



# Thunder Run

Vol 38-No. 1

“Together Then - Together Again”

1st Quarter, 2024

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

## President's Message

Frank Church



Welcome to 2024, hope you had a pleasant, warm, and happy holiday season with the ones you cherish and were able to be with over the holidays.

My message this quarter is about our relationship with the Blackhorse Association and the Active Regiment.

The Regiment and today's Blackhorse Troopers holds our heritage and the 11th ACVVC will be remembered as the Blackhorse's finest hour. However, the entire history of the 11th ACR from the Philippines to the Border Legion and the Persian Gulf has added Battle Streamers to our flag. That heritage continues as the Regiment is now considered to be the “Top Gun” of the Army in training other units at Fort Irwin. They represent our legacy, and we support them in any way possible and we enjoy the times we share with them. The Blackhorse has always been given tough and critical missions and all those that participated are proud to be known as a Blackhorse Trooper.

The 2023 men's Business meeting in Grand Rapids was interrupted by a challenge to our reunion selection process by an attempt to force a vote on a site that was not on the agenda. The motivation behind the effort to subvert our process was to have a reunion at the same time and place as the BHA in 2025, no matter what the consequences would be. There has been a lot of conversation over the years on this subject as well as a merger with the BHA. It has been the long-held position by the past and present leadership of the 11th ACVVC that neither is in our best interest.

The 11th ACVVC Officers and volunteers work hard to present the most affordable places to hold a reunion balanced by our requirements and what a particular site offers or does not offer. It takes 2 years and a huge amount of work by many people to select a site that we think will be the best place to visit. Throwing out all that work and negotiating power with the hotels that make the cut is not good business. If we predetermine where to hold a reunion then go to that property management and tell them we are coming we lose that power and will not get what we need in meeting space, costs, room rates or the concessions we would normally get in incentives.

That does not rule out the possibility that the future may present an opportunity that would be an appropriate time to plan an event involving both organizations and would be beneficial

to all Blackhorse Troopers, but that would be done following our current selection process, a process that has proven to be the most effective way to plan our reunions.

I hear a lot of “we need to do more together” from the BHA. We have done much in the past and I am open to opportunities to do so in the future, we will discuss those possibilities as they arise, but I cannot allow any such events to be forced upon us.

An example of “doing more together for our mutual benefit” is our collaboration on a project lead by the Regiment to build a memorial at Ft. Irwin and is supported by the BHA and the 11th ACVVC. The intent is to connect today's Troopers to the 11th ACR history and to the men that made that history. This is in the early stages of planning, and we will have more information as the project develops.

I have much respect for all Blackhorse Troopers no matter where or when they served, we are all brothers. But the 11th ACVVC has a very special bond with each other that cannot be felt with anyone else. A bond that can only be made on the battlefield and can never be broken. That is why we have our reunion every year. We meet to share memories of our life in Vietnam where we laughed, cried, and mourned together. We share memories and stories that are unique to each of us, yet they are all the same. We honor our brothers that fell in Vietnam as well as remember those we have lost since. We also celebrate being together again and it has become a family reunion as we share these times with our wives or significant others, children, grandchildren, KIA families and special guests. I sincerely hope that the Iraq-Afghanistan-Persian Gulf Troopers have the same bond among themselves and that they meet to share their special bond.

All Troopers of the 11ACR, past and present, are welcome to join us at our reunions. Many BHA members and active-duty Troopers do join us, and we have a great time celebrating our brotherhood.

***“We were, we are, we always will be Blackhorse Troopers”***

Allons,  
Frank





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

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Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. 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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## Veteran Service Officer Information

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### VA Denied Your Claim?

So, the VA denied your claim and you believe the VA should not have done so. What is your next step? Within a one-year period of that decision a veteran has three possible routes to contest the VA decision. A higher-level review, supplemental claim or a review by a VLJ at the Board of Veteran Appeals

A higher-level review is usually the quicker route. This involves a statement from the veteran as to why the VA erred and involves a review of the VA decision by an experienced VA veteran service representative. The veteran cannot include any new evidence as the veteran contends the VA erred with the available evidence (medical and non-medical) of record. The veteran can request a one-time hearing. (VA form 20-0996)

A supplemental claim involves the inclusion of new evidence a veteran may submit to support the veteran's contention. This new evidence may include a private medical opinion which may differ from the VA medical opinion, supportive statements from family, friends, military individuals who served with the veteran (those individuals must include their social security number or service number and the time frame they served with the veteran) or a very strong narrative by the veteran describing the incident which caused the Inservice injury or development of the in-service illness. Note -

the best private medical opinion(s) will include a statement by the medical provider that the rating decision was read and if possible, the VA medical exam was also read. When the VA is presented with two differing medical opinions for the same medical condition and both opinions are in equipoise (of equal weight), the tie goes to the veteran. VA form 20-0995

A review by a veteran Law Judge at the Board of Veteran Appeals. This route is most often the lengthiest as it is submitted directly to the Board of Veterans Appeals. (Note - I am preparing cases for Board hearings for appeals submitted January 2020.) The only "advantage" is that a veteran's contention is a Board of Veterans Appeals Judge will review the case. Judges have a staff of 5-6 attorneys who review the case and then present it to the Judge for a final decision. With this route, a veteran can choose three reviews. VA Form 10182

Direct review. Again, no new evidence is allowed. The Judge will simply review the case and render an opinion. The veteran does not want a hearing.

Evidence submission. Again, as above with the supplemental, a Judge will review all old and new evidence and render an opinion. The veteran does not want a hearing.

The veteran chooses to have a hearing with a Judge for the opportunity to present new evidence and or the opportunity to provide testimony which can include testimony from a spouse or another who witnessed an injury or illness in service. Testimonies are recorded and veterans/witnesses do take an oath. The veteran will be provided with a transcript of the hearing. Most decisions will be rendered within 9-12 months after the hearing.

