit of 2019. Additionally, two Troopers were crowned individual National Champions at their respective rider levels - SGT Benito BeasGarcia Level I National Champion and SPC Alexander Moua Level II National Champion. Congratulations to the Troopers and their mounts for their outstanding performance!

It was truly an honor to host you at Fort Irwin and be a part of your reunion in Las Vegas. We can't wait to see you again next year in Indianapolis. As many things change over time and the world becomes a very complex place, one thing remains constant – the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment is the most feared unit in the United States Army and continues to live up to the legacy you have created.

Find the Bastards and Pile on!

ALLONS

*Scott C. Woodward – 68th COL of the Regiment.*

## The Real Rambo

**SSGT Arthur John Rambo, December 16, 1944 – November 26, 1969**

### Part 1

As this story is being typed, the fifth – and hopefully, thankfully – final episode in the Rambo franchise of five movies over thirty-seven years starring Sylvester Stallone lights up local cinemas nation-wide. The fictional, brooding, monosyllabic Vietnam vet who single-handedly wipes out hundreds of “bad guys” (his words, not mine), runs through mine fields and brings down a helicopter with a rock, has aged well apparently. Not many 73 year old men would be up to the task.

The movie First Blood (1982) was adapted from Canadian-born American writer David Morrell's 1972 novel of the same name. He named the character “Rambo” after a type of apple cultivated by 17th-century Swedish settler Peter Gunnerson Rambo. While writing the book, Morrell was struggling to name his main character when one day he had an apple as a snack. According to Morrell, “I took a bite of the apple and discovered that it was in fact delicious. ‘What’s it called?’ I asked [my wife]. ‘Rambo,’ she replied ... Instantly, I recognized the sound of force. It also reminded me of the way some people pronounce the name of a French poet I'd been studying, Arthur Rimbaud, whose most famous work is ‘A Season In Hell,’ which I felt was an apt metaphor for the prisoner-of-war experiences that I imagined Rambo suffering.” The first named verse in “A Season In Hell” is titled “Bad Blood.



**Sister Kathleen Rambo , mother Viola Rambo, Arthur John Rambo**

The Rambo franchise of movies has earned over \$727,000,000 with five feature films. The character spawned one animated series, seven video games and numerous children's toys. So while Sylvester Stallone and directors, producers, animators and toy manufacturers made millions, there was a tight-knit family in the small town (<2 sq. miles, 2,737 people) of Libby, Montana that silently suffered at every mention of the Rambo movie series.

There was a real a real Rambo. He was born December 16, 1944 to Viola and Howard Rambo of Libby, MT. Howard was a veteran of World War II and Art, his Mom Viola and older sister Kathleen actually traveled to Yokohama, Japan to visit their father in 1946, traveling through a typhoon on a converted Liberty ship to get there. Art was 3 ½ when the family returned to the ranch five miles from Libby, MT. Libby, a town built around the lumber and mining industry, lost three sons including Art in the Vietnam War.



**SSGT Arthur J. Rambo**

Art's “big sister” (16 months older) Kathleen recalls fond memories of their childhood together – playing in a Koi pond at the EM Club in Yokohama, playing with matches behind the barn at the ranch, typical kid stuff.

PLeas turn to RAMBO on page 26

# 2020 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal

Pete Walter, 11th ACVVC President

The first of our 2020 Scholarship fundraising efforts will be in your mailboxes in November. The 11th ACVVC 2020 Calendar will once again feature 13 new photos submitted by you the members of the legendary Blackhorse Regiment! We thank all who have sent in photos for consideration. The calendar contains significant historical events of your regiment in Vietnam with the photographs documenting many of our daily activities. Based on your comments and incredible generosity it appears the 2019 calendar was well received by our members.

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 this 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 any tax-deductible donation that you can make to assist the children and grand-children of 11th ACVVC members begin or continue their post-secondary education. Scholarships can be used for college, trade school, or other post-high school educational training.

Your donations to the 2019 calendar appeal generated over \$78,164 (a new record!) and the total amount of scholarship money awarded is now \$1,715,000!

For the 2020 calendar appeal I have one goal: increase the percentage of members making calendar donations. Historically we have 24% of our members donating to this annual appeal. I continue to be disappointed by this number as ~97% of our members have committed themselves to the 11th ACVVC as Life Members. Yet only 24 out of 100 support the calendar. If anyone now receiving the calendar does not wish to

## 11th ACVVC Calendar



# 2020

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

The 11th U.S. Cavalry was formed on February 2, 1901 at Ft. Myer, Virginia. In December it was assigned to duty in the Philippines where, in 1902, the 1st Squadron would earn the first of the Regiment's many battle streamers, "Samar 1902."

In the Mexican Expedition of 1916-17, the 2nd Squadron engaged Pancho Villa's men on May 5, 1916 at Ojo Azules, Mexico, killing forty-two enemies in the last mounted cavalry charge in U.S. History.

The Blackhorse Regiment would see action in World War II where it earned five more battle streamers, but the Regiment's finest performance would be in the Republic of Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia. Blackhorse Troopers served there for 2,040 days and earned eleven battle streamers.

From December of 2004 to January 22, 2006, the Blackhorse deployed to Iraq earning the Regiment's most recent battle streamer for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 11th Armored Cavalry returned from Iraq in January 2006, and has once again assumed the challenging task of training America's Army in the desert environment of Fort Irwin, California. Although the primary mission is preparing units for deployment to the war in Iraq, our Regiment is simultaneously training intensely to remain the best Regiment in the United States Army! During the recent deployment fighting in "Operation Iraqi Freedom III," the famed Blackhorse Regiment continued to uphold the great legacy established by Troopers who fought the war in Vietnam and Cambodia.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philippine Insurrection Samar 1902</li> <li>Mexican Expedition Mexico 1916-17</li> <li>World War II Normandy Northern France Rhine/land Ardennes-Aisace Central Europe</li> <li>Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase II Counteroffensive Phase III</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tet Counteroffensive Counteroffensive Phase IV Counteroffensive Phase V Counteroffensive Phase VI Tet 1969 Counteroffensive Summer-Fall 1969 Winter-Spring 1970 Sanctuary Counteroffensive Counteroffensive Phase VII</li> <li>Operation Desert Storm Southwest Asia Cease Fire</li> <li>Operation Iraqi Freedom Iraqi Governance 2004-2005</li> </ul>
--	---

Your donations to the 2019 calendar appeal generated over \$78,164 (a new record!) and the total amount of scholarship money awarded is now \$1,715,000!

receive it in the future, please notify me or Allen Hathaway. Printing and mailing costs continue to rise and we can reduce costs by not mailing the calendar to anyone who does not want one. If any member has a suggestion as to how we can increase participation in this project, please contact me or any Officer.

A limited number of extra calendars will be available while they last. Instructions on how to order extra copies are included with your calendar. Watch for your calendar in the mail around Veteran's Day then use the convenient enclosed envelope to return your donation. Every donation helps,

regardless of the amount.

