

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

Happy Birthday! Blackhorse Celebrates 117 Years of Service

By Allen Hathaway

February 2, 2018 marked the 117th birthday for the 11th Cavalry. Activated on this date in 1901 at Fort Myer, Virginia, the 11th Cavalry has served our great nation whenever and wherever needed throughout the world.

To mark the occasion, troopers of the Regiment gathered on Fritz Field at Fort Irwin, California, to hear the Regimental Commander, COL Joseph D. Clark, talk of the pride of the generations of Blackhorse troopers who have served in the Regiment. This was followed by a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" and a cake baked especially for the occasion. Following age old tradition, the cake was cut with a cavalry sabre.

Meanwhile at 11:00am at Arlington

This is the fourth year of the wreath laying to mark the Blackhorse birthday. The idea was first suggested in 2015 by 1LT Evan Fitzgerald who served with the regiment in 2013-2015.

National Cemetery a ceremony was held to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in honor of all those who served with the 11th Cavalry throughout the years. Presenting the wreath were LTG Guy C. Swan (USA Ret, 57th Colonel of the Regiment) and three active duty Blackhorse troopers from Fort Irwin; 1LT Hunter Nixon, RCSM Michael Stunkard, and SMG Otero.

This is the fourth year of the wreath laying to mark the Blackhorse birthday.

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Blackhorse dignitaries gather for the 117th birthday of the Blackhorse. (11th ACVVC President Allen Hathaway is on the far right, front row.)

Welcome to... Grand Rapids, Michigan

The Grand Rapids Reunion is rapidly approaching.

Grand Rapids is the second largest city in Michigan. If you visit Grand Rapids and say there is nothing to do you must be in the wrong city. The Grand River flows through the city.

Visit The Frederik Meijer Sculpture Garden where you will see a large number of sculptures in a natural setting with two from an original Da Vinci design. The Meyer May House was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and is open for tours. The Grand Rapids Art Museum and Grand Rapids Public Museum and Children's

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A Day in the Field

By Robert "Bob" Kickenweitz

Tt was a typical day of 90 plus degrees with Lithunder showers every two to three hours. We were beating the bush looking for Charlie or as some of us called him Mr. Charles, in an area known as the Ho Bo Woods, located in Binh Duong Province, Vietnam. We were also providing security for the 984th Land Clearing Company that was clearing the area with Rome Plows. As the 984th clearing operations continued we started to receiving machine gun, mortar, RPG's and small arms fire from the enemy in the uncut area of the field. We called in 155mm howitzer fire to the area, after the artillery fire mission had ended, F troop made an assault in to the area but was repelled. A second artillery mission had to be

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From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



Allen Hathaway President Plans are being finalizing for the 32nd annual reunion to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan,

September 5-9. The room block is filling up quickly, so we encourage everyone to make hotel reservations soon.

There are nearly 700 Blackhorse troopers who live in the state of Michigan. Most of them are within an easy two hour drive of Grand Rapids. Hundreds of other Blackhorse troopers live in neighboring Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. The reunions are held in a different area of the country each year in order to give our troopers an opportunity to attend those closest to their home. This is an excellent opportunity for troopers in Michigan, and others across the United States, to attend a reunion. It may be several years before another reunion is held in this part of the country.

I often hear members say, "I'll attend the reunion next year" or "Someday I'll go to a reunion". The longer you put it off the more likely you won't attend a reunion. We also hear comments from those who have attended their first reunion saying that they all regret they waited so long to attend. I urge each of you to give serious consideration to attending a reunion soon.

We are pleased to announce that Donald C. (Don) Snedeker will be the guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet and program. Don has served as the historian for our organization for many years. He has done extensive research on the history of the regiment since it was formed in 1901 and particularly during the period 1966-1972 when the regiment served in Vietnam. Don served in Vietnam from 1970-1971 and in Germany with the 11th ACR from 1974 to 1978. He is a regular contributor to Thunder Run with the "Hoofbeats" article. He attends many reunions and is responsible for the history boards on display. We look forward to hearing him speak at the reunion.

The [reunion] room block is filling up fast. We urge you to reserve your room as soon as possible to ensure your reservations are set. Contact old friends early so they have plenty of time to make their plans to attend.

The women's group is planning a trip to Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park on Friday of the reunion week. The Meijer Gardens is a 158-acre botanical garden and outdoor sculpture park. The trip is open to everyone. The cost is \$41 per person which includes transportation, admission to the Meijer Gardens and lunch. Please see the article and registration form in this issue.

The room block is filling up fast. We urge you to reserve your room as soon as possible to ensure your reservations are set. Contact old friends early so they have plenty of time to make their plans to attend. Feel free to contact any board member if you need help finding an old friend. Don't put it off another year!

Our Scholarship Fundraising activity is going strong again this year. Donations for the annual calendar are doing well. All expenses for printing and mailing of the calendars are *supported solely by your donations*. If you received a calendar, please take a minute to make a donation to help pay for printing and mailing and to help support the Scholarship Program. Every dollar counts.

Recently, we've had a number of scholarship recipients donate to the Scholarship Fund as a way to "pay it forward". Their names are listed in this issue. We appreciate their support!

The next Scholarship Fundraising activity will be the annual raffle. Raffle tickets will be mailed to all members in mid May. We're offering a total of \$2,500 in prizes again this year so be sure to return your tickets prior to the reunion.

We also want to remind everyone to start thinking of items for the silent auction. The auction is always a fun and interesting part of the reunion. We have many talented people in the organization and they always come through for the auction. We welcome any item for the silent auction. Please see the separate article in this issue.

In February, I was privileged to attend the annual Regimental Spring Ball in Las Vegas. It was a great experience to be among these young, energetic Blackhorse troopers. This was a well-earned break for them from their normal duties in the desert at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin. They're very proud of our regiment and proud of their mission to train the world's finest army.

In early April, the board members met for the mid-year meeting. This is an opportunity for the board to discuss many topics including future reunion sites, final details for the current reunion, and many other business issues of the organization.

We invite all Blackhorse troopers, family and friends to join us at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Monday, May 28, to honor our fallen comrades as we lay our Blackhorse wreath at the Wall. If you're not able to attend, take a moment wherever you may be and remember our comrades-inarms. They shall not be forgotten. Our memories of them will live forever. Welcome Home and ALLONS! – It's good to be "Together Again".



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

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

Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Correspondence and inquiries concerning *Thunder Run* should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," Peter L. Walter, 8 Tallowood Dr., Westampton, NJ 08060-3721.

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BIRTHDAY from page 1



Tomb Guards prepare the Blackhorse Wreath.

The idea was first suggested in 2015 by 1LT Evan Fitzgerald who served with the regiment in 2013-2015. The wreath was

made by Regimental Support Squadron attended the wreath laying. For

and is recovered the day after the wreath laying so it can be used the following year. attended the wreath laying. Following the ceremony, they met for an informal lunch at a nearby restaurant. (A video of the ceremony is available on our Facebook page.)

Approximately 20 Blackhorse veterans

GRAND RAPIDS from page 1

Museum are open to the public. The Blandford Nature Center and the John Ball Zoo welcome tourists.

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library is a must see and walking distance from our hotel. The Calvin College Eco-system is a good place to learn about our eco-system.

A more vigorous event may be a Great Lakes Pub Cruiser trip. All fifteen aboard the cruiser pedal their way around to different Pubs for beer and food. This is a good way to meet your fellow travelers.

The Brewery Vivant is a European style small farmhouse pub located in an old funeral parlor. Graydons Crossing is Gastro Pub with 46 beers on tap and great food. For the ice cream lover there is The Pump House; this is an old fashioned ice cream shop with many flavors and numerous toppings.

On opposite ends of the spectrum there is Ju Sushi and Lounge and Bagger Dave's Beer and Burger Tavern All in all there are more places to visit than can be done in a weekend

Again I encourage making your hotel reservation now if you have not already done so. Registrations for the reunion must also be made. Remember the cutoff for reunion is August 8, 2018

> Steve Page Reunion Chairman



Remembering Christmas 51 years ago

ing forward to Christmas that year. I can remember that after dinner on Christmas

Eve I went and took a shower, put on a

clean uniform and sat down to listen to

Armed Forces Radio and to write some

letters for my family back home. We also

listened to Hanoi Hannah the only other

station on the radio. She was the Tokyo

Rose of the Vietnam War. She played the

best music and in between songs would

send out her propaganda message. On

this night, she was saying that the

Vietcong, (you remember the guys in the

black pajamas) would be having

Christmas Dinner on the base camp of

the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment the

following day. Now that's a message that

go over to the service for Christmas

Mass. Our Chaplain, Father Egan, his

assistant Tony Graziano and whoever

else helped, did a superb job in prepar-

ing an open field into a beautiful place to

serve midnight Mass. They started by

taking some beer and soda pallets to

construct a floor for our altar, then

nailed some plywood on top of the pal-

lets to finish the floor. For the rear walls

of the altar, they nailed four by eight

sheets of plywood to the floor, then lift-

ing the plywood seven to eight feet high

into the air to create the rear walls of the

altar. Blue spotlights were used to wash

light across the back walls of the altar. A

podium with a white cross on the front

of it was in the center of the altar.

At about ten in the evening I got up to

really got our attention.

By Robert "Bob" Kickenweitz

Then I was a youth growing up in Scotch Plains. New Jersev. Christmas was pretty much the same year to year other than the presents we would receive. Each year my family would watch a variety of Christmas Shows, Ozzie & Harriet Nelson with David and Ricky, Andy Williams, Perry Como, I Remember Mamma, and of course The Story of the Nativity. On Christmas morning after church, my Aunt and Uncle would drive out from New York City to spend the day and have dinner with us, sometimes my Grandmother and Grandfather would be with us also. My younger brother Edd and I knew that whatever we received as gifts from my Aunt and Uncle there would always be a new pair of slipper socks for each of us, we hated slipper socks but we knew we couldn't say anything other than, "Thank you."

