



# Thunder Run

Vol. 23 – NO. 2

“Together Then – Together Again”

2nd Quarter, 2008

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

### Paul L. Kern to Address 11th ACVVC in Chicago



General Paul L. Kern (USA Ret)

We are pleased to announce that General Paul L. Kern (USA Ret) has graciously accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker at the 23rd annual reunion banquet on Saturday, August 23 at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare, Rosemont, IL.

General Kern served two tours in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. His first tour as a platoon leader with G Troop in 1968 was cut short when he was severely wounded and evacuated to the US. After a period of recovery he volunteered to return to Vietnam and served once again with the 11th ACR. During his second tour in 1969-70 he served in Regimental Headquarters, 3rd Squadron Headquarters, and as troop commander of I Troop. During his service with the regiment he was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal with “V” Device (2), Bronze Star Medal (2), and Purple Heart (2).

Kern also served a third combat tour during his military career as the Brigade

**General Kern served two tours in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. His first tour as a platoon leader with G Troop in 1968 was cut short when he was severely wounded and evacuated to the US.**

Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. The 2nd Brigade played a pivotal role in the historic attack on the Jalibah Airfield, which allowed the Twenty-Fourth Infantry Division to secure key objectives deep inside of Iraq. He also served as the Assistant Division Commander of the 24th after its redeployment to Fort Stewart.

Kern has served in a number of positions throughout his Army career to include the Commander, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) 1996-1997; the Senior

Please turn to **KERN** on page 6

### Getting There

By Ed W. (Bill) Rogers (Air Troop and HHT Regiment 66-67) “Boat Person”

It is said that “History is written by historians for historians” and sometimes they are caught up in “big picture” events as opposed to what the little details were. With that being said please remember that this is not meant to be a historical document but rather just a small part of our story as I remember it. The names are as I remember them so if I got something screwed up blame it on age. We are not getting younger and I felt this story needed to be told before it’s forgotten. I also know that the statute of limitations has passed for some of what I’m about to tell.

My name is Ed Rogers and as a PFC helicopter crewchief I was sent to Ft. Meade and the Regiment in March of 1966 assigned to Air Cav Troop, Aero Scout Platoon as a helicopter crewchief. At that time Air Troop only had a few old CH-21s, “the flying banana,” as aircraft and most of the incoming crewchiefs had Huey (read turbine engine) training. As an OH-13, OH-23 guy I was able to fly around Meade and the local area crewing one of the 21’s. Soon many of us got chances to go TDY to Bell Helicopter and pick up and ferry back brand new UH-1C and UH-1D Hueys. Two pilots,

Please turn to **ROGERS** on page 6

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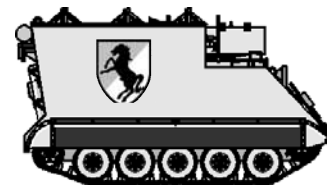




Allen Hathaway,  
President Pro Tem

# From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President Pro Tem



Details are being finalized for the 23rd Annual Reunion of the 11th ACVVC in Chicago, IL, on August 21-24. The Hyatt

Regency O'Hare is a great location for this year's reunion. Once again this promises to be an outstanding reunion with lots of activities and plenty of time to visit with old friends. Steve Page (B Troop, 1966-67), Jim Kaszubowski (HHT, 3/11, 1966-67) and the host of volunteers have done an outstanding job planning and preparing for this reunion.

We are pleased to announce that Paul L. Kern (GEN, USA RET) will be our guest speaker this year. General Kern served two tours in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, first as a platoon leader with G Troop in 1968 then again in 1969-70 as troop commander of I Troop. In addition to his Vietnam combat service, as a Colonel he served as Brigade Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

A tentative reunion schedule is printed in this issue of *Thunder Run*. Please note times may vary slightly for some activities as the reunion draws closer. We are also seeing more people arriving a day or so early. Bob and Barb Moreno will open the reunion registration desk on Wednesday morning to accommodate those early arrivals.

Thursday will offer three daytime activities; The 17th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament, "Blackhorse Day" at beautiful Arlington Race Track, and the Chicago Cubs baseball game (sold out). Friday daytime activities include the "Windy City Tour". This is an excellent opportunity to see some of the sights of Chicago. Please see the activity reservation form printed in this copy of the newsletter to sign-up.

Friday night will feature the bunker party and the "Taste of Chicago", a sampling of some of the foods Chicago is famous for. This years bunker party will also feature special live entertainment you don't want to miss.

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**We expect another large turn-out for our reunion this year. We've added more rooms since the last newsletter. As of this writing, nearly 65 percent of our total room block for Friday and Saturday night has already been reserved.**

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The Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Saturday morning. Elections will be held this year for president (to complete the term thru Dec 31, 2009) and one board member (three year term beginning Jan 1, 2009). Our Memorial Service will be held after lunch. We will top off the days activities with our Saturday evening banquet, program and Blackhorse Salute.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with various activities during the reunion. All of our regular staff are volunteers who work extremely hard during the reunion. Just a few hours of your time would allow them to take a break and enjoy some of the reunion. If you can help, please contact Steve Page or Jim Kaszubowski before the reunion or visit our website and select "reunion information" to sign-up.

We expect another large turn-out for our reunion this year. We've added more rooms since the last newsletter. As of this writing, nearly 65 percent of our total room block for Friday and Saturday night has already been reserved. Also, over 325 Blackhorse troopers live within 40 miles of the hotel. You can help make this another successful reunion by keeping a few things in mind: Mail your registration early and avoid the late registration fee. Reserve your hotel room early. (You may cancel up to 24 hours prior to check-in. The special reunion rate is available three days prior and three days after the reunion – as long as rooms are available.) Finally, contact old friends early giving them plenty of time to make their plans to attend. Contact any board member if you need help finding an old friend. Come prepared to enjoy yourself!

We would also like to remind everyone that we have the Trooper Assistance Fund available for anyone who may need financial assistance to attend a reunion. The intent is a "one time" assist for troopers

who have never been able to attend a reunion. If you are aware of one of our troopers who would like to come, please contact the secretary, president or any board member. In most cases, the trooper himself is reluctant to come forward, and most are recommended by a friend. The goal is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to experience at least one of our unique reunions.

Our Scholarship Fundraising activity is going strong with record numbers of donors and donations. Our scholarship fundraising consists of three activities. The annual calendar is the first of these three activities. This year we set a goal of \$37,000 for calendar donations. We are pleased to announce that through the generosity of our members we have collected \$38,995 in calendar donations as of mid March, with 23 percent of our members making donations. Our members always look forward to receiving their copy of the calendar each year. If you like the calendar and wish to continue to receive the calendar each year, please consider making a donation.

The second part of our three part scholarship fund raising activity is our annual raffle. Jim Holt (How, 1/11, 1967-68) will be heading up the raffle again this year. This is our 20th year for the raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each with the chance to win 1st prize of \$1,000, 2nd prize of \$750, 3rd prize of \$500 or 4th prize of \$250. Drawing will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2008, at the annual reunion. Winners need not be present to claim prizes. Tickets will be mailed to all members in June.

The third part of our scholarship fund raising activity is our silent auction. Rod George (How, 3/11, 1966-67) will head up the silent auction again this year. This is always a fun and interesting activity at our annual reunion. Donations of items or "in-

Continued on page 10

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



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

<b>President Pro Tem Membership Chair</b>	Allen Hathaway, (HHT Regiment, 66-67) 13194 Rettew Drive Manassas, VA 20112 (703) 791-6610 <11thcav1966@comcast.net>	<b>Editor</b>	James M. (Jim) Griffiths (F Troop, 2/11, 1968-1969) 3784 Michigan Ave. Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 (269) 465-3414 <Jgriff11@aol.com>
<b>Vice President</b>	Peter L. Walter, (How, 3/11, 70) 8 Tallowood Dr. Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 (609) 261-5629 <basepiece70@verizon.net>	<b>Internet Coord.</b>	Otis Carey (F Troop, 2/11, 71-72) PO Box 124 Ekron, KY 40117 (270) 828-2512 <carey@kysales.com>
<b>Secretary &amp; Scholarship Chair</b>	Frank R. Cambria, CPT USA (RET) (G Troop, 2/11, 70-71) 234 Club Drive Novato, CA 94945 (415) 897-4003 <Captain.Frank@Covad.net>	<b>Website Manager</b>	Pete Echon (F Troop, 2/11, 69-70) 1624 Kenneth Ave Arnold, PA 15068-4219 (724) 335-8396 <ftroop2@comcast.net>
<b>Scholarship Co-Chair</b>	Mike "Doc" Rafferty (G Troop, 2/11, 1969-1970) 5504 N. Cypress Ave. Kansas City, MO 64119 (816) 453-6235 <DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net>	<b>Veterans' Information</b>	Jack Morrison (A Troop, 1/11, 1967-1969) 542 Main St. Rockport, IN 47635 (812) 649-4500 <slumlord@psci.net>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ollie W. Pickral, (K Troop 3/11, 68-69) 571 Ditchley Road Kilmarnock, VA 22482 (804) 435-3658 <11cavalry@verizon.net>	<b>Reunion Committee Chairman</b>	Steve Page (B Troop, 1/11, 66-67) 5400 Little River Neck Road North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582 (843) 280-4506 <stephen.r.page@verizon.net>
<b>Director</b>	Robert "Bob" Moreno (G Troop 2/11, 68-69) 24284 Endeavor Ave. Tomah, WI 54660 (608) 372-5892 <Blackhorse68@Charter.net>	<b>Historian</b>	Don Snedeker 2221 Tulip Dr Falls Church, VA 22046 (703) 676-4019 (W) <snedekerd@saic.com>
<b>Director</b>	James D. "Jim" Holt (HOW, 1/11/ 67-68) PO Box 1948 Plainview, TX 79073-1948 (806) 296-2632 <blkhrs6768@sbcglobal.net	<b>Public Affairs</b>	Eric Newton (K Troop, 3/11, 1968-1969) P. O. 956 Colleyville, TX 76034 <Armor11ACR@aol.com>
<b>Director</b>	Rodney H. George (How 3/11, 66-67) 21450 Ninemile Rd., Huson, MT 59846 (406) 626-5819 <rhg1ekg2@aol.com	<b>Funeral Honor Guard</b>	Daniel Stroia (K Troop, 3/11, 1967-1968) 8350 E McKellips #158 Scottsdale, AZ 85257 (480) 242-7040 (C) 24/7 <ktroop6768@yahoo.com>
<b>Chaplain</b>	Lawrence E. Haworth, (HHT 2/11, 69-70) 176 Rainbow Dr., #7627 Livingston, TX 77399 (661) 860-0093 (cell) <lehaworth@aol.com>	<b>Women's Coordinator</b>	Barb Moreno 24284 Endeavor Ave. Tomah, WI 54660 (608) 372-5892 <puppytoes@charter.net>
<b>Auditor</b>	William "Bill" Suhre (I Troop, 3/11 '68) 217 83rd Ave Greeley, CO 80634 (970) 330-7900 <thesurreys@aol.com>	<b>Operation Embrace</b>	Chairman: Joe Willey (HHT Regt, 69-70) 2729 Ocean Oaks Dr. South Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 (904) 583-1642 <11thackria@gmail.com>
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Jerry L. Beamon, (K Troop, 3/11, 1969-1970) 15926 Cedar Bay Dr Bullard, TX 75757 <JerryLBea@aol.com>	<b>Reunion Co-Chair</b>	Jim Kaszubowski (HHT, 3/11, 1966-1967) 504 Belmont Pkwy Sleepy Hollow, IL 60118 (847) 836-7501 <jim_kas@prodigy.net>

# 11th ACVVC Reunion XXIII, Rosemont, IL

## Registration

Greetings to everyone from me here in the blustery cold Midwest. As I sit here writing this article I am also thinking how sunny and warm it will be when we join once again in Chicago. The reunion is a weekend I look forward to each year with many memories and happiness.

I would like to thank all of you who have already sent in their registration forms. You have no idea how much time it saves us in the long run. To be able to enter all the information into the computer, make these labels and of course the name tags now is great. I know, from the past, that in the beginning of June, there will be a packet in the mail from Ollie almost every day full of registrations. That's when the time for getting everything done will just fly by.

So many of the registrations that have arrived, have used those wonderful address labels. Thank you, you have no idea how hard some of the writing is to read and they make everything easier.

By pre registering you also save. When you pre register you can be sure that when you arrive at the reunion your packet, nametag and meal ticket(s) will be there. By thinking that you will either wait until the week before reunion or perhaps to the weekend of it you run the risk of not being able to sit with your unit during the banquet, or even being able to attend the banquet. You also risk being charged a late fee, or in the case of sending it in late, being charged a full fee plus late fee again because I did not receive it from Ollie before I left home.

Not sure at this time if you will be able to attend? Send it in anyway, as we can always refund your payment to you if you find you can't make it. As they say "better safe, than sorry,"

By the time we get to the reunion, Steve Page already has the meals ordered and the unit seating charts figured out. And as you all know from years past, it can sometimes be close quarters in the banquet hall. That is another reason to get registered early as I'm sure you would rather sit with your buddies from your unit than at the overflow tables. By not registering until you get there you lose that opportunity and

will definitely have to sit at the overflow table, if in fact there is room for extras at all.