I also ask our members to submit any photographs or slides you have from Vietnam to be considered for publication. Preferred format is a color print, but slides provide the best reproduction quality. Digital images are also accepted at a minimum of 300 dpi. Clear photos of interesting activities and/or group photos are the most suitable for quality reproduction. As always, "Thank you!" to those who have submitted photos in the past...keep them coming!

We thank you in advance for your generous support!

## Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

1st Quarter .....Jan 1  
 2nd Quarter .....Apr 1  
 3rd Quarter .....Jul 1  
 4th Quarter .....Oct 1

All submissions for publication must be sent to: Peter L. Walter, 8 Tallowood Drive, Westampton, NJ 08060-3721; email [basepiece70@verizon.net](mailto:basepiece70@verizon.net).

# There is Value in Attending a BVA Hearing!

Chuck Bosko, F Troop 69-70

Truth be shared, I was contemplating another topic for this edition of Thunder Run until I arrived at work recently. On my desk were two recent BVA decisions granting service connection for hearing loss, tinnitus, diabetes mellitus and hypertension. The importance of participating in a Board of Veterans Appeals Hearing is paramount.

The first decision (hearing loss and tinnitus) was for a Viet Nam vet, 11B with 173rd Airborne Brigade, awarded the CIB and Purple Heart. The vet first submitted a claim for hearing loss and tinnitus in 1992 which was denied because he did not attend a scheduled examination. He reopened a claim in 2012 and was denied again because the examiner opined the hearing loss and tinnitus were age related. The vet appealed this rating. When I was requested by the VA to prepare a brief (VA Form 646), my attention was drawn to the vet's military records which included his CIB and more importantly, orders for the Purple Heart indicating wounds from a grenade explosion that literally threw him from his position during a fire fight. The veteran was medevac'd to an evac hospital then stateside for all his wounds and received a medical discharge. Our vet served six months in country.

My contention within the brief focused on not only the severity of his wounds but also the obvious concussion of the grenade and raised the question as to why the examiner did not consider same within the opin-

ion. During a conversation with the veteran, he stated a reluctance to attend a BVA hearing because his appeal had taken so long. As I explained our approach during a hearing, he did become encouraged to reconsider and attend. On the day of the hearing, it was suggested for the vet to simply describe the combat incident wherein he received his wounds. Then a question for the vet- "To your best recollection and for the board's clarification, while you were in the evac hospital when did you begin to notice a difficulty hearing other individuals and a sound or ringing in your ears?" The vet simply stated immediately after the explosion and for several weeks after. The presiding Veteran Law Judge asked a few questions then closed the hearing. Within the judge's decision- the closing opinion is- *"...the combat presumption of section 1154(b) applies not only to prove that the veteran was exposed to acoustic trauma in the Republic of Viet Nam, but also that he incurred hearing loss during such service"*

I'll let the readers know of the rating decision.

Second decision (diabetes mellitus and hypertension) for a Nam era vet serving in Thailand. The vet was diagnosed with DM II in 1995 and submitted a claim for same in 2007. However, due to the veteran's inability to adequately verify his duties along the perimeter of the Royal Thai Air Force base in Ubon, the claim was denied. Also, the veteran included a claim for high blood pressure, but because the vet was not diagnosed nor

treated for same, that too was denied. During 2012, the vet again submitted a claim for both, was denied again but appealed those decisions. A review of the vet's medical records revealed numerous annotations of high blood pressure readings. Further during the review in the vet's military records, it was noted that the vet was an aircraft mechanic and worked directly on the tarmac. When the veteran arrived for the hearing, he explained his additional duties included spraying a "foam" on the runway all the way to the perimeter for aircraft arriving with a malfunction. This included cleaning and removing this foam after the emergency landing. During the hearing, the veteran described these duties and together we provided the information regarding the vet's numerous high-pressure readings during his twenty years of service in the air Force. Consequently, the veteran law judge rendered a grant for service connection of DM II and remanded to the Chicago regional office for a review of the vet's in-service records regarding the elevated BP readings.

Okay Black Horse readers, I realize the above is rather wordy. The point though remains that attending a Board of Veterans Appeals hearing is important. This is the opportunity for a veteran to clarify certain facts and provide testimony for a service-connected rating. Granted, success is not a guaranteed outcome. Yet not attending is more prone to a decision for denial.

"Allons" and "Welcome home!"

Chuck Bosko

---

## BREAKFAST from page 1

We had Rev Michael "Mike" Hackbarth (H Co 2/11th 69-70) lead us in prayer before the meal of scrambled eggs, ham, hash browns, toast and coffee plus tip for \$10.00. After the meal we discussed the VA and all the benefits and services they have to offer. James Quattromani from the Dane County Veterans Service will be attending our next breakfast (to answer all the questions you all have) which is scheduled for the 10th of Oct.

Trooper Will Strycker (HHT Regt 70-71) gave a speech about the iconic 1972 picture of Napalm Girl, the picture of her running down the road with her clothes burned off, the story can be found at: [http://madison.com/news/local/article\\_554c1dc6-7fa5-56c2-b270-849c19ec774e.html](http://madison.com/news/local/article_554c1dc6-7fa5-56c2-b270-849c19ec774e.html)

She had been in Madison and gave a lecture at the UW Campus which Will Strycker attended.

Jim Van Matre (HHT Regt 68-69) had brought a current map of Vietnam with lots of stories. Everyone pointed out where they were on the map.

Bruce Canny and Henry Simon (How 1/11th 68-69) who had not seen each other in over 50 years since Vietnam were reunited in brotherhood. "Welcome Home.!"

With all the feedback that Lee is getting from the Troopers in Wisconsin I think that he will have great success with his Wisconsin Blackhorse get together. I would like to thank Lee Nelson on a great job in organizing the breakfast. I look forward to attending all the meetings.

Submitted by

Robert "Bob" Moreno  
G Trp 68-69



# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman



Mike 'Doc' Rafferty

## Our 2019 Scholarship Winners

Since the inception of the 11th ACVVC scholarship program in 1996, our organization has awarded 536 college scholarships totaling \$1,715,000! This total includes the 50 scholarships totaling \$152,000 we were able to award this year! Our 2019 scholarship winners submitted outstanding applications and are well-deserving of their awards. Our scholarship recipient's names are listed below. You can view most of the recipient's photos and their feelings about receiving a scholarship on our website (11thcavnam.com). Unfortunately, because of the large number of scholarship winners, we are not able to publish their photos and notes of appreciation in our newsletter.

This year 48 of our scholarship winners were grandchildren of our members. In fact, I received a total of 148 applications of which 146 were from grandchildren and only two were from children of our members. 91 applications were from females and 57 were from male applicants. Most of the applicants fell into the 18-20-year-old age range.

Each year one applicant is selected to receive the **Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship Award**. This year's winner is Madison England, granddaughter of Billy Joe

England, HHT Regt., 70-71. She was selected for this award by Bonnie Schmidt, Colonel Schmidt's widow. Congratulations Madison on this well-deserved honor!

As we have done for the past few years, each scholarship is dedicated 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. Next of kin were notified their loved one was being honored whenever possible. We received several thank you notes from next of kin who were very appreciative their loved one was honored and remembered in this manner. **To date, 323 of our brothers who died in Vietnam and Cambodia have been honored!**

The fact we have been able to help so many children and grandchildren of our members attain their educational goals over the past twenty-three years 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.