The year I have the most vivid memory of is 1966. This would be my first Christmas away from home, I would not have my family and friends around me, and we would not be having dinner together and for once I wished I could be home to receive those slipper socks. December 25, 1966 found me in Xuan Loc, South Vietnam as part of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Our base camp was located about 65 miles northeast of Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, between the jungle and a rubber tree plantation, I really was not look-

Show Your Pride

Eric Newton, Colleyville, Texas (K Trp, 68-69) shows his Blackhorse pride with a Blackhorse license plate on his 2015 Harley-Davidson Street Glide.



Christmas alter, Xuan Loc, South Vietnam

Off the altar to the left was a confessional with a long line of soldiers and some nurses. The lines were always long at the confessional, everybody always took the opportunity when it presented itself, to go to confession. While more soldiers were filling in the bare spots in the field the Chaplains assistant was playing Christmas Carols on an organ. For some reason while I was sitting on the ground singing with the others around me, I decided to lie back on the ground. Coming from the New York, New Jersey area you never see all the stars that are in the sky due to refractive lights of the big cities. But out here between a jungle and a rubber tree plantation you get to see the Milky Way in its full splendor. I'm not sure if it was my missing of family and friends or if God was telling me in his own way that things would be okay. Looking up into the night sky I saw the most beautiful sight I have ever seen in my life. On the ceiling of our open air church was the same scene the shepherds must have seen two thousand years before, the only thing missing was the star of Bethlehem. The grandeur of the Milky Way in that black sky was absolutely breathtaking. Every Christmas Eve when my family and I go to Mass, inevitably sometime during the service I drift back to that magical Christmas Eve, so many years ago and so far away. I'm still filled with a joy only that Christmas could deliver. This year more than any other, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everybody, especially our young men and women of the Armed Forces, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and that they may feel the magic of that special Christmas.

Thunder Run

A DAY from page 1

"I helped save one man's life tonight and helped three others get to safety, it was a pretty good night's work."

called in, F troop made another assault in to area only to have three ACAVs and a Sheridan tank disabled for their afford. Only after a third artillery mission was fired, F troop was able to go in and retrieve the disabled vehicles, as darkness was starting to set in. I was a gunner with F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. My name is Bob Cadmus.

It was the 28th of May, 1971, we had just gotten the word to head for the NDP (Night Defensive Position) that we had been using for the last week or so. It had two circular berms one inside the other. We had the Rome Plows in the inner circle for their protection, and E and F troop's vehicles were positioned in the outer circle along with a Reconnaissance Company of the 25th ARVN Division. After resupplying our munitions and fuel, and checking our weapons, we settled in for the night. No choppers had flown out to our NDP, which meant no hot meals tonight, and no mail call, so we pasted around the "c" rations and if we had them "cigarettes," you could light them up. Everybody knew what the deal was as to who would be on watch, and at what time.

At approximately 2100 hours the area came alive very quickly as we started to take incoming enemy mortar fire. This was the fifth night in a row and by far the worst that we received at this NDP. One of the first rounds hit the vehicle next to my track wounding all of the crewmembers and starting a fire in that vehicle. One man was in the track which at this time was now on fire and threatened to set off the explosives stored inside. I jumped from my track and entered his vehicle extricated him. I then carried him to the aid station our medics were setting up. Mortar rounds were coming down all around us like rain from a heavy thunder storm. The man had received shrapnel wounds, severe burns and was in a state of shock. One of our medics Gustaf Bernt asked, "Are there any other injured men over there?" I said, "Yes" and with that we both ran back to the track which was now totally consumed in flames. Enemy mortar rounds were still bursting all around our positions as we made it back to the other men of the track. Gustaf started administering first aid to the other three men immediately, while I reassured the men that they would by okay. As Gustaf finished up on each man I brought them over to the aid station to be picked by a dust-off chopper.

After everything settled down and the adrenaline subsided, I pulled out a cigarette, and lit it up. I sat down beside my track, looked around as men started clearing the area and thought to myself, "I helped save one man's life tonight and helped three others get to safety, it was a pretty good night's work." Unfortunately, we found out the next day that the man I pulled from the burning vehicle, SP/4 Joseph Esparza, expired in the dust-off on the way to the med-e-vac hospital. It's a tough day when you lose one of your own.

P.S. From the writer, various people who have witnessed Bob's lack of fear, and how he compromise his own safety in an effort to save his fellow soldiers, have written statements calling for him to receive the award of the Silver Star. Unfortunately, due to missing paperwork in a time of war or the powers that be didn't think his efforts justified him receiving the Silver Star. He has never received any commendation for his actions. Whatever the answer may be, I would gladly serve beside this man.

Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for Thunder Run

1st Quarter	Jan 1
2nd Quarter	
3rd Quarter	
4th Quarter	Oct 1

All submissions for publication must be sent to: Peter L. Walter, 8 Tallowood Drive, Westhampton, NJ 08060-3721; email *basepiece70@verizon.net*.

2018 Election

By Greg Mason, Secretary, 11th ACVVC

Three positions will be up for election this year during the General Membership Meeting to be held Saturday morning, September 8th, during the 2018 Reunion. The three positions are President, Secretary and one Director.

The President and Secretary will serve two-year terms. The Director will serve a three-year term. All terms will begin January 1, 2019.

All candidates must be Life Members of the 11th ACVVC. Candidates will have an equal opportunity to state their qualifications at the General Membership Meeting. The elected candidates must be able to attend the annual reunion and two Board Meetings each year of their elected term.

The elected candidates must be able to communicate by e-mail with the other Board members and be able to help the Board make decisions on a variety of organizational matters. Each candidate must be highly organized and be able to commit time and energy to a specific project or committee as directed by the President. Excellent skills in using Microsoft Word and Excel are required in order to prepare reports and other documents required of all positions.

The position of President requires considerable time and superb organizational skills. The President needs to frequently multi-task in his responsibility to oversee all projects, programs, and activities of the organization.

Candidates for Secretary should be able to intently follow and record organized minutes, summarize reports, actions and decisions from official meetings, and maintain records of the 11th ACVVC and its numerous projects. He should have strong language and writing skills and know basic Robert's Rules of Order. Information management skills on a computer are required.

The Directors are expected to commit themselves to a specific area of interest within the 11th ACVVC or as directed by the President.

Nominations for these positions should be submitted in writing to the Secretary or submitted from the floor at the General Membership meeting. Please consider participating on the Board of Directors serving the 11th ACVVC.

Faces Never Forgotten

By Allen Hathaway, Operation Embrace

This is an update on the article published in 4th quarter 2017 *Thunder Run*.

"Faces Never Forgotten" is a program of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund with the objective to put a face to each name listed on The Wall. Since 2009, and with the help of scores of volunteers across the country, over 42,000 photographs have been collected. The photographs collected so far can be viewed online at www.vvmf.org. In the future, the photographs will be permanently displayed in the Education Center at The Wall. Each face is a story of those who served our country in Vietnam.

The 11th ACVVC has participated in this program by collecting and submitting photographs of our fallen troopers. We want to continue to help collect photos for anyone listed on The Wall but especially those who served with the 11th ACR in Vietnam.

Currently, there are only 41 photos remaining to complete photos for all 730 11th ACR casualties. This number is down from the 75 names listed in the November 2017 *Thunder Run*. If you know someone whose name is on The Wall and you are a relative or fellow veteran, please honor them by putting a face with their name.

Hardcopy photos or digital photos can be submitted to Allen Hathaway. Please see the contact information on page 3 of this issue.

All photos that are submitted are posted on the individuals memorial page on our website. See www.11thcavnam.com then select: Fiddler's Green then select: Vietnam

Make the effort to honor these Veterans. It will speak to the importance of honoring our Veterans and remembering those who died serving our country.