I received a call the other day from a trooper asking if it was acceptable to bring a "friend" with him to the reunion. My answer? Of course it's okay, as long as the registration fee for him/her is paid. The more the merrier.

When you arrive at the reunion and check in at the reunion registration table (not the hotel registration) you will receive an envelope. Inside there will be: your name tags in the appropriate color, meal tickets and a schedule of reunion activities, some general information about the reunion and the Chicago area, and an evaluation form. Please take the time to fill that evaluation out before you head for home and place it in the box where registration was held or give it to a reunion staff member. The information generated from it is used to help plan the future reunions.

As I said, in your packet you will find your name tag. Again this year we will be using various colors for the tags. This worked so well last year that it was decided to keep it. So be sure and check one of the information boards at or near registration for the color code key. All board members and the women's director will be a separate color. These are the people who will have the answers, or at least be able to find the answer to your questions. KIA family members will also have their own color as will anyone who is considered a walk in. All of you who pre-register will have white ones. The design on the name tags was designed by my son Raleigh, whom many of you met last year. So if you like it please be sure to let him know as this is the first time he has designed anything of this type.

As always we can use some extra bodies at the registration table. We try to have some fun while processing everyone in as quickly as possible. If you can spare a couple of hours please get hold of me and offer to help. I know you'll find that you enjoy it.

If you have any questions, ideas, or want to let me know that you are willing to help before you get to Chicago please e-mail me, call me (608-343-6244) or fax me at

608-372-5892. The more help we have the better as this assures us that someone will know what they are doing if the day comes when we can't be there for whatever reason.

## Names On The Web Site

Many of you have asked "when, how and why", when it comes to seeing or not seeing who has registered for the reunion on the web site. I hope at this time to explain that to you as best as I can.

When you send in your registration, either by regular US postal mail or e-mail, it goes first to Ollie in Virginia.

After he processes your payment, it is then forwarded to me here in Wisconsin. I then insert it into my computer and make the packet labels and name tags. While all this is going on I try to spend a couple of hours each night putting the names into the web site.

To insert them, I first have to access the site and enter each one individually checking and rechecking for correct spellings and the right unit.

If by chance I come across some, like last night, that have not been removed from the prior reunion I have to stop and contact Otis. He then has to remove them so that I can continue.

I apologize if I misspell your name or accidentally put you in the wrong unit. You all know how the eyes get as we get older.

All in all it takes almost two weeks before all this is completed. So please be patient with me and you will eventually see the information you are looking for on the web.

If after three or four weeks you still do not see it, it is incorrect or you have questions about this process please do not hesitate to call me at: 608- 343-6244 or e-mail me at: [blackhorse68@charter.net](mailto:blackhorse68@charter.net). I will be happy to try to answer any further questions you might have.

See you all in Chicago!

ALLONS

Bob (two dogs) Moreno  
G troop 2/11th 68/69  
Board Registration Director  
[Blackhorse68@charter.net](mailto:Blackhorse68@charter.net)

**REGISTRATION FORM**



**11th ACVVC Reunion XXIII, Rosemont, IL  
Thursday, 21 August thru Sunday, 24 August 2008**



**PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT  
Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.  
Rosemont, IL 60018  
847-696-1234 800-233-1234**

**Registration fee is \$75.00 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. **Deadline for registrations is August 1, 2008.** The registration fee will be an additional \$25.00 per person for registrations received after that date.

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Assignment \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Country \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: B TRP, D CO) (Example: 1966-1967)

**Attendees**

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
	<b>Registration Fee Total</b> \$ _____

Banquet Meal Selection (Choose one selection per attendee) Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Veggie \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs:  Yes  No (Please indicate needs) \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first reunion?  Yes  No KIA Relative?  Yes \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEELCHAIR OR OTHER MOBILITY EQUIPMENT RENTAL INFORMATION**

Please Contact: Mark Drug, Home Health, 800-253-6344 or 847-895-0011  
They will deliver to and pick up from the hotel

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 TREASURER  
C/O OLLIE PICKRAL  
571 DITCHLEY RD  
KILMARNOCK, VA 22482**

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**KERN from page 1**

Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense, Washington, DC; and the Director of Requirements (Support Systems), Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. He taught weapon systems and automotive engineering at the United States Military Academy and was the department's research officer. From 2001-2004 he was the Commanding General of the US Army Material Command. In January 2005, General Kern retired after serving more than 37 years in the US Army.

In addition, Kern also received several awards and decorations including: the Defense and Army Distinguished Service Medals, Defense Superior Service Medal, and Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster). K

Kern was raised in West Orange, NJ and graduated from West Orange High School. He was commissioned in July 1967 as an Armor lieutenant following graduation from the US Military Academy at West Point. His education includes master's degrees in both Mechanical and Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan, and a Senior Service College Fellowship at Harvard University.

After retirement, Kern became a member of the External Advisory Board of the University of Michigan Department of Mechanical Engineering, and a Senior Counselor of The Cohen Group.

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

**Newsletter Deadlines**

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

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

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

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**ROGERS from page 1**

**We all got used to carrying weapons and ammo (M-14s and blanks) 24/7. On night guard mount at the flight line I overheard the following:**

**“Halt, who goes there?” “First Sgt Pelfrey.” “BANG, BANG, BANG.”**

one crewchief, five days and a government credit card....if the records still exist it wasn't me driving that rental car, honest.....

As the bulk of our Regiment left Ft. Meade for RVN in the late summer of 1966 we in Air Cav Troop were left behind. Frankly we were not prepared for combat (is anyone?). Many of the pilots needed transition into Hueys; we lacked any type of field experience and had not finished installing, let alone firing, our helicopter weapons systems. Our ships, Huey “Charlie” model guns and “Delta” model slicks along with OH-23G scouts were being shuttled back and forth to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland for gun mounts, sighting units and weapon installation.

In August or September we took all of our Huey guns cross country to Ft. Knox to fire on the tank ranges. As an Aero scout crewchief (OH-23) I doubled up in Ed Kozar's Charlie model gunship (66-526) with WO1 Tom Evans flying. Low and slow in our Hueys we had a great time including buzzing a golf course and landing for lunch at a civil airport as a flight of 8 armed helicopters with crews carrying weapons. In the late 60's that was not an everyday event, and we created a bit of a scare for the locals but what were they gonna do- send us to Vietnam? Heck we even had a precautionary off airport landing when we got a 42 degree gearbox chip light.

At Knox we proceeded to get the bugs out as we blasted the hell out of old refrigerators and car hulks on the tank gunnery ranges with 7.62 flex guns and 2.75" HVFFAR's. I even got a chance to use the M5 thumper 40MM and wreck a derelict panel truck. Most of the time us GIB's (guys in back) were facing backwards on our knees clearing jams in the flex gun's ammo chutes. For awhile I wondered how

the hell we were going to be able to use a door gun and keep the chutes clear, but we quickly learned the tricks of the trade in loading the cans and reliability improved.

After Knox we went back to Meade and got ready for the Army Training Test at Camps A.P. Hill and Picket in Virginia. We were lead to believe that if we failed the test we could not leave CONUS. I think that a passing grade was preordained.

Several incidents come to mind during our excursion into the Virginia countryside;

We all got used to carrying weapons and ammo (M-14s and blanks) 24/7. On night guard mount at the flight line I overheard the following:

“Halt, who goes there?” “First Sgt Pelfrey.” “BANG, BANG, BANG.”

Also, you have not lived until you watched two slightly inebriated troopers, Rod Yano and Charlie Taylor, give each other haircuts, in a tent, in the rain, in the dark. I also remember playing VC and getting shot with an M-14 blank at point blank range hurts (thank you Bob Merriman), seeing an M151 stuffed with 6 GIs that buried the speedometer downhill, in the rain. (Steve Harvey said the steering felt loose!!!), and learning you can start an OH-23 with the main rotor blades tied down and a Huey with the intake covers on starts REAL hot (and neither of these is a good idea).

After passing the ATT we were sent on pre-embarkation leave for 20 days. When we returned to Meade most of the Troop flew off for RVN while the crewchiefs flew all of our helicopters off to Aberdeen where we were met by a flock of USAF reserve transport aircraft, C-124s, C-131s and the like. They were piston powered, old, unpressurized, old, dirty, old, noisy, old, oil leaking son of a guns. Did I mention they were old? We pulled the rotor heads and blades from our ships and stuffed them into the transports, as I recall we had a huey and

2 H-23s in the 124 I rode on. We then proceeded to fly across the USA at maybe 180 MPH, below 10,000 feet because we were un-pressurized and cold as hell because the ship I was in had a malfunctioning heater. At this point we in Air Troop consisted of the individual aircraft Crew Chiefs, Sgt Rich Muldrow, Two Warrant Pilots, Jimmy Small and John Benham, One acting TI, Rod Yano and the radio guy, Danny Archbold.

When we arrived in Sunny California (it rained almost every day) we ended up at a place called the Sharpe Army Depot Annex where we had to reassemble the helicopters, test fly them, and take them apart again for shipment by boat. Hey it's the Army right, like who says it needs to make sense? Now Sharpe, like many military installations of the era, had a welcoming sign at the main gate that read "This Installation has gone XX days with out an accident or incident", we in Air Troop, taking that as a challenge, reset it several times to whit...

Mr. Small and Yano wrecked a slick during a running autorotation. As I recall Jimmy said "the damn thing sits too high" when asked about flaring to low to soften the impact. Charlie Taylor rolled over a motor pool Chevrolet Carry-all with about 8 of us in the back, no one hurt but we all had to go get checked out at the post medical facility emergency room. We were glad we were unhurt because they didn't get to us until THE NEXT DAY!! Oh, and by the way Charlie was rather put out when he went to the motor pool after the wreck and was refused another vehicle. Seems someone forgot about checking military drivers licenses.

While enjoying himself with us in the EM club (we snuck his butt in) Mr. Small remarked about a parachute hanging from the ceiling and how it reminded him of his days as an EM paratrooper prior to flight school. Funny how it turned up missing later..... (Kozar and Funk did it, I think....). After being banned, more like thrown out, from the EM club we started drinking at the Stockton Airport Bar. In the lobby they had a new (1967) Mercury Cougar on display. It was slowly stripped of things like the air cleaner, a bucket seat and the like. These Items were later found in the Quartermaster Company dayroom.

Joe Villa put his hand through a barracks glass window while chasing the permanent

party CQ who was attempting to stop us from using the wooden wall in the latrine for knife throwing practice. Speaking of the Permanent Party types, they lived upstairs in the Post's old WWII era barracks and we had the ground floor. They were TERRORIFIED of us probably because of the personal firearms, knives, brass knuckles and God knows what else we all had acquired because we "were going to Nam." It was so bad they wouldn't use the common bathroom area. I wonder to this day what one of them thinks when he thinks about Blackhorse.

On a more serious note Stockton was where I learned a lesson in leadership and trust. Mr. Small and Mr. Benham learned that our departure was being delayed until after Christmas because there was trouble with our ship. They called us together and explained that we would be delayed, told us that they trusted us as soldiers and that if we left them a contact number to get us back in a day we could go home to our families. We did and we all came back, John and Jim it was years before I realized what a chance you took, but maybe you knew it wasn't much of a chance at the time. Thank you for allowing me to spend a last Christmas with my grandmother. On the 2nd of January 1967 we original Air Troop Flight Crews boarded the United States Naval Ship Point Cruz in the port of Alameda and left for RVN to join our brothers, but the story of the 28 day boat ride is for another day.

It's 40 years later now and some of us are gone, Rod, Bill, and Steve that I know of for sure, and it is to their memories this story is told. Hell of a ride my brothers, till Fiddlers Green.

## TROOPER ASSISTANCE

By Frank R. Cambria  
Secretary, 11ACVVC

The purpose of the Trooper Assistance Fund is to assist troopers in financial need, who served with the 11th Cavalry in Vietnam and Cambodia, attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th ACVVC. Qualified candidates 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 while attending.

Troopers requesting assistance must do so in writing to the 11ACVVC Secretary or President. The statement should include valid reasons for the need of financial assistance and must also provide evidence of service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Recipients will be decided by a majority vote of those Officers and Directors.

If any of you know of an eligible Blackhorse Trooper who is financially unable to attend a reunion, please urge him to apply as soon as possible. Enough time must be allowed for the Board to evaluate each request. Requests must be received by August 1, 2008 to be considered.

## MOVING?

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



Jim Griffiths, Editor  
*Thunder Run*

## Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths

The majority of my life I have lived about an hour and a half drive to the world class city of Chicago. The phrase "Going to Chicago" has played an integral part of my life for as long as I can remember. If a museum, zoo, aquarium, planetarium, professional sports stadium, or any other major venue was to be visited most likely it was in Chicago.

This year the "Going to Chicago" will take on new, different and most exciting meaning for me as I travel there to reunite with the many friends that I have in the 11th ACVVC as we gather together for our twenty third Reunion. Throughout my membership in the 11th ACVVC and attendance at many reunions I have many times thought how great it would be to have a reunion in Chicago. I think it will be great.