As I have often advised, whichever route a veteran chooses to travel when disagreeing with a VA rating decision, do not pursue this alone. Seek the services of a VA accredited Veteran Service Officer. Be aware - most Veteran Post Service Officers are not accredited by the VA.

Further, members of our organization are always invited to contact me regarding the above or other VA related questions. Just allow me a few days to respond to your calls, texts or emails.

Thank you for your service and Merry New Year!

Allons and Airborne!

Chuck Bosko  
708-205-3541  
chuckbosko@att.net



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



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# THE 2023 SILENT AUCTION

By Greg Mason and Mike Rafferty

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Thanks to all who participated in the Silent Auction and a special thanks to all those who donated items. The auction is totally dependent on your support and those who participated came through once again. A total of 184 items were auctioned this year generating \$5,909 in gross receipts for the Scholarship Fund. This amount is almost equivalent to 2 scholarships at \$3,000 each. Since 1996 the Silent Auctions have raised approximately \$154,000. Many of the items donated had a military or 11th Cavalry theme, which are always popular. We also had a number of hand-crafted items and to those who made these items a very special thanks as some of them were ones that had the highest bids. We hope you will continue to make and donate these items.

A special thanks to Paul and Teresa Gissible, Ron and Janet Krueger, Terry and Tom Morrison, Joe Gehring, Dave and Connie Mathis, Russell Nelson and Fred Droski for help in collecting, organizing, tagging items, setting up and monitoring the Silent Auction. Thanks to Bob Moreno and his staff for receiving items in our absence. Thanks to Jerry Beamon for assistance at the end of the auction in processing credit card payments. All of these folks helped make the auction a success.

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

Anonymous (26 items)  
Susan Arble (2 items)  
Van Atta (1 item)  
James Bland (1 item)  
Chuck & Susan Bosko(4 items)  
Edward Brown (1 item)  
Roderick Castle (1 item)  
Darrell Crossno (1 item)  
Sharon Karels Dimberg (3 items)  
Dale & Pat Leesmann (2 items)  
Bill England (1 item)  
Allison Evans (2 items)  
Jane Evans & Jennifer Quinn (1 item)  
Jim Foreman (1 item)  
Harold Fremd (1 item)  
Henry A Gatewood Jr (4 items)  
Paul Gissible (7 items)  
Mike Gordier(1 item)  
Paul Greany (1 item)  
Nancy Hofflander (1 item)  
Bill Karabinos (3 items)  
Roger Karels (2 items)  
Ron Krueger (6 items)  
Greg Mason (4 items)  
Dennis & Connie Mathis (1 item)  
Stephen McEvoy (2 items)  
Wayne Mollhoff (4 items)  
Bob Moreno (7 items)  
Rebekah Moreno & Park Center Senior High School Robotics Team (2 items)  
Jack Morrison (1 item)  
Terri Morrison (1 item)  
Charles (Tom) Morrison (1 item)  
Patricia & Edmund Morrow (2 items)  
Tena Nelson (4 items)  
William Puskarich (1 item)  
Mike Rafferty (1 item)  
Curt Rich (5 items)  
Joe Rooney (16 items)  
Fred Rosel (5 items)  
Homer Rusteberg (2 items)

Col. Glenn Ryburn (1 item)  
Bill Sale (1 item)  
John Schaper (1 item)  
Carl & Joan Schisler (1 item)  
Clayton Scholz (2 items)  
Fred Sheetz (2 items)  
Robert Sherman (1 item)  
Roger Sonnenberg (2 items)  
Thomas Spahr (3 items)  
Family of Larry M Waters (13 items)  
David Watters (8 items)  
Rufus Waugh (10 items)  
Steve Wherley (2 items)  
Tom Wiltse (1 item)  
Eddie & Betty Wood (2 items)  
Jim Young (2 items)

## Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

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

All submissions for publications must be sent to:

Peter L. Walter  
8 Tallowood Drive  
Westampton, NJ 08060-3721  
email: basepiece70@verizon.net.

The 2023 Silent Auction raised \$5,909 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 184 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 are not allowed to have alcoholic beverages or firearms in the auction as many state laws prohibit it. We look forward to another successful auction.

The auction process will be as follows:

1. Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 39th Annual Reunion in Omaha, Nebraska. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cavalry 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 1pm to 5pm, Thursday from 1pm to 5pm, and Friday from 1pm to 4pm.
3. You can ship items to Tom Doll after April 1, 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 6:30pm to 8:30pm on Friday night with the bidding ending precisely at 8:30pm. Those in wheelchairs or motorized chairs may be allowed in at 6:15 to allow them a little time to view the items before the crowds enter if our space in the rooms is tight.
5. Winning bidders must be present, pick up their items and pay for them between 8:30pm and 9pm after the bidding is closed.
6. If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bid at 9pm or auctioned off at 9:15pm 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 at 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 [gregmason311@gmail.com](mailto:gregmason311@gmail.com) or 813-220-9027. I will respond to your email as I receive them.

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 Omaha and thanks in advance to all the donors!

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## **THE 31ST ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING** **0900, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023, SASKATOON GOLF COURSE 9038 92ND STREET SE, ALTO, MI 49302**

In conjunction with the 38th reunion of the 11th ACVVC, the 31st MOMGO was held Thursday, September 21, 2023, at Saskatoon Golf Course in Alto, Michigan.

Eighteen hackers from thirteen states teed it up with Randa Dray being the farthest traveler, putting in 1,403 miles to get there.

Joe Coopet and myself rode along as golf stewards...it was Joe that was always hollering at you to speed it up (not me!).

The Marty Ognibene Trophy for Low Gross men went to Joe Frazine of Muskegon, Michigan (HOW BAT, 1/11 ACR, 1970-1971) with a 78. Low Gross for the ladies was Bonnie Witt of Muskegon, Michigan with a 110. Low net for the men went to Eric Spanier of Windsor, Colorado (L Trp, 3/1 ACR, 1969-1970) with a 70. As a stroll down golf's memory lane, Joe Frazine recalled that 45 years ago he played this same course and shot a 78!