Thunder Run

FACES NEVER FORGOTTEN - PHOTO REQUESTS

FACES NEVER			
NAME	TOUR DATES	UNIT	HOME TOWN
BATTLES, TROY C	1967-1968	H Co, 2/11	PEORIA, IL
BREWSTER, OLLIS	1967-1968	B Trp, 1/11	WELLINGTON, AL
BROWN, MANCE	1970	C Trp, 1/11	PENSACOLA, FL
BURGOS, JUAN R	1967	E Trp, 2/11	NEW YORK, NY
CWIOK, FRANK J	1970	C Trp, 1/11	CHICAGO, IL
DAVIS, JAMES	1967-1968	B Trp, 1/11	NEW YORK, NY
FREY, JESSE C	1969-1970	B Trp, 1/11	BELLFLOWER, CA
GALVEZ-PASTRANA, MANUEL	1970	M Co, 3/11	SAN JUAN, PR
GARNETT, LEON JR	1970	F Trp, 2/11	WASHINGTON, DC
GASSAWAY, AMBROSE	1968-1969	G Trp, 2/11	FISHER, LA
GREEN, EUGENE	1968	A Trp, 1/11	SWAINSBORO, GA
GREEN, JAMES D	1966	B Trp, 1/11	TEXARKANA, AR
GREEVER, HAROLD L	1968-1969	A Trp, 1/11	HINTON, WV
GREGORY, ROBERT A	1968	H Co, 2/11	NORTHVILLE, MI
HAMNER, CHARLES	1967-1968	G Trp, 2/11	BIRMINGHAM, AL
HARVEY, JEFFERY A	1968-1969	Air Cav Trp	BURLINGAME, CA
HUTTON, WALTER W	1969-1970	Air Cav Trp	NEWARK, NJ
JENKINS, ISADORE	1971	E Trp, 2/11	NEW YORK, NY
JOHNSON, WILLIAM F	1966-1967	A Trp, 1/11	LOS ANGELES, CA
JOURDAN-FONT, JORGE L	1970	HHT Regt	RIO PIEDRAS, PR
LEIMBACH, LARRY K	1969-1970	L Trp, 3/11	ORANGE, CA
LEWIS, RODGER D	1966-1967	B Trp, 1/11	LOS ANGELES, CA
LITTLE, WALLACE S	1968	C Trp, 1/11	RIVERVIEW, AL
LUBAS, JAMES A	1967	D Co, 1/11	CHICAGO, IL
MCGLONE, MICHAEL T	1968-1969	l Trp, 3/11	DOVER, NH
NAYLOR, DENNIS E	1968	L Trp, 3/11	ORANGE, CA
OWENS, JAMES E	1966-1967	K Trp, 3/11	DILLON, SC
PATTERSON, SAMUEL L	1969	A Trp, 1/11	HUEYTOWN, AL
PHELPS, HERBERT L	1969	G Trp, 2/11	VALDOSTA, GA
PINKNEY, ROBERTIS	1970	L Trp, 3/11	DETROIT, MI
PRESTON, JOHNNY C	1966-1967	E Trp, 2/11	Fort Valley, Ga
RUSS, JAMES E	1969-1970	How Btry, 1/11	GRAYLING, MI
SMALLWOOD, ERRAL DALE	1967	G Trp, 2/11	PUTNAM CITY, GA
SMITH, GEORGE J JR	1968	F Trp, 2/11	WASHINGTON, DC
SMITH, JOHN L	1970	A Trp, 1/11	MILLBROOK, AL
THOMPSON, WILLIAM B	1968	G Trp, 2/11	SYRACUSE, NY
vincent, Ivan L Jr	1968	G Trp, 2/11	DETROIT, MI
WASHINGTON, THOMAS M	1967-1968	B Trp, 1/11	NEWPORT NEWS, VA
WILLIAMS, JIMMIE	1966	E Trp, 2/11	SAVANNAH, GA
WILLIAMS, RAYMOND L	1969-1970	F Trp, 2/11	WASHINGTON, DC
Young, William	1966	F Trp, 2/11	PALATKA, FL

One small unit in Vietnam

Richard A. Koziol, Lt Col, USA, ret

• omeone way up there in the Higher Headquarters came up with an idea that the US Army in Vietnam should send out small teams to work with the local Vietnamese Regional and Popular forces. These teams would train and advise them so they would be able to fight the Viet Cong. I was selected to command one of the first of four teams because I had combat experience and was Special Forces "3" qualified. All members of the Team had to have six (6) months of combat experience. My Squadron Commander from the 2nd Squadron 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment directed me to pick the best men available from within the Organization. This, then, is their story. I am going to start this chapter of military history the same way it was written way back then.

"In the beginning there was nothing and He created the Mobile Advisory Team (MAT)." The Organization was based upon a split Special Forces Detachment.

THE TEAM	
Team Leader	1LT
Heavy Weapons/Team Sgnt	Sergeant
Light Weapons Sergeant	Sergeant
Driver/Communications	Specialist 4
Medic	Specialist 4

On October 10, 1967, we choppered in to the Special Forces Camp at Tanh Linh, Bien Tuy Province and relieved Special Forces Detachment A-311. The Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) were to be sworn into the Regional Force (RF) and Popular Force (PF). Essentially three (3) RF Companies and nine (9) PF Platoons were organized. An Ad Hoc Battalion Headquarters was also formed to direct the operations of the RF Companies. We had two (2) ARVN 105 howitzers in support.

Our concept was to keep rotating the units within the compound. The families also lived in the compound. While one company was providing base security and receiving training another was on local patrols and ambushes. The third company was conducting longer and more distant Search and Clear Operations. We kept two "Co Vans", as we were called, with each unit in the bush. The troopers that remained in base camp provided the training to the Yards, performed radio watch and were prepared to move out with a reaction force. We were 65 miles away from the nearest friendly forces.

When we started we did not receive any guidance or mission statement as to what was expected of us. A crusty Infantry Colonel told us to "Do what you can do to improve the war effort" and "keep a log." So we did. Three months later out of the clear, blue sky came a visitor. A Brigadier General who wanted to know what we had been doing for the last three months. The Team presented him with a rehearsed briefing. Each Team Member briefed the General on another member's specialty and answered his questions. On his next visit he presented us with our Combat Infantry Badges and the medic received his Combat Medic Badge. And, hooray for us, ice cream and fresh eggs.

Some of our accomplishments (not always in accordance with Army Regulations) were:

Formed a Medical Civil Action Program (MEDCAP). This is where the Vietnamese medics were supposed to go into the villages and treat the people. But they had a great reluctance to do so. I had just purchased a new Polaroid camera and started taking pictures of them in camp. I told them I would take more pictures while they were treating the villagers. And off we went. Worked like a charm. The villagers now had medical treatment on a regular basis. I bought a case of film for \$2.00. The film was cheap because the first two pictures never turned out.

Show Your Pride

Had the IR8 rice planted. This was a new type of rice that the religious leaders did not approve of, so it was not planted because a "God did not wish it." One day, they wanted a helicopter ride to Saigon to see their superiors. I told them that God did not want them to have a helicopter ride. When they asked me which God. I replied, "The same God that does not want the rice planted."

We trained the Montagnards to use small unit tactics, calls for supporting artillery fires and to operate various weapons. The units were composed predominately with Montagnards, some Chams, a few Cambodians and a small minority of Vietnamese. Odd for the times but we had Montagnard Commanders and Noncommissioned Officers.

We trained the troops to participate in Air Mobile Assaults. Even built a bamboo helicopter. During the most successful operation we penetrated the Viet Cong's bunker perimeter, which was only a few meters into the jungle from the Landing Zone. "Four kilograms of documents" were captured. Some of the documents turned out to be the paymaster's records, which had pictures of the VC infrastructure within the District. Most were then captured, some escaped but they were now non-effective. They were truly "Fish out of the water," an old guerilla saying.

One day a water buffalo was wounded, my Medic well, that is a another story.

In conclusion, the "Defenders of Freedom's Outpost" gave a good accounting for its' actions and above all....We were there, did our duty and returned safely.



Mike Forbes, Cincinnati, Ohio (A Trp, 69-70) shows his Blackhorse pride with a Blackhorse license plate, frame and patch on his SUV.

Tragedy in a Minefield

On tanks, the unit moved into a field, In a straight line remained the scheme Soon the tanks stopped and were still The foreign soldiers disembarked and began to scream

The disembarked army had begun to search with a zeal

- While the main unit sat and watched One by one, mines exploded that were concealed
- Men began to fall under the explosive blotch

Suddenly, the sounds and noises stopped Men were lying everywhere An alert call was made for a help drop The medic went to aid the despair

The tank unit had gone into a minefield Some say the mistake was made at the top Many years past as I look back at this deal No other American soldier moved from their tank but the medic

And the young man that paused before he Disembarked

The reason the young man hesitated Before he climbed off his tank Was because he chose the alarming Moment to think and dread Fear was the enemy he put aside In favor of the wounded and the dead.

©2011, Ralph Long L Troop, 3/11 ACR 1970-71

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: Peter L. Walter 8 Tallowood Drive Westhampton, NJ 08060-3721; Phone: 609) 261-5629 *basepiece70@verison.net* for listing in

"Journey to Fiddler's Green."

Are you Moving? Do You Have A Seasonal Address?

We value our members and we don't like to lose any of them. We go the extra length by following up with a phone call or e-mail for any *Thunder Run* magazine that is returned...

By Allen Hathaway, Membership

With each mailing of *Thunder Run* there are several copies returned by the post office marked "unable to deliver" or "moved, no forwarding address." We pay a fee for these returns but more importantly we've lost track of a member.

Are you moving?

Please remember to file a change of address form with your local post office or online at www.usps.com. This will ensure your mail is forwarded to your new address. Then, remember to notify us! Use the change of address form in each *Thunder Run* and complete all information including phone and e-mail address. These last two pieces of information are just as important as your new address. You can also submit your change of address through our website. It's a simple process and it helps us keep our records up-to-date.

Do you have a seasonal address?

Please notify us of both your summer and winter addresses, along with months at each address, phone and email address. We'll arrange to continue to deliver your *Thunder Run* magazine in the summer and winter. Thunder Run is mailed as standard postage versus first class postage. **The post office DOES NOT forward standard mail.** Instead, the *Thunder Run* magazine is returned to us for a fee.

We value our members and we don't like to lose any of them. We go the extra length by following up with a phone call or e-mail for any *Thunder Run* magazine that is returned IF a phone number or e-mail address is available in our records. Help us to keep our files up-to-date so we can continue to deliver your copy of *Thunder Run* to the correct address.

MOVING?

We want you to get your copy of <i>Thunder Run</i> without a lot of trouble. Complete this form and mail it to: 11th ACVVC Membership Update, Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112. Email <i>11thcav1966@Comcast.net</i>	
Name:	
Old Address:	
City:	State:Zip:
New Address:	
City:	State:Zip:
Phone	Effective Date:
Email:	





Gravitas.

Seldom hear it. But when it is pronounced or written, I take notice.

I kind of love the word, like Mr. Rodgers loved his sweater. *Gravitas,* a Latin word for heavy: a force; like in gravity or the force of gravitation. Heavy, serious, compelling, important, grave consequence, solemnity, legacy and dignity are all wrapped up in our oft used title: The Legendary Blackhorse Regiment.

