

# Shunder Ru



Vol. 28 – NO. 1

"Together Then - Together Again"

1st Ouarter. 2013

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

## Memories, Not All Bad

Gregory R Mason HHT 3/11, 1968-1969

entered the service in November 1967 and was sent to Fort Knox for basic training. After basic training, I was sent to radio school where we were told that if we could copy 5 words a minute of Morse code by the end of the 4th week we would have the "option" of going to radio teletype school at Fort Gordon. In my infinite wisdom, I thought that would mean 7 weeks at Fort Knox and 11 weeks at Fort Gordon and maybe the war would be over by then! Well I did copy 5 words and finished training by the end of May 1968. About every 10th class of radio teletype operators got sent to Europe and assigned embassy duty or other such assignments or so we were led to believe. None of our class we're that lucky.

After a few weeks at home we were off to Viet Nam. In early July our plane landed at Tan Son Nhut and off to the wonderful world of in-processing at Long Bien. Having been awake for over 24 hours (tough to sleep on a plane) some got KP, some got to build concrete sidewalks and some got other wonderful welcomes to the "Nam".

Please turn to **MEMORIES** on page 10

## Come Join Us in 2013

#### Panoramic view of the 2012 Orlando Reunion Banquet



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#### Allen Hathaway President

## From The Command Track

The first leg of our

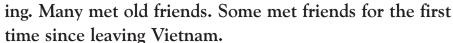
2013 Scholarship

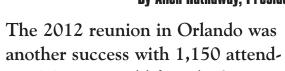
fundraising effort has begun with a mailing to

members

December. The 2013

By Allen Hathaway. President





color! Our Scholarship Fund is self sufficient and relies solely on donations to continue. All scholarship awards, as well as all printing and mailing cost associated with the calendar, are paid directly from donations made to the Scholarship Fund. We ask for your continued support of the calendar and scholarship program. While the calendar you received is unsolicited, we ask that you make the most generous taxdeductible donation that you can. Your donation will ensure that we can continue to produce the calendar year after year and support the scholarship program. An envelope is included with your calendar

11th ACVVC Calendar once again fea-

tures 12 new photos submitted by you.

This is our 18th year of the ever popular

calendar. This year our calendar is in

The 2012 reunion in Orlando was another success with 1,150 attending. Many met old friends. Some met friends for the first time since leaving Vietnam. Over 80 troopers attended their first reunion. We've printed more photos from the Orlando reunion.

for your convenience in mailing your

donation.

Planning is well under way for the 2013 reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana, scheduled for September 11-16. This is our second reunion in "Indy". Steve Page, our Reunion Chairman, has been working hard to ensure this is another successful and memorable reunion. The reunion registration form along with hotel information is available in this issue and online at our website. We expect another large crowd again this year. We urge you to register early. Contact old friends EARLY to give them an opportunity to make plans, then meet them at the reunion. Feel free to contact any board member if you need help locating any old friends.

The women's group still has a few copies of the "Party with the Blackhorse" cookbook. This edition of the cookbook contains many recipes for desserts, breads, beverages, and party snacks. Some recipes have become favorites at our house. If you don't have a copy yet, we encourage you to order one before they are gone! As president, I am pleased to report

that the overall state of the 11th ACVVC is excellent. Once again, we continue to be successful in many areas: treasury, membership, reunion attendance, newsletter, website, scholarships, and quartermaster to name a few.

Our treasury is solvent. Our General Business, Scholarship, Reunion, Reunion Assistance, and Memorial accounts are all in excellent condition with sufficient balances. Our primary sources for operating income are membership dues and quartermaster sales.

Our membership base continues to grow with nearly 1,500 new members added during the past five years. Nearly 300 new members joined in 2012. We continue to find Blackhorse trooper nearly every week. Many annual members choose to renew as LIFE members.

Our quartermaster store continues to be very popular with our members and offers a variety of insignia products. The insignia items instill pride in our service

to our regiment AND help "spread the word" by attracting other Blackhorse troopers. Sales have steadily increased over the past three years. Items are featured in each issue of "Thunder Run" and on our website.

The investments made over the years guarantee the organization will be in a good financial position for many years to come. At some point it may be necessary to begin to draw on these investments to supplement operating expenses if membership dues or quartermaster sales begin to decline.

Thunder Run, our quarterly newsletter, continues to keep our membership informed of their organization and the 11th Armored Cavalry with a variety of interesting articles and activities. Many articles are submitted by our members and we encourage you to continue to write about your experiences. Our website continues to be another source of information for our members. The website offers a central location for current information about this organization. The scholarship program continues to thrive thanks to the support of our members. With this years scholarships, we anticipate hitting the one million dollar mark in

Continued on page 6

#### **MOVING?** We want you to get your copy of Thunder Run without a lot of trouble. Complete this form and mail it to: 11th ACVVC Membership Update, Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112. Name: \_\_ Old Address: City: State: Zip: New Address: State: City: Phone Effective Date:

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

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

Webmaster

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

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Thunder Run 1st Ouarter. 2013

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# 11th ACVVC Annual Reunion XXVII













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## Orlando, FL













Thunder Run 1st Quarter, 2013

## **Editor's Corner**

C.E. "Bill" Greaory



Bill Gregory, Editor Thunder Run

This is our annual edition that is sent to every Blackhorse Trooper from the Vietnam era who we can find. Please do look and make sure you are a member (hopefully Life Member) of the 11th ACVVC.

Look everybody, God has given us a new year! Let's make good use of it! We might want to change things up some, or "improve" ourselves. Then again, there is nothing wrong with just enjoying how and who we are – if we are happy with that. I look at the Fiddler's Green article every quarter and realize how short our stay here really is. I have found the names of a close friend in that column each of the last two quarters. It makes me sad for their families and sad for myself, because we will miss them. The world was a better place because they were with us. Truth is, we cannot change the passage of time and everyone is subject to the laws of nature, but we can keep our perspective and enjoy the abundance of life that has been given us. One cannot live one's life in constant preparation for the end of it. Live as if you are going to live forever, because in a sense you are; the Great Architect of the universe will call us all at some point and we will cross that threshold into another, better realm.

This is our annual edition that is sent to every Blackhorse Trooper from the Vietnam era who we can find. Please do look and make sure you are a member (hopefully Life Member) of the 11th ACVVC. We are the 11th ACVVC -

#### 2013 Newsletter Deadlines

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

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

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

NOT the Blackhorse Association. Though we do love the BHA, they do not do the same things we do, nor do we do the same things they do.

This issue contains what I hope is a good mix of entertainment, inspiration, humor and information for you. Read and enjoy the remembrances of a fellow trooper and recall some of your own. Be touched by Frank Church's "Farewell to an Old Friend"; or the humor in parts of Gregory Mason's "Memories" piece. Make plans to attend the Indianapolis Reunion this year, using the information we have provided. Read about the hopes and dreams of our scholarship winners and know that the next generation really is in good hands, after all. To show that we are keeping up (or at least trying) check out the article about our entry into the world of Facebook!

The last time we were in Indianapolis for a reunion was in 1993. That was my and my wife's first reunion and we had a great time in Indy. We had such a good time that we have attended a total of ten reunions, and enjoyed every one of them. I hope to make it back to Indianapolis this year and see you there.

Until next quarter, go in peace, and may God bless.

## Tenth Annual Eugene Blackhorse Picnic

The 10th Annual Eugene Blackhorse Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2013 at the home of Adrian Vaaler, 2610 Baker Blvd, Eugene, OR 97403. For more info call 541-344-2113 or email 11thsecretary@gmail. com.

#### 'Like' Us on Facebook



We now have a Facebook site thanks to Bob Kickenweitz. Bob. who along with Otis Carey is responsible for maintaining our

website, has created a Facebook site for our organization. The new FB site will be used to augment our regular website and will be a source for storing and organizing photos of reunions and other activities of the organization. Bob has posted several hundred photos from some of the more recent reunion as well as other interesting photographs. You can find us by signing on to FB and searching for "11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia" OR you can go directly to our site from your internet browser without signing on to Facebook: www.facebook.com/11thacvvc

Our website www.11thcavnam.com will continue to be the main source of online information. There is a wealth of current and historical information that can be found there. Some of the areas of interest are: Reunion Information, Quartermaster Store, Master Roster, Membership Information, Scholarship Information, Funeral Honor Guard, Find An Old Friend, Officers & Directors contacts and Bulletin Boards just to name a few. We invite you to check it out!

#### COMMAND from page 2

total scholarships awarded.

We have many dedicated volunteers who work every day to ensure the continued success of this organization. On behalf of all those volunteers, it is a pleasure to serve this great organization. The most important factor however is the support from you, our members. Your support throughout the years has helped this organization continue to grow and succeed in every area. This support is a result of the pride we all have from serving in the best unit in the United States

In closing I ask that you continue keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers. When you see someone in uniform take a minute and offer your hand to thank them for their selfless service. These young men and women contribute daily to the security of our great country. We thank them. ALLONS! - It's good to be "Together Again".

## 2013 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal

By Pete Walter, Vice President

The 2013 11th ACVVC Calendar was mailed to all members in mid-December. If you haven't received your copy by now please contact Allen Hathaway or Pete Walter. The new calendar features 14 full-color photos submitted by you the members of the 11th ACVVC! It also includes information on significant dates and events of your regiment's service in Vietnam and Cambodia. We have received many favorable comments on the new color calendar; we hope you enjoy it!

The calendar is one of three fund raising projects that support our Scholarship Program. We also conduct our annual raffle prior to the reunion and the Silent Auction of donated items at the reunion. These activities have flourished over the years thanks to the support of our members. We again appeal to your generosity as we ask for donations to support our Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Fund is a discrete fund that depends solely on your donations. All scholarships, as well as printing and mailing costs associated with the calendar are paid directly from this fund. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the total donations made during that year. Without your support the program would not be viable.

Your continued support ensures the calendar will be produced each year. We ask you to support the calendar and Scholarship Program with the most generous tax-deductible donation that you can make to assist the children of 11th ACVVC members commence or continue their post-secondary education in college, trade school, or any other educational training following high school.

In 2012 our goal was to generate \$39,000 in donations in support of the Calendar Fundraising project. Through your generosity we exceeded that goal. After printing and mailing costs, your donations totaled \$49,000! In 2012 our combined fund raising activities throughout the year allowed us to award scholarships to 22 of our children for a total of \$90,000. There were fourteen female recipients and eight males. Their average age was twenty-four and they hailed from fifteen states. Since the inception of the 11th ACVVC you have donated more than \$1,000,000 to scholarships!