I want to extend special thanks to Ed Buening for his continuous support and generosity and to Joe Coopet and Tom Doll for their donations to the outing!

The staff at Saskatoon was wonderful and I want to recognize Jeff Thiessen (PGA Pro), Ozzie Guevara (Catering) and barmaids Brie and Bella who all did a great job.

I hope to see you all again in Omaha, Nebraska next year!

**"FORE!"** -Pete Walter

# 11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

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

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

## General Fund

### PLATINUM LEVEL

Werner Diersch

### GOLD LEVEL

Clifford Deal  
George Dunn  
James Glenn  
Reinhold Hinz  
Richard Morris  
William Stokes

## Memorial Fund

### PLATINUM LEVEL

Werner Diersch

### GOLD LEVEL

James Glenn

### SILVER LEVEL

Clint Sigler

## Assistance Fund

### GOLD LEVEL

James Glenn

## Scholarship Fund

### PLATINUM LEVEL

Werner Diersch  
Jim Gelsomin  
Joan Peterson  
*IMO Thomas (Swede)*  
Everette Roper  
Peter Wallace

### GOLD LEVEL

Anonymous  
Garland Arnaud  
James Brewer  
Max Burdick  
Wavely Cartwright  
Darwin Drain  
Patricia Duplantis  
James Glenn  
Reinhold Hinz  
Gerald Locklear  
Dale O'Dell  
*IMO Rick O'Dell*

James Ritter  
Raymond Rudolph  
Robert Soule  
William Stokes  
Bob Sussman

### SILVER LEVEL

Joseph Bohr  
Donald Drew  
Ken Finkelsen  
Larry Kalick  
J. Rudolph Kohler  
George Lawrence  
Henry Simon  
Tony Snow

### BRONZE LEVEL

David Baily  
Alan Brown  
LeRay Dewit  
Eugene Drenth  
John Gildein  
Stephen Lombardo  
Paul Macmillan  
Gene Martinelli  
Alfred Pankey  
Michael Yost

## Calendar Fund

### PLATINUM LEVEL

William Bachman  
Duglas Campbell  
Frank Church  
Dennis Creal  
Bradley Endres  
Norman & Karen Mahoney  
Scott Nicholson  
Larry Swarts  
Ralph Ware

### GOLD LEVEL

Ernest Alverson  
Kevin Andersen  
David Anderson  
William Austin  
Bernard Babb  
Sharon Barnes  
Donald Barrett  
William Barrows  
Joachim Benitez  
William Black  
Carlton Bledsoe  
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Thomas John  
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Leroy Johnston  
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Doris Keator  
Patrick Kelliher  
Richard Kenyon  
Timothy Kerns  
William Keys  
Thomas Kirchoff  
Walter Kirk  
Earl Klein  
Lewis Klinn  
Lynn Krebs  
Gregory Krinock  
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Michael Lakner  
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Gregory Mason

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Stewart McGregor  
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Denver Meadows  
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Marsha Miller  
*IMO Louis Miller*  
S. Miller  
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Charles Minor  
Jerry Mitchell  
Wayne Mollhoff  
Joseph Muchesko  
Matthew Murrisset  
Lee Nelson  
Gary Newman  
Harold Nicklas  
Jim Oberding  
Joan Orzo  
Gary Ostrander  
Alden Owens  
William Paulsen  
Sherrill Peace  
Walter Peacock  
Bert Pehr  
Craig Perrin  
Leo Pierce  
Frederick Pimental  
J.C. Pool  
Eladio Quinones  
Mark Rahm  
William Rankin  
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Kirk Vanderbogat  
Charles Watkins  
Robert Way  
Mark Webb  
Larry Wheatley  
Thomas Williams  
Steve Wilson  
Terrence Witzel  
Okey Wolfe  
Frederick Wolfe  
Eddie Wood  
G.A. Wright  
David York

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Marvin Baker  
John Ballantyne  
Leonard Barnhill  
William Baronti  
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C. Frederick Beard  
John Benson  
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Wallace Blunt  
Thomas Bonesho  
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*IMO Michael R.  
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Grey Brill  
Danny Brown  
Joanne Canevet

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Cecil Carter  
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David Christman  
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Joseph Cizmadia  
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August Daub  
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Joseph DeLallo  
Leray DeWitt  
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John Duckwall  
Bill Duke  
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James Flaig  
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Ed Fortman  
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John Frens  
Paul Fung  
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Samual Gochenour  
Dennis Gourm  
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Floyd Green  
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George Krcelich  
Norman Kulpa  
Daniel Lawless  
John Leonti  
John Lestock  
Stephen Lombardo  
John Magnarelli  
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John Peckham  
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Frank Phillips  
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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

TYPE MEMBERSHIP:  NEW  RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANNUAL (\$15)  LIFE (\$50)

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

I authorize the release of my address/phone number to other Troopers who served with the 11th ACR

(Sign) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

January 2024

## Battle of the Crossroads, 21 January 1970

As Senior Captain Nguyen (not his real name), commander of the K1 Battalion, ran through the jungle, he couldn't help but think about what had gone wrong. He retraced every step, from their initial reconnaissance to springing the ambush, for he knew that his regimental commander would ask him to do so once in the self-critique session that followed every battle.

The reconnaissance had gone off undetected. He and the battalion political officer, Lai, and the commanders of the 1st and 2nd companies had scouted the area, which turned out to be good ground for an ambush. The one ridgeline overlooked the other, covering the trail that the dreaded tanks and box-shaped carriers that had so many machineguns would use. He recognized that he had to hold the high ground along both ridge lines in order to defeat the heavy firepower of the American imperialists. The high ground – and the superior morale of his soldiers – would overcome firepower, he had told himself. He even asked Political Officer Lai to be especially forceful in building the soldiers' morale before they moved into position, for he knew it would be a tough fight.