If you want to witness serious *gravitas, observe the changing* of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery. I dare you to stand on that polished marble on Ground Hog Day [which also happens to be the birthday of the Regiment] when the wind chill is minus ten for an additional ten minutes after the ceremony. You can't do it without flinching, stomping your feet to keep them from freezing or blowing on your hands so you can warm your ears. But there in front of you as you gaze at the Tomb with the Washington Monument prominent in the background as if guarding a field of precisely ordered military headstones, our Army Tomb Guards pace twenty one steps from west to east and then after standing tall for twenty one more seconds from east to west. They add dignity, high-spirits, morale, pride and blessed gratitude that reminds us that we live in a great country, defended now, and since the beginning by great soldiers.

Gravitas is also the ruffles and flourishes sounded when the President enters a chamber ... played since the days of diminutive President Polk, who was so short that without the music, no one would have noticed that the President of the United States entered the room.

Gravitas is a twenty-one gun salute and the playing of Taps at a funeral of a Trooper in a little village in the Shenandoah Mountains or the high plains of Wyoming; in the burial of a soldier in the Andersonville National Cemetery in Georgia or in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in Missouri. It is also and seldom noticed as we stand at attention during the playing of our National Anthem. I just love the word.

My son recently used it as he was bent over an oven, basting a roast and explaining to one of his nephews the reason for ceremony and symbols to mark the right of passage from Cub Scout to Boy Scout and how they not only honor those to be rewarded, but underline the rites of passage, the ritual of honoring achievement and emphasizes the power and wisdom of the Scout Law. Ritual, Rites, Liturgy, Tradition, Ceremony, Medals, Honors, Certificates and even crowns all speak *gravitas*.

America has always called upon its Army to do the hard jobs, and the Army has answered the call. We are a free Nation looked upon by billions of people around the world as the standard-bearer of freedom – freedom guaranteed by great soldiers and loyal veterans who have served our country well.

We are an Army of tradition. Our greatest tradition is service to our country, and in that service we ask our soldiers to carry out tough missions all around the world. You all sailed or flew half I even start to think that had I not been a Blackhorse trooper, I would have faded away like an old soldier. But by the grace of God I found a family in Vietnam and with each greeting of "Blackhorse" or "Allons." I hear triumph trumpeted across the landscape.

way around the world to uphold that mission. Many of you were sent off by ceremonies reeking with gravitas as you left — few of you came home to be greeted with any form of respect. We waited a long number of years to enjoy the splendor of ceremonies and take pride in the uniform we wore and glory in our efforts and sacrifices.

But together then, we still come together again. As our venerable Chaplain Larry Haworth often wrote: "together again matters ... together again sets in motion stories from distant days and friendships that had once faded away but are now happily renewed." It happens all the time. Seldom does a week go by, or a trip complete that I don't hear someone point at my 11th Cav badge or cap or jacket and hear: "Blackhorse." I stop in my tracks.

I even start to think that had I not been a Blackhorse trooper, I would have faded away like an old soldier. But by the grace of God I found a family in Vietnam and with each greeting of "Blackhorse" or "*Allons*". I hear triumph trumpeted across the landscape.

At our Orlando Reunion, we even forgot (inside the hotel) that a hurricane was bearing down as we continued to renew old friendships and make new ones. Since then, I continue to meet other former troopers or hear from comrades from almost 50 years ago. It is such a joy to hear about their lives, their families, their jobs and even their pets and travels. I take particular pride in hearing of their love for their families, their country and their God,

Their God: Our Father. Jesus taught us to pray in a revolutionary way. In his time God was known as the Lord, the Almighty, maybe even an avenging God, a staunch controller of our lives, of men and nations — thunder and sun and clouds, light and darkness. God was scary. But Jesus said when you pray say: "Our Father." Our father, like the father that loves us and ever forgives us and even welcome us back; sometimes even after we kicked him in the teeth. Our Father! What a wake-up call.

Combing through my old files, I found a letter from a lad I served with in Vietnam. He was in F Troop of the 2nd Squadron in 1971. Robert lives in Michigan, a little south of Detroit.

Robert Lessnau wrote in July 2007: "When I was in Nam, I thought the Lord wasn't interested in a guy like me. I felt so

"Unworthy" or something, although I attended services in the field when possible. By the time I got out of there, I was ready to commit due to the fact that God kept me alive against all odds. I've been on fire for the Lord ever since; deeply committed to him. God has come through in my life in millions of ways, but what's especially meaningful for me is the small things. For instance if I'm not feeling my best, maybe waking up kind of sluggish or something or maybe just a cold, that sort of thing, I can always be assured that God will give me an easy day. Those little things mean way more to me than the big stuff. Hard to explain why, but I guess if just impacts me that with all He has to do, He cares about my day."

Yes Robert, a loving Father does care about your day and all of us and our days as well.

Hope we see you at the reunion, we are going to be in Michigan, only about 120 miles straight west of Detroit on I-96. Hope to see you there and many other troopers of the *Legendary Blackhorse Regiment*.

PTSD – Survival, the Life Long Game

have lived with PTSD for nearly all of my adult life. I was almost twentythree when cashiered out of active duty at the Oakland, CA Reception Center with less than twenty dollars, tans with no skivvies, and a very thin coat as protection from a foggy, cold, winter night. But none of that mattered because I was in hyper drive, fresh from a year of turbulent action as an officer, with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, in the Republic of South Vietnam. I didn't recognize PTSD then, nor did I for the next thirty years. I did realize that sometimes I was overwhelmed with fear and anxiety, and at other times something made me withdraw from friends and even family. I dealt with depression, anger, frustration, and a sense of confusion regarding why I was experiencing these emotional reactions.

Like many veterans I didn't talk about my service experiences. For years I evaded questions and tried to repress any memories or feelings I had about them. Yet they were ever present. On the one hand, dreams and responses to certain sounds, smells, and situations seemed logical to me, given the experiences I had had in the Republic of South Vietnam. Yet the bouts of persistent melancholy and anger, my inability to relate with people socially, and the occasional need to completely withdraw from social activities nagged at me. This was not the person I wanted to be and I could remember a time, before Vietnam, when these feelings and emotions were not part of me at all.

The first steps I took toward recovery consisted of academic training and career enhancement. The introspection these activities caused improved my family and professional interpersonal relationships. They also provided me with some coping strategies, but did not delve into the root cause of my emotional distress. My life partner has always been a support and guide through the hard times and she was a constant buoy when I felt the tide of depression pulling me away from all that is important.

My journey of self-healing took another positive step in the early 1990s when an urge developed within me to write poetry. The verses began to stack up and I found a voice for some of the feelings and emotions I had held inside regarding my military service. Career goals changed and my writing momentarily tailed off, but thinking about my Vietnam Service continued.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars became another source of insight. There I found other veterans who were kindred spirits. Some were in counseling or had completed counseling services and reported success as a result of their efforts. I contacted a Veterans Services Organization and began my own counseling. During these sessions I wrote down my experiences – specific combat events and what feelings those events engendered. We explored those feelings and events and I pressed deeper to understand how they had shaped me. As the counseling progressed, I experienced personal insights and emotional releases that enabled me to accept what I had done and what had happened to me during my tour in Vietnam. I was able to come to terms with my own actions and those of others that I had taken responsibility for.

For all of you fellow Troopers who have experienced physical and psychological trauma, I strongly recommend that you avail yourselves of the counseling and other services available to you. The everpresent support of family, coupled with counseling have enriched my life, and made me more effective in dealing with the physiological scars born from the Vietnam War. They can do the same for you.

(Ted Rauh is an author whose current project is a book series titled Riders of the Storm, a collective set of experiences of the members of a fictional Armored Cavalry Platoon serving during one of the most intense combat periods of the Vietnam War. Information about Rauh's writings can be found on www.tnrauh. com)

11 ACVVC Wishes To Thank You For Your Donations For 2017

2017 was another banner year for donations to our organization from our membership and supporters. Contributions made to our Scholarship Fund were the primary recipient of most of the donations. Members also donated to assist our troopers attend a reunion, for our memorial and our General Fund. See the outstanding numbers below.

Calendar Donations	1,785 donors	\$77,138.00
Scholarship Fund	22 donors	3,690.00
General Fund	16 donors	1,910.00
Assistance Fund	7 donors	1,835.00
Memorial Fund	1 donor	100.00
	Totals:	\$84,673.00

We wish to thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to the 11 ACVVC. Remember, all donations to your organization are tax deductable (except raffle).

THE 27TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Thursday, September 6, 2018, Thornapple Pointe Golf Club, 7211 48th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512; 616-554-4747

In 2018 we will visit Michigan for the first time and the "Great Lakes State" promises to be a wonderful golf venue! We will play The Club at Thornapple Pointe, consistently rated as the top public course in the Grand Rapids area. A panoramic view of the breathtaking Thornapple River provides the backdrop for this expansive 18 hole course, featuring bentgrass fairways and impeccably groomed tees and greens. Winding along 7,000 feet of river frontage, your game guides you over gently rolling hills, through hardwood-lined fairways, and near three of the most enchanting, untouched wetlands found in the Midwest.

Entry fee includes greens fees, cart with satellite-based yardage system, Continental breakfast, mixed grille luncheon of char-grilled teriyake chicken breast, sirloin burgers and Italian sausage w/ peppers and onions, three salads, cookies and prizes!

Complete the form below and mail it to the address shown with a check for \$95 per golfer (payable to Peter L. Walter). Form and fee must be postmarked by Aug 18, 2018 to guarantee your

entry! You do not need a foursome to enter. Include 27TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLE TOURNAMENT your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of Name Average Score equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for Address Home Phone whom you are paying. This out-State Zip ing is open to men and City women. Dress code: no denim, shirts must Name ______Average Score ____ have collars, shorts must be Bermuda Name ______Average Score length, soft spikes only! Average Score Name Call 609-261-5629 if you have questions. E-mail You will receive confirmation of you registration Mail Checks To: Pete Walter, 8 Tallowood Dr., Westampton, NJ 08060-3751 in the mail. All entries must be

prepaid. Tee times will be at 8:00 AM with a shotgun start with lunch and prizes following golf. Rental clubs are available at \$20 per set (call the course directly to reserve). Each golfer is responsible for getting to/from the golf course. All golfers who will be driving should offer rides to their fellow golfers. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! "FORE!"