Thank you so much for your outstanding generosity!

Scholarship Recipients	Sponsors	Unit	KIA Dedication
Arzie, Madelyn	Daniel Rubin	K Trp	Wallace James Malone
Aguirre, Nicholas	Phillip Lau	How/1/11	Peter Garland Thompson
Arce, Ariana	Carlos Arce	HHT 2/11	Daniel H. Chatfield
Bradley, Erin	John Longhouser	K Trp	Jack Allen Garnes
Bruna, Erika	Terry Kaul	HOW/2/11	James David Green
Bruns, Austin	Daniel Bridgeford	HHT Reg	Clifton Pearce Moak
Eckardt, Ethan	Geoffrey King	919th Eng	Charles Crockett Matthews
England, Madison	Billy England	HHT Reg	COL Charles Schmidt Award
Exley, Abigail	Douglas Hall	HHT 1/11	Bobby Lee Smith
Fleckenstein, Emily	John Stanley	409th	Arthur Emmitt Likens
Florek, Christian	Weldon Hinkle	Air Cav	Dennis Lee Pickard
Gann, Dakota	Gary Gann	K Trp	Richard Charles Bachert
Gatewood, Hayleigh	Henry Gatewood Jr.	919th Eng	Thomas Ray Edwards
Grabow, Matthew	John Wright	37th Med	Raymond Lewis Williams
Hall, Jacqueline	William Barner III	HOW 2/11	Edgar lee Tomlinson
Harrell, McKynleigh	Harry Rich Jr.	HHT 1/11	Charles H. Richards Jr.
Kaminski, Cole	Larry Fraliex	K Trp	Norman Howard Strength
Kitten, Donovan	Jerry VanMatre	HHT Reg	Roosevelt C. Curley
Kopacz, Zachary	Duane Phetteplace	E Trp	Kenneth Eugene Aznoe
Lambdin, Jennifer	Robert Lambdin	Air Cav	Joe Minor Thomas
Landis, Molly	Alan Cox	F Trp	Charles Clifford Harding
Larkins, Jenna	Mark LeVasseur	F Trp	James Charles Daigle
Long, Olivia	Franklin Glass	F Trp	Albert Simon Robalin Jr.
Maiuri, Noah	John Maiuri	D Co	Billy Wayne Disheroon
Marschall, Keeley	Greg Stevenson	C Trp	Lyle Glenn Aston
Mitchell, Charles	Jerry Mitchell	I Trp	Robert Dawson Rother
Morefield, Mackenzie	Carson Morefield	L Trp	Timothy Allen White
Moreno, Daniel	Roberto Moreno	G Trp	William Francis Rigdon

Moreno, David .....	Roberto Moreno .....	G Trp .....	Charles Cecil Case
Morrissey, Audrea .....	Matthew Morrissey .....	HHT 2/11 .....	Thomas Allen Ceres
Overton, Christian .....	Theodore Kujawa .....	G Trp .....	Robert William Jasura
Partridge, Disraeli .....	Daniel Oberst .....	27thEng .....	Wayne Jackson Sanders
Patterson, Luke .....	William Fries Jr. ....	HHT 1/11 .....	John Floyd Cochrane
Potter, McKenna.....	James Potter .....	K Trp .....	Eddie Ray Eatmon
Qualteri, Julia .....	James Qualteri .....	G Trp .....	Harold Lee Greever
Rosendahl, Hailey .....	Myron Rosendahl .....	HHT 3/11 .....	Kenneth Dean Bailey
Russell, Jackson .....	W. Arthur Russell .....	HHT 2/11 .....	Rodney James Yano (MOH)
Sakole, Lucas .....	Michael Sakole .....	HHT Reg .....	John A. Rickels
Shipley, Emma.....	Roger Shipley .....	A Trp .....	Roger William Shipley
Slusarski, Neleigh .....	Robert Slusarski.....	M Co .....	Jack William Messer
Smith, Lauren .....	John Smith.....	HOW 1/11 .....	Alejandro Gracia Jr.
Soost, Autumn.....	Gary Newman .....	HOW 3/11 .....	Roy Eldon Cooper
Straub, Jordan.....	Delbert Straub .....	HHT 2/11 .....	Larry Earl Smith
Vadnais, Victoria .....	Patrick Vadnais.....	2nd Squad .....	Howard Warner Johnson Jr.
Vadnais, Andrew .....	Patrick Vadnais.....	2nd Squad .....	Lawrence Lee Petersen
Van Gorder, Joshua .....	Gary Dann .....	C Trp .....	Sherman Dalton Monk
Walker, Lyndee .....	Ronnie Walker .....	F Trp.....	Charles Chandler
Walker, Marshall .....	Dennis Glunn .....	HOW 1/11 .....	Ronald Jay McCoy
Webb, Hannah.....	Paul Smith .....	C Trp .....	Patrick Michael Loisel
White , Zoey .....	Bobby White.....	H Co .....	Robert M. Press Jr.

## Letters From Grateful Recipients of an 11th ACVVC Scholarship

To all of those who have served our country.....THANK YOU!

Back in 2014 I was selected to be a recipient of the 11th ACVVC Scholarship. If I'm not mistaken, I stated my goal was to graduate in 2016. Thankfully, with hard work, sleepless nights, my parents support and this scholarship I was able to achieve my goal. I graduated May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology-Exercise Science from the University of Houston.

I currently work at one of the nation's top children's hospital, Texas Children's in Houston, TX as an Exercise Physiologist/Specialist. It has been a true blessing to have this opportunity and I have a few people to thank for it:

- Michael "Doc" Rafferty (Scholarship Committee Chairman) for always keeping in touch with me back when I was an applicant and recipient. Thank you for the scholarship and sending me the Thunder Run newsletter. Being in it made my father proud.
  - Robert L. Mingle who was killed in action on 06/18/1969 to which my scholarship was in memory of.
  - My daughter, Elisa, for putting up with me during my time as a fulltime mother and fulltime student. She was young at the time but understood mommy had to stay on task.
  - My parents, Carmen and Tomas Santos-Cruz.....what can I say...my BIGGEST supporters! They have helped me in ways that most kids (dependents) could only dream of. I graduated in my mid 30's so they understood how important it was for me to finish.
- I've always been very proud of my dad. He is one of the most amazing and SELFLESS men I've ever known in my life. I only hope I make him as proud of me as I am of him. All of his sacrifices along with his brothers in arms have been blessings to so many.
- Thank you again for EVERYTHING.

I love each and every one of you for what you have given to us.