#### 11th ACVVC Calendar



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.

In June of 1991, freedom called and the Blackhorse rode again, earning it's most recent battle streamer in Operation Desert Storm.

The 11th Armored Cavalry returned from Iraq at the end of 2005, 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 Iraq! Freedom III," the famed Blackhorse Regiment continued to uphold the great legacy established by Troopers who fought the war in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Philippine Insurrection Samar 1902

#### Mexican Expedition Mexico 1916-17

World War II Normandy Northern France Rhineland Ardennes-Alsace

Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase III Counteroffensive Phase III 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 Operation Desert Storm Southwest Asia Cease Fire

Operation Iraqi Freedom Iraqi Governance 2004-2005

For 2013 we have two goals. Our first goal is to generate \$50,000 in donations. We will need your help in attaining this unprecedented level. Many of you have generously donated \$100 to \$500 for this cause. The second goal is to increase the percentage of members making calendar donations to 25%. Over the years the number of members making donations has risen from 20% to 23%. If all of our members contribute \$10 we will generate over \$70,000! To help meet

this goal and to ensure that you continue to receive a calendar every year we ask that you please make a donation. Every donation counts, regardless of the amount.

A limited number of extra calendars are available while supplies last. Instructions on how to order extras are included with the calendar. Please use the convenient envelope enclosed with the calendar to return your donation. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

#### Farewell Old Friend

By: Frank Church, G Troop, 69-70

I will always treasure the friendship we shared,
Born in dust and mud, sweat and tears, laughter and fears.

I will not say good-bye only farewell.

I will shed a tear for now but will not cry,
For we will meet again one day on the other side,

Where once more we will say;

"Together then together again" - for all eternity.

Farewell for now. . .

Thunder Run 1st Ouarter. 2013

#### Life Membership

## Winning Design of Pin Announced!

By Pete Walter, Vice President

After in-person voting at the Orlando reunion, additional voting through surface mail and email, all the votes have been tallied and the winning design has been selected by you the Life Members of the 11th ACVVC.

Congratulations to Dean Bacon who submitted the winning design! Dean's design is shown below.



The 11th ACVVC is in the process of ordering the pins; a total of over 7,000 pins will be produced! Every Life Member will receive a pin. Wearing this pin displays your "life" commitment to this organization. We expect the pins to ship in April or May.

Thanks to all who submitted designs and special recognition to the five finalists:

Design #3, Robert Hepler (I Troop, 3/11 ACR, 1968), Temple City, CA.

Design #4, Mark Crist (Air Cav Troop, 11 ACR, 1968-69), La Vernia, TX

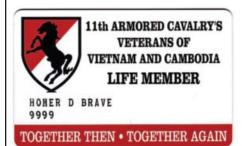
Design #25, Donnie Hudgins (L Troop, 3/11 ACR, 1970-71) Danville, VA

Design #36, Dean Bacon (C Troop, 1/11 ACR, 1969/70), Mount Morris, IL

Design #40, Tony "Doc" Balas (F Troop, 2/11 ACR, 1970-71), Columbus, TX

## Are You A Member?

By Allen Hathaway, Membership Chairman



This issue of Thunder Run is being mailed to nearly 16,000 Blackhorse troopers who served in Vietnam. This includes members, lapsed members and those who have not yet joined.

If you haven't yet become a member of the 11th ACVVC, or if your membership has expired, this is a good time to take a minute and become a member or renew your membership.

There still may be a bit of confusion about membership in this organization, 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) and the Blackhorse Association (BHA). They are two separate organizations, each with their own charter, by-laws, officers and membership fees. Many of us are members of and support both organizations. Some of those we have contacted for membership renewal have written back and furnished a copy their LIFE membership card only to discover it is not from the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, but rather the Blackhorse Association.

If you are not sure of your membership status in the 11th ACVVC, take this time to check the mailing label on the back page of this newsletter.

If the words "FREE COPY" are printed on the first line of the label, take this opportunity to join and become a member. If the words "EXPIRED" are printed, this is a good time to renew your membership. Expired members will also have their membership number printed on the same line.

To join or renew your membership

in the 11th ACVVC just fill out and mail the membership form printed in this newsletter. Make sure you give your full name, address, service number, unit(s) and dates in country including month and year. Also include any other information such as nickname, track number, platoon, or section. This will help us match you with others that served in the same unit. We also encourage you to sign the release line at the bottom of the form. This gives us permission to give your address and/or telephone number to other troopers who may be looking for you. Your name, address, etc. are NOT sold or given out to vendors or anyone other than Blackhorse troopers.

Membership dues are only \$15 per year, or \$100 for a LIFE membership. Over 95 percent of our members are LIFE members. We also offer an easy and convenient LIFE payment plan which divides the \$100 membership dues into four payments of \$25 each. We also accept Visa and MasterCard credit cards for all transactions.

Your membership dues provide you with this quarterly newsletter Thunder Run. The newsletter keeps you informed of your organization, its members, and the activities of the 11th Cavalry, both past and present. We pride ourselves on our continued commitment to bring the news to our members through this newsletter.

Thunder Run has been printed and mailed every three months for the past 27 years. This shows our reliability and commitment to our members.

When you become a member or renew your membership you will receive your new membership card. All members are assigned a membership number that appears on their membership card. LIFE members receive a plastic membership card with their name and membership number. All new members will be listed in the "Welcome New Members" section of Thunder Run. Show your support and join today!

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## **Blackhorse Cookbooks Still Available**

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

Do you have your copy of the Blackhorse Women's Group's most recent cookbook - "Party with the Blackhorse"? Barb Moreno, Women's Coordinator, said there are about 100 copies of the cookbook still taking up a prime spot in the Moreno basement in Wisconsin and she would like to see these sell out soon so she can prepare for the 2013 reunion. So please lend a hand to the women's fundraising efforts. Proceeds from the sales of this one-of-a kind collector cookbook are earmarked for the donation of several wreaths for the Arlington National Cemetery. A small portion of the proceeds will also be retained as seed money for future Women's Group fundraisers, as well as for the annual Women's meeting projects.

This second cookbook, created to feature the party aspect of life, is filled with new recipes not in the sold-out first edition. Plus, the recipes were all submitted by Blackhorse Troopers, families and friends. The delicious recipes in "Party with the Blackhorse" would be welcomed delights at any party function. The recipes are tried and true with a variety of selections from desserts, breads, dips, hors d'oeuvres, party snacks, soups, salads, beverages and much more.

If you already have your copy, thank you. But, you may want to grab another two or three to have on hand for gifts. The cookbook makes an ideal gift for any occasion.

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

A big "Thank You" goes out to everyone who shared recipes for

Order Form
"Party With the Blackhorse" Cookbook
Please send me "Partying with the Blackhorse" cookbooks. I have enclosed \$ (\$15/book plus \$5/book S&H, \$20 total/book) in the form of:  □ check □ money order
Name:Address:
Mail this form or a copy of it along with full payment to:  Barb Moreno 'Blackhorse Cookbook' 24284 Endeaver Ave. Tomah, WI 54660

"Party with the Blackhorse." This mission wouldn't have been accomplished without you. It also wouldn't have happened without the support of the men's association board and President Allen Hathaway.

Orders with full payment in checks or money orders (sorry no credit cards) can be mailed to Barb Moreno, "BLACKHORSE COOKBOOK," 24284 Endeaver Ave., Tomah, WI 54660. Barb Moreno can also be contacted by email at .com with "Blackhorse Cookbook" in the subject line.

On another note, be sure to check out the Women's Group Facebook page Blackhorse (11thACVVC) Women.

### **Reunion Assistance Fund**

The purpose of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is to assist Troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in

Vietnam and Cambodia, and family members of our troopers killed in action in Vietnam and Cambodia, to attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th ACVVC. Qualified applicants will be given one or more of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and the degree of assistance required:

- 1. A room at the host hotel for one or two nights during the reunion weekend.
- 2. Funds to purchase fuel for auto, tickets for airfare or other means of transportation such as bus fare or train fare.
- 3. Registration fees.
- 4. Meals or food allowance.

Funds are collected through direct donations or the "passing of the hat" at the annual membership Business Meeting and are accounted for by the Treasurer. The Treasurer includes the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund as a separate reporting item on the quarterly financial report.

To be considered for financial assistance from the fund to attend a Reunion of the 11th ACVVC, the Trooper or the KIA's immediate family members (defined as Parents, siblings, children, widows) making the request must...

- 1. Do so in writing to the Secretary or the President, and
- 2. Provide evidence of the Trooper's service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry "Blackhorse" Regiment.

The applicant Trooper or KIA survivor should describe his/her need for monetary assistance, briefly stating his/her financial situation (i.e., job, income, family, or other relevant facts). In addition, the Trooper may be required to show proof that he is a member, or that he is qualified to become a member, of the 11th ACVVC. The Officers and Directors of 11th ACVVC will decide by a majority vote on whom and how much assistance will be given to a Trooper or Survivor of a KIA.

Requests must be submitted no later than August 28, 2013.

You can find the complete description of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund on our website at: www.11thcavnam.com.

Thunder Run 1st Ouarter. 2013

#### **MEMORIES** from page 1

After a couple of days of this "fun" several of us were put on a plane to Blackhorse base camp where we were met by our section sergeants and for the first time felt like we belonged. I remember that first night very well. It was dark when we landed and I was taken to the S-2 hooch (HHT S-2 was the Intelligence Section of the TOC) and given a bunk. Being exhausted I had no trouble falling asleep but was woken around midnight by the loudest explosion I had ever heard. No one had told me a 155 howitzer was about 200 feet from our hooch and that H and I rounds were fired throughout the night! Fortunately I did not soil myself! Many months later someone kicked my bunk on the way out of our tent and I asked what was going on and the reply was "In Coming". Guess I got use to the noise!

During my tour, I would occasionally receive gifts from home. For Christmas, my Dad filled a box with cheeses, sausage and other such delicacies along with a small flask of bourbon. Since it was a couple of weeks to Christmas, I waited to open my "present." Big mistake as most of the stuff was moldy by then. Oh well, the bourbon was good. We also had our parents send us Jiffy Pop and often enjoyed that heated over a "C-4" cook stove made from a c ration can.