2018 11TH ACVVC REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

Orders must be received	i by August 1, 2018.	
Name		
Address		Kwinill AV
	State Zip	THE ARMORED CAVALRY
	E-mail	Together Thon -
Adult Sizes: M, L, XL - S	reunion logo embroidered on left breast. Name, troop, year on right side. \$42.00 each / 2XL, 3XL - \$44.00 each s of 40 characters per line of personalized embroidery (Name, Unit, Dates, Etc.) PLEASE PRINT Line 1: Line 2: Line 3:	
Card No	CVC Code Exp. Date	
Signature (Required for c	redit card)	
-	rders payable to 11th ACVVC. If paying by check, write your drivers license Quartermaster, C/O Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 7575	

2018 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason

The 2017 Silent Auction raised \$4,460 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 172 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many hand-crafted items and one of a kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We look forward to another successful auction.

The auction process continues to be as follows:

1. Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 33rd Annual Reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cav related or not.

2. We will have a collection site set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on Wednesday from 2pm to 6pm, Thursday from 2pm to 5pm.

3. You can ship items to Fred Droski, to collect, hold and bring the items to the reunion for display. If you plan to ship items, please use the convenient Silent Auction Donor Form printed in this issue. If you bring the items to the reunion, also complete the donation form and include it with the item.

4. The auction will be from 7pm to 9pm on Friday night with the bidding ending precisely at 9pm.

5. Winning bidders must be present and pick up their items and pay for them between 9pm and 9:30pm after the bidding is complete.

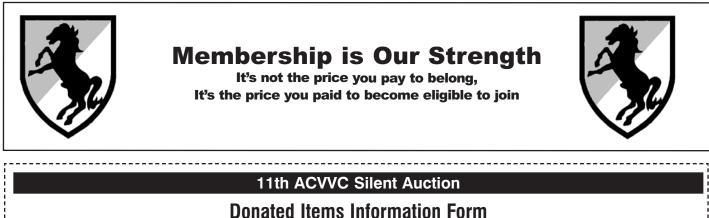
6. If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bidder at 9:30 or auctioned off at 9:45pm Friday evening. The bid form will have a place for you to leave a cell phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.

7. We will be able to accept cash, checks, Visa or MasterCard for payment.

We do need volunteers to work the collection site and the night of the auction. We are setting up the collection site schedule in 2 hour shifts and if you would like to volunteer please contact me at gregrmason@aol.com or 813-754-2980. I will respond to your email as I receive them. If you do not get a response, it is probably because AOL has a habit of putting stuff in their "junk" folder so feel free to follow-up with a phone call.

Our reason for requiring items to be picked up and paid for the evening of the auction is because of the difficulties we have had in prior years getting all the items delivered and paid for. We appreciate your understanding.

We look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids and thanks in advance to all the donors!



Please provide the following information with your donated item. If you wish to donate anonymously, please check the box below. **Please print clearly.**



33rd Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion

Amway Grand Plaza 187 Monroe Ave NW Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 Reservations: 1-800-253-3590 September 5-9, 2018 Schedule of Events



Wednesday, September 5

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration open	Center Concourse Registration
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Quartermaster Store open	Vandenberg A & B
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Silent Auction items accepted	Registration Area
2:00 pm - Midnight	Bunker open	Ambassador Ballroom

Thursday, September 6

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

2:00 pm - Midnight

2:00 pm - Midnight

7:00 AM

27th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial
Golf Tournament (Additional Fee)
Registration open
Quartermaster Store open
Silent Auction items accepted
Bunker open

The Golf Club at Thornapple Pointe

Center Concourse Registration Vandenberg A & B Governor's Room Ambassador Ballroom

Friday, September 7

9:00 am - 11:00 am	Veterans Seminar	Pantlind Ballroom
12 noon - 4:30 pm	Women's Group Luncheon (Additional Fee)	Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Silent Auction items accepted	Governor's Room
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Registration open	Center Concourse Registration
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Quartermaster Store open	Vandenberg A & B
2:00 pm - Midnight	Bunker Open	Ambassador Ballroom
7:00 pm- 9:00 pm	Silent Auction Sell Off	Governor's Room

Saturday, September 8

8:30 AM	Raffle Drawing	Ambassador Ballroom
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Annual Membership Meeting (Members only	Ambassador Ballroom
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Women's Group Meeting	Pantlind Ballroom
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Memorial Service	Ambassador Ballroom
	Quartermaster Store open	Vandenberg A & B
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Registration open for late arrivals	Center Concourse Registration
5:45 pm - 6:45 pm	Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)	DeVos Place Ballroom B,C,D Lobby
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Banquet, Program, Presentations and Salute	DeVos Place Ballroom B,C,D
10:00 pm - Midnight	Dancing (DJ)	DeVos Place Ballroom B,C,D

Sunday, September 9

10:00 am - 11:00 am All Day Worship Service Non Denominational Farewell and Safe Travels Pantlind Ballroom

See You in Las Vegas 2019



33rd Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion Grand Rapids, Michigan

September 5-9, 2018 Amway Grand Plaza 187 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 Reservations: 1-800-253-3590



Registration fee is **\$95.00** per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner.

All registrations must be received by Wednesday, <u>AUGUST 8, 2018</u>. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer no later than Friday, August 31, 2018.

<u>PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION</u> (print clearly or use mailing label)

4	g	
Name	Telephone No:	
Address		
City/State/Zip		
E-Mail Address		
Unit Assignment (Example: B TRP, D CO - List only one unit. This is	Dates in Country	1 10// 10/2
(Example: B TRP, D CO - List only one unit. This is	is your banquet seating.) (E	xample: 1966-1967)
KIA Relative?		
Relationship to KIA:	Unit:	
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Total Registration Fee		\$
Banquet Meal Selection (Indicate number for ea	ach selection) ChickenBe	efVeggie
Is this your first reunion? 🗆 Yes 🕒 No	Wheelchair or special needs se	eating? 🗆 Yes 🛛 No
□ Visa □ MasterCard		
Card No		Exp. Date
Signature (Required for credit card)		
Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC.	Please mail registration form al	ong with payment to:
	11th ACVVC OLLIE PICKRAL	

571 DITCHLEY RD KILMARNOCK, VA 22482



2018 REUNION - GRAN SEPTEMBER

AMWAY GRAND PLAZA HOTEL 187 MONROE AVE NW GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503

RESERVATIONS:	800-253-3590
ROOM RATE:	\$139.00 + TAX, SINGLE – QUAD
SELF PARKING:	\$10.00 PER DAY

★ Rooms are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis

🖈 In-room internet fee waived

 \bigstar Rates are good three days prior to and three days after event based on availability.

🖈 600 room block

Register online using the line on our website: www.11thcav.nam/ Hotel Reservations Must Be Made No Later than August 13, 2018

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM

http://www.grpm.org/

Located approximately 1/4 mile from the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

★ Monday - Saturday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

🖈 Sunday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

ADMISSION:

🖈 \$8.00 for adults

★ \$7.00 for seniors

★ \$3.00 for students

★ \$3.00 for children Located approximately 1/4 mile from the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

GERALD R. FORD PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

HOURS OF OPERATION:

★ Monday - Saturday. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

🖈 Sunday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Free for children under the age of 5 Free parking is available

ADMISSION:

- ★ \$8.00 for adults
- ★ \$7.00 for senior citizens and military service members
- ★ \$6.00 for college students with ID
- ★ \$4.00 for youth ages 6-18

REUNION AIRPORT SHUTTLE

Reservations may be made on line at: https://www.gailandrus.com/conventions/.

- inups.//www.gananurus.com/conventions/
- Cost is \$20.00 Round Trip per Person
- Reunion Attendees only
- Airport pickup dates are September 5 and 6 Airport return date is September 9

Open page scroll down to CURRENT CONVENTIONS click on and open 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. This open's Transportation Reservation Form.

Reunion Registration Deadline and Cancella

The purpose of this policy is to document and standardize the 11th ACVVC reunion registration cutoff dates.

Effective with the 2017 reunion, and all future reunions, the cutoff date for registration will be twenty-eight (28) days prior to the first Wednesday of the reunion.

The cutoff date for Grand Rapids will be August 8, 2018. All registrations must be received by this date. Any registration received after this date will be returned to sender. This policy will be published in all Thunder Run issues that have reunion information in them. Postings will also be made on the web site and Facebook.

D RAPIDS, MICHIGAN R 5 - 9, 2018



The rest is self-explanatory answer the questions and check your date of arrival and departure fill in flight information. You can pay by Credit Card.

Taxi Service from and to The Airport is \$35.00 each way there is no Hotel or Airport Shuttle available

Arrival Schedule:

(Transfer departs once per hour, on the hour)

 \bullet Wednesday, September 5, 2018 – Transfers operate from 12:00 p.m. to 12:01 a.m./midnight

• Thursday, September 6, 2018 – Transfers operate from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

From: Gerald R. Ford Intl. Airport, Grand Rapids, MI

(Transfer leaves from the baggage claim area once per hour)

To: Amway Grand Plaza Hotel (Lyon Street side entrance)-187 Monroe Avenue NW

Departure Schedule:

(Transfers depart once per hour, on the hour)

• Sunday, September 9, 2018 – Transfers operate from 4:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

 $\ensuremath{\textit{From:}}$ Amway Grand Plaza Hotel (Lyon Street side entrance)-187 Monroe Avenue NW

To: Gerald R. Ford Intl. Airport, Grand Rapids, MI

Please Note: Any interruptions or delays on the part of the airlines are not the responsibility of Gail Andrus Travel. We will accommodate those who experience any flight delays within our scheduled operating hours only.