After returning from his reconnaissance, he had developed his plan and then called in the battalion's officers and senior sergeants for a rehearsal. The rehearsal had gone off without a hitch. He had stressed the need for fire discipline to ensure that the Americans fell into the trap. The first company had to draw them to the first ridgeline, so that they would then flank themselves to the fire of the second company. The division commander had honored them by reinforcing his battalion with recoilless rifles, extra rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), mortars, and heavy machine guns. Senior Captain Nguyen explained the role of each of these weapons during the rehearsal. The recoilless rifles, with their superior accuracy, would fire the first shot. Once the Americans had moved toward the fire – as they always did – the RPG gunners would open fire. The mortars would begin firing into the midst of the armored vehicles, making the crews keep their heads down and spoiling their return fire. And the .51-caliber machine guns would engage the inevitable helicopters that came to reinforce the vehicles in the kill zone.

The trap would then be set, and the second company would spring it with a deadly barrage into the enemy's flank from recoilless rifles, RPGs, and AK47s. At this point, the hated Yankee invaders would be bewildered, caught in a crossfire and unable to react. They would be slaughtered.

By the end of the rehearsal, everyone said they understood their roles. Senior Captain Nguyen was a little concerned, however, as there were so many new faces in his battalion, even among the officers. The losses suffered in August and September had been replaced, but it was hard to replace experience. So many of these new soldiers looked so young, boys who should have still been in school or helping their fathers in the fields at home in North Vietnam. But the Party must know what they were doing, and it was Senior Captain Nguyen's socialist duty to mold these boys – no, he must think of them as young men – these young men into soldiers, to give them the experience they needed to win the inevitable victory.

Captain Lai's lecture had gone well. The political officer instilled the mental toughness needed to accomplish the mission. He had related how each individual soldier's tasks helped to accomplish the Party's goals. OK, so some of the veterans had looked at each other knowingly when the political officer said how the 141st Regiment had killed 645,000 Americans and their South Vietnamese puppets the previous year. But the new men believed it, and it gave them pride to be part of such a glorious regiment. Senior Captain Nguyen knew that it would be this pride that would give them the edge over the decadent Americans. So, too, would the new weapons, the new uniforms, and the plentiful rations of rice that they had been issued before moving into their final ambush positions. But most of all, the battalion commander thought, the red and blue scarves that were ceremoniously presented to each man, these scarves would make up for the lack of experience. They would sustain the men when the artillery shells and aerial rockets came crashing down. They would give courage to his soldiers to stand up and aim truly at the oncoming tanks. They would help his battalion prevail. They had to.

At least that is what he had hoped, Senior Captain Nguyen thought ruefully as he ran away from the pursuing helicopters and tanks.

The battalion moved from its border sanctuary following standard operating procedure (SOP). The sapper-reconnaissance company led the march column, followed by Captain Nguyen and the rest of his command group, a rifle company, the communications company, heavy weapons (mortars) company, the remaining two rifle companies, and a rear security element. The battalion moved into the ambush positions on the two ridgelines under the cover of darkness on 20 January 1970. His men worked hard digging the Z-shaped trenches and bunkers with overhead cover, but they had done well. The firing slits were close to the ground, virtually invisible from more than 50 meters away. The logs on top of the positions were well camouflaged, making them all but impossible to be seen from the American helicopters that roamed so freely over this part of northern Binh Long Province. From these positions, his gunners would have an easy time sighting in on the armored vehicles as they moved up the hill.

Senior Captain Nguyen didn't know it, but his carefully laid ambush plan was doomed to fail from the start. First Squadron (minus Alpha Troop and Delta Company) was operating out of Fire Support Base (FSB) Dennis, with the mission of conducting reconnaissance and combined operations with companies of the 9th (South Vietnamese) Infantry Regiment in the area of Loc Ninh. Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) John Norton had served as Bengal 6 since September 1969, so he was familiar with the area and how to get things done. When he learned on the 20th that airborne sensors had found two 'hot spots' north of FSB Dennis, he decided to send Bravo and Charlie Troops in that direction the following day. Recognizing that he had no 'pile-on' force (other than Howitzer Battery) immediately at his disposal, he told the two troop commanders to stay within mutually supporting distance as they reconned the area looking for the source of the hot-spot readings.

And they did. They crossed Thunder Road (Highway 13) and headed for the Suoi Nau creek. Noticing that the rubber plantation workers were all moving out of the area, the Charlie Troop commander (Charlie 6) told his Troopers to be alert. As the troop approached one of the ambush positions, the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 141st (North Vietnamese Army) Regiment, took the tracks under fire with a .51-caliber machine gun. Following SOP, the Charlie Troop ACAVs and Sheridans turned on line and attacked uphill toward the ambush.

Meanwhile, Bravo Troop had moved further to the northeast and then began to parallel Charlie Troop. When the initial ambush was sprung, the Bravo Troop Commander (Bravo 6) ordered his platoons to move eastward to reinforce Charlie. However, the inexperience of the enemy replacements came into play at this point, as they prematurely opened fire before Bravo Troop had completely flanked itself to their second ambush position. The Bravo Troop ACAVs and Sheridans immediately turned and charged toward the new threat. Without warning, additional enemy soldiers opened up on the rear and flanks of the Bravo Troop vehicles. Bravo 6 redirected one of his platoons to engage the new enemy threat, while the rest of the troop surged into their counterattack. Recoilless rifle, RPG, and mortar fire rained in on Bravo and Charlie Troops, but, in the words of the after-action report, "it did not deter the armor crush."