At one point a friend of mine sent a pack of small wines bottles that I enjoyed sharing with my buddies. One evening I was opening a bottle when we had incoming. Fortunately the bottle had a screw top and none was lost. My buddy had also dug a trench by his bunk that we hopped into with him in front and me behind. Later, he told me, every time a round hit I jerked his belt. I had not realized I had grabbed it! We had some laughs over that one.

As a radio operator, we dealt with call signs and frequent changes of these call signs. I do not know who was assigned to think up these call signs but often wondered how they could think of such silly names. I do not remember most of them but I do remember at one time our call sign was "Witty Grapes." Really? They could not come up with anything better than that?

About half way through the tour, we got about a month of security duty around Tan

Here I was 10,000 miles from home when I see Larry Lade, a kid that lived 4 houses down the street from my home back in the World. A few years ago I saw his mother who told me the war was hard on him. I understood as Larry showed me his helmet that had a bullet hole going through it from a round that just missed.

Son Nhut air base. This was the only time I saw a real flush toilet and also got to phone home. While there, one of our troops was set up along the Saigon River where an early warning devise was in place. This "high tech" devise was a flock of geese. Our troops had to periodically walk up to the geese at night to see how close they got before the geese honked. Then they had to call in the "Honker" report to me for recording and forwarding to Regiment how close they got to the geese and how many honks occurred.

Our TOC was set up next to an open field at the air base and one day an air force officer came in to notify us that they were going to burn some Av gas on that field next door. I shared this with the officer on duty. Apparently, he failed to let all the other officers know so when the gas was lit, it exploded. We had flames 100 feet in the air. As you can imagine, we had officers running everywhere! What a sight. This happened again but by then communication was much better.

During my tour, we set our HHT TOC at Bandit Hill while assigned to work with the 1st Infantry Division. While there, a platoon of the 1st Infantry was assigned to provide added perimeter security and set up night ambush sites outside the perimeter. Here I was 10,000 miles from home when I see Larry Lade, a kid that lived 4 houses down the street from my home back in the World. A few years ago I saw his mother who told me the war was hard on him. I understood as Larry showed me his helmet that had a bullet hole going through it from a round that just missed.

We did a couple of missions through the Michelin rubber plantation. There we felt the impacts and sounds of B-52 strikes and learned how some of the enemy bunkers even survived these strikes. On the second mission, I was working the midnight to

eight radio shift and we moved each day. By the time we set up in the evening, I was getting 2-3 hours sleep a day (probable normal for a lot of you). By the end of the week being a little grumpy, I got foot in mouth disease. My buddy and fellow Sergeant, Joe Garbacz, told me to go get the Captain's bags. My response was the Captain could get his own bags! Well our section Master Sergeant advised me that was a "direct order" and failure to follow it was not a very smart thing to do considering I only had about 10 weeks left in Country. I got the Captain's bags.

Late May 1969 we were sent to Quan Loi and set up the HHT 3/11 TOC inside the 1st Air Cav base camp. Well whoever chose the spot for us failed to consider the enemy had that spot zeroed in as only our location was hit while we were there. We immediately began receiving incoming rocket attacks over the next week. The enemy would set up the rockets during the night with time delayed fuses so they went off anytime after day break and as late as into the afternoon. For the past 10 months we had not had anyone in the TOC killed. During that week, my memory was that we had 6 killed (including Daryl Schmidt a 19 year old in my S-2 section) and a dozen wounded from these attacks. Daryl and another trooper were at a water truck filling cans when the rocket hit by them. A buddy and I were in a 3/4 ton truck full of cans and were seconds from being there as well. When the rocket went over I jumped out of the truck and started to crawl under but realized the truck had not stopped rolling. I think of Daryl often and have been to the Wall in DC to remember him. It also became really dangerous to be in a chow line during those days as the rockets often hit during chow time. We eventually moved out to a fire support base and were not attacked again before I left country.

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However I remember that our line troops were in constant contact each and every day as the fighting was intense as we were relaying enemy information to regimental (S-2) intelligence almost every radio shift.

Shortly before leaving the field, I was on the radio one night with my counterpart at Regimental S-2 and let him know I would be leaving country soon. He said, "Come up secure." We had radio voice equipment that would scramble our conversation so the enemy could not listen in. I did, we talked for awhile and he wanted me to come by Regiment to see him before I left country. As he was talking, the squadron Colonel and Major came into my track to use our "Secure" equipment as the S-3's was not working. I could not tell my buddy to shut up and had to wait until he was done talking and just said "Roger Out." The Colonel was kind enough to just comment that I was talking with my buddy. Unfortunately I was not able to see him before I left country, nor do I remember his name.

I do not remember the exact day but I was told to get my stuff as a chopper was in-bound to take me back to base camp and that my tour was near its end. Eventually, after a few days at Blackhorse Base Camp, I headed back to Long Bien where those lovely people welcomed us with formations every few hours and being told our haircuts would be checked and if not short enough, we would not get on the plane home. The REMF's had such endearing personalities.

We landed after dark in Oakland for out-processing. They lead us to believe we would be out-processed that night but around Midnight told us to bunk down in a barrack near by. To remind us we were still theirs, a lieutenant came through around 5am, woke us all up to check ID's. Eventually we did get out and headed to the airport and home. Having forgotten about the date change, Mom and Dad had a surprise as I arrived a day sooner than expected.

It all seems so long ago but also so much is still fresh in my memory as I am sure it is for you. We all had some hard times there and lost some friends. But I remember some of the pleasant moments and sometime funny moments. But most of all the experience changed my life in so many positive ways.



## **SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE**

#### by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman

he 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program has awarded 317 scholarships totaling \$967,000 to children of our members and KIAs since its inception in 1997. Every scholarship dollar paid was donated by YOU, the members of this great association of Blackhorse combat veterans!! You will find a usable copy of the current Scholarship Application in this issue of Thunder Run on page 26 and also on our website.

Our recently updated **Scholarship Guide** provides more information on the scholarship process and contains detailed assistance on completing the scholarship application. You can print a copy of the Guide and the Application at www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html. If you have a child (natural, step child or adopted) who is planning on attending a college, community college or trade school this fall, please encourage them to apply for a scholarship (undergraduate studies only). Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions.

Beginning in 2008, each recipient's Scholarship Award has been dedicated to honor a specific 11th Cavalry "Blackhorse" Trooper who was Killed in Action (KIA) in Vietnam or Cambodia. The Blackhorse KIAs to be honored each year will be selected on an impartial and random basis. An attractive certificate suitable for framing containing information about the trooper in whose honor their scholarship is dedicated is sent to each recipient.

In addition, each year, one recipient will be selected to receive a special Colonel Charles Schmidt L. Leadership Scholarship award in honor of former 11ACVVC President Chuck Schmidt for his leadership and devotion to the 11th Cavalry "Blackhorse" Troopers of the Vietnam War. Chuck died on Veterans Day 2007 as a result Agent Orange-related cancer shortly after being elected to his third term as President. Chuck's widow, Mrs. Bonnie Schmidt, will select the recipient of this award from the list of scholarship winners.

Scholarship Judges are asked to rate each applicant on a 30-point system. The point total for a perfect score is 30.

- Up to **7 points** may be awarded for Application completion, legibility, and following the instructions on the form and in the Guide.
- Up to **8 points** may be awarded for Grades of the Applicants' most recent two years of education (high school or college).
- Up to **15 points** may be awarded for the narrative response to the questions in item #11 of the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Application.

Each applicant will be judged independently by each Judge. Currently we have five participating independent Judges.

The Judge's scores are averaged to obtain a final score for each applicant.

The 11ACVVC Board of Directors will determine the number of Scholarship awards to be granted in any given year based on the available donated funds and the dollar amount determined for each scholarship award. The Scholarship Committee will then apply that number to the list of applicants in descending score order to determine who will receive the Awards.

In 2012, we were able to award 22 scholarships totaling \$90,000 to children of our members.

Grandchildren of members are not currently eligible. The criterion to include Grandchildren as eligible for scholarships is reviewed annually.

Please inform your eligible children that **applications and grade transcripts need to be sent to me by May 15, 2013.** E mail me at: *DocRafferty36@ sbcglobal.net* if you have questions. If you do not have access to e mail you may reach me at 915-792-2804 or 575-915-2921.

Thunder Run 1st Ouarter, 2013

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Moses, James

Struble, Ron Strycker, William Sucato, Richard Suhre, Bill Suminski, Raymond Summers, Carl Sunderman, Kenneth Susong, Larry Sutton, Gordon Sutton, Harrold Swain. Burl Swan, Guy Swan, Val Swanson, George Sweningson, Bruce Swiger, Rocky Tafoya, Wayne Tangerg, Lauren Tankovich, James Tarr, Randy Tate, Ben Tatum, Johnnie Taylor, Douglas Taylor, F. Robert Temple, Billy Tenderella, Larry

Tenik, Joseph Terlecky, Slofko Terry, Hardy Thatcher, William Thomas, Arthur Thompson, Thomas Thompson, David Thompson, Limmie Thompson, Charles Thomson, Richard Thrasher, Harrison Tiedeman, David Tietz, Ernest Tighe, Michael Tips, George Titschinger, Mark Todal, Christopher Toddy. Dale Tonkovich, Dennis Torres, Jose Torsok, Michael Totaro, Lawrence Townsend, Frank Trabanco, Andrew Tracy, Stephen Traw, Gary

Traylor, Douglas Treleaven, Thomas Trentman, Harry Trottier, Raymond Trusley, James Tutwiler, Edgar Uebelher, Francis Upton, P., Richard Van Ert, William Vanalstine, Dennis Vanderbogart, Kirk Varner, Noah Vaughan, Travis Vaughan, Patrick Venhoff, John Verbeke, Russell Vetere. Ronald Vincent, Robert Violet, J.W. Waddell, Darrell Wagner, Dewitt Wagner, Larry Wagner, Paul Walker, Ronnie Walker, Wayne Wallace, Richard

Wallen, Harry Ward, Bruce Ward, George Ward, Bobby Waters, Larry Watkins, Charles Watt, Roland Watts, George Weachter, Dennis Weaver, William Webb. Garv Wehrle, Hubert Welch, Dennis Weller, William Wells, John Wells, James Welmon, Harry Welton, Floyd Weltzien, James Wentz, Darrel Werner, James Wertz, Edward Wesley, James West, Wayne Westerberg, Victor Weynand, Mary