I think back to late May, 1968 when friends drove my High School classmate, who also went through AIT with me at Ft. Lewis, Bob Brandt (HHT 2/11) and myself to what many of us then still called O'Hare Field (now O'Hare International Airport) for the first leg of our trip to Vietnam. Probably hundreds, if not thousands, of us went through this airport traveling to and from Nam and O'Hare is only 3.25 miles away from the hotel where we

will have our Reunion. Bob, if you read this I hope to see you there.

A year later in May, 1969 I returned to O'Hare. That time I flew into the airport with my fellow AIT participant and fellow F Trooper during the previous year, Albert Rowe. Al lived in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and we parted company that day thirty nine years ago and have not seen or spoken to each other since. Al, if you read this I hope you can come to the Reunion in Chicago also.

Many of us, no doubt, have many stories concerning their travels to Vietnam. In this issue there is a story entitled "Getting There" by Ed W. (Bill) Rogers (Air Troop and HHT Regiment 66-67). I think you will enjoy the detailed description of Bill and other 11th Cavalry troopers during their sojourn to reach Vietnam. We also have numerous personal submissions from individuals and articles from our regular contributors that I hope you enjoy as well as a great deal of information concerning the Reunion that is of great importance to you if you are attending.

I am really looking forward to attending the Cubs game at Wrigley Field. The first of many times I have traveled to Wrigley Field was fifty years ago. I have never, however, made a trip there with a group and I am very proud to be going with my Blackhorse brothers as my first group trip to a game. This is the best bunch that I can possibly imagine to

accompany on this endeavor and would have never dreamed I would be doing this. Thank you to Jim Kaszubowski of the Reunion Committee for arranging this and the other great activities in Chicago.

I have one historical note for you. It would have been more timely last issue but we are reminded that this year is the 40th Anniversary of the Tet Offensive and its follow up clashes. Keep in mind that this was a military victory for our side that for some convoluted reason (most likely media distortion) was viewed as a defeat back home.

The enemy in the North and the V.C. fully expected that the people in the South we were defending were going to join in with them in a "General Uprising" against the South Vietnamese government and U.S. Forces. This never happened which contradicts the contention the antiwar movement in the U.S. held that we were simply interfering in a civil war and the people didn't want us there. The South Vietnamese not turning against us during Tet bolsters the argument that they appreciated us defending them from communism and were willing to fight together with us to fend off a communist takeover.

All of you keep the submissions and pictures coming. They make *Thunder Run* a pleasure to put together and to present to our other members. I hope all of you enjoy reading your *Thunder Run*.

## Show Your Pride



8 Larry Quincel (HHT 3/11 68-69) Shows Blackhorse pride with his decorated Ford pickup truck.



Darrel Carey (M Co. 67-68) shows his pride with his 11th Armor Cavalry license plate on his motorcycle.



# 11th ACVVC Officer And Director Elections

by Frank R. Cambria, Secretary

Our 2007 Election of Officers and Directors presented us with unusual challenges: a contested recount for one position resulting in a revote; our serving vice president declining to run for reelection; the death (from Agent Orange-related cancer) of our reelected president while serving in Office; the election by the Board of Directors of a President Pro Tem; and an upcoming election at the 2008 Reunion General Meeting of a President to serve the remaining two year 2008-2009 term currently being filled by our Board-elected President Pro Tem.

I would like to review the Officers and Board of Directors election procedures as stated by our association's Bylaws.

- Every "odd numbered year" the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected biennially at the annual meeting to serve a *two-year* term starting on January 1 of the following year and terminating at midnight, December 31 of the next year. [2007 is an odd numbered year]

- One Director will be elected annually to a three-year term.

- In the event of a vacancy in any office, or inability or refusal to serve, the office shall be filled "pro tem" by a majority vote of the remaining Officers. [Our Bylaws state specifically that the successor is elected by the Board, as opposed to being "appointed" or filled by the next senior Officer/Director to that position. This facilitates an organization such as ours that has only one General Business Meeting annually. With the use of email, the remaining Officers are able to quickly fill the vacancy with a highly qualified person who is knowledgeable about the projects and issues that were being handled by the vacated office. This Board-elected person may serve the balance of the vacant unfinished term, or another election may be held at the next General Business Meeting.]

- Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the dues-paid members in attendance at the Business Meeting.

- An *Officer* may succeed himself *no more than two consecutive terms*, with the exception of the incumbent *Treasurer* and *Secretary* who may run for re-election to those offices *without term limitation*. [This exception for the Treasurer and Secretary is to facilitate continuity of key administrative functions and the coordination of the Board of Directors and its numerous committees.]

The current terms being served are as follows:

1. **President Pro Tem Allen Hathaway** 11/20/07 to 2008 General Meeting
2. President, Chuck Schmidt [Deceased] 1/1/08 to 12/31/09
3. Vice President Pete Walter 1/1/08 to 12/31/09
4. Secretary Frank R. Cambria 1/1/08 to 12/31/09
5. Treasurer Ollie Pickral 1/1/08 to 12/31/09
6. **Director Bob Moreno** 1/1/06 to 12/31/08
7. Director Jim Holt 1/1/08 to 12/31/10
8. Director Rod George 1/1/07 to 12/31/09

We will hold elections at the 2008 General Meeting for both

positions above that expire on 12/31/08: President and one Director. Nominations for both positions in 2008 election may be emailed to the Secretary (me) at [Captain.Frank@covad.net](mailto:Captain.Frank@covad.net) to be placed on a preliminary ballot. Nominations may also be made in person from the floor at the meeting. Any nominee not in attendance at the business meeting must have previously submitted to the Secretary a letter of acceptance of nomination as candidate for the office to which he is nominated, and include a written statement of qualification to be read on his behalf at the General Meeting. All candidates for office must be dues-paid Life members.

## 2009 11th ACVVC Calendar Photos Needed

The 2009 11th ACVVC Calendar will be assembled in October 2008 for publication and distribution in November/December. We have used nearly all photos previously submitted that were suitable for publication. If you would like your photos to be considered for publication in the 2009 edition of the annual Scholarship Program calendar fundraiser, please submit them to the address below. We look for photos with interesting content. Photos must be clear and suitable to enlarge. Please indicate the approximate date and a brief description of the location if known. Photos will be returned. All photos must be received by September 1, 2008, in order to be considered. Submit photos to: Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr, Manassas, VA 20112

Credits for some photos in the 2008 calendar were not available at the time of printing. If your photo appeared in the 2008 calendar and have not been given credit, please contact Allen Hathaway. We would like to acknowledge all those who have contributed photos here.

### 2008 Calendar Photo Credits - Updated

January	John Poindexter, A Trp 1/11, 1970
February	
March	John Poindexter, A Trp 1/11, 1970
April –	
May –	
June	John Poindexter, A Trp 1/11, 1970
July –	
August	Military Sea Transport Services Archives
September	Christopher Wheeler, HHT, 2/11, FSB Warrior 1971
October	Chuck Schmidt, I Trp 3/11, 1968
November	Jim Hershey, I Trp 3/11, 1970
December	John Poindexter, A Trp 1/11, 1970

**Honor our fallen comrades on Memorial Day, May 26. For over 20 years Blackhorse Troopers have met and placed our wreath at the Wall in Washington, DC, to honor our fellow troopers. If you cannot make it there, attend a local memorial service.**

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kind” services for the auction can be made at any time up to the day of the reunion. Members are reminded that items with an 11th Cavalry theme are always in demand, but any item of value and good taste is welcome. Please see Rod’s separate article on the Silent Auction in this issue.

The scholarship program has always been one of the many important programs the 11th ACVVC has supported. Our scholarship fund is self sufficient. That is, all scholarships, raffle prize money, printing and mailing costs for calendar and raffle tickets are paid directly from the scholarship fund. Through the generosity of our members, 32 scholarships of \$3,000 each were awarded in 2007. We are confident that with the continued support of our members we will again have a very successful year.

We received a number of phone calls and e-mails after our last newsletter from troopers who recognized names of new members printed in “Welcome Aboard”. Again, if you are looking for someone, please feel free to contact me or any board member and we will try to put you in contact with them.

Our web site is a great conduit to communicate with our membership and to promote our service to visitors to the site. Otis Carey (F Troop, 2/11, 1971-72) and Pete Echon (F Troop, 2/11, '69-'70) continue to do an outstanding job maintaining the website.

Jim Griffiths (F Troop, 2/11, 1968-69) continues to do an outstanding job assembling and editing material for our newsletter *Thunder Run*. Our newsletter has been published and mailed every quarter for the past 22 years. It is our commitment to our members to continue to bring them news of their organization.

Jerry Beamon (K Troop, 3/11, 1969-70) continues to work tirelessly with the Quartermaster Store. Several new products have been added and some significant

improvements have been made in several areas over the last six months. Jerry and wife Jan have a never-ending job in providing this vital service to our members.

Dan Stroia (K Troop, 1967-68) has done an outstanding job with the Funeral Honor Guard. This program tries to ensure one of our members is present for the final rites of any Blackhorse Trooper making the journey to “Fiddler’s Green”. Our presence during this time means so much to the families as we recognize the service of our fellow troopers.

Joe Willey’s (HHT Regt, 1969-70) committee, “Operation Embrace” continues to receive very positive feed-back for their effort to locate and communication with the next of kin (NOK) of our KIA’s. These family members are so thankful that we still remember their loved ones. Many of the family members who attended the 2007 reunion and memorial re-dedication had the opportunity to meet others who knew their loved ones.

As always, I ask that you continue to support the young men and women of our Armed Forces. Several of our members have sons and daughters serving in the military. At least two of our members have sons who were wounded in Iraq in recent months. These and all courageous young men and women have earned our respect and our thanks. I only ask that each of you reach out to our soldiers, shake their hand and thank them for their sacrifices.

Honor our fallen comrades on Memorial Day, May 26. For over 20 years Blackhorse Troopers have met and placed our wreath at the Wall in Washington, DC, to honor our fellow troopers. If you cannot make it there, attend a local memorial service. Remember: “They were our buddies, our friends, and our comrades-in-arms. They shall not be forgotten. Their memory will live forever.” ALLONS! – It’s good to be “Together Again”.

## Tara’s Letter

By Blandin W. Karabinos  
(HHT 2/11, 71-72)

A decade after the fall of Saigon the consensus perception of Vietnam Veterans had started to change. A new generation had emerged. Many were your own sons and daughters, born since the height of our involvement in Southeast Asia and possessing an inherent awe toward the men and women who had served in our military in the wars of the 20th Century.

I watched that post-Vietnam generation grow in respect as I saw them on many occasions stare in awe at the statue of the Three Grunts. Their fingers traced the laces on their boots, caressed the fleece of the towel and felt the sharpness of the cartridges. This was followed by thumbing through pages of our honored dead and walking down into the labyrinth to touch the names etched in The Wall. They were comprehending through bronze and marble symbols what our lads endured.

Retiring from Federal Service I moved to Williamsburg and conducted tours to the DC area. When we walked down into the depths at The Wall, I remembered some of the lads whose names are engraved there and as the tears cleared my eyes walking out of the hole into bright sun light we viewed the symbols of the country they died for: the Washington Monument, the Capitol Dome and even the gleaming Federal Reserve Building. On the other side of the reflecting pools I pointed out the Korean GI’s walking up a desolate landscape and described them covered in winter snow, a scene I had viewed a few times in actual snowstorms, and how those statues appear animated and alive in the surreal darkness of a winter evening.

Later in 2005, walking the amphitheatre that encases the World War II Memorial we met veterans who fought on Pacific Islands, landed at Normandy, shivered at Bastogne, shot down Zeros and Messerschmitts; fired at Kamikazes or carried their brothers off battlefields, below burning decks or out of flak-riddled bombers at English airdromes. What a heritage, what a fraternity, what a team.

In 2007, a few days before I drove to the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Reunion, Dr. Jude

Liptak, my audiologist noticed the Blackhorse patch on my golf shirt and asked about its significance. When I told him and added that I was headed to Louisville for the reunion, he stood up, reached out his hand, shook mine and thanked me for my service. The irony of the scene is that he is a graduate of Kent State.

I went to the reunion uplifted by Jude's gesture, enjoyed the time with other Blackhorse troopers, was proud to be at the unveiling of the Regiment's Monument at Fort Knox and proud that I sat at table during Saturday night's banquet with one of the young ladies that had been awarded one of the thirty-two scholarships that the 11th ACVVC provided in 2007. I was proud again to be part of a Veteran's organization that has done so much for its families, their children and the survivors of its own KIA brothers.

On the 5th of October, 2007 while I was giving a private tour of the Washington DC monuments, this time with two Vietnam Veterans, I was impressed by the thoughtfulness of a group of youngsters on the grounds of the Korean War Memorial. Impressed is not the right descriptive word as actually we were moved to tears by the considerate gestures of the young men and women of that particular group. At first two young men, sporting People-to-People identifying lanyards asked us if we were veterans. We proudly answered: "Yes." The lads then shook each of our hands and said, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice to preserve our freedom." That alone was wonderful, but they then asked us to wait a moment as they returned to their tour group. After a brief conversation, three young ladies from the group came over to where we stood, still dumbfounded, and handed each of us a personal letter and also thanked us for our service. The letters were addressed: "Dear American Hero," and in warm and affectionate terms expressed their appreciation for our service to the Country. We were shaken by such kindness but thrilled that these young people, the future of America, understood and appreciate the sacrifices that America's veterans have rendered to their nation.