Bengal 6 and his operations officer, Captain (CPT) Ron Caldwell alternated orbiting over the battlefield. As LTC Norton's helicopter ran low on fuel, it was replaced by Caldwell in a second helicopter. Together, they called in artillery, Blue Max helicopter gunships, and an air strike to seal off the potential escape routes from the two enemy ambushes. CPT Caldwell described the scene from above: "It was rubber with leaves, and in that canopy, I couldn't see the troops. They were popping smoke almost continually for someone." Caldwell ordered his pilot, 1LT Michael Huff, to go to tree-top level in order to see what was going on inside the rubber. When the return fire prevented the medevac helicopters from landing, Huff landed and together they evacuated the most seriously wounded.

On the ground, the fighting – which was really two separate firefights within sight of each other – was fierce. The initial volley of RPGs and recoilless rifles disabled one of the lead Sheridans, commanded (TC'd) by Platoon Sergeant (PSG) William McGuire. Despite his serious wounds, he stayed behind his .50-caliber suppressing the enemy fire and allowing the remainder of the vehicles to orient on and charge into the ambush. Staff Sergeant (SSG) Floyd Brooks and Specialist 4 (SP4) Bobby Byrd dismounted their vehicle and ran through the hail of rockets and rifle fire to the aid of their platoon sergeant, dragging him behind the vehicle and out of the raging firefight. SP5 Leslie Lincoln and SP5 Brent Tanner, the Charlie Troop medics, rushed to the scene and administered life-saving first aid to the casualties. Once they were sure their platoon sergeant was OK, Brooks and Byrd returned to their vehicle and rejoined the fight. Not far away, Sergeant (SGT) John Reitweisner was in the cupola of his ACAV when it was struck by an RPG. He stayed at his battle station, despite being exposed to a hail of enemy fire. When a second RPG struck the vehicle, Reitweisner was mortally wounded.

The enemy's recoilless rifles, RPGs, mortars, AK47s, and caliber .51s were no match for the mounted M60s, caliber .50s, and 152mm, and both troops soon gained fire superiority. Bravo Troop, downhill and on the left flank, switched directions to roll up the enemy along the long leg of the L-shaped ambush. Air strikes sealed off the battlefield along the dry streambed that ran northward out of the rubber and artillery pounded the flanks, while the helicopter gunships engaged the caliber .51 positions with rockets and miniguns. Bravo Troop continued to move northward

(up the hill), sweeping the ridge clean of enemy and then heading to link up with Charlie Troop one ridge line higher up. As the official after-action report describes:

Each Troop Commander had changed direction three times. When the troops returned fire and won fire superiority, they ceased firing to pinpoint the enemy locations. When the enemy's strongest points of fire were discovered, the troops assaulted. The two troops proceeded slowly, but consistently while maintaining fire superiority. Since they were always assaulting up-hill, and without dismounted troops, they could advance only when sure that no enemy remained to their rear or flanks.

In a desperate attempt to regain the initiative, the enemy commander ordered a platoon out of their bunkers in order to flank the Sheridans and ACAVs. This only made the NVA infantrymen easier targets for the Blackhorse gunners, and the platoon was "soon cut to pieces".

Second Squadron's Fox and Golf Troop came to pile on. Documents found during the sweep of the ambush positions revealed the location of the base camp for the K1 Battalion, and that's where Bravo, Charlie, and Fox Troops went next. They overran the now-empty camp, uncovering more documents and equipment.

At its height, the fighting was intense on both ridgelines. Nowhere was it more intense than in front of SP4 Bill Faulkner's ACAV. As Bravo Troop was advancing against the dug-in foe, Faulkner, an M60 gunner, saw an enemy RPG team that was deployed behind the advancing ACAVs and Sheridans. His Silver Star citation describes what happened next.

Specialist Faulkner immediately eliminated them with accurate fire from his machinegun. As the troop moved over the enemy positions, Specialist Faulkner jumped from his vehicle to clear the bunkers of enemy troops. As Specialist Faulkner approached one of the bunkers, an enemy soldier threw a grenade at him. He immediately charged the enemy position and subdued the enemy soldier in hand-to-hand combat. Specialist Faulkner then continued to search the bunkers for enemy troops until the enemy broke contact.

At the cost of one Blackhorse Trooper dead (Charlie Troop's John Reitweisner, who was awarded a Silver Star for his actions on 21 January), 15 wounded (7 requiring evacuation), and two Sheridans and two ACAVs combat loss, the counter-ambush and pile-on tactics of the Blackhorse Regiment had faced "a well-armed, numerically superior enemy on his own choice of field, and beat him" – killing 41 in the process. The Blackhorse leadership didn't even try to correct the record when the bodies of 28 additional NVA soldiers were found about a month later and attributed to the Battle of the Crossroads. Nobody in the media really cared, anyway.

But Senior Captain Nguyen did not have to worry about his reputation. The propaganda writers in Hanoi handed him the victory on paper that his battalion couldn't achieve on the ground. According to an article in the 8 April edition of the People's Army newspaper: "During one day of fighting- -on 21 January- -in the Loc Ninh area, the PLAF [People's Liberation Armed Forces] wiped out 500 U.S. troops, destroyed nearly 150 armored vehicles of the 11th U.S. armored regiment, and downed 15 aircraft which came to their rescue."

# Fort Carson Public Affairs Office

By Eric E. Parris

FORT CARSON, Colo. — Fort Carson leaders and local community members gathered to honor a Colorado Springs couple April 14, 2022, for their contributions to the post's Soldiers and Families at the 4th Infantry Division Headquarters building.

Charles and Donna Watkins, who have supported Fort Carson's Soldiers and Families for more than 14 years, were announced as the 2021 Fort Carson Good Neighbors during the 45th annual induction luncheon.

"It's my honor and great pleasure to welcome Charley and Donna Watkins as the newest additions to this team of Good Neighbors," said Maj. Gen. David M. Hodne, commanding general, 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson. Today's induction of two individuals, only done once before, makes the day's ceremony even more special."