*Laura E. Santos*

*38 years old*

*Single mother of one artistic daughter*

*PROUD daughter of Tomas Santos-Cruz, Vietnam Veteran (HHT Regiment, 69-70)*

### 2019 Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Award Recipient



My name is Madison England. I am from a small town, Sharon, Kansas located in the south central part of the state. My parents are Jeff and Tonya England and I have 2 sisters. My oldest sister Emily, is a Radiology Technician at Wesley and my other sister Kendra is working on her dental hygiene degree at Wichita State

University. I attended Medicine Lodge High School. While at MLHS I was involved in various clubs such as The Turner Foundation, AFS, Youth for Christ, and Pep Club. I was a member of STUCO for 4 years and Secretary my Senior year and M-Club for 3 years and President my Senior year. I also served as the Senior Class

Vice-President. I participated in volleyball, basketball, and softball for four years and we made a trip to the state softball two of those years. I was co-valedictorian of my senior class.

Last summer I decided to shadow the Physical Therapist at our local hospital and decided I would like to work towards my Physical Therapy Assistant degree and then possibly towards becoming a Physical Therapist. I really enjoyed the wide range of patients we saw. The kids were probably my favorite patients. It was nice to see we were actually helping people making progress in recovery from accidents and illnesses. I also got to observe sports related injuries and I think this is the area I am really interested in.

I have chosen to attend Labette Community College in Parsons, Kansas. I plan on playing softball for the Cardinals while I am there. With the college classes I have taken in high school I will have one more semester of general education classes and can apply for the program in the Spring. This scholarship will help me pay for my college expenses while at Labette and I am very appreciative to receive such a generous scholarship. I will continue to use this money and work hard to receive my Physical Therapy Assistant degree. Thank you.

*Madison England, Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Award winner; granddaughter of Billy England, HHT Regt.*

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

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

Members donations are used for the sole purpose for which they are intended. Whether it be for Scholarship, Reunion Assistance, Memorial or the General Fund, member donations are used to support that specific fund.

<p><b>General Fund</b></p> <p><b>Gold Level</b></p> <p>Gourm, Dennis Hansen, Bill Higgins, Steven Hughes, Joseph Morris, Richard In Memory of Benny Butts Murdock, Monte Stringer, Stephen Traner, James</p> <p><b>Silver Level</b></p> <p>Prendergast, Mark Cross, Frezell</p>	<p>Lee, Jerry McNally, Brian Sinclair, Steven Walter, Pete</p> <p><b>Bronze Level</b></p> <p>Glaspell, Richard Graham, James Hand, Rocky Hunter, Kendall Rucci, Gerald Smith, Steve Terlecky, Slofko</p> <p><b>Scholarship Fund</b></p> <p><b>Platinum Level</b></p> <p>Brewer, James</p>	<p>Endres, Brad Anonymous</p> <p><b>Gold Level</b></p> <p>Anonymous Cartwright, Wavely Confair, Gregory Kelliher, Paul McFadden, Dennis &amp; Laura In Memory of David Riley Rentmeester, Co Rexinger, Elwyn Russell, W. Arthur Scott, Joe Stobbs, Richard Wolfe, Fredrick</p>	<p>Wheeler, Richard</p> <p><b>Silver Level</b></p> <p>nGehring, Joseph Maria, Lawrence Troxell, William Vassallo, Patrick</p> <p><b>Bronze Level</b></p> <p>Walker, James Cunningham, James Feist, James Heck, Alfred Myers, Gary In Memory of John Aducci Rolfson, Ronald</p>	<p><b>Memorial Fund</b></p> <p><b>Gold Level</b></p> <p>Fowler, David Lopez, Filbert,</p> <p><b>Calendar Fund</b></p> <p><b>Gold Level</b></p> <p>Barber, John Dunn, John Paul, Mack Watson, Donald</p> <p><b>Silver Level</b></p> <p>Burke, Timothy Kirchoff, Thomas</p>	<p>Noetzel, Al Rucci, Gerald</p> <p><b>Bronze Level</b></p> <p>Brewer, Joel Mathias, Terry Mikluscak, Michael Ostrander, Robert Paul, Mack Stines, Harold Stottsberry, Kenneth Trocha, Cynthia Williams, Ernest</p>
---	---	--	--	---	---



## 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>919th ENGINEER COMPANY</b>		<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>		<b>L TROOP, 3/11</b>			
Chaney, Billy G	66-67	Bedolla, Carlos	66-67	Nieto, Leo J	68-69		
Schultz, John H	68-69	Iwaszewski, Forrest S	66-67	<b>HOWITZER BATTERY, 3/11</b>			
<b>HHT, 2/11</b>		<b>G TROOP, 2/11</b>		Lawson, James A	69-70		
Hughes, George A	67-68	Kieffer, Erich	68-69				
Newton, James R	71-72						



## Membership is Our Strength

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





# Fiddler's Green

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names. Over 500 U.S. newspapers are checked daily for the keywords "11th Cavalry" or "11th Armored Cavalry". Information is then posted on our website to allow us to post notices. Please check the "Funeral Honor Guard check daily" at [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com)

**James H. Bailey**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 4, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mauricetown, NJ. He was laid to rest in Haleyville Cemetery, Haleyville, NJ.

**Louis P. Balas**, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 20, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fredericksburg, TX. He was laid to rest in Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens, San Angelo, TX.

**Gene E. Barr**, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 15, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Universal City, TX.

**Kenneth E. Belue**, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on May 7, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Landrum, SC. He was laid to rest in Belue Cemetery, Landrum, SC.

**Cleveland Britton**, K Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 14, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Myrtle Beach, SC.

**Charles A. Bruce**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 5, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tunica, MS. He was laid to rest in West Tennessee Veterans Cemetery, Memphis, TN.

**Glenn M. Clark**, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on July 21, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rogers, AR. He was laid to rest in Flat Creek Cemetery, Greensboro, FL.

**Jack R. Coates**, HHT 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 26, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mosinee, WI. He was laid to rest in Gate Of Heaven Cemetery, Wausau, WI.

**Arthur B. Dennis**, C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 15, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bessemer City, NC. He was laid to rest in Bessemer City Memorial Cemetery, Bessemer City, NC.

**William M. Durham**, M Company, 3/11 (1967-1967) passed away on August 24, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in South Chesterfield, VA.

**Carlos D. Fisher**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 10, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Colorado Springs, CO. He was laid to rest in Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

**Ramon Gonzalez**, B Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on March 5, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kissimmee, FL.

**Jay Halladay, K Troop**, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 5, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hagerstown, MD. He was laid to rest in Rest Haven Cemetery, Hagerstown, MD.

**Dennis L. Holcomb**, M Company, 3/11 (1967-1967) passed away on June 8, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Grand Rapids, MN.

**Billy L. Hunziker**, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 2, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Holiday, FL.

**Daniel F. Jones**, 541st Military Intelligence Detachment, (1968-1969) passed away on September 9, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in South Windsor, CT. He was laid to rest in Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford, CT.

**William J. McDermott**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on August 19, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lake Suzy, FL. He was laid to rest in Sarasota National Cemetery, Sarasota, FL.

**Ronald E. McMurray**, 37th Medical Company (1970-1971) passed away on April 21, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oklahoma City, OK.

**Jerry A. Molstad**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 5, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Arlington, WA. He was laid to rest in Arlington Municipal Cemetery, Arlington, WA.

**Phillip B. Overbee**, C Troop, 1/11 (1968-1970) passed away on October 3, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hazard, KY. He was laid to rest in Brewer Cemetery, Hazard, KY.