If you need further assistance, please email: Jennie Pavlak at <u>jennie pavlak@gailandrus.com</u> or call 1-800-532-2431.

Our business office is located in the Eastern Standard Time Zone.

Registration

September is just around the corner and our reunion will soon be here. I hope you have booked your room or rooms and sent in your registration. This reunion might be one of the top 10 in attendees.

We just got back from Michigan where we stayed at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. What a great hotel and staff they have. There is so much around the hotel that I'm sure you won't be able to see and do it all. For your information there is a staircase in the older part of the hotel which will make a great spot for unit pictures.

I keep telling you how to fill out the registration form when I put my article in the Thunder Run. I know most of you know how to fill out the form so I'm just going to say a few things that you need to check before you mail it out. Is it readable, is it complete and above all keep it as a full page? If you register on line, then never mind. And for goodness sake get it in before the cut-off date. Please, please if you have any questions call me, I'm here for you. My phone # is (H) 608-372-5892, (C) 608-387-3346, or e-mail (gtroopbob@gmail.com).

This year we expect close to 200 applications for a scholarship and it would be great if we could give everyone a scholarship. So, on that note, for all of you troopers who have gotten the calendar and not sent in that little envelope with a donation please do so, because we do take care of our own.

On behalf of myself, Barbara and Raleigh we hope you have a great and safe spring and summer this year.

Until next time I leave you with this quote "Live for something rather than die for nothing." General George S. Patton Jr. Allons.

Roberto (Bob) Moreno, Registration Chairman

lation Policy

Cancellations and Refunds

Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer at least five (5) days prior to the first Wednesday of the reunion. The last day to cancel and receive a refund for the Grand Rapids reunion is August 31, 2018.

Deadlines

- 2018 Reunion Registration Deadline: August 8, 2018
- 2018 Reunion Cancellation Deadline: August 31, 2018
- 2018 Hotel Reservation Deadline: August 13, 2018

See ya'in Grand Rapids

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE



by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman

Thad received a total of 7 scholarship applications by the May 15th, 2017 deadline. That is 8 fewer applications than were submitted in 2016 and the fewest number of applications we have received since 1998. The youngest applicant is 18 years of age and the oldest is 45 years old. Three of these students fall into the "traditional" college age bracket (18-24 years of age). This is the second year in a row we have had fewer than 50% of the applicants in the "traditional' college age bracket.

The 11th ACVVC Board of Directors is pleased to be able to award scholarships to all of these deserving applicants this year. Some of their photos and thank you notes appear in this issue of Thunder Run.

The 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program has awarded 397 scholarships totaling \$1,294,000 to children of our members and KIAs since its inception in 1996. Every scholarship dollar paid to these deserving applicants was donated by YOU, the members of this great association of Blackhorse combat veterans!! You will find a usable copy of the current Scholarship Application in this issue of Thunder Run and also on our website. This is a new application form and must be used by all applicants applying for Mike 'Doc' Rafferty scholarships in 2018.



Our Scholarship Guide provides more information on the scholarship process and contains detailed assistance on completing the scholarship application. You can print a copy of the Guide and the Application at www.11thcavnam.com. If you have a child or grandchild who is planning on attending a college, community college or trade school this fall, please encourage them to apply for a scholarship.

Please inform your eligible children/grandchildren that applications and grade transcripts need to be sent to me by May 15, 2018. E mail me at platoonmedic36@gmail.com if you have questions. If you do not have access to e mail you may reach me at 575-915-2921.

Women's Group Tour and Luncheon Registration Form

Please join us for Luncheon and Tour at the Frederik Meijer Garder - 4:30 p.m.	ns & Sculpture Park: Friday, September 7, 2018, 12:00 Noon
Cost: \$41.00 per person includes Lunch, Admission and Trans	•
• Open to spouses, family and friends of 11th ACVVC veterans.	
This form must be receive	d by August 7, 2018.
Name	
Address	
City S	
Phone Email	
Meal Choice: Includes Chips, Beverage and Dessert. Please choo Garden Kitchen.	ose one of the following Craft Box Lunch catered by
Taste of the Gardens Chicken Salad Sandwich, said to Gardens: Natural chicken breast, dried Montmorency cherries, w	
Sculpture Club Sandwich: Another popular choice mad onion, spring mix, roasted garlic tarragon aioli.	e with local Applewood bacon, turkey breast, pickled red
Gardener's Cobb Salad, a Gluten Free option: A favorite Grilled chicken breast, spring mix, rendered bacon lardons, rainb green goddess dressing.	e choice by everyone, not just those who need GF food. ow carrots, grape tomatoes, hard-boiled egg, red onion,
Make checks or money orders payable to Blackhorse Women's payment separately from your Reunion Registration to:	Group (Sorry, NO CREDIT CARDS) Mail this form and
Kathy Tandberg, Blackhorse Women's Group, 3818 Lone	e Peak Drive, Bismarck, ND 58503



11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia Scholarship Application (effective January 1, 2018)

Please review Scholarship Guide at <u>www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html</u> Application Deadline May 15th



IMPORTANT: A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED AN 11TH ACVVC SCHOLARSHIP IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY AGAIN. Students working on advanced degrees (master's, doctoral) are not eligible to apply.

Applicant's full name:				Date of Birth:
Applicant's social security number:		E ma	il address: _	
Street address:				Apt./Unit #
City:	State	Zip Cod	e	Phone #:
of service in Vietnam or	hild of an 11 r Cambodia.	th ACR vete	eran who wa	as killed in action or died as a result
Applicant's Sponsor (11 th Cav Veteran): Fu Sponsor's 11 th Cav unit in Vietnam:				
Name and Address of College or Trade Sch Name:	hool you plar	n to attend:		
Address: Citv:				Phone:
What was your High School GPA? You must attach a copy of your grade tra You must have at least a 3.0 Grade Point	inscripts from	iPA (if appl n your last	2 yrs. of Higl	n School or College.
Briefly tell us about your extra-curricular a	and voluntee	r activities		below:
I, the undersigned verify the answers give permission for a copy of my high school/c				, , , , , ,
Signature of Applicant		ed Name		Date
Signature of Sponsor Veteran or Guardia Please send your Mike "Doc" Rafferty, 11 th ACVVC Sc Em	completed a	airman, PC	Box 13188,	

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

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11th ACVVC Raffle to Benefit Scholarship Program in 2018

By: Mike "Doc" Rafferty

Board Member and Scholarship Committee Chairman

The proceeds from this year's raffle will go towards providing scholarships for our children and grandchildren. The 11th ACVVC's Scholarship Program has awarded 397 scholarships totaling \$1,294,000 to children of our membership since 1996. This year, for the first time, grandchildren of members are eligible to apply for a scholarship. If you have a grandchild or child who is planning on attending a university, community college or trade school, please encourage them to apply for an 11th ACVVC scholarship. Please advise them to look at the scholarship guide on our website (www.11thcavnam.com/ scholar.htm) or contact me for more information or if they have questions. You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in the 2018 raffle. The drawing will be held Saturday, September 8th during the 33rd annual reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. You need not be present to win. The suggested ticket price is \$1.00 per ticket and is not tax deductible. The prize pool consists of:

1st place (\$500) 2nd place (\$400) 3rd place (\$300) 4th place (\$200) ...and eleven \$100 prizes.

Raffle tickets will be mailed to all 11th ACVVC members in May. Please consider purchasing tickets to help fund this important program. If you do not wish to participate in the raffle you are still welcome to send a donation to the 11th ACVVC scholarship program.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Membership is open to all troopers who served with or were attached to the IIth 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(Troop,Sqdn)	DATES: FR	ОМТО	
(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 en	closed, plus 3 paymen	ts of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)
IN ADDITION, PLEASE ACCEPT MY TAX DE	DUCTIBLE CONTRI	BUTION FOR \$	
I authorize the release of my address/phone	e number to other Tro	popers who served with the	e 11th ACR
(Sign)			
□ Visa □ Mastercard Card #		Exp. Date	
Signature			
Please make checks/money orders payable			or money order (no cash)
to: 11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickra	I, 571 Ditchley Rd.,	Klimarnock, VA 22482.	

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

Scouting in the Blackhorse – The Art of Hearing

A good point man on dismounted patrol could often hear the enemy – or, as often as not, 'hear' that the jungle was just too quiet and that usually meant trouble. For the Blackhorse Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRPs)/Aero Rifle Platoon (ARPs) Troopers, knowing what the sounds meant – and what the lack of sounds meant – could spell the difference between life and death. As LRRP/ARP Bill Dofflemyer said, when the ReUp birds and FU lizards got quiet, that's when "you knew somebody was coming."

In some cases, it was an actual sound that tipped you off to the enemy's presence. In March 1967, 1st Squadron was on Operation Portsea with the Australians. The area of the operation was heavy jungle and the Fire Support Bases (FSBs) were squeezed into all available open areas. One night, a Trooper on the perimeter thought he heard the sound of digging, so 1st Squadron's Howitzer Battery began a two-hour fire mission into the general area of the digging. The following morning's first light recon found six partially-dug mortar pits just 75 meters from the perimeter.

Many Troopers developed acute hearing during their days in combat. Knowing the difference between the sounds of various weapons could mean life or death during an ambush. As India Troop's Charlie Locklin recalled: "I learned how to identify what weapon was firing at the platoon by the crack of the bullet as it passed me." The sound of the 7.62mm AK47 bullet (Crack!) was very different from the sound of the 5.56mm M16 (Pffft!) bullet. The sound of an M60 or caliber .50 machine gun was also distinctive.