My letter was signed by "Tara from St. Louis," and I only wish I could send her and her parents a note of thanks. She is a

Continued on page 19

# Chicago Reunion Silent Auction

Greetings fellow troopers! As you are all aware, the preparations for the upcoming Chicago Reunion are in full swing. One of the very important preparations is that it is time for us to appeal to the membership for direct support.

The Silent Auction is one of the three corners of the platform that allows us to meet the monetary requirements for our scholarship program. As you are aware, this program was very important to our 11th ACVVC President Chuck Schmidt. Chuck passed away recently doing everything that he could to better our organization. Under his guidance the scholarship program has grown to the 11th ACVVC giving out 32 \$3000.00 scholarships. This incurs a yearly cost of \$96,000.00. It goes to our greatest asset, the children of our troopers.

Our membership has always come through with items for the silent auction. I am sure that there are those of you out there that have the talent to construct one-of-a-kind items related to the 11th Armored Cavalry. We also can use purchased items that represent the 11th Cav specifically or the military generally. We have also been successful at auctioning off new items such as tools, books and similar items.

We want to be able to thank our donors properly. To do that we need the information requested on the Silent Auction Donor form below. You may use facsimiles of the form if you wish. This gives us

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**The Silent Auction is one of the three corners of the platform that allows us to meet the monetary requirements for our scholarship program. As you are aware, this program was very important to our 11th ACVVC President Chuck Schmidt.**

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your info, the item donated info and your estimate of starting bid. It is important to include the form with the item whether you mail the item in or bring it in person. Last year a lot of confusion occurred when people left small slips of paper with minimal information on them.

You can bring items with you to the Reunion, or you can ship them to Wally Ergish who has volunteered to collect, hold, and bring them to the reunion hotel for display. If you plan to ship items, **send to: Wally Ergish, 2930 N. Moody Ave, Chicago, IL. 60634-5026.** If you will bring the item with you to the Reunion, it would be helpful to notify Silent Auction Chairman, Rod George, E-mail [rhg1ekg2@aol.com](mailto:rhg1ekg2@aol.com) or telephone # (406) 626-5819 so he can make preparations for your item.

Thank you all in advance for your continued generosity to this very worthwhile program.

*Rodney H. George*  
*Silent Auction Chairman*

## 11th ACVVC Silent Auction

### Donated Item Information Form

Please provide the following information with your donated item. It is important for our records. If you wish to donate anonymously there will be a section to make that request.

Description of item donated: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Value of item donated: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to remain anonymous: (check box)

# Great Activities Finalized For Chicago

Things are happening fast for the 2008 reunion in Chicago. If you haven't made your reservations for the Hyatt Regency O'Hare or the scheduled activities we have planned DO IT NOW!! The Chicago Cubs outing has already sold out, but there are still two exciting events with spaces available.

The first is an afternoon at beautiful Arlington Park Racetrack scheduled for Thursday, August 21st. This will be a fantastic outing with Arlington naming a race in honor of the Blackhorse, displaying our insignia on the jumbotron screen and allowing a few people from our group to present the trophy in the winners circle. Your package will include bus transportation, admission, race program, reserved box seat, a \$5.00 food court coupon and a raffle ticket which qualifies you to be one of those lucky people to be selected to get into the winners circle!! This great package is available for only \$23.00 per person. TICKETS ARE LIMITED SO GET YOURS TODAY!

The second event scheduled is the Windy City Tour of Chicago on Friday, August 22nd. You will experience The Magnificent Mile, Buckingham Fountain, Sears Tower, Soldier Field and much more. Stops will include Navy Pier and Millennium Park. This is a 6-hour guided tour on an air-conditioned luxury coach bus all for \$20.00 per person.

Since there is a cap on the number of people for each event now is the time to cut out the coupon which appears in this issue of Thunder Run and mail it with a check made out to Jim Kaszubowski to 504 Belmont Pkwy. Sleepy Hollow, IL 60118. You can e-mail me at jim\_kas@prodigy.net or call me at 847-836-7501 if you have any questions. Tickets for both events will NOT be sold at the hotel.

Reserved tickets can be picked up right next to the 11th CAV registration area on Thursday, August 21st between 8:00am - 10:00am. For those of you who are arriving on Thursday and want to take the Windy City Chicago tour, alternative arrangements will be made for picking up your tickets.

We hope you choose to participate in one of the exciting events we have planned for

you. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the Friday night Bunker Party, as this will be a little different than in previous years. Come hungry to experience a "TASTE OF CHICAGO" and an unforgettable per-

formance by Rick "Elvis" Saucedo.

We are making every effort to make this the best reunion ever!!!!

*Allons! Blackhorse!!  
Jim Kaszubowski*

## REUNION ACTIVITIES

### ARLINGTON PARK RACE TRACK "BLACKHORSE DAY" THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2008

Ticket price \$23.00 per person, includes admission, reserved box seat, race program, \$5.00 food court coupon, and transportation to and from the track.

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_\_\_ TICKETS @ \$23.00 EACH

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: JIM KASZUBOWSKI

MAIL TO: JIM KASZUBOWSKI  
RACE TRACK TOUR  
504 BELMONT PKWY.  
SLEEPY HOLLOW, IL 60118

## REUNION ACTIVITIES

### "CHICAGO WINDY CITY TOUR" FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2008

Ticket price is \$20.00 per person, includes 6-hour guided tour on an air-conditioned luxury coach bus with stops at key attractions.

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_\_\_ TICKETS @ \$20.00 EACH

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: JIM KASZUBOWSKI

MAIL TO: JIM KASZUBOWSKI  
WINDY CITY CHICAGO TOUR  
504 BELMONT PKWY.  
SLEEPY HOLLOW, IL 60118

## Now Is The Time To Make Your Hotel Reservations

### 11th ACVVC Chicago Reunion August 21 - 24, 2008

**HYATT REGENCY O'HARE  
9300 W. BRYN MAWR AVE.  
ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS 60018**

Reservations Call (847) 696-1234

Toll Free (800) 233-1234

Room Rate is 109.00 SO/DO

Rates are good three days prior to and three days after event.

**Please make hotel reservations early.**



# 11th ACVVC Reunion XXIII, Rosemont, IL

## Thursday, 21 August thru Sunday, 24 August 2008



### Tentative Schedule of Events

#### Wednesday, 20 August

1000-1600 Registration Open for early arrivals

#### Thursday, 21 August

0700-???? 17th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament

0900-1800 Registration Open

0900-1700 Quartermaster Store Open

1100-1800 Wrigley Field Baseball, Chicago Cubs vs. Cincinnati Reds (sold out)

1100-1800 Arlington Park Race Track "Blackhorse Day" (optional - \$23 charge)

1400-2400 Bunker Open

#### Friday, 22 August

0900-1800 Registration Open

0900-1600 Chicago City Tour (optional - \$20 charge)

0900-1700 Quartermaster Store Open

1000-1200 Veterans Seminar

1200-2400 Bunker Open

1700-2000 Silent Auction

1730-1930 Bunker Party "Taste of Chicago"

1930-2400 Live Entertainment

#### Saturday, 23 August

0900-1200 Annual General Membership Meeting (Members Only)

0900-1200 Women's Group Meeting

1400-1500 Memorial Service

1400-1700 Registration Open for Late Arrivals

1500-1700 Quartermaster Store Open

1745-1845 Cocktail Hour and Silent Auction

1900-2130 Banquet, Presentations, Raffle Drawing, and "Blackhorse Salute"

2130-0130 Dancing to DJ

#### Sunday, 24 August

1000-1100 Chapel Worship Service (Nondenominational)

1000-1400 Quartermaster Store Open

All Day Farewells and Departures

**NOTE:** This is a tentative schedule. Times may vary as the reunion draws closer. Locations of all activities will be posted at the reunion registration desk.

## Incoming...

### Information provided by and for our Troopers

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

**From Ron Krueger**.....The 18th Annual Northern California Blackhorse Potluck/BBQ will occur Saturday, October 4, 2008 11 A.M. until ??????. Everyone is welcome to join us at casual lunch at Slidehill Park, Davis, CA. 96518. Bring something to BBQ, something to share (salad, dessert, munchies) and your beverage of choice. Contact: Ron Krueger 530 758-0351 or [ronkrue@hotmail.com](mailto:ronkrue@hotmail.com).

### Life Membership Payment Plan

The number of LIFE membership has increased rapidly over the past years. Over 70 percent of our members are LIFE members. This increase is due in part to our LIFE Membership Payment Plan.

The plan was designed to allow an individual to join as a LIFE member and divide the \$100 membership fee into four (4) equal payments. This is how it works:

- When you join or renew your membership, make an initial payment of \$25. This will immediately enroll you as a LIFE member.
- After the initial payment, the remaining balance of \$75 is paid in three (3) installments of \$25 each at three (3) month intervals. We will even mail a reminder during the months when a payment is due.

Since beginning this plan we have had scores of members join or renew using this plan. It's simple, easy, and a LIFE Membership shows a real commitment to this organization. So consider using the LIFE Membership Payment Plan when you join or renew.

Finally, *always be proud of your service* to this great country, the US Army and our great regiment. The 11th Cavalry has a long and distinguished history, and you helped make that history.

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

Donations to various 11th ACVVC activities since the 1st Quarter issue of *Thunder Run*

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49
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## From the 62nd Colonel of the Regiment

Mark E. Calvert



Veterans of the Blackhorse Regiment,

As the Regiment rolls toward the summer months we remain ever mindful of our deployed Troopers in Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa. The 58th Combat Engineer Company deployed to Northern Iraq, and the many individual augmentees deployed to support operations in Afghanistan and Africa continue to excel in every aspect of their mission. In this era of persistent conflict I am proud of the important role that the Blackhorse Regiment is playing both in generating and providing combat forces for the fight.

Over the last three months your Regiment has supported three major training events aimed at preparing Soldiers, Marines and Special Operating Forces for deployment to both Iraq and Afghanistan. We've also continued to sustain our own warfighting skills by conducting gunnery for our M1A1 Abrams and M2A2 Bradley crews and platoons. In March, we completed testing for the coveted Expert Infantry Badge. As I type this letter, for the first time since the Regiment moved to Fort Irwin, we are conducting a Regimental training exercise that fully incorporates both of our National Guard units – 1-221 CAV, the Regiment's Recon Squadron, and 1-144 FA, the Regiment's fires battalion. On 9 April we will culminate our two weeks of training with a combined arms live fire attack that utilizes all elements of combat power in the Regiment. On the horizon, the Regiment

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**The Regiment is doing its part to retain the best and brightest for our country's future. We've already exceeded our re-enlistment goals for the year for initial, mid-career and career Soldiers.**

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will conduct a 50 km force march around Tiefert Mountain here at Fort Irwin on 13-14 May. In addition to going the distance, Troopers will have the opportunity to learn about the great history of our Regiment.

The summer will bring a multitude of changes to the leadership of the Regiment. We will hold a combined change of command ceremony on 2 July 08 for the Regiment, 1st Squadron and 2nd Squadron. The Army has designated COL Paul Laughlin as the 63rd Colonel of the Regiment. COL Laughlin commanded at the battalion level in Korea and served as the 2d Infantry Division's G3 before attending the Senior Service College. He and his wife Judi are no strangers to the NTC having served here previously with Operations Group. LTC Todd Walsh will take command of 1st Squadron from Tim Renshaw and LTC Mike Hester will take command of 2d Squadron from Chuck Hensley. LTCs Walsh and Hester have also served at the NTC as Observer Controllers with Operations Group. They will join the Regiment after serving combat tours in Iraq. LTC Brent Barnes of Packhorse will turn over command to LTC Andrew Cooper in August. LTC Cooper

joins the Regiment after having served in USEUCOM's Special Operations Command.

Many of you watch the news and often wonder about how the Army is doing at retaining Soldiers in this time of war and simultaneous expansion of our Army. The Regiment is doing its part to retain the best and brightest for our country's future. We've already exceeded our re-enlistment goals for the year for initial, mid-career and career Soldiers. I am very proud of our company level leaders and their Non-commissioned officers for their effort in building our Army. Their example as leaders is reflected in our high retention rates.

Finally, I hope that many of you will join the Blackhorse Association for the reunion 16-19 May in Las Vegas at the Southpoint Casino and Resort. Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston, along with Mr Joe Galloway will be featured speakers for the event.

It is my honor to serve as a member of the Blackhorse. Thank you for your service and sacrifice for our country, and by your service, an example for the Troopers of today.

BLACKHORSE-ALLONS!!!

Everyone called him Sarge. He was slight of build and medium height with piercing black eyes that had experienced more than a boy of nineteen should have seen. His short cropped hair made an interesting contrast to the wavy locks of his graduation picture from Morrisville High School a year ago. He was the best point man in his company and everyone knew it. Being a Sergeant, he didn't have to lead point. That was a job reserved for others in the squad of lesser rank but when Sarge felt that when there was imminent danger he would go out front and take the lead to insure that his men were safe.