**William L. Priebe**, HHT, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on February 19, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New Carlisle, OH.

**David C. Riley**, L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1970) passed away on August 27, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Upper Darby, PA. He was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, PA.

**Danny D. Romeo**, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 9, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Girard, OH. He was laid to rest in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman, OH.

**Jerold C. Shelton**, A Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 20, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Aptos, CA. He was laid to rest in Gridley-Biggs Cemetery, Gridley, CA.

**Robert L. Sneed**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on February 12, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cincinnati, OH. He was laid to rest in Mt Orab Cemetery, Mount Orab, OH.

**Stephen D. Trahey**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on August 1, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Naperville, IL.

**Jerry W. Violet**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1967-1968, Medic) passed away on September 2, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Keadysville, MD. He was laid to rest in Mount Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Locust Grove, MD.

**Danny J. Wilfong**, F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 24, 2017. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Patton, MO. He was laid to rest in Post Oak Cemetery, Patton, MO.

**Hymie Wright**, 919th Engineer Company (1968) passed away on February 12, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC. He was laid to rest in Chattanooga National Cemetery, Chattanooga, TN.



# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 9, 2019** – Veterans Day Parade - The active duty Regiment's Horse Detachment will participate in a Veterans Day Parade (plus a small event afterwards) in Santa Barbara, CA.

**November 11, 2019** – Veteran's Day Wreath Laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C., 5 Henry Bacon Drive NW, Washington, DC 20245. All Blackhorse Troopers, family and friends are invited to participate in the Annual Veterans Day wreath-laying at the Wall.

**When:** 10:00 A.M., Monday, November 11, 2018

**Where:** Near the Three Soldiers Statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.

**Who:** All Blackhorse Troopers from all eras, family and friends

**What:** We gather near the statue of the Three Soldiers, make introductions, say a few words, and then informally carry the wreath to the apex of the Wall. Look for the Blackhorse Patch Wreath that will be there by ~9:45 A.M. Please pass this information on to anyone who might be interested.

**November 11, 2019** – Veteran's Day Breakfast in Plano, Texas at Poor Richard's Café, 2442 K Ave, Plano, TX 75074. The

North Texas Members of the 11thACVVC will be gathering at Poor Richard's Café, Plano Texas for Breakfast and Friendship on November 11, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. The Management will be hosting, along with the Blue Star Mothers, a celebration of Veterans Day. Activities at the Café will include a Unit Flag display, along with recognition of the different branches of service by trumpet. Blue Star Mothers will be "Greeters" and have a display of memorabilia and various pins for donations. Those 11th ACVVC members, and/or family members of the same, are welcome to join the group in celebrating this day of importance to our country.

Should you wish to be part of our group, please contact: Jay Reese, 972-690-4386, by phone, or email: jayree7282@aol.com Any additional information including directions to Poor Richard's Café, Plano, Texas and updates will be provided. "ALLONS!"

December 12, 2019 – Veteran's Home Walk – Ft Irwin to Barstow, CA

## 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.**

# Meet the Officers of the 11th ACVVC

Gregory Russell Mason was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 6, 1945. As his parents could not find housing after WWII in Indianapolis, the family moved to Cleveland, Ohio where his father grew up. Greg attended public schools in the Cleveland area, was active in Boy Scouts, played the trumpet and was a member of his high school marching band. After high school, he attended Heidelberg College from 1964 until 1967 when as a result of not being a very good student, the College thought he needed a break! However, the Selective Service thought they could use his services and he entered the Army on November 7, 1967. Basic training was at Ft. Knox as well as radio school. After 7 weeks of radio school, he was transferred to Ft. Gordon to attend radio teletype school which was completed in early June 1968. Upon arrival in Viet Nam, he was assigned to 3rd Squadron, 11th ACR to work in the TOC running radios in the S-2 Intel section. He completed his tour July 6, 1969 and returned home as he had served enough time for an

“early release” from active duty.

While on leave before heading to Nam, he applied for admission at Baldwin Wallace College (currently the location of the Cleveland Browns training facility). In August he received his acceptance letter for the fall quarter, 1969 where he finished obtaining his BS in Accounting. He also met his future wife the fall of 1969. Joanne was a senior working on a Foods major intending to become a Registered Dietician. They were married December 1970 after Greg finished all his course requirements. Over the years they have lived in: Parma Heights, OH; Raleigh, NC; Southern Pines, NC; Morehead City, NC; Charlotte, NC; Tampa, FL; and now Plant City FL. Greg and Joanne have two children a son and a daughter and three grandchildren.



Left, Greg Mason in 1967. Above, Greg in 2019.

Greg’s career began as an auditor in the Cleveland office of Ernst & Ernst, a large national public accounting firm, now known as EY (for Ernst & Young). As a Certified Public Accountant, over the course of time he spent 16 years with Ernst & Young as an auditor and consultant with most of those years serving not for profit hospitals. He also served as a Hospital Chief Financial officer for hospitals in NC and FL. In 1993 he joined a company that specialized in serving financially troubled hospitals. The company would send a team

Please turn to **OFFICER** on page

## Blackhorse Women’s Group Offers Tote Bags For Sale!



Are you looking for Christmas, Hanukkah, or birthday gifts for family and friends? The Blackhorse Womens’ Group has just the gift for you! Our 2019 fundraising item!

Handy and custom made tote bags. These two colored black and red heavy duty totes are offered for \$10 each, plus postage/shipping as follows: **1-3 bags \$7.00; 4-8 bags \$14.50.**

Remember this is a fundraiser that helps support the group’s Prayer Shawl and Wreaths Across America projects.

Please complete the order form below and mail, with payment to:

**Marguerite Austin, 4189 11th Ave. SE, Willmar, MN 56201**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping address (all bags in an order will be shipped to one address.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Provide your Email address and phone number should we need to contact you about your order.

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bags \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 each = .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping amount as listed below .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Check or money order only, sorry, no credit cards).

For the Bags: 1-3 bags \$7.00 Postage, plus cost of bags at \$10 each. 4-8 bags \$14. 50 postage plus cost of bags at \$10 each. Fill out form above and send with payment in full in check or money order only (sorry, no credit cards) to the address above.