The Watkins were recognized for their service to the local and military communities.

"We're obviously thrilled to induct Charley and Donna Watkins as Fort Carson Good Neighbors," Hodne said. "Charley and Donna have a lifetime of service. For those who know Charley and Donna well, they will say no one does more for Soldiers; they do it without fanfare, and they're as genuine as they come. They attend every redeployment ceremony to support our Soldiers, even the ones that happen in the middle of the night."



Wearing the Green jacket that's presented to Good Neighbor awardees has a special significance.

"Wearing green here represents a sincere connection with the Ivy Division and the entire Mountain Post," Hodne said.

After putting on his new green jacket, Charles Watkins expressed his gratitude.

"This is an unbelievable honor and something that we never expected," Charles Watkins said.

"I never had the privilege of serving in the 4th Infantry Division, however, it has been an absolute, distinct honor to serve the Soldiers and Families of Fort Carson."

As a Vietnam veteran, he knows the importance of listening to Soldiers about what they've been through.

He said it bothered him having Soldiers coming back from combat who committed suicide.

"I think you've got to talk with people who have been there, done that," Charles Watkins said.

As Good Neighbors, Charles and Donna Watkins will continue to give back to Soldiers and their Families.

"This is without a doubt one of the greatest honors that Charley and I have ever received," Donna Watkins said. "Thank you so much for this honor and thank you for allowing us to continue to serve the Soldiers and Families of Fort Carson."

From its inception in 1978, the Good Neighbor program continues to foster strong relationships and partners military leaders with the community. Prior to the first ceremony, Maj. Gen. Louis Menetrey, the 42nd commanding general of the 4th Inf. Div. and Fort Carson, with the help of military leaders and local citizens, established a "benchmark" for the Good Neighbor program. Good Neighbors are invited to events and ceremonies held on Fort Carson.

Good neighbors promote the Mountain Post throughout the local community.

"Our Good Neighbors are also Fort Carson's ambassadors", Hodne said. "You are our most steadfast advocates in this remarkable community. This strong partnership between the Front Range community and the Mountain Post makes it possible for our Soldiers and Families to thrive here."

And that partnership develops into friendships.

"In my multiple tours in the Ivy Division, what I've come to learn about our Fort Carson Good Neighbors, is you're not just Good Neighbors, but you're great friends too", Hodne said.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*(Editors note: Charles G. Watkins, LTC, USA, (Ret), served as the pilot for COL George S. Patton IV, (39th Colonel of the Blackhorse) in 1968-1969. He retired after 23 years in the Army. He was the recipient of the Colorado 2011 Veteran of the Year award. He and other Troopers in the Colorado Springs area have maintained our 11th ACR Tank Memorial at the Shrine of Remembrance.)*

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# Reunion Registration Chairman

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Greetings and Happy New Year to all my fellow Blackhorse troopers and your families. I hope everyone had a great holiday season and are looking forward to a wonderful 2024 as we head to Omaha for our annual reunion.

As always, it's never too early to pre-register for this year's reunion and make your hotel reservation, which is being held in Omaha, Nebraska. The sooner you get your registration in the mail the quicker I can get your packet put together. I also update the list on our Blackhorse website, (click on the box that says, "See Who's Registered") that way your friends know that you have registered and are planning to attend this year's reunion. So as soon as you see the registration form either in the Thunder Run or on the web site, please fill it out and get it in the mail or send it via the Blackhorse web site.

If you have family members or friends that want to attend this year's reunion with you, please add their names to your registration form, as always all are welcome. With their registration fee they all have the same privileges as we have except for attending the membership meeting. To attend this meeting, you must be a card-carrying, dues-paid member of the 11th ACVVC. This meeting is not open to spouses, children, or guests.

I would like to go over the procedure for those of you that are attending your first reunion. The most important thing for you to do is PRINT CLEARLY or even better, use an address label that we all get in the mail. It makes for fewer mistakes on our part. Please do not cut or trim, I say again, do not cut or trim the page that the registration form is on. I need the full page. I keep all the registration forms in a 3-ring binder for future use.

Next, when it asks for your unit, be sure to list only one unit that you served with. Such as E troop 2/11th, 919th Engineer or HHT 2/11th. Now if you were with more than one unit during your tour with us in Vietnam, choose the unit you wish to sit with during the Banquet on Saturday night.

The next line asked for the year or years you served in Vietnam. There should only be one, four numbers with a dash between them, it should look like this (i.e., 68-69 or the year or years you were there) this will fit on your name tag.

The next thing to pay attention to is the section in which you list all who are attending with you. Please be sure to list everyone who will be attending the Banquet with you. If this is the first reunion that any of your guests have attended, please indicate it next to their name. If your guests are from a different City or State, please indicate that next to their name I will put that information on their name tag.

If you and your guest are NOK (Next of Kin) please indicate it on the registration form. Next to everybody's name please enter their relationship to the Blackhorse trooper (i.e., spouse, son, niece, or friend of the family). I also need the name of your Blackhorse trooper and the date that he went on to Fiddler's Green. What is a Next of Kin? A NOK is any family member or a friend of the family who lost their Blackhorse trooper after their tour in Vietnam.

If you and your guest are a (Star family member) please indicate it on the registration form. Next to everybody's name please enter their relationship to the Blackhorse trooper (i.e., spouse, daughter, nephew, or a friend of the family). I also need the name

of your Blackhorse trooper and the date he or she went on to Fiddler's Green. A Star family member is any family member or a friend of the family that lost their Soldier while serving in Vietnam.

The next thing is what choice of meal everyone wants for their Banquet meal. The choices are Beef, Chicken, or Vegetarian (Veggie). We need to know the choice of meals and how many of each meal for our count. You should be ordering one meal for each person that is registered. So, if there are nine of you registered then you should have a total of nine meals marked.