Wheeler, Margaret White, David White, Robert Whorton, Charles Wierema, Ronald Wiese, Timothy Wilcox, John Wilkinson, Jimmy Williams, James Williams, Ernesto Williams, Harry Williams, Tyrus Wills, Thomas Wilson, Arnold Wilson, Arnold Wilson, Steve Wilson, Mark Wilson, Mike Wisdom, Scott Wise, William Witt, William Witt, Marvin Wolas, Robert Wolfenden, William Wollschlaeger, Kenneth Woodson, Roddy

Woolverton, Jerry Wright, Mary Wright, Ralph Wright, David Yea. Mark Yeider, Tim Yell, Horace Yirsa, Harold Yochum, Thomas Yoder, Kenneth Zamoida, Bronislaw Zaremba, John Zeller, Larry Zellmer, Steven Zimmerman, Tim Zumpol, Adolph

#### Memorial

#### Gold, Level

Penn Sport, The Bowers



## **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 TROOP, 1/11		G TROOP, 2/11		G TROOP, 2/11		K TROOP, 3/11	
Berghanel, George H	69-69	Jiggens, Warren E	70-71	Powell, Elmer	69-69	Turner, Dannie L	66-67
AIR CAVALRY TRO	0P	919TH ENGINEER COM	PANY	A TROOP, 1/11		HHT REGIMENT	
Christman, Richard L	68-69	Jones, Dorsey N	69-70	Reasor, Robert A	70-71	Weber, Paul J	68-69
Downey, Richard A	68-68	D COMPANY 1/11					
		Landreth Harrell I	68-68				

# 28th ANNUAL 11th ACVVC REUNION

**SEPTEMBER 11-15, 2013** 

Indianapolis Marriott Downtown 350 W Maryland Street Indianapolis, IN 46225 www.indymarriott.com

RESERVATIONS: 877-303-0104 or 877-640-7666

ROOM RATE: \$119.00 SINGLE/DOUBLE/QUAD

- 622 rooms
- Convenient to downtown restaurants and shopping
- Room types are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis
- Rates are good three days prior to and three days after event based on availability
- · Complementary guest room internet
- · Please make hotel reservations early
- Must mention "11th ACVVC" to get special rate

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 21, 2013

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO TRAVEL IN INDIANAPOLIS www.visitindy.com

Thunder Run 1st Quarter, 2013







#### **Animals**

Do you think about the animals when you reminisce about Viet Nam? "Huh?" you say. "I try to avoid thinking about Viet Nam." C'mon, animals are pleasant and fun to remember. Think about all those pigs and chickens running around peoples' yards and under their houses. We talked before about Margaret the dog and Charlie Chicken. They were great pets. How about the rubber tree flies, the rats, snakes, tigers (tigers? yep), lizards, beetles, ants, water buffalo, little deer, otters, horses (definitely not thoroughbreds), monkeys, mice, and others that I can't remember or others that I only heard rumors about, like elephants. I haven't mentioned the birds and thousands of insects that you probably forgot about anyway.

Today I thought we'd talk about tigers, lizards, rats, and maybe water buffalo. OK? So, were you there along QL14, the highway from Loc Ninh to Bo Duc/Bu Dop, the day our helicopter troopers shot a tiger? I wasn't on the spot at the time because I was somewhere else, but our guys told me all about it. So I went and took a snapshot to remember it by even though I wasn't too happy about the tiger becoming a casualty.

Here's what happened: One fine day during the dry season one of our helicopters was flying around the jungle looking for VC when what did they see instead of VC? You got it. A tiger! Well, I guess our helicopter troopers thought they were on an African safari when they did what any warrior on safari might have done - they shot the tiger. Now what? They couldn't land because they were over the jungle. Then along came one of our ACavs, more mighty warriors on safari. Naturally, they claimed the tiger. However, by this time our helicopter crew had landed and came to claim their trophy. So here are two sets of mighty warriors haggling over the beautiful dead tiger whose pelt was very desirable of being possessed. "So did the squabble get settled?" you might ask. "Yes, it did," I reply. One set of warriors cut off the ears and gave the rest of the

Today I thought we'd talk about tigers, lizards, rats, and maybe water buffalo. OK? So, were you there along QL14, the highway from Loc Ninh to Bo Duc/Bu Dop, the day our helicopter troopers shot a tiger?

tiger to the other warriors. Then no one wanted the formerly dangerous, but still beautiful, tiger. "So what happened to the tiger?" "I don't know, I just took the picture." Lesson learned - don't shoot tigers unless they're dangerous and you're on safari

Here's a lizard story which was pretty funny even if our interpreter thought it was a disaster. We were still out along QL14 up by Cambodia. Our Vietnamese interpreter (I'll call him Bao) had caught a huge lizard. For the sake of conversation, we'll call him Lizard. He was very big. Anyway, Bao had Lizard tied by a string to a tree. For Vietnamese, big lizards are delicious delicacies. Bao was saving Lizard for a special occasion. One unhappy day Bao discovered that Lizard had escaped into the jungle. Did Bao find Lizard? Nope. This was the jungle, Lizard's home turf. Bao was inconsolable which didn't matter because Lizard wasn't coming back. He was probably reunited with his family for a lizard celebration (lizebration?). I'm sure Bao remembers, even after all these years.

Here's my second rat story. I told you the first one some time back about rats using my forehead for a crosswalk. That was one night when I was borrowing someone's bunk at Quan Loi. My second rat story happened at Soc Trang during my first tour. We were on a small airfield which had been built by the Japanese during WWII. We had rats, lots of rats. They were big, bigger than at Quan Loi. I guess they ate better at Soc Trang. Hating rats, we did what any normal American would do; we poisoned them, making them dead. Well, that caused a minor uproar from our Vietnamese workers. How did we know they ate rats? Did you know that? I'm sure you didn't. So of course we stopped poisoning the rats and caught them in traps instead. After that, every evening you could see Vietnamese workers happily trotting along, each with a pole across his shoulder and stacks of rat traps tied onto both ends of the pole. Each rat trap contained a live rat - someone's meal for the evening. "Yeccchhh!" you're probably saying and I don't blame you. However, look at it this way - its meat. Hey! (or hay!), meat is meat. It didn't seem to hurt them, the Vietnamese, that is. The rat made his (or her) contribution to our Vietnamese workers dinner and we got rid of the rats. It was win-win for everybody except the rats.

Let's discuss water buffalo, which is an interesting animal to discuss. You should tell your family your water buffalo stories, at least the good fun ones. You remember that water buffalo were the Vietnamese tractor for plowing rice paddies, their truck for hauling or towing things like bags of rice, and their car for transporting the boy who rode it to the rice paddies or for herding other water buffalo. It might have been the family pet too, although I can't verify that. I just thought of another use for water buffalo: They were frequently used as a road block. They were very slow and usually walked along the side of the road going from the village to the paddy with the boy on its back. We came driving along one day and there's a herd of water buffalo, at least three or four, in the way. They're blocking the road and we're in a hurry, of course. But we had to cool it while the water buffalo meandered out of our way. The last main use for water buffalo that I can think of is using their horns as decorations. I can't count how many soldiers, including officers, who had water buffalo horns sitting on their desk or hanging on the wall. They bought them in gift shops where enterprising Vietnamese sold them, at the PX in the rear, or on R&R in Bangkok or Manila. Horns made great souvenirs and the water buffalo didn't

need them anymore, being deceased. I don't know if Vietnamese ate water buffalo, but I doubt it. Would you eat your trac-

My last animal story is about sheep. In Bible times people kept sheep mostly for wool and food. There are many sheep stories throughout the Bible. It's clear that sheep are less than self-reliant. They needed a shepherd to keep them on the right path to their pastures and to protect them from wild animals. Sheep herding wasn't a very desirable job but it was necessary. Sheep would wander off, get into trouble, mal memories. What are your animal lose their way, get hurt, and have problems like that if they didn't have a shepherd to take care of them. Also, they would follow almost any other sheep, right or wrong. The main Bible sheep story for this conversation makes the point that people, specifically you and me, are like sheep and

we need a shepherd for our lives. A well known shepherd and sheep story is the 23rd Psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his names sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and staff, they comfort me." I get the point. Do

That's all the time I have today for animemories?

God bless you. God loves you. So do I. Chaplain Larry Haworth 6508 Bannocks Drive San Antonio, TX 78239 LEHaworth@aol.com

### So that his brethren shall know...

Please report the death of any member of The 11th **Armored Cavalry's Veterans** of Vietnam and Cambodia to Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112; Phone: (703) 791-6610; Email: 11thcav1966@comcast.net; for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

#### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

Membership is open to all troopers who served with or were attached to the I lth Armored Cavalry Regiment while in the countries of Vietnam or Cambodia from August 1966 thru March 1972. Membership is also open to the wives, par-

ents and children of our Troopers killed in	action.
NAME	PHONE
ADDRESS	
	DATES: FROMTO
(Troop,Sqdn)	(Mo/Yr) (Mo/Yr)
SER NO RANK (during tour)	SSN NO
OTHER INFORMATION	
TYPE MEMBERSHIP:	_
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/pho	one number to other Troopers who served with the 11th ACR
(Sign)	
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard Card #	Exp. Date
Signature	
	ole to: 11th ACVVC. Mail this form with your check or money order (no ca

**Thunder Run** 1st Ouarter, 2013

# Indianapolis Reunion 2013

By: Steve Page, Reunion Chairman

Ye're gearing up for Indy. The contracts have been signed and a budget has been prepared. The preparation for your Indianapolis reunion is right on track. Your selection of The Marriott Downtown is a good one. This recently renovated hotel is a premier destination for events and meetings in Indianapolis. The hotel is connected via skywalk to The Indians Convention Center and Circle Centre Mall. Our hotel is just steps away from Lucas Oil Stadium, White River State Park, NCAA Hall of Champions, Conseco Field House, Victory Field and just minutes from the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Transportation from the airport to the hotel is abundant and reasonably priced. Direct shuttle service is \$7.00 each way and \$3.50 for 65 years and older and eighteen and younger.

Fine dining along with national favorites and affordable fast food outlets are within walking distance. The area abounds in hot spots for a fun evening out. Some of the most famous shops are located in The Circle Centre Mall. There are numerous monuments and memorials in Indy. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument and The Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial are just two.