*Thank you for supporting the Blackhorse Women’s Group!*

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

## Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

**Eyes and Ears.** From the July 1970 edition of the Blackhorse newspaper: "We're the eyes of the Regiment" says Captain Michael E. Hawk, one of Air Cav Troop's scout pilots. And sharp eyes at that, for the pilots and observer-gunners of LOH [Light Observation Helicopter, OH-6, pronounced loach] scouts must find and mark the enemy and get out of his way before he has the chance to react. 'I guess it's one of the most hazardous jobs in Vietnam,' adds Warrant Officer James A. Rohrer, who has been flying scout missions longer than any of the present pilots. 'Everybody thinks we're crazy because we go out there day after day getting shot at.' But go out they do – gathering intelligence of enemy activity throughout the Blackhorse area of operations. Their job requires fling at tree-top level, looking for the enemy or recent signs of him. A Cobra gunship flies a couple of thousand feet above the scout LOH. The Cobra pilot records the LOH observer's findings, while keeping an eye on the smaller helicopter should it get fired on. The observer must be particularly alert since the scout helicopter flies so near the ground. 'When you are flying as low as 20 feet, you have to see the enemy before you pass over him,' commented Staff Sergeant Michael D. Gill, who has been a crew chief, observer and gunner for 22 months. 'Once you are by him, you make a very good target.' As soon as he observer marks an enemy position with a smoke grenade, the pilot pulls the LOH out of the area. Most observers have volunteered from other combat jobs. 'They know what it is like out there and they know what to look for,' explained Gill. A good observer can tell how recently a trail has been used and how many enemy used it. 'Once you get out there a couple of times, it starts to come naturally,' Gill said. 'But you've always got to be alert. After every mission we come back with a sore neck from stretching out and looking around.'"

**Scouts Out.** From the August 1970 edition of the Blackhorse newspaper: "To the uninitiated, driving an ACAV [Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle] might be considered just another Army job, but to the drivers themselves, it is more like a religion. Take Private First Class Steve Abney, a driver for Headquarters Troop, 3d Squadron. After driving ACAVs for five months he knows the meaning of the word 'care' when it comes to his mechanical baby. 'You have to make sure that everything is properly lubricated and there is the proper tension on the track,' stated the 20-year-old native of Russellville, Ky. But his job doesn't stop with maintenance. He must know how to avoid mines, search for traces of the enemy, and maneuver his ACAV when contact with the enemy is made. 'I always look for freshly dug holes covered up by water or dirt, but the VC [Viet Cong] are good at camouflaging their mines,' asserted the red-headed trooper. If a breakdown occurs, the men usually try to repair the damage right in the field. 'In Cambodia alone, we tore up three transmissions! Even with the proper maintenance your track can still break down. The terrain is very tough on the equipment.' In contact, the driver must put his track in the best position to dish out the most firepower and still have some protection. As soon as the track is in position, the driver immediately lets loose with M-79 [grenade launcher] fire. If a barrel of a TC's [track commander] .50 [caliber machine gun] needs to be replaced, it is the driver who does it. 'Our TC named this track the 'House of Ill Repute', Abney said. 'I'd hate to be in Charlie's shoes facing the likes of an ACAV. When out on a RIF [reconnaissance in force], the driver tries

not to run over big logs or dead trees that may be booby-trapped. He is always looking for any little sign that will betray the presence of the enemy. Lately the hunting has been bad. 'Charlie seems to be scared to death if a track is around,' he observed. 'Some of the time he'll stay around long enough to unload an RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] and then high tail it out. He's not even doing that now.'"

**Sunday Punch.** From the July 1970 edition of the Blackhorse newspaper: "We're the Sunday punch," says H Company First Sergeant Paul Curran. By 'we' he means the men and M48 medium tanks that make up a tank company. The punch (any day of the week) is delivered by a 90 millimeter main gun, a .50 caliber and an M60 machine gun. Each squadron in the field has a tank company which provides ready reaction support for the reconnaissance troops, escorts logistics convoys, and furnishes the bulk of fire power at the squadron night defensive positions. At 50 tons apiece, the tanks are the heavies of the Regiment – in more ways than one. 'When we go in, there's already a fight in progress,' says H Company commander Captain Harold Fuller. 'When the squadron moves, we're the lead element.' And with good reason, for up front the going is usually toughest. The big tanks can knock down jungle too thick for ACAVs [Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles] and Sheridans. But ramming down trees eight inches in diameter creates special maintenance problems. That's where the M88 VTR [Vehicle Tracked Recovery] comes in. The M88 recovery vehicle is the workhorse of the tank company's maintenance team. Except for another M48, it's the only thing around big enough to drag out a downed tank. At the NDP [Night Defensive Position], a skilled crew can quickly put a disabled vehicle back into operation. All of which makes tank company almost self-sufficient. As Capt. Fuller says, 'With our own maintenance section, we're a complete unit.'"

**Red Devil Mine Sweep.** From the September 1970 edition of the Blackhorse newspaper: "Many think that mine sweeping is dangerous, but it's like getting used to driving a car or bike. After a while you can tell if something is a nail or a piece of wire,' said Platoon Sergeant Delbert Cotton of the 4th Platoon, 919th Engineers, serving with the 2nd Squadron. A normal mine sweep starts out early in the morning when the two sweep teams, one on each side of the road, leave the fire support base. Two point men armed with M-16's [rifles] lead the way. They set the quick pace for the rest of the team. Following at about fifty meters are the mine sweepers, and, right behind them, the probers, who stop each time the sweepers detect a piece of metal in the ground. Fifteen meters behind the probers are the two men providing security. The ACAVs [Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles] follow closely to the rear. The two teams spend most of the morning clearing the road. Most days, all they return with is tired feet, but they do pick up enough mines to keep alert. Most of the mines they find are homemade. According to First Lieutenant Peter K. Rosenkrands, the VC [Viet Cong] make and booby trap their own mines. When the teams are close to a village, they begin to look for VC mine markers put out to warn the civilian population. These markers may be crossed bones, two sticks, or just a pile of rocks pointing to the mine. 'The VC are always watching us to find places to put mines where we don't sweep,' commented Rosenkrands, 'so we can't establish any pattern in the sweeping.'"



# Blackhorse Women's News

By Sheryl Myers, Women's Group Co-coordinator

Traditionally the 4th Quarter Thunder Run is for re-capping the Reunion of that year as well as looking forward to the next year. And I'm going to keep with that tradition!

Our Blackhorse Women's Meeting in Las Vegas was well attended. Thanks to all who came and spent your Saturday morning with us. I hope we met our goal of "informing, as well as entertaining" each one of you. Our meetings are open to everyone in the Blackhorse Family who would like to join us in support of our Troopers and the 11th ACVVC.

A special thanks to our guests, Carrie Holton and Dr. Barry Beavon. Carrie, your message through song, was heartwarming and heartfelt. "Doc" Beavon, you made the job as a MEDIC "real" for us with your candor and humor. Thank You so much.

## Updates on the Blackhorse Women's Group projects:

**Prayer Shawls** - Cherry reported that 31 Shawls were sent out this year. Since the project began in 2011 we have sent out 455 shawls to 11th ACVVC family members whose Trooper has passed. A big thanks to all the ladies who knit, crochet, and support this project.

**Sarah's Angels** - Jan will add 2 additional ladies to our Sarah's Angels Honor Roll. 1) Pat Perez Mitchell. Pat, who passed Sat morning of Reunion Week, was a "forever" volunteer in the

This is a fairly new project for the Women's Group. We are asking you to help us honor each Trooper who was killed in action while serving with the 11th Cav.

Quartermaster Store and the wife of Jerry Mitchell, HOW1/11. 2) Arlene Terry. Arlene's sons served with the 11th Cav and she attended many reunions in support of their service; Arlene also created shawls for our Prayer Shawl project. If you know of a Blackhorse lady who has passed, please contact Jan Beamon @ 903-780-5621 .