Knowing the different weapons by their sounds was useful for another reason. As Larkin said later: "This lesson served well to note the fire power of the force we were engaged with and allowed me to give accurate spot reports to higher as we were always asked questions about the force we were fighting."

But hearing was perhaps the least reliable of the Blackhorse scouts' senses. Dismounted infantry lived and died through noise discipline. Bob Alexander and his fellow Skycavalrymen from the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry (1st Cav Division) hitched a ride with some Blackhorse Troopers in the fall of 1969. Four decades later he was still shaking his head in disbelief. "You dudes did NOT seem to be worried about ANNOUNCING your presence and your arrival! Went against all I had been taught in infantry training... CRAZY assed folks in this armor business!" He then added: "You Dudes may be NUTS, but you were some of the finest troopers I ever hope to meet!"

Riding on an armored pony, a scout wasn't going to sneak up on the enemy. That said, however, in the jungle it is often difficult to determine the direction from which a noise is coming. The VC might know that the tanks were coming, but they couldn't be sure from what direction until they got a visual sighting. Delta Company's Hal Fritz concluded: "And so sometimes you have the element of surprise when you really think you don't." That didn't mean, however, that the Troopers didn't pay attention to the 'sounds of the jungle'. They did. As Alpha Troop rode to the rescue of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry on 26 March 1970 in what came to be known as the Anonymous Battle, Mike Healey said they expected to be ambushed. "At times during breaks, we would hear the usual jungle noises. Then it would get quiet and a danger switch was turned on raising the hairs on the back of my neck. I knew something was about to happen. But this time, it didn't." It did a short while later, and all hell broke loose. Bill McNew was the last to arrive on the battlefield that afternoon. But he knew where to go, despite the thick jungle. "When I was near the contact area, above the noise of our vehicles, we could hear intense gunfire... So many bullets were flying it was like a hailstorm."

In late October 1968, Viet Cong (VC) Lieutenant Dong Van Ut was captured by Troopers from the 919th Engineer Company working with India Troop. Dong was found hiding in a tunnel in the village of Cau Dat in southern War Zone D. After interrogation by the 541st Military Intelligence Detachment, he was found to be the political officer of the C1 Company, C62 (VC) Local Force Battalion. He started a chain reaction that, in the end, netted a total of 13 prisoners of war and four dead guerrillas. The day after he was seized, Dong led Bandit Troopers to where four VC were hiding just a couple hundred meters away from where he had been nabbed.

One of the four turned out to be Captain Bay Son, a mortar gunnery instructor who had joined the Viet Minh in 1949. CPT Bay was captured by Calvin Warren, a door gunner on one of 3/11's aviation section helicopters. Warren's Army Commendation Medal for valor reads in part: "Private Warren, fully aware of additional Communist troops in the area, continued to move forward through the dense undergrowth, when suddenly he observed and engaged a Communist soldier to his front. Reacting instantly and with complete disregard for his personal safety, Private Warren assaulted the enemy soldier's position. The hostile soldier, who later proved to be a Viet Cong Captain, terrified by the aggressiveness of Private Warren's assault, immediately indicated that he wanted to surrender."

Following interrogation by the 541st, Bay led the ARPs to a spot where ten VC were located inside another tunnel. The ensuing fight ended with three female VC dead, the acting company commander who died of his wounds, and four male and two female VC captured. These ten VC were all part of the C4 Mortar Company from the C62 (VC) Battalion. Later that same day, Bay led India Troopers to where two more VC were captured. In addition to the wealth of information from the prisoners and the numerous weapons taken, it turned out that the elimination of the C4 Mortar Company preempted an attack planned against Kilo and Lima Troops in the vicinity of the village of Chanh Luu.

Knowing what you were hearing – and not hearing – often made the difference between life and death for Blackhorse scouts in Vietnam.



Meet Our 2017 Scholarship Winners

Below are some brief statements from a few of our 2017 Scholarship Winners.

Rhonda Kelly



■ I would like to thank the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia for awarding me with their scholarship. This scholarship has been a blessing from God. I have wanted to further my education and become a Nurse Practitioner for several years now, but do to the expense of the Master level program I did not know if I would be able to. The award of this scholarship has been a blessing in helping me obtain my dream. I will never be able to thank the veterans

enough for their service and dedication to their country or for their continued willingness to serve others through their scholarships.

Rhonda Kelly daughter of Randy Foster, I Trp., 68-69, KIA dedication to Robert Smith, 03/10/70

Shannon Durant



■ I would like to tell you how honored I am to have received my 11th ACVVC scholarship in dedication to David S. Deters. I am extremely grateful for this scholarship. What makes this scholarship even more special to me is that my dad is a Veteran. Rest In Peace to our fallen soldiers and thank you so much Michael for selecting me to receive this outstanding scholarship. I hope to see soon you at the 11th ACVVC reunion

Shannon Durant, daughter of Brad Durant, How Btry 1/11, KIA dedication to David S. Deters, 08/12/69

Harmony Allen



■ When I received notification that I was awarded the 11th ACVVC scholarship I was completely overwhelmed. I sat at my desk and cried. For the last two years, my parents have supported my decision to go back to college wholeheartedly. They have accepted the burden of my debt, including my mortgage, books, college tuition and living expenses. They have done this for me not because they had to, but because they want me to be successful. At age 43, I

am halfway through my Bachelor of Science in Nursing and will forever be grateful for the people that have encouraged me, believed in me and been there for me when I didn't think I could do it. This scholarship will forever be part of my history as well as my fathers, who fought "boots on the ground" in Vietnam. I don't know if thank you is enough for receiving this scholarship. I am truly honored.

Harmony Allen, Schmidt Scholarship winner, daughter of Carroll Walton, I Trp, 68-69,

Julia Trace



■ Throughout my life I have learned about the Vietnam War in 5 different history classes. In each class I was the only one who could say my Dad served in the war. This was not something he did by choice, and it was not a topic avidly talked about in my house growing up; regardless, I know it is something he carries close to his heart, as he wells up or cries when the conversation arises. Other than the story of when he sunk his tank into a

rice patty, our conversations regarding the war usually revolve around those who fell in his presence. I am proud to be the daughter of a veteran with such a big heart, who has in turn taught me to have a big heart. I am beyond thankful for the members of the 11th ACR who continue to remember the fallen and refuse to make them the forgotten, showing a dedication to have each other's backs no matter what. The 11th ACR has always had the backs of men like my father, and I am honored they have my back too. My scholarship was dedicated to Thomas Griffin, a man who lost his life at age 20. He was a year younger than myself at the time of his passing; a life that ended much too soon. As I walk through the remainder of my education and embark on my career in Social Work I will dedicate my work to his memory, and never let the fallen become the forgotten. I am proud to be a part of The Black Horse.

Julia Trace, daughter of Walter Trace, D Co, KIA dedication to Thomas Griffin, 06/20/70

Emma Nicole Black



Thank you so much. I am thrilled to receive this scholarship. It will help me and my family more than I can express.

Emma Nicole Black, daughter of Sam Melo, G Trp, 70-71, KIA dedication Garclee Fredwell, 08/29/68.

<u>Fiddler's Green</u>



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

- James J. Arnold, 919th Engineer Company (1967-1968) passed away on September 18, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Springfield, OR. He was laid to rest in Roseburg National Cemetery, Roseburg, OR.
- Dean E. Awe, C Troop, 1/11 (1965-1967) passed away on February 12, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Genoa, IL. He was laid to rest in Genoa Township Cemetery, Genoa, IL.
- Joseph R. Ball, HHT REGT (1969-1970) passed away on February 27, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sallisaw, OK.
- James E. Bland, 919th Engineer Company (1968-1969) passed away on February 21, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Port Charlotte, FL. He was laid to rest in Sarasota National Cemetery, Sarasota, FL.
- **Ignacio Bocanegra**, 37th Medical Company (1969-1970) passed away on January 28, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cerritos, CA. He was laid to rest in Coastal Bend Veterans Cemetery, Corpus Christi, TX.
- **Clarence M. Branham**, I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 6, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Port Austin, MI.
- **Timothy L. Butler**, Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1971) passed away on January 26, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Leesville, LA. He was laid to rest in Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, Keithville, LA.
- **David E. Chute**, K Troop, 3/11 (1968-1970) passed away on May 13, 2016. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Clarksville, TN. He was laid to rest in Gilman Cemetery, Madison, NH.
- Craig A. Crawford, 919th Engineer Company (1971-1971) passed away on

- October 16, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Covington, LA. He was laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetry, Slidell, LA.
- Thomas G. Danko, F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 18, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbus, GA.
- John O. Dodson, M Company, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on January 28, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Bernice, IN.
- **Charles W. Dolen**, HHT REGT (1966-1967) and A Troop, 1/11 (1967) passed away on August 6, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lawton, OK. He was laid to rest in Letitia Cemetery, Lawton, OK.
- Lawrence D. Easter, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 10, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Shingletown, CA.
- Thomas L. Efaw, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 27, 2017. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Louis, MI. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.
- **Donald L. Ferguson**, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 5, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Center Point, AL. He was laid to rest in Central Baptist Cemetery, Argo, AL.
- Albert P. Fulco, HOW, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 21, 2017. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Downingtown, PA. He was laid to rest in All Souls Cemetery, Coatesville, PA.
- Robert F. Gray Jr, 409th Radio Research Detachment (1966-1967) passed away on April 1, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fort Wayne, IN. He will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

- Lynn V. Gruchow, HOW, 3/11 (1968-1968) passed away on February 10, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Traer, IA. He was laid to rest in Buckingham Cemetery, Traer, IA.
- Harry S. Hamilton, HOW, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 15, 2016. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Boone, NC. He was laid to rest in Mount Lawn Memorial Park & Gardens, Boone, NC.
- **Robert L. Harvey**, I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1969) passed away on March 24, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Southport, FL. He was laid to rest in Southport Memorial Gardens, FL.
- Gerald L. Jackson, B Troop, 1/11 and K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 6, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New Summerfield, TX. He was laid to rest in McDonald Cemetery, New Summerfield, TX.
- **Gary T. Jay**, G Troop, 2/11 (1971-1971) passed away on February 1, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Abilene, TX. He was laid to rest in Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Abilene, TX.
- Harry J. Kostomiris, G Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on December 8, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in West Lawn, PA. He was laid to rest in Charles Evans Cemetery, Reading, PA.
- Kurt W. Mackley, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) and HHT, 1/11 (1969) passed away on December 5, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Laurie, MO. He was laid to rest in Utah State Veterans Cemetery, Riverton, UT.
- **Joseph M. McCabe**, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 25, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fort Myers, FL.