Eleven months ago Sarge arrived in Viet Nam and was assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. His first week in country was spent at Bien Hoa Air Force Base where he attended numerous briefings and orientation meetings on what to expect during his tour of duty. Malaria pills, elephant grass, mines, and jungle combat tactics were covered in depth along with many other necessities of survival that were needed. After that initial week he was helicoptered out to the field to join his unit where he immediately volunteered to become a member of an Air Rifle Platoon Squad (ARPS) which at the time was operating in and around the Michelin Rubber Plantation. Their assignment was to send eight man teams on reconnaissance throughout the area. Their main objective was to locate the enemy, determine the approximate size of the force contacted and call for whatever air or ground support was needed to accomplish their mission.

While he was an ARP, he gained the respect and admiration of everyone in his unit. When things got tight everyone looked to Sarge for answers. When certain missions were deemed important to the Regiment or essential to the survival of the American forces in the area, the top brass always asked Sarge to take his squad out to find what they could. More often than not the results of his missions were productive.

The men in Sarge's squad were more than willing to do anything he asked of them. It was not a matter of blind discipline but more of a trust placed in one individual. They saw Sarge's actions in

# A Mother's War

By Fred Petrella (F Troop 1969)

**The men in Sarge's squad were more than willing to do anything he asked of them. It was not a matter of blind discipline but more of a trust placed in one individual. They saw Sarge's actions in tight and seemingly impossible situations and what they saw they respected and admired.**

tight and seemingly impossible situations and what they saw they respected and admired. There was still talk of how Sarge single handedly fought off twenty Viet Cong while his wounded men could be carried off to safety by the Medics. Then there was the time he directed an air strike on his own position to allow his retreating group to find shelter, re-group and fight again. His citation read: "While operating in Binh Duong province South East Asia Viet Nam, under the direction of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment; Sergeant Larry Christopher, without regard to his personal safety, directed an air assault on his own position. This act of heroism led to the saving of the lives of numerous men entrusted to him. For this act of bravery Sergeant Larry

Christopher is awarded the Silver Star."

When confronted and asked questions about his acts of bravery Sarge always took on a bashful air and skirted the issue. But seeing his face, with his lips in a half smirk position and his eyes glinting with satisfaction you knew he had the inner peace of a man whose accomplishments might go unnoticed except by him. He considered himself the average soldier just doing his job. It was just circumstances that led to his acts of bravery. Anyone would have done the same thing. As he once told a close friend, "I was in the right place at the right time. All I want to do is put in my twelve months, stay alive, and go back to the states in one piece."

He had one month left in country when things began to heat up in Binh Long Province by the Cambodian Border. There was rumor that the Red Chinese Army was supplying armored tanks to the Viet Cong and NVA to help in their fight against the Americans in that area. As usual the top brass asked Sarge to take his squad out to see whether he could find any evidence of enemy tanks near the border in the Fishhook area. Needless to say Sarge said yes as long as he could walk point. Everyone agreed. They loaded the chopper and were sent out to set up a reconnaissance patrol and spend the night.

Like a mother with her ducklings, Sarge stayed approximately twenty yards in front of his men. When he stopped, they stopped. When he continued, they followed his lead. As the squad moved down the hillside they could be seen from the two bunkers that were situated just outside the gates of the camp. From their location they could see the security of the base camp and hear the muffled sounds of the morning activity. The squad was out all night on ambush patrol and luckily no contact was made with the enemy. Safety was imminent and it was just a matter of time before they could take off their boots, lie in their cots and rest. The morning warmth would dry off their wet clothes and bones left damp and cold by the night jungle air.

One hundred yards from camp Sarge stopped and squatted. His head began to make its last passes at the surrounding jungle cover. The difficulty of seeing if



the path was clear was hampered by day-break when the warm morning air created a fog cover which hovered above the tall grass in front of him. The squelch of the radio summoned the camp to expect their arrival.

Like he had done a thousand times that night, Sarge's head moved from left to right ever so slowly. His experienced eyes and ears searched for unnatural foliage or the slightest sound or movement that would give away the position of the most concealed enemy. Seeing that all was clear, Sarge began to rise. On his upward movement, he twisted his body slightly; holding his M-16 with his left hand he motioned with his right hand beckoning the squad to move forward. As always they followed his command.

The morning silence was broken by an intense crack from an enemy rifle. Sarge's body jerked forward and fell to the ground. He lay silently in the tall grass as his men scattered looking for cover. The radio man signaled the camp notifying them they were hit and needed a medical assistance and support. The camp responded instantly.

Many thousands of miles away a middle aged woman sat up straight in her bed as if jolted with a bolt of electricity. "Can't sleep?" asked her half sleeping husband lying beside her in bed. "No. No, just had a bad dream about Larry" she replied still shaking and cold with sweat.

After a moment she laid back down exhausted. She flipped to her stomach and slid under the protection of her covers. With her left hand she reached out and gently touched a picture on her night table situated next to her bed. Her hand gently slid over the glass covering of its frame. A thousand thoughts rambled through her mind at that moment.

"What a good looking boy all dressed in his uniform," she thought, "Such beautiful piercing eyes." Coming through the window the moonlight struck her face as wet memories rolling down her cheek.

The news of her son's death would arrive in two days.

*(Editor's note-this story is semi fictitious. The name Larry Christopher is a combination of two first names that were KIA in Vietnam and the activity is reminiscent of the combat unit portrayed)*

## THE 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, August 21, 2008

Willow Glenn Golf Club

Tony Yonaites PGA Golf Professional

2821 Great Lakes Drive  
Great Lakes, IL 60088  
Phone 847-688-4593



**Superb Club Facilities! New Club House  
Championship Military Facility**

\$60 per golfer includes greens fees, carts, balls, tees, lunch and prizes! Fill in the form and mail it to the address below with a check for \$60 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by August 7, 2008 to guarantee your entry!

You don't need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. This outing is open to men and women. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! FORE!

### 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Checks To: **Joe Cooper, Golf Tournament Director,**  
9289 Parkside Draw, Woodbury, MN 55125

Call 651-246-8009 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by August 7, 2008. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of best facilities in the Chicago area. They have a dress code to include: 1) No denim (Blue jeans), 2) No tank tops or T-shirts. Shirts must have collars. 3) Soft spike only facility. Tee times will be in the 7:30-8:30 AM range with lunch between 12:30 and 1:30. The golf course is a short 20-30 minute ride from our hotel. Rental clubs are available.



## PARADES

"Everybody loves a parade!" That may be a cliché, but that's because it's true. Check Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade or check the Rose Parade where hundreds of thousands crowd the parade route to watch those beautiful (and expensive) floats go by. Millions more watch it on the tube, me included. When I was a teen-ager (I have a long memory) a bunch of us went over to Pasadena for the Rose Parade. We stayed out all night cruising and having a good time (of course, we were causing no trouble - what were you thinking?) We even knew one of the princesses on a float. What joy! We knew a princess - and she knew us.

When I was a kid parades were especially great. The popular circus parades were before my time - they were in my dad's time. When I was six or eight years old during World War II, the best parades were soldiers going off to war. They looked so proud- straight and tall, marching in formation, rifles across their shoulders, flags flying! Young as I was I still easily remember how patriotic we were and how fine the soldiers looked as they paraded by. I don't remember if they had marching bands. I do remember how great the soldiers looked and how impressed I was as a boy.

Fast forward to the early 1980s. I was the Community Chaplain in Schweinfurt, Germany. Duty was tough and life was demanding. We had most of the 3d Infantry Division in Schweinfurt with its battalions of infantry, armor, and artillery plus the armored cavalry squadron. Those were the days of patrolling the East German border where we had the sector out of Coburg. The border's gone now, but in those days it was the Iron Curtain frontier of freedom and we knew it. There was the normal amount of griping and problems, but morale was good. It was the period following Viet Nam so morale was a lot better than in those days, which you might remember. One thing I remember clearly is the unit parades. Yes, the parades. Soldiers worked all day in fatigues, of course. Having a combat mission far forward meant long hours and hard work. Pride was there but it wasn't

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**Life in the Army may or may not have been so great in its daily routine. But line up the soldier in his class A dress uniform with hundreds of his buddies, and what he feels is pride. Pride in himself, his buddies, his country, and what they stand for.**

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thought much about, except for the commanders and first sergeants who wanted to keep their unit's pride strong and morale high. Whenever we had a change of command ceremony or official parade with a pass in review, I could see clearly that every trooper, dressed and sweating in his class A uniform, was proud to be a soldier in the United States Army. You may not have thought of it that way at the time but I hope you agree now. Parades brought out the best and finest in the troops. Each one looked strong and fine, he was on display for what he was - a professional fighting man committed to the cause of freedom anywhere his country called him. Life in the Army may or may not have been so great in its daily routine. But line up the soldier in his class A dress uniform with hundreds of his buddies, and what he feels is pride. Pride in himself, his buddies, his country, and what they stand for. Now we have many more women in uniform. The same applies. That's what I believe. That's what I saw.

Now back up a few years, between WWII and the 1980s to the period of the Viet Nam War. Everything was different then. I joined the Army as a chaplain in 1966 and retired in 1992. I'm of the Viet Nam era and proud of it. If I had it to do over, I would. The Viet Nam soldier may have gotten a bad rap, but we know it for what it was, a bad rap. We had a tough assignment - fight a war where the government wouldn't claim victory and a media that wouldn't tell it like it was. We've talked about this before. What we'll talk about here is the public parades as in "Welcome Home." That's the subject of this conversation. Or, should I say, "What parades?" I don't recall any. Do you? What I do remember is soldiers being drafted or volunteering because they were going to be drafted, or volunteering because it was, for them, the right thing to do. Most soldiers, even in those days, were truly patriotic. For that war, most were trained, then immediately shipped

off to Viet Nam. They (you?) fought, did what they were supposed to do, did it well (regardless of what some would say), then came home - alone. No parades, no bands, no welcoming committees, no official thanks, no nothing. Nothing good or positive, that is. Too bad. Yes, that was too bad. Too bad for the country, too bad for history, too bad for all who love a parade.

Huh? Too bad for all who love a parade? That's right. Viet Nam soldiers didn't have parade one. None, nada, null. But it doesn't stop there. "What?," you say. "Explain yourself, chaplain." OK. Recall that I retired in 1992. Desert Shield and Desert Storm were fought in 1990, give or take a few months. Parades, parades, parades. And bands and parties and welcoming committees and government thanks and lots of credit for a job well done - all the things the Viet Nam soldier didn't have. But everybody still loves a parade. That's right. Consider this: the extravagance of Desert Storm parades were largely because our country was trying to make up for the rotten reception they gave their Viet Nam warriors. I've talked about this before so won't repeat much. But hear this; those parades were for our kids, which is what Desert Storm troopers were - our kids. In my opinion, the parades were really a way of celebrating all vets, of celebrating what our military is all about, anyway. Besides, our kids deserved those parades.

Now our grandkids are coming home. They get parades too. Be happy! They aren't getting credit in the media for all they're doing, but Americans are happy for them anyway. When they stand in full dress formation, when they march in review, when they march in the Rose Parade or their hometown parade, it's a great sight. It makes us proud to be an American. It makes us proud to be a soldier. It makes us proud to be a vet. Right? Right.

I'm reminded of another parade a long

time ago. It's recorded in the Bible. Here's the write-up: "The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." (Matthew 21:6-11, NIV) (A week later Jesus was illegitimately tried, condemned, crucified, buried, rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven, all to provide eternal life and purpose for whoever would accept it).

It's easy to see that people love parades, from the "parade" we call the Triumphal Entry in the Bible to the Rose Parade with soldiers passing in review.

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

Chaplain Larry Haworth  
176 Rainbow Drive, #7627  
Livingston, Texas 77399  
LEHaworth@aol.com

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## LETTER from page 11

beautiful, charming, and considerate young lady and I'm sure she will provide those qualities of leadership and the moral fiber that has made this country strong in her future endeavors.

As we read the letters, the young people melted into the crowd around the memorials and we didn't catch up to them but did find one of the group leaders and thanked him for the gestures the youngsters offered us, and I'm sure, many other veterans either at the Vietnam, Korean or World War II memorials.

On this Veterans Day, 2007, knowing I'll not again fit into my uniform (still cleaned and pressed in my closet), I nonetheless decided to wear my ribbons and medals with pride because I am an American Hero.

## Going To Sea, Part III

By Richard Quinn, (H Co. 1966-1967)

I thoroughly enjoyed reading "Going To Sea, Parts I & II" but my experience with Task Force Oregon was slightly different and I would like to share some of my recollections of the trip to sea.

I was the loader on H-14 during Operation Junction City where we lost our tank in an ambush to recoilless rifle fire (see p.203, *Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam*). Along with the crew of H-15, lost to a land mine, and another crew, lost to fire, we were flown to Qui Nhon to pick up new tanks. Not knowing where to go when we arrived we found ourselves at II Corps H.Q. still wearing the same fatigues we had worn for several days and loaded down with weapons and ammo, grenades and other explosive devices that we had brought from the field.

We set up camp under the flagpole at H.Q. while we admired the polished jeeps with General flags and the starched fatigues and spit shined boots on the soldiers walking past. After about 20 minutes we were surrounded by 4 machine gun M.P. jeeps and we were rounded up and removed to their headquarters where we were reluctantly disarmed. We were given overnight lodging in an old French hotel in

the middle of town. The hotel was 3 stories high with a balcony around the exterior which was covered with cyclone fencing to prevent the VC from throwing grenades inside. There was a guard posted at the entrance but when we asked if he had any ammo for his M-14, he said "if the crap hits the fan, the MP's would bring him some." As you can imagine, that was a real confidence builder.