**Honoring 11th ACVVC KIA's** - This is a fairly new project for the Women's Group. We are asking you to help us honor each Trooper who was killed in action while serving with the 11th Cav. We realize this will take time. But with your help we would like to give it a try.

On the 11th Cav website (11cavnam.com), look for Fiddlers Green, choose Vietnam and the list of KIA Cemetery List by State will be available. Several ladies at our meeting signed up to help and their state list has been sent to them. Email or call me and we will see that you receive your state list. We ask that you take a picture of the Trooper's headstone and the memorial you placed, and send it to us for our records. We will reimburse you the cost of your memorial if you also send your receipt. Our group

for years has donated to Wreaths Across America to place wreaths in honor of the 21 KIA's buried at Arlington National Cemetery, traditionally done in early December. You can place your memorial whenever you have the opportunity.

**Fund Raising** - A BIG thank you to the ladies who volunteered to work our Fund Raising table at the reunion. Lanyards sold out and 100 of the Blackhorse bags were sold. We have had requests for the bags from families who could not attend the Las Vegas reunion, so in this issue you will find an ORDER FORM with all the information you need, to receive the Bags by mail. If ordering for Christmas gifts, send in the order form with payment, promptly. The order form will be in future Thunder Runs and the Bags will also be available at the Indianapolis Reunion.

The reunion in 2020, will be in Indianapolis, August 26-30th. Mark those calendars now.

We will be looking forward to seeing you there.

*Sheryl, LaJaunda, Marguerite, Renee, Kathy, Cherry, Jan, & Cathi,*

## OFFICER from page 21

of specialist to assess the hospital's needs and develop a plan to get the hospital back on its feet. Most of the hospitals then hired the company to implement the plans with Greg as the project manager. After many years of travel all over the United States, he retired in 2010. These days he works around the home that includes 8 1/2 acres to maintain and is happiest on his zero turn mower, occasionally fishing in Tampa Bay for snook, trout or redfish, watching granddaughters in volley ball tournaments and Tampa Bay Lightning

Hockey.

Greg became a member of the 11th ACVVC in 2007 and attended his first reunion in 2012 in Orlando. At that reunion he began helping with the Silent Auction and in the Quartermaster Store as a way to meet other members. In 2016 he became Secretary and also took over responsibility for running the Silent Auction. Through the organization he has been able to reconnect with three members of S-2 with whom he served. He wishes to continue to serve the organization as long as he is able.

## Military Quotes

"I am concerned for the security of our great Nation; not so much because of any threat from without, but because of the insidious forces working from within."

.....Douglas MacArthur

"Battles are won by slaughter and maneuver. The greater the general, the more he contributes in maneuver, the less he demands in slaughter."

.....Winston S. Churchill

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



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



#2 Key Ring Embroidered \$6.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#8 Mouse Pad \$12.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#9 Cavalry Hat, Black or Brown \$225.00



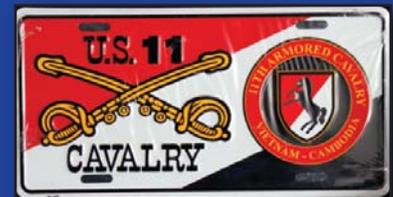
#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$22.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



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



#12 Key Ring (metal) \$8.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#21 Small Magnetic Patch (5"x4 3/4") \$5.00



#22 Overnight Bag \$25.00



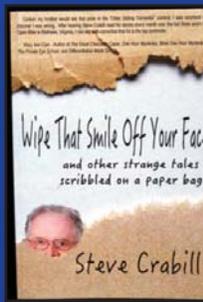
#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00



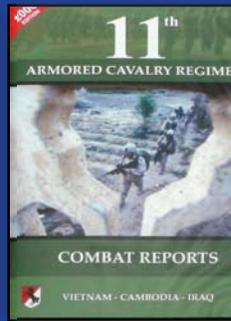
#26 Large Magnetic Patch (8" x 7 3/4") \$7.00



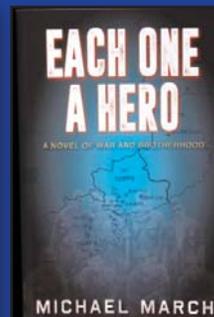
#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



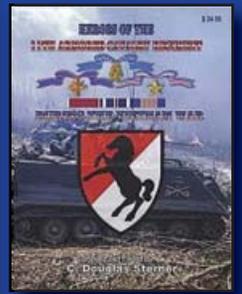
#27 Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" \$16.00



#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



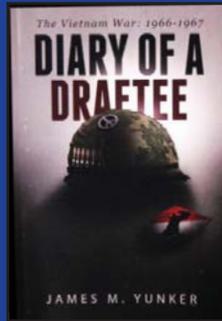
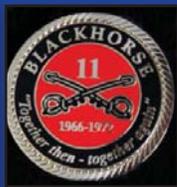
#31 Book, "Each One A Hero" \$20.00



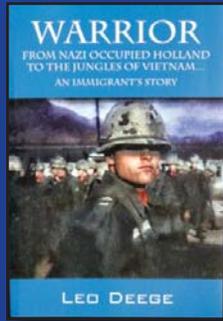
#33 Book: Heroes of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment



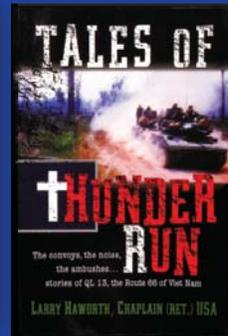
#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#32 Book: Diary of a Draftee \$22.00



#35 Book, "Warrior" \$16.00



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



#30 Car Flag \$25.00



#34a  
#34 Signs \$25.00



#34b



#29 Ladies Necklace \$18.00



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



#40 Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia. Specify color: Red, White or Black \$35.00



#38a



#38b



#38c



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



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



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



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



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



Hello Blackhorse Troopers!

It was good to see so many of you at Reunion this year. If you were unable to attend this year, we hope you are making plans to attend next year's reunion in Indy. We will be looking for you.

As plans are being made for Indy, Jan and I are making plans for another great East Texas Round Up, even though we have to move our meeting place from Tyler State Park to Antique Capital R V Park in Gladewater TX. We even have a nearby hotel who will offer us with reasonable room rates. The date for the Round Up is the first weekend in May, May 2 & 3, 2020.

If you need more information on the Round Up you can call Jan at 903-780-5621. Please leave a message if she is unable to answer. We are hoping to get more of you Troopers in the Dallas area to come and join us.

Again we are so thankful for all the volunteers for helping out at the Reunion. Without them it would be difficult to operate the Store.

And once again, we are asking for your help. Please fill out the bottom of the order form. We are getting to the point where I cannot mail out the items you ask for. We're receiving order forms with no phone number and with incomplete information.

Also please take a closer look at the order form as there are going to be a lot of changes in our items that we will be carrying in the next few issues of Thunder Run. Prices are subject to change as well. Sorry but we have to make some changes in our Quartermaster Store which the BOD are aware of and endorse. Thank you Troopers for your support of the Quartermaster Store - we hope to be able to continue to provide quality items that you might be interested in.