- Walter L. Money, 27th Engineer Battalion (1966-1967) passed away on September 28, 2009. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in La Salle, CO. He was laid to rest in Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Boulder City, NV.
- Antonio R. Moreno, I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 17, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saginaw, MI. He was laid to rest in Saint Andrew Cemetery, Saginaw, MI.
- Warren M. Morris III, HHT REGT (1969-1970) passed away on March 25, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Palacios, TX. He was laid to rest in Coastal Bend Veterans Cemetery, Corpus Christi, TX.
- **Donald L. Peavler**, G Troop, 2/11 (1966-1969) passed away on January 7, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ardmore, OK. He was laid to rest in McAlister Cemetery, Overbrook, OK.
- **Richard D. Pepin**, 919th Engineer Company (1969-1970) passed away on January 5, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lewiston, ME.

- William W. Poynter, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) and HHT REGT (1967-1968) passed away on August 12, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tacoma, WA. He was laid to rest in Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA.
- William L. Ramsey, L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) and E Troop, 2/11 (1971) passed away on May 15, 2017. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kannapolis, NC.
- Edward C. Reeves, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 9, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbus, GA. He was laid to rest in Evergreen Memory Gardens Cemetery, Columbus, GA.
- **Delmont J. Reinemer**, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 14, 2012. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tulare, CA. He was laid to rest in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.
- **Douglas J. Taylor**, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 24, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mansfield, OH. He was laid to rest in Mansfield Cemetery, Mansfield, OH.

- Jose G. Vega, G Troop, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on February 14, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rancho Cucamonga, CA. He was laid to rest in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.
- **Donald W. Walker,** I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 5, 2017. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Starkville, MS. He was laid to rest in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Starkville, MS.
- Raymond R. Walter, HOW, 3/11 (1967-1968) and HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on February 19, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brighton, IL. He was laid to rest in Rose Lawn Memory Gardens, Bethalto, IL.
- James F. Wiley, F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 31, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fairland, OK. He was laid to rest in Ozark Memorial Park Cemetery, Joplin, MO.

Reunion Assistance Fund

Ollie Pickral, 11th ACVVC Treasurer

The purpose of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is to assist Troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia, and family members of our troopers killed in action in Vietnam and Cambodia, to attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th ACVVC. Qualified applicants will be given one or more of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and the degree of assistance required:

1. A hotel room for one or two nights during the reunion weekend.

2. Transportation funds for fuel for auto, airfare tickets or bus or train.

- 3. Registration fee.
- 4. Meals or food allowance.

Funds are collected through direct donations by our members and are accounted for by the Treasurer. The Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is a separate account and published in the 11th ACVVC financial reports.

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

1. Do so in writing to the Secretary or the President, and

2. Provide evidence of the Trooper's

service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the11th ACR.

The applicant Trooper or KIA survivor should describe his/her need for monetary assistance, briefly stating his/her financial situation. In addition, the Trooper may be required to become a member, of the 11th ACVVC. The Officers and Directors of 11th ACVVC will decide by a majority vote on whom and how much assistance will be given to a Trooper or survivor of a KIA.

Requests must be submitted no later than to July 14, 2018.

A complete description of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund can be found on our website at: <u>www.11thcavnam.com</u>

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



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00

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

Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00





#41 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN

Ribbon \$35.00

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





look at the NEW shipping rate in this issue of Thunder Run for

es on file for ANY reason. So please do not take it for granted

Jerry

Michigan at the AMWAY Grand Plaza Hotel.

And again, please don't forget to fill out the return address at the bottom of the order form. I am unable to keep return address-

So, we will be seeing all of you soon in Grand Rapids,



Hello To All You Blackhorse Troopers!!

Hey Troopers! I hope you have already made your hotel reservations; we are expecting a lot of troopers and their families this year. Rooms are going fast so don't delay, September is just around the corner.

If anyone would like to help us out in the Quartermaster store we would really appreciate your help. You can contact us by email or come by the store and let us know if you are able to help us out sometime.

Well Guys, I hate to bring this up, but back in late January the Post Office raised their rates on shipping again. So please take a

'Find an Old Friend'

By Bob Kickenweitz, Website Manager

Many of you troopers believe that when you registered with the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia and placed on our "Master Roster" that you were automatically placed in "Find an Old Friend," NOT TRUE. A lot of you when filling out the registration form did not enter an e-mail address. Why, because at that time you didn't have one, and you cannot be entered in "Find an Old Friend" without an e-mail address. The whole file is based on your buddy finding your name on the file and sending you an e-mail. So, if you still don't have an e-mail address, send us your wife's e-mail address, or one of your kid's e-mails address. Go to our web site: www.11thcavnam.com then go down the page till you see the matrix and look for "Find an Old Friend" in the left hand column and click it. Then again in the left hand column look for "Find an Old Friend Update" and click it. Fill in the data and click Submit Comments.

REMEMBER IF YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IS INCORRECT, HOW ARE YOUR BUDDIES GOING TO FIND YOU?



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

they have changed.

that we do.

ALLONS

May 28, 2018, 10:00 am - Memorial Day (observed). Wreath laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, DC. All Blackhorse troopers, family and friends are invited to attend. Plan to meet at the flagpole near the memorial.



<u>Welcome Aboard!</u>

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
HHT REGIMENT		E C TROOP, 1/11fv		G TROOP, 2/11		K TROOP, 3/11	
Mathie, Bruce G	66-67	Gallimore, Bobby G	69-70	Reece, Thomas E	66-67	Lee, Edward B Jr	69-70
Mitchell, Nathan L	70-71	Keys, William C	66-67	Myotte, Stephen J	70-70	L TROOP, 3/11	
HHT, 1/11		Sexton, Willard L	67-68	HHT, 3/11		Lee, Edward B Jr	69-70
Doyle, Robert R	66-67	Yaczo, Csaba S	68-69	Farrell, Thomas J	67-68	M COMPANY, 3/1	1
Yaczo, Csaba S	68-69	HHT, 2/11		Wissinger, James A	70-71	Barrows, William H	69-70
		Sexton, Willard L	67-68			:	



<u>Quartermaster</u>

ORDER FORM • 2nd Qtr 2018

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No. Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1. Coffee Mug, white, ceramic (glass) 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia				
 Key ring, 1. 5 " Embroidery square w/full color Blackhorse insignia				
4. Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon				
 7. Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored 				
8. Mouse Pads				
9. Cavalry Hat (Brown in color, rope and pin included in priceround or oval head shape)	225.00			
10. Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle				
11. Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00			
12. Key Ring				
13. License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11				
14. License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white				
15. Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib				
16. Tote Bag, red & black, 14xl1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib 17. Blackhorse Pin				
18. 11th ACR Regimental Crest				
19. Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers				
20. Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath				
21. Small Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (5"x 4 3/4")				
22. Gear Bag, camoufllage wwith color BH insgnia				
23. Leather Gear Bag w/Blackhorse Insignia and pull handle	45.00			
25. Blackhorse Coin	15.00			
26. Large Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (8" x 7 3/4")				
27. Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" by Steve Crabill				
28. Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)				
29. Ladies Necklace				
30. Car Flag				
 Book, "Each One A Hero," by Michael Marsh Book, "Diary of a Draftee," by: James M. Yunker 				
33. Book, "Patton's Boys," by: Jack Stoddard and Edward Cook				
34. Signs □ 34a, □ 34b				
35. Book, "Warrier," by Leo Deege				
36. Henley Sport Shirt w/ BH patch & RVN ribbon red or white in color. Size: \Box M \Box L \Box XL \Box 2XL \Box 3XL				
37. Book, "Tales of Thunder Run," by Chaplain Larry Haworth				
38. Hat, Poplin adjustable 🗆 38a, 🗖 38b, 🗖 38c, 🗖 38d				
39. Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: 🗖 Dark Gray 🗖 Sand 🛛				
40. Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: 🗖 Red 🗖 Dark Gray 🗖 White				
41. Denim shirt (men's)				
42. Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left .				
43. Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon				
44. OTHER: Sale Items, Etc.				
Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL		Sub	total	
Specify size and color preference of item requested.	Chinning of	d Llondling		
	Shipping a	ia nananny		
Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple Items)	Total			
A) \$4.00 - \$5.00 = \$3.00 C) \$24.00 - \$60.00 = \$13.00 Any Gear Bog.				
B) \$7 00 — \$23.00 = \$7.00 D) \$61.00 and over = \$18.00 Shipping \$25.00				
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Signature				
* If paying by check, please write your drivers license number on the che	<u>eck.</u>			
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*City/State/Zip				
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be made payable to 11th ACVVC. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. ALL PRICES SUBJE				
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* Required info to process your order	,			



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The Meyer house, Grand Rapids, MI designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

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