The next day we picked up the new tanks and drove down to the harbor where we loaded aboard LST's for an overnight trip to Chu Lai. While on the beach we observed two rows of cargo ships at anchor lined up outside the harbor. A single cargo ship sailed straight through those ships and into port. The Beachmaster explained that the ship was loaded with beer and soda while the others were loaded with ammo and other war material. Even then the Army had it's priorities in order.

That evening we decided to go below deck to enjoy some of that hot Navy mess but, as we approached the galley, we were driven back by the horrendous smell coming from the Japanese crew's mess hall. The C-rations tasted exceptionally good that evening and we continued on to Chu Lai the next morning.

### Blackhorse Memorial Day Wreath at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial (The Wall)

All Blackhorse Troopers, family, and friends are invited to participate in the annual Memorial Day wreath laying at the Wall.

**When:** 10:00 AM, Monday, 26 May 2008.

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

**Who:** All Blackhorse Troopers (all eras), family and friends.

**What:** We will initially gather near the statue of the Three Soldiers, say a few words, and then informally carry the wreath to the apex of the Wall  
(I'll be there by 09:30, so look for the Blackhorse Patch Wreath).

Please pass this information to anyone who might be interested in participating.

Allons!

Don Snedeker  
703-676-4019

# Circle of Honor and Memorial Bricks

By Allen Hathaway

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

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

ment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III in 2005-2006.

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

## Brick Order Form

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

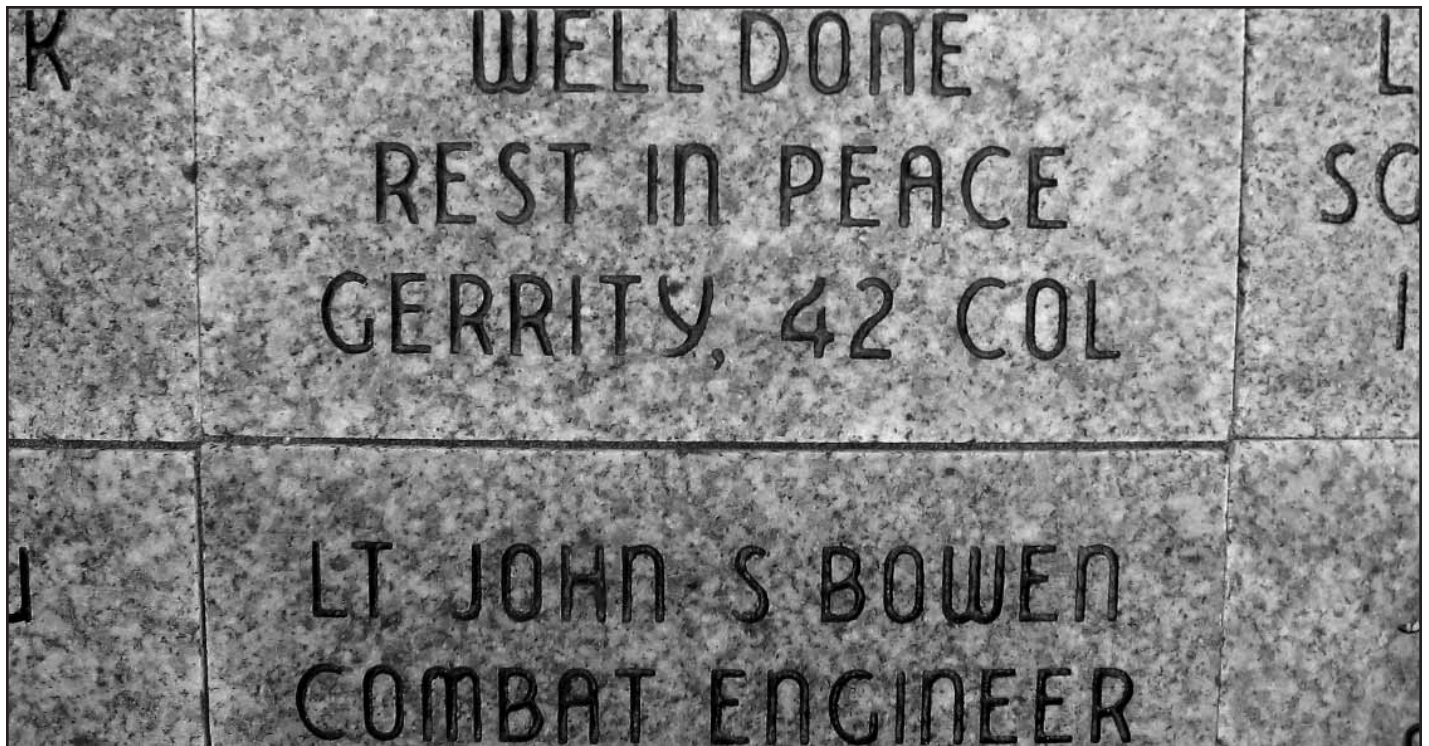
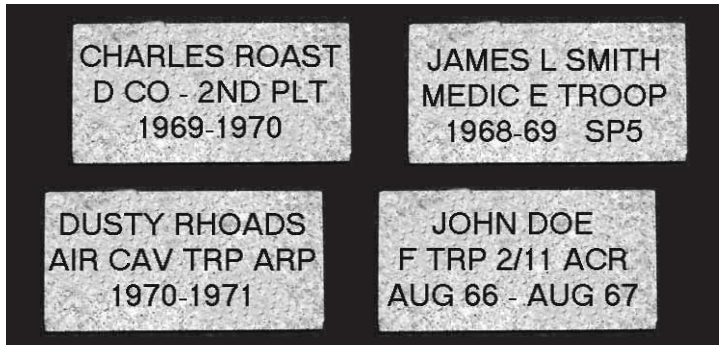
Please make checks/money orders payable to: 11th ACVVC. Mail this form with your check, money order, or credit card (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Treasurer, C/O Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd, Kilmarnock, VA 22482.**

Over 450 bricks were inscribed and placed in the "circle" prior to the rededication. Another 115 brick orders have been received since the reunion. This last group of 115 will be inscribed and placed in the circle in May 2008.

**Due to extremely high interest we are extending the offer to purchase a brick to be inscribed and placed in the Circle of Honor.** The bricks are a lasting tribute to your service to this great country, our great regiment and to the men whose names are listed on our monument. If you have put off ordering your brick, take a moment today to place your order to ensure your brick is included in the final group.



ABOVE: Completed monument with "Circle of Honor"  
LEFT & BELOW: Inscribed bricks



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

# Be Careful How You Judge

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

I have always thought that anyone that would be willing to walk a mile for a cigarette or a Camel Cigarette would have to be rock bottom stupid. I still hold that view but I now might be willing to sympathize with them. I really don't think most smokers would ever consider walking a mile for a cigarette; they would just try to bum one from another smoker.

Now that I am older, I've had to reconsider how I judge situations and people. I guess my own failures and struggles have not necessarily changed my views but have caused me to be a little more considerate or sympathizing. A lot of this change is because of Viet Nam.

I was a Medic with a tank company. Actually, I tried or played the job of tank crewman most of the time. At this particular time we were located somewhere out of An Loc guarding a little blacktop road. I don't really know why we were guarding a little blacktop road but we were. I didn't ask any questions (whenever I asked any questions I always seemed to get into trouble).

The platoon was short on personnel so on the tank I was serving on (Tank Two-Three) there were only three of us instead of four crew members. The days are long, pulling our necessary guard duty and being a ready, reactive force. The night is even longer, the nights have been very dark and the tanks are each separated by about a quarter of a mile. With one person on guard duty and the tanks so far removed from one another, one miscue or stumble by the person on guard duty could mean the downfall of the rest of the crew members.

We are tired, bored, dirty, sweaty and at times hyped, being readied to move out if something is brewing somewhere. It's the same day after day. Suddenly we are out of all kinds of goodies, especially things like Kool-Aid, Fizzies or anything that might kill some of the heavy taste of chlorinated water. It seemed like every time we got water from sources that might be considered unsafe the chlorine content was doubled or tripled. I've never

The ice cold sweating can of beer was about twenty yards from us in a minefield where we didn't know where the mines were planted. We got on top of the tank staring at that beautiful piece of metal. We licked our lips and we stared and stared and stared. We could see the sweat. "Oh, just to lick the sweat on the can!"

had a sip of bleach but I always thought our extra protected water and bleach would probably taste the same. I've never been in a swimming pool that had as much chlorine as most of our field treated water. Maybe the water treatment people were trying to kill jungle rot by internal means.

We got a hot meal, fuel, ammo and sometimes mail in the evening but no way could we get anything to drink that wouldn't taste like wash water. If we would have had any way to cool the bleached wash water that would have helped greatly. When you were thirsty you would get a cup of water and swish it around in the cup one way and then another and then you would think "Am I really thirsty?" and you would say "Yes." About the time you would get the cup up to your mouth, you would smell the water and then you would instantly think "I'm not thirsty." Then you would try to think it's like medicine, "Take it, you need it, it will cure what ails you." You would then gulp the water down trying not to taste it. After you were done drinking, you would lean back and think things like how good some of the creek water back home would taste, or how you laughed when you saw advertisements for that rotgut beverage that said it was Pale Stale Ale. A drink of either would be cherished.

It was evening, it had been a hot day and we were not a happy tank crew. No one had a good line of bull to talk or anything to say for that matter. We stared at the ground, the trees, and one another. I guess we were about like those shipwrecked sailors on a barren little island looking at one another like "Who is going to die first." Yep, it was bad.

The radio crackled something and we looked down the road. We could see a

five ton truck loaded with something. The radio crackled again "Beer". Suddenly we were very much alive. Infantry soldiers got two cokes or beer a day if possible. We didn't. I guess we just weren't trustworthy controlling a fifty two ton killing machine. As the truck got closer we could see the stacked beverages with ice on top. We hastily developed a battled plan. Beg, Beg, Beg! We jumped up and down, screamed, yelled, waved our arms, begged and begged and begged. One of the soldiers had mercy on us and threw a cold can of beer toward us, only problem was he was on a moving vehicle and the beer was thrown right over top of us and landed in a mine field. We went from a happy thrilled euphoria to our funeral.

The ice cold sweating can of beer was about twenty yards from us in a minefield where we didn't know where the mines were planted. We got on top of the tank staring at that beautiful piece of metal. We licked our lips and we stared and stared and stared. We could see the sweat. "Oh, just to lick the sweat on the can!"

We tried to plot and scheme. We held an emergency think tank session. No plan developed. We finally sat there defeated, just staring. Then I noticed an ACAV track that came within about eight feet of that luscious piece of sweating metal. I developed a plan but was it worth risking your life and limb? I mean, would I risk my life for a small amount of cold, fermented, unbleached water? My little Medical aid man mind said, "I can live on bleached water."

We were in deep concentration. We were in such deep concentration the enemy would probably have to see what we were staring at before they did us in. We were staring and concentrating so hard it felt like our staring and concentra-

tion ought to be able to lift up that can of unbleached water and just float it in our direction. How long we sat staring at that luscious can of fermented nectar the free world called Budweiser, I don't know, but it seemed like a war was going on inside my head. Inside my head holding fast was my good medical aid man common sense thinking "It's not worth the risk". I had picked up the remains of human bodies that hit mines. No sweating can of unbleached water was worth risking your life.

We sat there and sat there and then I noticed the can of beer was not sweating. My deep thinking medical aid man mind started thinking, "The can of beer was going to have a heatstroke. The can of beer would soon die." Suddenly my brain started saying "The beer is dying, the beer is dying. This is a real emergency." I got up, jumped off the tank and carefully started walking down the ACAV track. My fellow crewmen were behind me all the way as I heard one of them say "If he steps on a mine who has to go in after him?" I made it to where the can was and I stretched out for all I was worth and landed on three fingers and with the other hand I was just able to reach out and retrieve the can. I then got up and started to open the can (mouth to lid resuscitation you understand). I then looked back at my fellow crew members and I couldn't do it. I had to share with my drooling crew members.

When I made it back to the tank I was no doubt one of the nicest, greatest individuals on the face of the earth. My tank commander promptly grabbed the beer like a pious law judge and said "We are going to share this equally." Meaning he was going to get his share.

We passed around that almost cold can of beer in friendship and brotherhood, the tank commander occasionally accusing me of taking too long of a swig while I accused him of trying to suck the beer out of the can. In the end, we sat there pacified giving a few faint belches. I think the Budweiser can was thrown back in the mine field. We killed that dying beer.

I still think anyone that would walk a mile for a camel cigarette is stupid, but then again, I walked through a minefield for a Bud.

*(Dedicated to Brenner Sayers)*

# I Think That We've Met

*Michael O'Farrell (M Co.) 1966-1977*

In April of 1966, I was a brand new Second Lieutenant, fresh out of Ranger School and assigned to the tank company of the 3rd Squadron. We were spending a lot of time in training at Camp A. P. Hill, Virginia, prior to deployment to Vietnam. We shared our training area with National Guard units from various states. Some of the Boat People will remember that when things got boring, we could come up on the frequencies of the National Guard units and send them confusing messages. We even managed to monitor the frequency of a taxi cab dispatcher in Bowling Green, and send their cabs on a few wild goose chases.