The Marriott Downtown offers parking but is limited to 300 spaces. Our price to park at the hotel will be \$18.00 per day for both valet and self park. We are currently looking into alternative off-site parking at a lower rate. This information will be published as soon as possible. We have contracted a backup hotel in case we sell out of rooms at the Marriott. I suggest that hotel reservations be made as soon as possible. Please call the hotel directly to minimize confusion. The 11th ACVVC must be mentioned to get the contracted room rate of \$119.00.

Indianapolis Marriott Downtown 350 West Maryland Street Indianapolis, IN 46225 877-303-0104 or 877-640-7666 www.indymarriott.com

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## **REUNION REGISTRATION**

By: Bob Moreno, Director, 11th ACVVC

nother reunion is swiftly approaching and we are looking forward to seeing all of you in Indianapolis. It is my job as the reunion registration director to be sure that you fill out your registration form in such a way that your time spent at the start of reunion is fast and thus enabling you to meet with your friends quicker. So let's get started.

First – Locate the registration form. You can either find one here in the *Thunder Run* (opposite page) or on the web site. Whichever you use is fine with me. If you do choose to use the one out of the Thunder Run, you might want to make a copy of it so that you can preserve your copy of the TR. If you do choose to use it, just be sure to send the entire page. DO NOT TRIM IT!

Second – Send it in as soon as you possibly can. Reason? When you place it in the mail, it first goes to Ollie Pickral in Virginia. He removes and deposits the money and then after he has about 10 of them he sends them to me in Wisconsin. After I receive them, I have to sort them and make name tags for each one and then record it into my files and then put it on the web site. All total this can take anywhere from 2 to 3 weeks. Of course you can also register on line. This is perhaps the fastest way of registering. Both Ollie and I get it at the same time when

done online, thus eliminating about 2 weeks time. Whichever way you chose to register, do it as early as possible and be sure to PRINT or use a return address label so we have the correct spelling for everything. Remember no matter when you register, if something comes up that you will not be able to come, you can always request a refund. So why not register early.

Third — Be sure you fill out ALL the information. Go back over it before you send it out. Have you listed your name (and that of your guest, no matter their age), what unit you were with and the year you were with them. PLEASE remember you are to list only one unit, so choose which one you want to sit with at the banquet as that is what we will put on your name tag. Also be sure you choose ONE meal per person attending with you. If you do not choose then I will simply choose one for you and it may not be what you would like. We cannot wait until the last minute to submit the meal list as the hotel has a cutoff date for us to do this.

Well I want to keep this short so the last thing I have for you this time is, if after sending it in, you find something wrong with the way it is on the web site or need to change something, or even just have a question, PLEASE call me on my cell phone. The number is 608-387-3346.

ALLONS

## 11th Armored Cavalry's

**Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia** 

Reunion Attendance							
Year	Location A	tendees	2000	Buffalo, NY	975		
1986	Arlington, TX	175	2001	Washington, DC	1,380		
1987	Washington, DC	280	2002	Nashville, TN	1,287		
1988	Louisville, KY	367	2003	Eugene, OR	617		
1989	Minneapolis, MN	399	2004	Daytona Beach, FL	940		
1990	Sacramento, CA	465	2005	Colorado Springs, CO	938		
1991	Philadelphia, PA	496	2006	Kansas City, MO	950		
1992	San Antonio, TX	970	2007	Louisville, KY	1,630		
1993	Indianapolis, IN	988	2008	Chicago, IL	1,100		
1994	Colorado Springs, CC	847	2009	Santa Clara, CA	650		
1995	Appleton, WI	703	2010	Washington, DC	1,250		
1996	Louisville, KY	2,026	2011	St. Louis, MO	1,063		
1997	Las Vegas, NV	1,385	2012	Orlando, FL	1,152		
1998	New Orleans, LA	1,011	2013	Indianapolis, IN	_		
1999	San Diego, CA	1,025	2014	Las Vegas, NV			

#### **REGISTRATION FORM**



## 28th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion Indianapolis, Indiana

Wednesday, 11 September thru Sunday, 15 September 2013 PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT



Indianapolis Downtown Marriott 350 West Maryland Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46225 Reservations: 317-822-3500

Registration fee is \$80.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled events including the Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and the Saturday Banquet dinner.

Please register early. The registration fee will be an additional \$25.00 per person for registrations post marked after <u>AUGUST 28, 2013</u>. All registrations must be received no later than Friday, SEPTEMBER 7, 2013.

#### PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

(print clearly or use mailing label)

Name	Telephone No:_	
Address		
City/State/Zip		
E-Mail Address		
Unit Assignment (Example: B TRP, D CO )  ATTENDEES (please print)		(Example: 1966-1967)
		\$ \$
		\$
		\$
Total Registration Fee		\$
Banquet Meal Selection (Choose one selection per attend	ee) ChickenE	BeefVeggie
Is this your first reunion? $\square$ Yes $\square$ No Wheelch	hair or special needs se	eating?  Yes  No
KIA Relative?   Yes Name of KIA:		
Relationship to KIA: Uni	t:	
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Card No		Exp. Date
Signature (Required for credit card)		

Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail Registration Form along with payment to:

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

## **Meet Our 2012 Scholarship Winners**

Meet Our 2011 Scholarship Winners. This issue contains brief statements from 11 of our 2012 Scholarship Winners. The 4th Quarter, 2012 issue of *Thunder Run* introduced the first 11 of the 22 Scholarship Winners.

#### **Monet Rodriguez**



I am truly honored to have received this gift from the Veterans, I am so thankful to my father Juan Pablo Rodriguez and all of the other Veterans who have not only given their service to our country but sacrificed so much for our freedom. I will use this gift to continue my education in a Masters in Counseling program to peruse my dream of

helping others and improving the world we live in.

Monet Rodriguez is the daughter of Juan Rodriguez, HHT, 2/11, 71-72.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Victor Manuel Guerrero, L Troop, November 15, 1969.

#### Arsen Tufankjian



Paying for school just got a whole lot easier. This time last year I was seriously worried that I would not be able to afford higher education. The idea that I may not be able to pursue my dream of developing video games was not one I wanted floating around in my head, but thanks to the 11th Cavalry, I don't have to worry anymore. I've gotten enough

assistance to the point where I can focus on school, and not on paying off a massive pile of debt. This scholarship isn't just a pile of cash to help me pay for school, it's peace of mind so that I can follow my dreams, and that means so much to me.

Arsen Tufankjian is the son of Haig Tufankjian, Air Cav Troop, 68-69. This scholarship awarded in honor of: Adrian Alan Akins, 919th Engineer Company, October 25, 1969.

#### Mike Victor



Thank you for awarding me the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Scholarship Award. I will start school at Roger Williams University, seeking a degree in Architecture, with the hopes of going on to entering graduate school and eventually entering the workforce as a certified Architect. This award will go a long way

in paying for my building materials and tools which are especially extensive the first year. I would like to thank the association for awarding me this scholarship as I am both in awe and humbled by

its resources and their generosity. This scholarship is dedicated towards Hugo C. Castaneda who was killed in action on July 9th 1968 while serving as a trooper in C Troop. I would like to honor his sacrifice by working hard and performing beyond expectations.

Mike Victor is the son of James Victor, L Troop, 69-70.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Hugo Carlos Castaneda, C Troop, July 9, 1968.

#### **Amos Michael Webb**



Thank you for choosing me as a recipient of the 11th ACVVC scholarship! I am honored to receive this scholarship in memory of Mr. Robert R. Lewis. Taking economic conditions into account, the fiscal generosity of this organization is very admirable. This gift will be of great financial assistance to my family and me. In putting this money

towards schooling, I hope to contribute its worth back into society through a career in the medical field.

Amos Michael Webb is the son of Amos Martin Webb, G Troop., 70-71

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Robert Raymond Lewis, G Troop, April 25, 1970.

#### **Angelyn Wiese**



Thanks so much to The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia for selecting me to be one of the recipients of their scholarship. I feel incredibly privileged. This scholarship means the world to me, because thanks to their aid I will be able to attend college as an Undergraduate with significantly less financial stress. I very much look forward to attending college at Valencia

Community College where I will first get my Associates and begin my journey towards becoming a Registered Nurse. I will work my hardest and always strive to succeed in hopes of bringing only honor to both my family and The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Angelyn Wiese is the daughter of Frederick Wiese, 919th Engineers, 70-71.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Donald William Noel, HHT, 1/11, April 26, 1969

#### **Charles Scott Childers**



I want to thank you very much for the scholarship. It will certainly make my education budget much easier to manage.

I will be working to attain degrees in both Criminal Justice and Psychology. I am a full time student as well as the supervisor of house-keeping and laundry for a Nursing Home. I am also a full time husband and father of two. I am

in the Army Reserves as well.

I would like to share with you that the Childers family has a long history in the US military, fighting in every war from the founding of our nation to the present. I am very proud of my father, Charles, who fought in Vietnam and my Grandfather, Herston, who along with four of his brothers fought in WW II.

I am so much honored to be supported by those who gave so very much. I will do my best to make you proud.

Charles Scott Childers is the son of Charles Childers, A Troop, 67-68. This scholarship awarded I honor of Kenneth Francis Ybarra, B Troop, November 7, 1968.

#### **Amy Dittmer**



I was very surprised and happy to learn that I was chosen as one of the scholarship winners and I would like to thank the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia Scholarship committee and its members for awarding me this chance to further my education. I am planning on using this scholarship to finish out my degree in human resources.

As a single mother of one, it has been very difficult to find the funds to do what is necessary to go back to school. This scholarship is just what I needed to jump start our future. Again, I want to thank everyone that made all of this possible. I can't express enough what this means. Thank You.

Amy L. Dittmer is the daughter of James Dittmer, E Troop, 1968 – 1969. This scholarship awarded in honor of Ralph Robert Ramirez, D Company, May 15, 1969.

#### **Lynn Trainor**



I recently received your letter stating that I had been awarded the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia scholarship. Words cannot express my deep appreciation of this award. My family and I are very thankful to the 11th ACVVC and to all the men and women, past and present, who have served our great country. I'm indebted to

David R. Nash, whose dedication and sacrifice made this scholar-ship possible and also to my dad, Jerry Trainor, How Battery, 3/11 ACR, 1969 –1970. Without the sacrifice of these heroes, my family and I would not be able to have the opportunities and freedom we've been blessed with today. This scholarship will help a great deal with the expenses I incurred while going to school to be an Administrative Professional. Thank you again for your support and generosity.

Lynn Trainor is the daughter of Gerald Trainor, How Battery, 3/11, 69-70.