If this is your first time at an 11th ACVVC reunion, please mark it on the form. If this is your guests first time, please put a (1st) next to their name. We want you to feel welcome and proud. Remember that everyone needs to wear their name tags at all times at the reunion.

We should have all gotten the 2024 calendar in the mail. If you haven't gotten it yet you need to call Allen Hathaway. He needs to make sure that he has your correct address. Take that little envelope that is located in the calendar and donate something and put a note to Ollie that this is the first time or the 30th time you are sending in this envelope for the scholarship. We all thank you for all the support that you all have given to the 11th ACVVC and our kids.

One more thing if you get a chance, please let Pete Walter know (call, mail, email, or in person) how much we enjoy the calendar that he and his volunteers put out this year. He also edits Thunder Run which was a great issue in the 4th Quarter, 2023. If you have any stories or pictures that can be used in Thunder Run, or the calendar please pass them along to him.

## RECAP:

1. PRINT CLEARLY
2. USE ADDRESS LABEL
3. DON'T CUT OR TRIM THE REGISTRATION FORM
4. UNIT SERVED IN VIETNAM AND CORRECT DATE IN VIETNAM
5. MEAL COUNT
6. MAIL REGISTRATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
7. MAKE HOTEL RESERVATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
8. SUPPORT 1ST TIMERS A HANDSHAKE AND A PAT ON THE BACK AND A WELCOME HOME
9. THANKS TO ALL

If you have any questions regarding registration or if you want to talk, please call my phone (home) 608-372-5892 or (cell) 608-387-3346. You can also e-mail me at: [gtroupbob@gmail.com](mailto:gtroupbob@gmail.com)

Well folks, I hope you and yours had a "GREAT" Christmas and I hope that 2024 is better for all of us than 2023 was.

From my family, with love to your family stay warm, stay dry, be safe and stay heathy.

"ALLONS"

Roberto "Bob" Moreno  
G troop 2/11th (Dec 68-Dec 69)  
11th ACVVC Board of Directors Member  
Reunion Registration Chairman

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# State of the Reunion 1st Qtr. 2024

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If you did not get to Grand Rapids this year you missed another great reunion. The Amway Grand provided us with a beautiful venue and exceptional service. The Devos Center served a tasty meal at a very reasonable price. This is a destination that I think everyone would go back to again and again. Our final attendance numbers were 750 down from 807 that was registered. That is not unusual and happens almost every year. Our guys have every intention of attending but sometime life gets in the way.

We originally had 2 hotels to choose from for 2025 but the hotel in Little Rock notified us of an error in their promised capacity that forced adding a second hotel a block away. So that left us with Tulsa as the only choice. Some members wanted to add Las Vegas to the choice but it was too late in the process to do that. It takes two years to send out Requests for proposals, decide who has the best to offer and is the best fit for us, cull the choices down to 2-3 to choose from and take it to the membership for a vote. Tulsa has much to offer and from what I have seen it will be a good choice. More info on 2025 will be published in coming issues once we sign contracts.

There are always questions as to why we choose the sites for reunions. I need to cover some of the basic requirements we must consider. First, are there enough rooms to secure and at the right price. Parking cost is a big consideration and sometimes that alone can be a reason to be eliminated, that has happened. Our contracts include a minimum number of guest room nights consumed and is the basis for all our concessions. That determines the size and number of our meeting rooms and if we reach the contracted number, they are comped, if we do not, we must pay a rental fee. There is a minimum food and beverage dollar amount that we must meet, if we do not, we pay a penalty. If we do not sell a certain amount of beverages at all our bars, we pay a fee. There are always service charges, and we can often negotiate that. This is only a small sample of requirements that must be considered and determines the location we choose depending on what we can negotiate. We pay for audio /visual services for each meeting room and the banquet. This almost always requires a certain amount of back and forth to get the best price. This is not the full cost but plays a large role in determining registration fees and what members pay out of pocket at the hotel.

In the past 3 years COVID has affected our attendance and the hotels gave us a lot of freedom to not make our minimums. A \$100 registration fee still did not cover the actual cost, so we subsidized that cost with a transfer of money into the reunion account to encourage members to attend. That subsidy is not sustainable and has been reevaluated for 2024. Our costs are very much affected by inflation, just as we are in our everyday lives. Registration for 2024 will be \$120. This still isn't the full cost of the reunion, but we want to continue to make the cost as affordable as possible for everyone.

For 2024 Omaha Nebraska was chosen last year.

## Hotel reservation:

**Hotel: Hilton, Omaha**  
**1001 Cass Street**  
**Omaha, NE 68102**

**Dates: September 2,2024-September 8,2024**

**Room rate: \$137 per night +taxes**

**Room reservations by phone:**  
**402-998-3400 or 1-888-943-2768**

**On line: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50691621>**

**Code: ARMOR / 11th ACVVC**

**Registration fee: \$120 per person**

**Scooter Rental: Mobility Omaha- 402-804-8668,**  
**On line: [www.mobility.plus.com/Omaha/](http://www.mobility.plus.com/Omaha/)**

Frank

## *Some Famous and Some Not-So-Famous Military Quotes*

Winston Churchill: "We sleep safely at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would harm us."

Dwight D. Eisenhower: The best morale exists when you never hear the word mentioned. When you hear it it's usually lousy."

Giuseppe Garibaldi: "I offer neither pay, nor quarters, nor food; I offer only hunger, thirst, forced marches, battles, and death. Let him who loves his country with his heart, and not merely his lips, follow me."

David Hackworth: If you find yourself in a fair fight, you didn't plan your mission properly."

Douglas MacArthur: "It is fatal to enter a war without the will to win it."

George S. Patton Jr.: "No good decision was ever made in a swivel chair."

Colin Powell: "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, learning from failure."

Harry S. Truman: "A leader is the man who has the ability to get other people to do what they don't want to do, and like it."

William C. Westmoreland: "The military don't start wars. Politicians start wars. War is fear cloaked in courage."