My Company Commander, a young West Pointer with a devilish sense of humor, befriended an older, Alabama National Guard Captain commanding a Quartermaster company. Over drinks one evening, he told my C. O. that his unit was made up of a bunch of amateur weekend warriors, and was terribly lax when it came to security. My C. O. offered to provide an aggressor force to stage a mock attack on them when they were most vulnerable. The offer was accepted, and since I was the newest officer in the company, I got the mission.

Getting ten volunteers was easy, and after a brief reconnaissance of their camping area, where we managed to have a friendly and revealing conversation with one of their sentries, we planned our attack. Although 7.62 blank cartridges were in short supply, there was an abundance of camouflage paint and tear gas canisters. We took what few blanks we could get, as many tear gas canisters as we could carry, and painted ourselves up with camouflage paint. We pooled most of the blank cartridges for the M60 machine gun, loaded up in the company supply deuce-and-a-half, and set out for their bivouac area.

Two of the guys were dropped off at a designated spot to fire at the camp with the M60 and create a diversion. At most, they would get two or three short bursts before they ran out of ammunition. The rest of us got out and entered a wood line near their camp from where we would launch our assault, sending the truck around to wait for us at our rendezvous point. At dusk, just as they were lining up for chow, our machine

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**...though he had never left the country, he had seen combat in 1966, when his Quartermaster unit was attacked at Camp A. P. Hill, at supper time, by a horde of camouflaged maniacs...**

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gun fired as planned and we assaulted them, into the wind. We ran through their area screaming and yelling, firing an occasional blank and throwing tear gas canisters as fast as we could pull the pins. We didn't bother with gas masks as we planned to run right through their area and just keep going. The attack was a success as we caught them unaware, caused total havoc, and left their camp in chaos. There was one unfortunate incident, when their C. O. couldn't get out of his tent when someone threw a couple of tear gas canisters in with him. I was more than a little concerned, as I had not told my C. O. about the tear gas, but the National Guard Captain was a good sport after he started breathing normally again, and there were no repercussions.

Almost 30 years later, my wife and I were at a dinner party, seated across from a couple that we had just met. As the ladies chatted with each other, he and I stumbled around looking for something in common to talk about. Finally, he asked me if I had ever been in the military. I told him that I had been in the Army, and had been in Vietnam with an armored cavalry unit. He then asked me if I had seen any combat. Expecting him to ask me about it, I replied that I had seen "some." With a perfectly straight face, he then told me that he had been in the Alabama National Guard and though he had never left the country, he had seen combat in 1966, when his Quartermaster unit was attacked at Camp A. P. Hill, at supper time, by a horde of camouflaged maniacs who had tear gassed almost everyone, asphyxiated his C. O., and briefly taken him prisoner.

I asked a few questions just to confirm what I knew to be true and then offered him my hand with a big smile. "I think that we have met before," I told him.

He and I have had many a good laugh about this encounter, and remain fast friends to this day.



# Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
<b>HHT REGIMENT</b>		<b>541st MI DET</b>		<b>C TROOP, 1/11</b>		Bravi, David J 66-67	
Crow, John S	70-71	Kowalski, James D	66-67	Dann, Gary E	69-70	Livingston, William R	67-68
Duke, John G Sr	67-67, 70	Olbrych, Todd J	69-69	Foster, Herbert F Sr	69-70	Sindab, Samuel D Jr	69-70
Hendry, Frank T Jr	66-68	<b>919th ENGINEER CO</b>		Gunderman, George L	67-67	<b>G TROOP, 2/11</b>	
Kickenwitz, Robert A	66-67	Cherry, Edwin A Jr	71-72	Lacy, Dory M	70-71	Anderson, Alon B	66-67
Parker, Charles F	67-68	Mucha, Gregory	68-69	<b>D COMPANY, 1/11</b>		Rademacher, Benedict A	66-67
Parrott, Eron K	69-70	<b>HHT, 1/11</b>		Wagner, Dewitt	68-69	<b>H COMPANY 2/11</b>	
Taff, Gary L	70-70	Bush, Jim T	67-68	<b>HHT, 2/11</b>		Boutieller, Robert A	67-68
Tsakiris, Ernest E	69-70	Crabbs, Richard C	67-68	Alestra, Malcolm S	65-67	Lagosh, Gilbert L	68-69
<b>AIR CAVALRY TROOP</b>		Davidson, Henry R	67-68	Dove, Tommy V	68-69	<b>K TROOP, 3/11</b>	
O'Neil, John W	68-68	Ferreira, John J	68-69	Mckelvey, William J	71-72	Alverson, Ernest M	68-69
Sindab, Samuel D Jr	69-70	Gunderman, George L	66-67	Urrea, Bernardo	68-70	Jones, James E	70-71
Ueland, John A	69-70	Nichols, Robert L	71-71	<b>E TROOP, 2/11</b>		<b>L TROOP, 3/11</b>	
<b>7TH ARMY POSTAL UNIT</b>		Wagner, Dewitt	69-69	Bumpass, James O Jr	66-67	Wright, William F	69-70
Ross, John C	68-69	Zindars, Jay	68-69	Dunn, Henery E	68-68	<b>M COMPANY, 3/11</b>	
<b>37TH MEDICAL CO</b>		<b>B TROOP, 1/11</b>		Haines, William H Sr	66-67	Aragon, Herman A	68-68
Marcano, Angel L	70-71	Clay, Lionel	67-68	Rhoades, Robert W	70-71	Humphrey, Dwight O	69-70
Sutton, George G	70-70	Crabbs, Richard C	67-68	Slattery, Robert C	71-72	<b>HOW BTRY, 3/11</b>	
<b>409th RR DET</b>		Felt, Richard J	68-69	<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>		Mruk, Gregory R	67-68
Severeid, Ralph E	67-69	Marty, Richard L	65-67	Blue, Donald R	67-68		

## The Long Trip Home

Verse: It's a long trip home ...  
 Though the flight won't take long  
 It's not the miles or hours involved  
 But rather what is wrong

Verse: When he left for the war  
 He was complete and whole  
 But now that he's returning  
 His life is paying the toll

Chorus: It's a long trip home ...  
 One some will never make  
 What they've had to endure  
 Some are never able to shake

Verse: Some return physically intact  
 But suffer from PTSD  
 Their world is forever changed  
 And will never again be

Verse: Others are physically maimed  
 Such as the loss of a limb ...  
 Some are blinded and worse  
 Their world looks pretty grim

Chorus:

Verse: Some will return confused  
 Why they lost public support  
 And won't understand why  
 The mission they need abort

Verse: Was it all for naught  
 The loss of many friends  
 All the wounded comrades  
 And to what ends

Chorus:

Verse: Some will endure months  
 Of physical pain and tears  
 And medical treatment  
 That may take years

Verse: Some will never return to  
 Their previous life and world  
 Having lost their loved ones  
 As their families unfurled

Chorus:

© 2007 Laurence Butterfield (F Troop 1969-1970)



# Scholarship Applicants Update

By Scholarship Committee Co-Chairman Mike "Doc" Rafferty

As the new co-chairman of the Scholarship Committee, I am enjoying assisting my old platoon leader, Frank Cambria, in processing applications and answering questions from the children of our members. Most of the applications I have received to date have been completed accurately but I have noted errors and omissions being repeated:

- 1) Don't forget to have both the applicant and the member/sponsor date and sign the application! Applications received without the necessary signatures will be returned for completion.
- 2) It is important to send in the required grade transcripts. You don't have to send them with the application, but they must get to me before the May 15th deadline. I suggest sending everything in one completed packet.
- 3) Several member/sponsors have had difficulty determining their membership number. If you have lost your card or are not sure what number to put on the application, simply e-mail me and I will look it up for you.

I have been contacted by a number of potential applicants with a variety of questions about the scholarship program. One continuing area of confusion is that membership in the Blackhorse Association does not in itself meet the basic qualification as being a member of the 11ACVVC. Please keep in mind the member/sponsor must belong to the 11ACVVC for the applicant to be eligible for this program (except for children of our Vietnam KIAs).

Those of you who are still planning to apply for a scholarship, please keep in mind the necessity of filling out the application completely, accurately, and neatly. If you have any questions, please send them to me via e-mail and I will respond as quickly as possible.

Mike "Doc" Rafferty can be contacted at [DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net](mailto:DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net)

## ALL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Scholarship Committee Chairman Frank Cambria and Co-Chairman Mike "Doc" Rafferty are asking for all past and future Scholarship Recipients to submit a brief personal news update for inclusion in *Thunder Run* and our website.

Our membership, which funds 100% of the scholarships, enjoys reading about you! Items of interest include college and career progress, leadership roles, volunteerism, accomplishments, and recognition. Submissions should be emailed to Doc Rafferty at [DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net](mailto:DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net).

Reminder: The 2008 Scholarship Guide and streamlined Scholarship application can be easily downloaded at <http://www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html>

## Message from 2007 Scholarship Winner



Robin Willey - Daughter of Joseph Willey – HHT Regt & HHT 1/11 – 69-70

It is an honor to have been chosen as a scholarship recipient by the 11thACVVC. Thank-you for your support in helping me further my education. I am a Sociology Major. The generous scholarship is a tremendous help and permits me to attend university as a full-time student.

The Guide to the 11th ACCVVC Scholarship Program and the new Scholarship Application can be found on our website at [www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html](http://www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html)

## Show Your Pride



LEFT: Thomas G. Ming (C Troop 70-71) has an Expedition SUV that he shows his Blackhorse pride with. RIGHT: Ken Kempton (HHT Regt 1968-1969) shows his pride with a decal on his Corvette.



## Journey to Fiddler's Green

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

**Gail L. Ashley**, HHT, 2/11 and 919th Engineer Company (1970), passed away on February 11, 2008. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cadillac, MI.

**Howard J. Broussard**, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968), passed away on March 13, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Port Arthur, TX. He was laid to rest in Houston National Cemetery, Houston, TX.

**David L. Ellis**, G Troop, 2/11 (1970), passed away on November 23, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Akron, OH. He was laid to rest in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman, OH.

**Clifford C. Hague**, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970), passed away on January 10, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tacoma, WA.

**Bernard W. Lamkin**, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969), passed away on November 5, 2007. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brandon, MS. He was laid to rest in McWilliams Cemetery, Camden, AL.

**Ross F. Marinaro**, HHT, 2/11 (1970-1971), passed away on November 9, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rochester, NY.

**William Steve Pfluger**, HHT 1/11 (1967-1968) and G Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971, 2nd Plt), passed away on February 25, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lawrenceburg, IN. He was laid to rest in Riverview Cemetery, Aurora, IN.

**Douglas M. Renkel**, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970), passed away on January 6, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Middleburg, PA.

**Joseph W. Rouillard**, HHT, 1/11 (1968-1969), passed away on November 23, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Plainview, MN. He was laid to rest in Ft. Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, MN.

**Rufus H. Sanders**, M Company, 3/11 (1966-1967), passed away on March 24, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Memphis, TN.

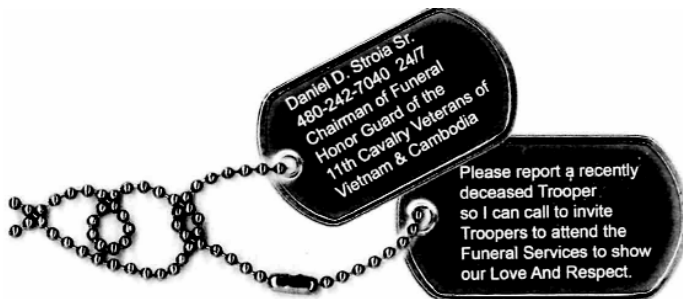
**Donald T. Sawyers**, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970), passed away on February 7, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hamilton, OH.

**Charles L. Spiteri**, HHT, 2/11 (1966-1967), passed away on January 21, 2008. He had resided in River Rouge, MI. He was laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery, Detroit, MI.

**George K. Thompson**, HHT, 2/11 (1970), passed away on November 5, 2007. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chapel Hill, NC. He was laid to rest in Chapel Hill Memorial Cemetery, Chapel Hill, NC.

**Donald J. Tucker**, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970), passed away on February 19, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY. He was laid to rest in Louisville Memorial Gardens West, Louisville, KY.

**David R. Weiser**, HHT Regiment (1969-1970, Air Section), passed away on March 21, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Beloit, WI.



02/26/1970), Tommy R. Eaton (G Troop 12/17/1968), Dick D. Hamilton #98th Transportation Det 08/21/1968), Jonathan P. Hash (E Troop 08/12/1969), Donald E. Cutler (L Troop 09/03/1967). Tom is a High School Teacher from Indiana who has conducted an immense amount of research on men from Indiana who paid the ultimate price in Vietnam or Cambodia. Though a couple years younger than us, Tom is still on the fringe of our age group, but was too young to have served in RVN. Tom enlisted in the mid-1970's as an MP and following his enlistment became a school teacher. Following 9/11 Tom enlisted in the Indiana National Guard, has served one tour in Iraq and has been told he is to be deployed again this fall.