This scholarship awarded in honor of David Robertson Nash, I Troop, May 13, 1970.

#### Mara D. Klecker (No photo available)

Mara D. Klecker is the daughter of Daniel Klecker, A Troop, 69-70. This scholarship awarded in honor of Frank Dale Hammond, G Troop, January 23, 1970.

#### **Toni M. Triano** (No photo available)

Toni M. Triano is the daughter of Francis Triano, E Troop, 69-70. This scholarship awarded in honor of Samuel Joseph Jorgenson, M Company, February 14, 1970.

#### **James Marshall**



A goal can be interpreted as a dream with a deadline. During my first year at the University of Central Florida I was gradually molded in to the man I wanted to become. However, this did not come easy. Throughout the course of the year I learned to be humble, have high ambitions, and most importantly realizing how much was

being invested in my future. With the gracious help from the 11th Armored Calvary Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Scholarship I will be able to pursue my goal with less anxiety about funds and more attentiveness to my grades. Furthermore, this scholarship means more to me than just the money aspects; I see it as a way to give back to my father who risked his life for the very freedoms I have today. This award to me is not only an honor, but also gives me motivation to have perseverance through the next three years. Finally, after graduating I plan to enlist in the Navy and further my medial education 3/4 to serve and give back to the copious opportunities this country has given to me. A simple thank you would not be enough, that's why I feel it important to say that this award will be help in high regards in my mind throughout the years to come.

James Marshall is the son of William Marshall, C Troop, 69-70.

This scholarship awarded in honor of: Edwin Francis Turk, HHT, 3/11, June 18, 1969.

Thunder Run 1st Quarter, 2013

## **Blackhorse Hoofbeats**

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

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

- The problem with historical records. In the heat of battle, reports go astray, coordinates get copied wrong, and casualty counts become confused. Alpha and Charlie Troops' firefight on 12 July 1968 is a typical example. The after action reports (AAR) from Regiment, the 1st Infantry Division, and II Field Force Vietnam all generally agree that First Squadron was under the operational control (OPCON) of the 1st (US) Infantry Division on 12 July, but there they begin to diverge. The Regimental AAR says the contact lasted seven hours, but the 1st Infantry AAR says it started at 0800 and was over by 0930. The Regimental AAR says that there were 36 friendly casualties, including four killed in action, while the 1st Infantry AAR says only 12 Troopers were wounded and none were killed in action. The enemy "body count" is even more uncertain: according to Regiment, 51 NVA were killed in action – 1st Infantry and II Field Force say there were only 10 enemy soldiers killed. The Regimental AAR reports that 3 NVA were captured, 1st Infantry says one NVA was captured, and Il Field Force says there were no POWs. Who you gonna believe???
- MEDCAP. From the Combat Operations After Action Report for Operation Atlanta (20 October – 8 December 1966): "On 5 December (in conjunction with a cordon and search operation conducted by 3rd Squadron of the villages of CAM MY and BINH DAI) a MEDCAP [medical capabilities assistance visit] plan was initiated. In addition to medical assistance, basic foodstuffs (powdered milk, bulgur wheat, rice, and cooking oil) were distributed to the villagers... It was quite apparent from the outset that the people had been well indoctrinated by the Viet Cong on the dire consequences and effects if any of them should accept medical help from US troops [only 20 of 300 residents accepted medical aid]. The food was received in much the same manner. This was the first time the Blackhorse Regiment has encountered a locale where so many of the people were pro-Viet Cong. In order to counteract this situation an extensive psychological program has been initiated in this area stressing the importance of the people rallying to the cause of the Government of Vietnam."
- Logistician's Nightmare. Until midway through 1967, the enemy had been using the RPG-2 [rocket-propelled grenade]. The United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Command History for 1967 rated the RPG-2 as "ineffective" against armored vehicles, citing a survey "which showed that out of 194 disabled tracked vehicles, only 16 were damaged by the enemy's use of this weapon." However, beginning in the fall of 1967, the new RPG-7, with an improved warhead, range, and fuse "which provided for instantaneous initiation of the shaped charge and, therefore, optimum penetration of armor" appeared on the battlefield. Blackhorse Troopers could attest to the improved capability of the RPG-7 first hand. Also in 1967, Troopers were seeing fewer and fewer French. German, and British World War II vintage rifles and machineguns on the battlefield and more and more AK-47s, both of Soviet and Chinese Communist origin. How did German rifles come to be in Vietnam, you ask? Simple explanation, actually. When the French reoccupied Indochina after the end of World War II, they equipped their local colonial troops with weapons from captured Nazi arsenals. For example,

- over the course of several days in January while on Operation Cedar Falls, Blackhorse Troopers captured two Chinese Communist Type 43 sub-machine guns (7.62mm), one Soviet-made Mosion Nagent rifle (7.62mm), thirteen Chinese Communist Type 53 carbines (7.62mm), one US Model 1917 Springfield rifle (.30 caliber), 9 US M-1 rifles (.30 caliber), one French Lebel rifle (8mm), two German K98 Mauser rifles (8mm), one British Enfield rifle (.303 caliber), one home-made rifle (undetermined caliber), and one US M1911 pistol (.45 caliber) a logistician's nightmare when it came to supplying ammunition and spare parts. By the end of the year, AKs were the weapons being carried by almost all of the enemy the Regiment encountered. Clearly, the enemy was upgrading his arsenal in preparation for an escalation of the war.
- Dust and Mud. In December 1967, the Regiment had been in Vietnam just over a year and was operating out of the Blackhorse Base Camp under the operational control of the 9th (US) Infantry Division. This was the beginning of the dry season, and dust was a constant issue for the convoys that moved between Long Binh and the Blackhorse Base Camp. During one such convoy along National Highway 2 just at the junction with National Highway 1, an Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle (ACAV) from Regimental Headquarters Troop found itself nose-to-nose with a civilian bus that suddenly appeared out of a cloud of dust. The 17th Public Information Detachment dispatch tells the rest of the story: "To avoid a collision, the driver SP4 Robert L. Krull swerved his vehicle off the road and onto what he thought was firm ground. It was a marsh which sucked under the front end of the ACAV, causing the vehicle to stand on end, and then topple over. The two gunners on the vehicle were thrown clear, but the driver and track commander were pinned inside. Boxes of ammunition and debris buried [SP4 Gregory] Nettle [the track commander], whose body had been partially thrust into the mud and pinned by his vehicle. Three Vietnamese ran up to the track and began digging out the track commander, while others went to the aid of the driver. During the 20-minute rescue that followed, some 15 Vietnamese civilians working alongside Blackhorse Troopers freed the two men. The rescuers disregarded constant sparks from the vehicle which could have ignited spilled fuel or the rubble of ammunition and explosives tossed from the vehicle."
- Flying ACAVs. From the September 1969 edition of the Blackhorse newspaper: "The regiment's assault vehicles not only run the roads and bust jungle, they also fly if you stuff them inside a large enough cargo plane. On August 18th and 19th the Blackhorse Regiment airlifted an entire ACAV [Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle] troop 36 miles from An Loc to Bo Duc, a camp only 4 miles from the Cambodian border. The airlift of the 24 ACAV's was the first tactical airlift of an armored cavalry troop ever accomplished by the 11th Cav, but it was no experiment. Regimental Commander Colonel James H. Leach, decided that by the time bridges had been built and roads had been opened between Loc Ninh and Bo Duc, the tactical situation would have made the move useless. The enemy would have had enough warning to make an escape. So Col. Leach requested Air Force C-130's, moved First Squadron's A Troop to the end of the Loc Ninh runway, and had the entire force and all its equipment [minus the

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Troop's Sheridans] airlifted to Bo Duc in two days. As soon as the men and machines rolled out of the cargo hold and picked up ammo. they were ready to fight. It was a big job. The Air Force ran 45 sorties, one flight for each of the ACAV's and 21 for the supplies. Each ACAV means a payload of 25,000 pounds. Pilots of the lumbering Hercules cargo planes felt the 12½ ton load every time they touched down and reversed props at the Bo Duc strip, which had been lengthened in order to meet the Air Force's minimum safety standards. Air Force Mission Commander Major Eugene Askensay of Peoria, III. described the job quite calmly. 'It went real well. The runways were short but reasonably level. My biggest problem was keeping the civilians and their motorbikes off the runways.' Before the ACAV's could be moved, the crews had to strip off the antennas and machine guns. unload the machine gun ammunition, and drain the gas tanks to three quarter full. First Lieutenant William Nash of New Orleans, La., leader of the first platoon, said the operation was, 'surprisingly simple. The biggest thing about it is that we were in contact last night, we airlifted today and tonight we'll be ready to fight again.' A minor discordant note was sounded by Sergeant Larry Dungey of Cassopolis, Mich. He confided, 'I don't much like to fly, and flying around with a 12 ton ACAV doesn't help the situation much.' But he made it, as did all the men in A Troop - who once again showed how far and how fast the 11th

Armored Cavalry Regiment will move to find the enemy and pile on."

• Maintenance Standdown. From the Second Squadron Standdown After Action Report, dated 28 October 1970: "The 2d Squadron, 11th ACR participated in the Regimental standdown program from 13 August through 16 September 1970. This standdown was the first opportunity in over 14 months for the squadron to direct its attention solely towards accomplishing detailed maintenance and establishing the accountability of its equipment without simultaneously attempting to accomplish a compat mission." As part of this standdown, the Squadron maintenance section and vehicle crews replaced 24 major assemblies (engines, transmissions, and final drives) and, after technical inspection, found that 13 of the squadron's M113s met washout criteria and were turned in for replacement vehicles. Further, a "100% inventory of all squadron equipment was conducted by sub-hand receipt holders, and hand receipts were updated. A significant amount of excess property was identified and either turned in or picked up through inventory adjustment procedures." Radio repair was a particular problem during the standdown: "Approximately 90% of the radios turned in for repair were returned with improperly adjusted squelch, and approximately 20% of the repaired radios that were returned were in an inoperable condition."

## From the 65th Colonel of the Regiment

**COL John Ward** 



COL John "Lanier" Ward

reetings and  $\mathbf{J}_{\mathsf{Happy}}$ New Year from your Blackhorse Troopers! With another successful year complete, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all Our dedicated Troopers, Veterans,

and Civilians who make up this great Regiment. I'm extremely fortunate to have all of you on the team as you are the most intelligent, talented and motivated group of individuals I've ever been around.