ALLONS

Jerry

## RAMBO from page 13

She felt more like a twin with Art because of the small age difference. When Artie got older he played baseball in town, riding his bike five miles each way. The whole family would attend his weekend games as he played first base for the "Yankees", still the favorite team of his youngest sibling, brother Dan.

In high school Art joined the school choir and was involved in talent shows and plays.

Art graduated high school and enrolled in Carroll College in Helena, MT, 280 miles south-east of Libby. In college he was a member of the "Carrolleers Chorus", a travelling choral group of forty-five men and women that toured six western states, covering 2,500 miles in a week and performing twice daily. Fellow Carrolleer Jack Herman recalls "...to this day, I've never heard a finer first tenor sing like Art. Not only was Art the greatest first tenor of the group, Art was also the best soloist we had the privilege of hearing and singing with. Art was open to all of the Carrolleers during the training and touring. Yes, it was long ago in the late '60's, however Art will always be considered a friend who shall never be forgotten".

It was in the choral group that he met Helen Ryan with whom he starred in the group's performance of Camelot; Art was a natural as Sir Lancelot. Helen remembered Art as "...an outstanding engineering student, a soloist, husband and father, a good friend and admirable man with strong individual with high ideals and principles". After graduating from Carroll in 1966, Helen moved to Anchorage, AK where she taught school while Art entered the University of Notre Dame, completing a degree in Chemical Engineering. In 1967, she and Art were married in Dillon, MT and moved to South Bend, IN where Helen taught in at Alexis Coquillard Public School. The next spring, Art was offered a contract with Texaco, Inc. and they moved to Craig, CO where, two days after arriving, their daughter, Kerry Lynn was born. As a Chemical Engineer with Texaco, Art could have applied for an 2A exemption as "Registrant deferred because of civilian occupation" but never

requested an exemption

In August, Art was drafted into the service and the little family moved to Libby, MT to be near Art's parents. Helen taught at Asa Wood Junior High School until she was able to join Art at Ft Sill, OK in February 1969.

Helen recalls "In September 1968, Art was drafted and upon completion of Basic Training and AIT, he was accepted into the Artillery Combat Leadership course at Ft. Sill, OK. After eleven months in the Army he was promoted to Staff Sergeant, E-6, an accomplishment achieved by only one-tenth of one percent of all Army personnel. Art's superiors attested that he was an exceptionally brilliant man was rated as highly qualified. He shipped out to Vietnam in August, 1969", he arrived "in country" Aug. 19, 1969.

Part 2 - "The Real Rambo In Vietnam" will appear in the 1st quarter issue of Thunder Run.....Pete Walter

## Blackhorse Sculpture at the Wall



On Saturday, September 7, 11th ACVVC Vice President Frank Church visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. While there he photographed the hand-made wooden sculpture shown below. It was placed at the base of panel W20. The inscription reads "If you rode with the Black horse, you can ride any horse". If the person who presented this memorial is reading this article, please contact me.

Pete Walter, 609-261-5629 or [basepiece70@verizon.net](mailto:basepiece70@verizon.net)



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 4th Qtr 2019

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white, ceramic (glass) 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5 " Embroidered square w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	6.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia .....	3.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon .....	3.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Hoodie Sweat Shirt.....	30.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Mouse Pads .....	12.00	_____	_____	_____
9.	Cavalry Hat (Brown in color, rope and pin included in price--round or oval head shape) .....	225.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle .....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia .....	60.00	_____	_____	_____
12.	Key Ring (metal) .....	8.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11 .....	9.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white .....	13.00	_____	_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib .....	30.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib .....	22.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath.....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
21.	Small Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (5"x 4 3/4") .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
22.	Overnight Bag.....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	Leather Gear Bag w/Blackhorse Insignia and pull handle .....	45.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin .....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Large Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (8" x 7 3/4") .....	7.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" by Steve Crabill .....	16.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only) .....	30.00	_____	_____	_____
29.	Ladies Necklace .....	18.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Car Flag .....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Book, "Each One A Hero," by Michael Marsh .....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Book, "Diary of a Draftee," by: James M. Yunker .....	22.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Book, "Heroes of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment" .....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
34.	Signs 'Veteran' <input type="checkbox"/> (34a), 'Deadly Force' <input type="checkbox"/> (34b)..... <b>NEW!</b>	25.00	_____	_____	_____
35.	Book, "Warrior," by Leo Deege .....	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	Sweatshirts w/ BH patch, gray only. Size: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL .....	28.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run," by Chaplain Larry Haworth .....	11.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a, <input type="checkbox"/> 38b, <input type="checkbox"/> 38c, <input type="checkbox"/> 38d .....	17.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Light Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Green .....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Black (A) <input type="checkbox"/> Red (B) <input type="checkbox"/> White (C) .....	35.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Denim shirt (men's) <input type="checkbox"/> Light (A) <input type="checkbox"/> Dark (B) .....	35.00	_____	_____	_____
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back ), and ACVVC front left .....	95.00	_____	_____	_____
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon .....	35.00	_____	_____	_____

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

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

Shipping and Handling \_\_\_\_\_

**Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple Items)**

Total \_\_\_\_\_

- A) \$4.00 — \$7.00 = \$3.00    C) \$24.00 — \$60.00 = \$13.00    Any Gear Bag.
- B) \$7.00 — \$23.00 = \$8.00    D) \$61.00 and over = \$18.00    Shipping \$25.00

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\*Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check if address change

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

**\* Required info to process your order**



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

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 JACKSONVILLE, FL  
 PERMIT NO. 3



**THIS ISSUE**

**DEPARTMENTS**

President’s Message .....3  
 Chaplain’s Corner .....10  
 From the 68th Colonel of the Regiment .....13  
 Scholarship Program Update .....16  
 11th ACVVC Donations .....18  
 Fiddler’s Green .....19  
 Calendar of Upcoming Events .....20  
 Membership Application .....20  
 Blackhorse Hoofbeats .....22  
 Blackhorse Women’s News .....23  
 QM Store .....24  
 From the Quartermaster .....26  
 Welcome Aboard .....26  
 Quartermaster Order Form .....27

**NEWS & NOTES**

State of the Reunion ..... 1  
 Welcome Wisconsin! ..... 1  
 The ACVVC Annual Reunion XXXIV ..... 4  
 Report of the Reunion Registration Chairman ..... 6  
 The 2019 Silent Auction ..... 6  
 Wildhorse Golf Club hosts the Blackhorse  
 Friday of reunion week? ..... 9  
 Heroes of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Book Report).....10  
 The Wall of Faces ..... 11  
 It Did Not Matter ..... 11  
 Belated Award of the Bronze Star to Sp4 George Miller .....12  
 The Real Rambo ..... 13  
 2020 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal ..... 14  
 VSO ‘Stuff’: There is Value in attending a BVA Hearing ..... 15  
 Meet the Officers of the ACVVC ..... 21  
 Blackhorse Sculpture at the Wall ..... 26

**[www.11thCavNam.com](http://www.11thCavNam.com)**



Posted [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com) Obituaries