I ask each NOK to visit the memorial page on our website honoring your husband, son, brother, uncle, or cousin. If there is no photo and/or no notation of where he is interned, please mail or email me a copy of a photograph so that we can personalize his memorial page. Also tell us where he is interned. Believe it or not, gravesites of our fallen brothers are often visited by members who knew and served with your fallen hero.

I ask members to dust off those photo albums and look for photos of any of our KIA. If you find one, please send me a copy so that it can be posted it on his memorial page and shared with his family.

My email address is: 11thackia@gmail.com

Thank-you and Allons!

### 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."



## Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

### Hello All

Well until about a week ago we were still enduring the heavy snows but yesterday as I woke up I heard the thrilling sound of birds chirping, and looked out the window and saw blue jays. A sure sign that spring is on its way, the sooner the better for me. I am tired of the cold and wet.

*Thunder Run* arrived at our house last week and for once I was not the first to get my hands on it. I must say they did an outstanding job on it this time. Everything about it seemed to be so bright and colorful. Great job to our editor, who works so hard to put it all together each time.

As you may have seen in the TR, the registration form for the reunion is there. So why not go ahead and send yours in now and get it out of the way? The sooner they are in the sooner Bob and I can get moving on packets and name tags. This is an extremely long process when you have well over a couple of hundred to do. We've already received about 75 registrations which reminds me that I had better call the hotel and make our reservations. Now wouldn't you think, working at a hotel that I wouldn't forget such a thing? Duh!

I still haven't decided what we will be doing at the women's meeting this year. But I do have several ideas kicking around in my head.

I hope each of you ladies will attend and will bring along another lady. There will be a special prize for the lady who brings the most ladies with her who have never attended a ladies meeting before. So as you are sitting in the bunker listening to the guys go on and on about their days in Nam, start talking to a woman you don't know or one who may be new to the reunion. Then invite her to meet you after breakfast (or maybe have breakfast with you) and bring her along to our meeting.

Remember our meetings are not as serious nor as long as the guys are. I like to get started on time and finish on time.

For the past couple of years we have

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**We have ordered 500 lanyards. They are black in color and say 11th ACVVC on them in red. They will be selling for \$5 each and will only be available at this reunion. We will NOT take any advance orders or hold any in reserve for anyone prior to then.**

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had discussions about fund raising ideas, but this year I think we will do something different. We have our fundraising plans laid out for the next few years. So what we do will be a surprise. Perhaps we'll have just a games meeting. A getting to know you type game.

Due to Kathy's workload at her regular job I will be seeking someone to put together a really nice address book for our women's group. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, just one that lists everyone who is at the women's meeting this year. It needs to be completed as soon as possible after the reunion so everyone has it when it's time to do up their Christmas cards. I would like it to be put together and mailed to each person who attended the ladies meeting as not everyone has e-mail or has the space in their computer to store it. You will be reimbursed for the paper, ink, and mailing supplies or just mail the original to me and I will make copies and mail them. I can talk more about this with whoever takes on this task. In the past I have put one together using my computer and my print program. I'll try to locate it to show to you. If you are interested in helping out with this please let me know as soon as possible.

We still have almost 100 cookbooks and about 45 blankets left. I would really like to get them sold and out of my house. The cookbooks will be offered at a really low price at the reunion only this year so think about your holiday list. One of the items for this years fund raiser is due in, in about 2 weeks.

We have ordered 500 lanyards. They are black in color and say 11th ACVVC on them in red. They will be selling for \$5 each and will only be available at this reunion. We will NOT take any advance orders or hold any in reserve for anyone

prior to then. They are really sharp looking and are going to go fast and are worth the price. So be sure to get your "limited edition" lanyard. We will have them near the registration area. Remember everything we make goes to the support of the scholarship funds, spouse assistance fund, prizes for our meeting, operating expenses and some towards ordering next years fund raiser project.

As always we are in need of volunteers to help out at both the registration table and at the women's table. So if you can give us a few hours of your time it would be greatly appreciated. It's always a lot of fun and you get to meet everyone who comes to the reunion.

Bob, Raleigh and I will be arriving sometime on Tuesday and as soon as we are settled in our room we will be in the registration area getting ready to open in the morning. Registration will NOT open until Wednesday morning this year, probably around 10ish. So please don't ask for yours before then. You will also find a few changes in the operating hours of the registration booth this year. So pay attention to the posted hours.

Well, gals I really must go as I have a lot to do here at work. We are getting a lot of troops into our post here that will be here for 365 days. And since there are very few barracks on post, a lot of them are being put up in the local hotels. And since I'm the one here with the military background, and the experience working with large groups, my name is on the contract so I have a lot of paperwork to do.

Until I see you all in the Windy City, I want to wish you happiness, health and love.

Barb

11th ACVVC Blackhorse  
Women Organizer

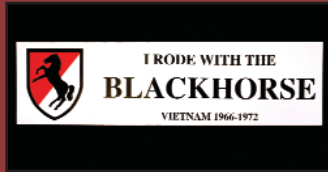
# The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#5 Blackhorse Watch w/Leather Band \$35.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band \$35.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#9 Coin, 11th ACVVC \$10.00



#10 Belt Buckle, brass \$25.50



#12 Lighter, Zippo \$15.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



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



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$4.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$4.00



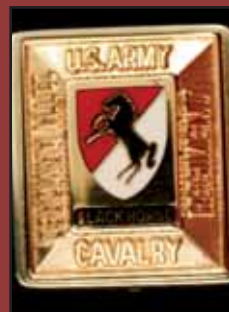
#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#21 Blackhorse Women's Pendant \$140.00



#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



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



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



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



#25 Lapel Pin, Support Troops \$3.00



#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



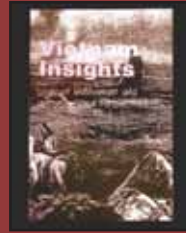
#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



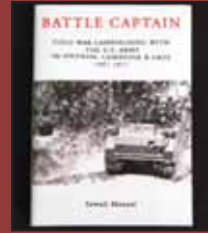
#29 Video Combo #1 \$50.00



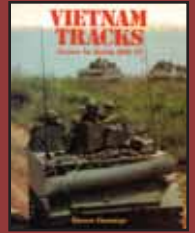
#30 Video Combo #2 \$40.00



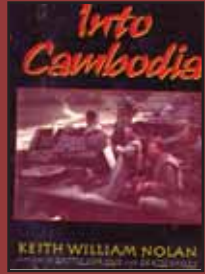
#31 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



#32 Book: Battle Captain \$20.00



#33 Book: Vietnam Tracks \$26.95



#34 Book: Into Cambodia \$23.00



#35 Book: Tales of Thunder Run \$11.00



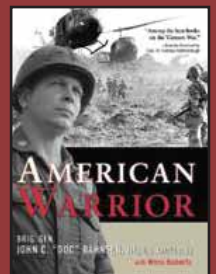
#36 Book: Fiddlers Green \$16.00



#37 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



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



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



#40a Old Blackhorse Hat \$10.00



#40b New Blackhorse Hat \$10.00



#41a/b T-Shirt, black/ash \$16.00



#42a/b Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, red/white \$30.00



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



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



#46 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$75.00



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



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



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

## 11th ARMORED CAVALRY MEMORIAL RESTORATION DONATIONS

**The 11th ACVVC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals who have purchased granite bricks in support of the 11th Armored Cavalry Memorial restoration. The list includes orders received between January 4, 2008 and March 24, 2008. Previous donors' lists appeared in 2nd and 3rd quarter 2007 Thunder Run and 1st Quarter 2008. Numbers in parentheses indicate more than one brick. This brings the total number of bricks purchased to 611.**

Ben H. Bailey	John R. Garbin	Mark D. Lownsbery	Max Rucker (2)
Andrew Bourdess	David L. Geasland	Roger T. Macleod	John W. Schumacher
Charles A. Bourne	Gerald P. Gentile	Charles M. Mahurin	Patrick D. Sexton
William R. Butler	Joseph A. Gibbs	Angel L. Marcano	Dale J. Silhanek
Bobby D. Calton	Dennis Gourm	Richard H. Martinez (2)	Susie Sokolas
Frank D. Coney	Rick P. Hall	Ronald J. Moore	Charles L. Spiteri
John S. Crow (2)	Sharon A. Hill	Kenny G. Naidas	Stephen L. Stringer
William J. DeManincor	Henry Howard	Joseph J. O'Leary	Guy C. Swan
James F. Dittmer	William R. Kester	David C. Pace	M. Page Teer
Russell C. Dove (2)	Linda Kiester	Michael A. Parkhurst	Leora Thompson
Bill J. Duke	William R. Kubena	James Phillips	Charles M. Torno (2)
Richard G. Followay	Frederick A. Kyle	Robert F. Prohaska	Frank O. Woodrum
Arnold G. Forte	David F. Livingston	Joe A. Roberts	David E. Wright
Charles J. Ganno	Charles W. Locklin	Daniel Romero	

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NL2Q 08

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

SER NO RANK (during tour) \_\_\_\_\_ SSN NO \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE MEMBERSHIP:  NEW  RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 2nd QTR 2008

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	C	10.00			
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	A	3.00			
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse w/full color BH insignia	A	2.00			
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	A	2.00			
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's	B	35.00			
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's	B	35.00			
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	B	4.00			
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	B	4.00			
9.	Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed sabers, together then, together again	B	10.00			
10.	Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	B	25.50			
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00			
12.	Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	15.00			
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	B	5.00			
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	C	7.50			
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	C	30.00			
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x16 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	B	20.00			
17.	Blackhorse Pin	A	4.00			
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	4.00			
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00			
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	A	5.00			
21.	Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia	B	140.00			
22.	Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	C	35.00			
23.	Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	A	225.00			
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	A	280.00			
25.	Lapel Pin: "Support Our Troops"	A	3.00			
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	A	5.00			
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	A	4.00			
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	C	30.00			
29.	Video combo #1: "Combat Reports" & Blackhorse Video (DVD only)	C	50.00			
30.	Video combo #2: "Combat Reports" (DVD & Blackhorse Video (VHS)	C	40.00			
31.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	C	10.00			
32.	Book, "Battle Captain" by Sewall Menzel	C	20.00			
33.	Book, "Vietnam Tracks"	C	26.95			
34.	Book, "Into Cambodia" by Kieth Nolan	C	23.00			
35.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Larry Haworth, Chaplain	C	11.00			
36.	Book, "Fiddlers Green" by Jack Stoddard	C	16.00			
37.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	C	16.00			
38.	History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	C	25.00			
39.	Book, American Warrior" by "Doc" Bahnsen	C	20.00			
40.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new)	B	10.00			
41.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black	B	16.00			
42.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White	B	30.00			
43.	Golf Shirt, crossed sabers, Specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Mens <input type="checkbox"/> Womens <input type="checkbox"/> Bark <input type="checkbox"/> Gray	B	30.00			
44.	Blackhorse Sweatshirt, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic w/full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black	B	25.00			
45.	Denim Shirt, <input type="checkbox"/> Mens <input type="checkbox"/> Womens	B	30.00			
46.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left)	B	75.00			
47.	Windbreaker, white w/snap front, crossed sabers w/11BH patch logo, VN Ribbon, Vietnam 66-72 on left breast. Sizes: Small thru 3X available	B	35.00			
48.	Guidon (order by Troop)	B	30.00			

**Subtotal** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Shipping Costs: A items = \$3.00; B items = \$5.00; C items = \$8.95 (max shipping is \$8.95 per order)

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$8.95. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757.**



# From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello All,

We here at your quartermaster store hope you have enjoyed the new layout in Thunder Run. It seems to have gone over in a big way. In the first three weeks of March you have sent in over one hundred twenty five orders by mail including twenty five that came in on the same day. We here previously have not received that many at one time. We are looking forward to getting your packages out to you just as soon as we can, so please hang on.

On another note Fellas, I'm like you and can't read my wife's mind and I'm not able to read yours either. PLEASE don't forget to put down your sizes on your orders. Also be sure to check for the correct price of the item as well. At the end of your order please write down your return address on the bottom of the order form. This will save us from having to look you up. Thank you so much for all of your orders. You are really keeping us busy.

We again are asking for as many volunteers as we can get for

## We again are asking for as many volunteers as we can get for Thursday and Friday to help out in the Quartermaster Store in Chicago

Thursday and Friday to help out in the Quartermaster Store in Chicago. Keep in mind that *no orders will be filled from August 1st through the 31st due to the Reunion.*

Go ahead, however, and send those orders in and we'll get them filled soon as we get back from the Windy City. Again Guys, please check the store prices and postage as these have changed.

Once again I would like to thank Jim Griffiths, Otis Carey, and Pete Echon for their hard work on *Thunder Run* and Web Site.

Allons,

Jerry

## QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

Clearance items sales include **past reunion golf shirts** while they last. Louisville XL and 2XL only for \$15.00



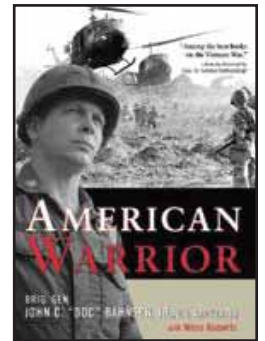
#43 Golf Shirts, gray/bark, Crossed Sabers (mens, womens) \$30.00



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



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



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



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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