Our most notable effort was our rotational support for both units preparing to deploy and those executing the Army's Decisive Action rotations. The National Training Center executed its first Decisive Action Rotation with 3rd Brigade, 3rd ID, in March, 2012. TRADOC developed the Decisive Action Training Environment to create a common training scenario for use throughout the Army. It features a hybrid threat, reflective of the complexities of potential adversaries our nation could face

in the 21st century. This threat includes guerrilla, insurgent, criminal, and nearpeer conventional forces woven into one dynamic environment. The year's final rotation closed out with the 13-02 DATE which trained the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson.

In the month of December, we took the opportunity to conduct training with our U.S. vehicles. We executed Tank, Bradley, mortar and flex-machine-gun live fire training. This opportunity enabled the Troopers to improve their gunnery skills as Delta Troop took the top tank honors and Assassin Troop walked away as the top Bradley Troop. Our top Bradley crew consisted of B-31 with 1LT David Hester (Bradley Commander), SGT Jordan Frizzel (Gunner), and SPC Brandon Ridgeway (Driver) with a score of 951 and 9 of 10 engagements qualified. The Top Tank crew was G-32 with SGT Richard Preston (Tank Commander), SPC Victor Cortez (Gunner), SPC Jeffrey Ruiz (Driver), and PFC Michael Nudo (Loader) with a score of 984 and 10 of 10 engagements qualified.

The 16th Annual Barstow Veteran's Home Memorial march continued on 12

December 2012 which honored past and present Veterans while maintaining the esprit de corps we have cherished over the years. The march consisted of 200 Troopers and four miles through downtown Barstow. A huge banner was signed by the Troopers participating in the march and given to the home to commemorate the event, along with a three thousand dollar donation to the home. After the presentation, a great barbeque lunch was provided to all courtesy of a few great supporters.

Looking forward to 2013, we will start with another fast paced rotation schedule. All the training we have conducted during the past year will lead us to successfully serve as the Army's best Opposing Force in the world. I am especially proud of the accomplishments of our Regiment. The dedication and the professionalism are proven by our achievements and shown by our contributions to the contingency operations overseas and the stateside missions. We could not be more proud of our Troopers and of the magnificent work they do each and every day to preserve the gifts of hope and freedom. Thank you for your continued support in all we do.

Thunder Run 1st Ouarter, 2013

## 11th Cavalry Memorial Project

lanning for the relocation of the 11th Cavalry memorial from Fort Knox to the new National Armor and Cavalry Museum at Fort Benning has begun. It is anticipated that the first phase of development of the National Armor and Cavalry Museum will be completed by October 2013. Our goal is to complete the move and construction of the new memorial site no later than early 2015. This gives us approximately two years to complete the project.

The entire memorial complex will be moved, including the large Vietnam Memorial, the three memorials which are dedicated to the Philippine, World War II and Iraqi Freedom campaigns, plus the nearly 1,100 granite bricks which surround the memorial. All bricks will be catalogued prior to the move and will be place

in the new location in the same relative position.

The cost of the move will be shared between the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia and the Blackhorse Association. To help offset the cost of this project both organization will be offering granite bricks.

Anyone can purchase a memorial brick. Memorial bricks are a lasting tribute of YOUR SERVICE to our regiment. The bricks are a way in which we ALL can participate and show our support for our fellow Blackhorse troopers whose names are listed on the memorials. The bricks measure 8 x 4 x 2 inches and can accommodate inscription of up to three lines of 15 characters per line. Many choose to have their name, unit, and years of service

with the regiment inscribed on their brick. Others choose to have a special message inscribed. Some of the message are very touching: "IN OUR HEARTS", "BROTHERS 4-EVER", "I NEVER FORGET" and "ALL GAVE SOME-SOME GAVE ALL" are just a few of the personal messages on the bricks. The cost of the granite bricks is \$100.

We are beginning this fundraiser now so we can insure that sufficient funds are available in plenty of time to complete the project by early 2015. Bricks will be placed at the new memorial site at Fort Benning during the construction phase.

The bricks add a very special and personal touch to the memorial. We urge you to support this worthwhile project by ordering a brick.

## **Brick Order Form Instructions:** Print your message in the boxes below exactly as you want your brick to appear. Be sure to leave a blank box between words. Each line accommodates a maximum of 15 characters, including blank boxes and punctuation (commas, periods, hyphens). If ordering more than one brick, photocopy this form or use a separate sheet of paper. LINE 1: LINE 2: LINE 3: PHONE: NAME: ADDRESS: CITY/STATE/ZIP ☐ 4" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$100 enclosed ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date\_\_\_\_\_ Signature (Required for Credit Card): Please make checks/money orders payable to: 11th ACVVC. Mail this form with your check, money order, or credit card (no cash) to: 11th ACVVC, C/O Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd, Kilmarnock, VA 22482

LFORD COUTS TOAM IN MEMORY OF DON BOWMAN TROOP 69-70 IN HONOR OF ALL FRANK CHURCH G TROOP 69-70

## **Veterans Day 2012**



ABOVE: Blackhorse troopers gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day to mark the 30th anniversary of the dedication of the Wall and to say thanks to ALL Blackhorse troopers for their service to this great country and our great REGIMENT! ALLONS!"

BELOW: I Troopers participate in the annual Veterans Day parade in Branson, MO. Sitting in the front row is Mrs. Jovett Siler, whose son, Cary Hubert Siler, was killed in action on April 11, 1967 while serving with I Troop.



Brian Wright reads his father's name, Grover C. Wright Jr., Air Cavalry Troop, KIA April 18, 1968, during the Reading of the Names Ceremony on Veterans Day 2012. Over 2,000 volunteers read the names of the 58,282 KIA's over a three day period as part of the 30th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial."



Thunder Run 1st Ouarter, 2013

## 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia (11ACVVC) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION [revised September 20, 2012] → Please print the latest Scholarship Guide at www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html Scholarship Chairman Michael "Doc" Rafferty

[1] Applicant's Full Name:		Date of Birth:	
[2] Applicant's Social Security Number:	E-Mail Address:		
Address:	10	Apartment/Unit #	
City: State	: Zip Code:	Telephone Number:	<u> </u>
[3] Applicant's Qualifying Status: (Check Only One): ☐ Ch ☐ Child of a Curr		rooper who served in Vietnam or Cambodia  ☐ Trooper Who is a Current 11ACVVC Mo	ember
→ [4] Applicant's SPONSOR 11th Cav Veteran: Full Name	:	Email	
[5] Sponsor's 11th Cav Unit in Vietnam:	Dates in Vietnam	11ACVVC Membership #: _	
⇒ [6] Name and Address of College or Trade School Tha	t Vou Plan to Attend: //	Indorgraduate Studies Only)	
Name:			
Address:			
City:State: Have You Made Application? ☐ Yes. ☐ No	Zip: F	Phone:	
Have You Made Application? ☐ Yes. ☐ No.	. Have You Been Acc	epted? Yes. No.	
[7] Standard Test Score For Your State: ACT SAT	Other S	specify:	
[8] Estimated Expenses for the School Year: Tuition & Fer Books & Supplies \$; Misce	es \$ellaneous \$	_; Room & Board \$; ; Total Exp. \$	
→[9] Schools and Colleges Attended: (10th Grade to Pres)	ent)		
Name City, State Dat	es From / To	ame City, State	Dates From / To
"			
⇒ [10] You <u>must</u> attach a copy of your <u>grade transcripts</u> fro	m your <u>last two years o</u>	f education in High School or College.	
<ul> <li>[11] On one typed sheet of paper with your NAME &amp; EMA</li> <li>State the Field of Study That You Plan to Enter a</li> </ul>		ponsor/Father's name at top of the page:	
<ol> <li>State the Field of Study That You Plan to Enter a</li> <li>Tell Us Why You Would Be a Worthy Recipient o</li> </ol>		nip.	
3. Note: Concentrate on why you should be awarde	d an 11ACVVC Scholars	hip. Focus on your qualifications and not you	ır father's military experience. If
applicable, also describe <b>your</b> participation in vete	rans' affairs or events, if	any.	
	O-1		
I, the undersigned, give my permission for a copy of my High I understand that the selection process may involve a commit			cation.
[13]		-	
★ Signature of Applicant	Printed Name	Date	
[14]	Printed Name	Date	
			01.
→ [15] Please Mail Your Completed Application with at Michael "Doc" Rafferty	tachments for [10] and	[11] above to the Scholarship Committee	<u> e Chairman:</u>
11ACVVC Scholarship	Chairman		
5837 Habanero Drive ●			

Application Deadline is May 15th

⇒ QUESTIONS? Email is Doc Rafferty's PREFERRED method of communication.

## <u>Fiddler's Green</u>



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

- Roy D. Arian, 37th Medical Company (1969) passed away on November 13, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hominy, OK. He was laid to rest in A. J. Powell Memorial Cemetery, Hominy, OK.
- Gordon H. Brooks, I Troop, 3/11 (1968) passed away on April 13, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sacramento, CA. He was laid to rest in Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery, Dixon, CA.
- **Donald W. Carothers**, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) and 919th Engineer Company (1971-1972) passed away on January 4, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rayland, OH.
- Joseph E. Chandley, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 21, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sayannah. GA.
- Robert B. Davies, 124th CS Maintenance (1970-1971) passed away on October 18, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tempe, AZ. He was laid to rest in National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ.
- Robert Edwards, M Company, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on December 13, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Anderson, SC. He was laid to rest in M. J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery, Anderson, SC.
- Dennis C. Egbert, D Company, 1/11 (1967-1969) passed away on August 28, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wapakoneta, OH. He was laid to rest in Greenlawn Cemetery, Wapakoneta, OH.
- Wilson B. Fields, 919th Engineer Company (1968-1969) passed away on October 22, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cleveland, OK. He was laid to rest in Woodland Cemetery, Cleveland, OK.
- Cornelius L. Gray, 541st MID (1966-1967) passed away on December 28, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Troy, NY. He was laid to rest in St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, NY. Cornelius is also a veteran of World War II and Korea.
- John M. Greeley, HHT Regiment (1969-1970) passed away on January 8, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sausalito, CA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. John is also a veteran of the Korean War.
- Charles L. Johnson, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on May 29, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Richmond, VA. He was laid to rest in Quantico National Cemetery, Triangle, VA
- **Charles W. Locklin**, I Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 19, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Montgomery, AL. He was laid to rest in Reaves Chapel Memorial Cemetery, Wilcox County, AL.
- William E. Manley, 409th Radio Research Detachment (1969) passed away on June 24, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Greenwood, SC. He was laid to rest in Oakbrook Memorial Park, Hodges, SC.
- Monsignor Francis Walter Montondon, Chaplain, HHT, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on December 9, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Port Arthur, TX. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

- Richard L. Powers, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 14, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lansing, MI. He was laid to rest in St Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Lansing, MI.
- Ralph D. Pursell, F Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 13, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Scottsdale, AZ. He was laid to rest in National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona. Phoenix. AZ.
- **Benedict A. (Ben) Rademacher**, G Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on January 23, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cottage Grove, MN. He was laid to rest in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bellingham, MN. Ben is also a veteran of the Korean War.
- John E. Raffety, 7th Surgical Hospital (1967) passed away on May 21, 2012.
  He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mountain View,
  CA. He was laid to rest in Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery, Dixon,
  CA.
- Don D. Richter, H Company, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on November 29, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Midland, TX. He was laid to rest in Lamesa Memorial Park, Lamesa, TX.
- Lanny B. Russ, HHT, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on July 10, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Belhaven, NC. He was laid to rest in Belhaven Cemeterv. Belhaven. NC.
- Vincient H. Stephens, G Troop, 2/11 (1969) passed away on October 14, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ardmore, OK. He was laid to rest in Jehovah Cemetery.
- Manuel S. Tafoya, HHT Regiment (1970-1971) passed away on December 9, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Belton, TX. He was laid to rest in Killeen City Cemetery, Killeen, TX. Manual is also a veteran of the Korean War.
- David R. Tessier, H Company, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on January 22, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Littleton, CO. He was laid to rest in Shrine of Remembrance, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Ivan L. Trifon, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 12, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Corpus Christi, TX. He was laid to rest in Brookside Memorial Park, Houston, TX.
- Robert W. Zwickel, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 21, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Broadview, MT. He was laid to rest in Broadview Cemetery, Broadview, MT.

Thunder Run 1st Ouarter. 2013

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



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$4.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



**#5 Blackhorse Watch** w/Leather Band (men's only) \$35.00



**#7 Blackhorse Patch** Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch **Subdued \$4.00** 



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal

\$35.00



#9 Cavalry Hat \$225.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#10 Belt, \$30.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00

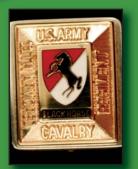
#13 License



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$10.00



#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$380.00



#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$430.00



#18 11th ACR **Regimental Crest** \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



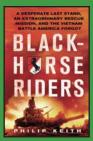
#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



#31 Book: Blackhorse Riders \$25.00



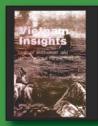
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



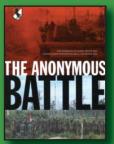
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



#30 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



#34 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



#32 Book: The Anonymous Battle : Part II \$16.00



#37 Book, "American Warrior" by 'Doc' Bahnsen \$20.00



#36. T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L) \$20.00



#38a Old Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#38b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#39 a/b T-Shirt, Ash/Black \$18.00



#40a/b/c Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, red/white/black \$32.00



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



#41 Blue Dress Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$32.00



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By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

As the fireworks shot off last night, we watched the ball drop in New York and the clock sounded midnight, we ushered in 2013. I now sit and try to imagine what this year will bring for not only the Moreno family but for our Blackhorse families as well.

We have so much to celebrate and look forward to this year. For my family, it's things like seeing my mom in good health and about to celebrate her 92nd birthday, our twin grandson's entering the Tween years, our trip not only to Indianapolis but a return trip to Mount Rushmore. My sister and brother in law live closer to us now so we'll be seeing more of them and most excitedly the upcoming wedding of our niece. Yes so much to do this year and so many plans to make. It will certainly be a busy year for us.

I was thinking about our quilt the other day. I haven't had time to do anything with it yet and really not that sure I will get to it anytime soon. I may need to contact someone to put it all together. So if you are a quilter contact me.

Those of you who did not get to finish your piece please let me know and I will send it to you to finish, otherwise please do not get upset if I do not get it done in time. The fabric markers needed to complete them can be bought in any craft store and even in most Wal-Mart stores inexpensively.

We still have cookbooks left. Ladies, we really do need to get them sold. I know most of us have already bought what we needed but if we don't sell them, then we will not have the funds to make any more donations from the Women's Group to the organization, nor will we have the funds to use to take any field trips or do any projects. I would really hate to see this happen as we have come so far since the group first started meeting back in 1998.

I was at that first meeting and it consisted of about a dozen women sitting in a circle talking and crying about the ways that their husbands changed while in Viet Nam and since returning home. We have since then introduced the program that is

If any of you who live in or near our reunion site this year know of something that you feel the women would enjoy doing or visiting please let me know. I am sort of lost for ideas this year

now being done by the organization in which someone from the VA comes in to speak on different topics, to welcoming all the first timers at the Saturday banquet, to honoring those members of the 11th who have passed on to Fiddlers Green.

We have over 100 ladies who have become a part of our group. *Please* let's not go back to the past but move forward with fun things to do. But to do this we MUST sell the rest of our cookbooks. Remember we ordered the bare minimum we could.

We donated a total of 6 wreaths to Arlington Cemetery this year. This is great. Pam Hathaway attended the ceremonies and places these wreaths on the graves of six of the many hero's who have been laid to rest there. Thank you Pam for doing this huge honor for us, we are really grateful to you.

Next year we hope to be able to add at least 2-4 more wreaths to our donated number. But of course we can only do this IF we sell the remainder of the cookbooks.

We also donated \$200 to the Red Cross to aide in the cleanup of Hurricane Sandy. As many of you know I am a Jersey girl and was very saddened to see that the home I had lived in is now gone. The boardwalk and beach that was my playground is no longer there. So our donation will certainly help them to rebuild their lives.

The registration forms for the reunion in Indy should be out soon. I have started to print the name tags and the meal cards are almost done. So now it's up to you all. Mail your registration forms in as soon as possible. Remember you can always cancel late if you need to. It does take a while to do the name tags as they each need to be done one by one. And the process is lengthy. First after you send them out either by mail or e-mail, they go to Virginia where Ollie removes the money, then after he has at least 10 of them he sends them to us and we sort them and make the name tag. Then Bob takes them and records them into his charts and on the web site. All in all this can take anywhere from 2-4 weeks from start to finish. Then to top it off this year I have a few obligations that will take me to Pennsylvania several times before the reunion.

If any of you who live in or near our reunion site this year know of something that you feel the women would enjoy doing or visiting please let me know. I am sort of lost for ideas this year.

Well it's rather late and Bob is on the sofa sleeping, the dogs are curled up sleeping on one of the blankets so I think it is time to close this. But before I go, I want to once again remind you of your mission - to sell the rest of the cookbooks!

I hope to hear from several of you soon concerning the books, the quilt, or ideas of what to do at our meeting.

I hope this is a wonderful new year for all of you and I look forward to seeing each of you in Indy.

Barb Moreno puppytoes8@gmail.com

## <u>Incoming...</u>

Steven Spriggs (31st Engineers, 1968)...tells us that our sister organization, The Blackhorse Association, will sponsor their 4th Annual Hoedown in Orange County, CA on March 7, 2013 to

support their scholarship fund. Tickets can be reserved for a \$25 donation. Reservations can be made and more information obtained by calling (949) 673-5070.

1st Quarter, 2013 Thunder Run

30



## **Quartermaster**

\* Required info to process your order

### ORDER FORM • 3rd QTR 2012

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

•				
Item No. Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1. Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia				
2. Key ring, 1. 5 " Embroidery square w/full color Blackhorse insignia				
Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia     Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon				
Wildow Sticker, full color Brinisignia and vietnam service hobbit     Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice)    Man's				
6. Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) ☐ Man's				
7. Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	4.00			
8. Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	4.00			
9. Cavalry Hat, (rope & pin included in price)	225.00			
11. Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	30.00 50.00			
13. License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11				
14. License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white				
15. Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib				
16. Tote Bag, red & black, 14xl1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib				
17. Blackhorse Pin  18. 11th ACR Regimental Crest				
19. Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers				
20. Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath				
21. Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, sterling silver w/full BH insignia				
22. Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)				
23. Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)				
24. Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds				
25. Blackhorse Coin				
27. Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon				
28. Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)				
31 Book: "Blackhorse Riders"				
30. Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths				
32. Book, "Anonymous Battle II" (Picture not available)				
34.Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter				
36. T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L)				
38. Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. □ a (old) □ b (new)				
39. Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: □ ash □ black				
40. Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: ☐ Red ☐ White ☐ Black				
41. Blue dress or denim shirt (men's)	32.00			
42. Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back ), and ACVVC front left	05.00			
43. Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon				
44. OTHER: Sale Items, Etc.				
		Sub	total	
Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL	Shipping a	nd Handling		
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B) \$6 00 — \$15.00 = \$6.60 C) \$16.00 — \$60.00 = \$12.35				
D) $\$61.00$ — $\$00.00$ = $\$12.33$				
b) \$01.00 and 600 = \$10.00				
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## From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

#### **Hello All Blackhorse Troopers**

Jerry Beamon, Quartermaster, 11th ACVVC

Hope everyone had a great Holiday season. All has gone real good here at your quartermaster store. We have closed out last year on a positive note. Thank you so much. Jan and I are hoping that you will start making plans now to see us in Indy this year. Yes, it's a long time away from now, so make your plans early and avoid the last minute rush.

I was honored to have been selected for the John Quilter Award in Orlando this past Reunion. I would to Thank Chaplin Haworth for selecting me for this outstanding award.

Once again I ask you to pay attention to the shipping rates. The Postal Rates have drastically changed again.

Also the East Texas Round up has been set for May 4th. In Rusk, Texas at the Texas State Railroad, just 3 miles west of downtown Rusk on Hwy. 84. For more info call Wayne Jacobitz at 903-588-2898, or call Jerry Mitchell at 903-894-3851, email *jmitchell5@nctv.com*. We would like to see you there if you live close to the East Texas area. Give them a call and let's get together for some fun & war stories. Last year a good turn out so come by for a visit.

Our personal Thanks to Otis Carey and Bill Gregory who keep us rocking here at your store. Thanks both of you so much we appreciate all your hard work that you do for us. Jan & I are looking forward to serve you in this New Year.

**ALLONS** 

Jerry

#### QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

new!