**REGISTRATION FORM**



**39th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion**

September 2, 2024-September 8, 2024

Hilton, Omaha 1001 Cass St., Omaha NE 68102

Reservations by phone: 1-888-943-2768

Use Code- Armor / 11<sup>th</sup> ACVVC

On line link : <https://book.passkey.com/e/50691621>

Scooter Rental: Mobility Omaha- 402-804-8668

On -Line: [www.mobility.plus.com/omaha/](http://www.mobility.plus.com/omaha/)



Registration fee is \$120 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 August 7, 2024. All hotel reservations must be made by August 7, 2024. 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 August 23, 2024.

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION**  
(print clearly or use mailing label)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Assignment \_\_\_\_\_ Dates in Country \_\_\_\_\_

(Example: B TRP, D CO - List only one unit. This is your banquet seating.) (Example: 1966-1967)

KIA Relative?  Yes, Name of KIA: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to KIA: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)**

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

**Total Registration Fee** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Meal Selection (Indicate number for each selection) Chicken \_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_ Veggie \_\_\_

Is this your first reunion?  Yes  No Wheelchair or special needs banquet seating?  Yes

Visa  MasterCard

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Required for credit card) \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail registration form along with payment to:**

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



**PROPOSED, SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



**11th ACVVC  
39th Reunion Schedule  
Omaha, Nebraska  
September 2,-8, 2024**

**Wednesday, Sept 4**

10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
2:00 pm - 12:00 am  
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Quartermaster Store open  
Registration  
Bunker Open  
BOD Meeting  
Silent Auction Items Accepted

Hill  
Cozzens  
South Ballroom -CHI Center  
Boardroom  
Cozzens

**Thursday, Sept. 5**

8:00 am - 3:00 pm  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
2:00 pm - 12:00 am  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

29th Annual Marty Ognibene Golf Outing  
Quartermaster Store Open  
Registration  
Bunker Open  
Silent Auction items accepted

TBD  
Hill  
Cozzens  
South Ballroom -CHI Center  
Cozzens

**Friday, Sept. 6**

9:00 am- 1:30 pm  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
10:00am - 12:00 noon  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
2:00 pm - 12:00 am  
6:30 pm-8:30 pm  
8:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Blackhorse Women's Group Tour  
Quartermaster Store Open  
Veterans Seminar  
Silent Auction Items Accepted  
Registration Open  
Bunker Open  
Silent Auction Sell Off  
Silent Auction Pay/Pick Up

TBD  
Hill  
Grand Ballroom B  
Cozzens  
Cozzens  
South Ballroom CHI center  
St. Nicholas  
St. Nicholas

**Saturday, Sept. 7**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm  
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
5:45 pm - 6:45 pm  
6:00 PM  
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
10:00 pm - 1:00 am

Annual Membership Meeting  
Women's Meeting  
Memorial Service  
Quartermaster Store Open  
Registration Open for Late Arrivals  
Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)  
Banquet room Doors Open  
Banquet, Presentations and Salute  
Dancing (DJ)

Blackstone Ballroom  
Grand Ballroom B  
Blackstone Ballroom  
Hill  
Cozzens  
South Ballroom Foyer- CHI Center  
  
South Ballroom - CHI Center  
South Ballroom Foyer- CHI Center

**Sunday, Sept. 8**

10:00 am - 11:00 am  
All Day

Worship Service  
Farewell and Safe Travels

Grand Ballroom B  
No space Required





# Blackhorse Women's News

Sheryl Myers, Women's Group 1st Qtr 2024

Dear Ladies and Supporters of the Blackhorse Women's Group,

HAPPY NEW YEAR as we greet you from snowy Colorado !! Your Women's Group is just in the beginning stages of planning for the 2024 Reunion in Omaha, NE !! So be sure to look for more details in follow-up Thunder Run articles. We also post updates within our group on our webpage "Blackhorse Women's News". The link is listed in the index on the first page of the 11thcavnam.com website.

The purpose of the Blackhorse Women's Group is to support the wives and families of our 11th ACVVC Troopers as well as the troopers themselves. To do this we have been supporting the following projects:

Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery - Every year we donate 21 Wreaths to honor the 21 KIA Blackhorse Troopers buried at Arlington.

Prayer Shawls Project - When we are notified of the passing of one of our troopers, or a spouse, we send "a shawl of comfort" to a family member. Cherry Platt and her volunteers hand make these beautiful shawls. Please contact Cherry if you would like to help her.

Sarah's Angels - When the Blackhorse Women's Group is notified of the passing of one of our ladies, her name is entered into our Sarah's Angels Remembrance Book. Chaplain refers to this book when he mentions her name at the Reunion Memorial Service, and her Trooper is sent a copy of her page.

Remembering our KIA - Our goal is to Honor each of our 730 KIA Blackhorse Troopers by placing a Memorial at their gravesite. We are hoping Troopers and families alike will help us with this project. If you would like to join us in this endeavor please let us know and we can send you the cemetery listing for your state. Or we can help you find it on the website. Our Blackhorse Women's News page, on the website, shows a listing labeled "Blackhorse Women's Remembering 11th ACR KIA's Scrapbook." The Memorials that have been placed so far are pictured alphabetically on these pages. We still need your help to reach our goal.

Fundraising - At each reunion the Blackhorse Women's Group has a Fundraising Table where we traditionally sell our beautiful "site specific" lanyards for attaching our ID. The proceeds from our sales are donated to the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund.

Volunteering - Thank You to those Ladies and Troopers who volunteer at each reunion for the Blackhorse Women Group. Maybe you helped at the fundraising table; or bought a lanyard or donated instead. Or maybe you attended our Women's meeting planned just for you. Maybe you were a guest speaker, or singer, or a Board Member greeting guests at the door. Maybe you knitted or crocheted a beautiful shawl. Thank You, we can't do this without you!

Sadly, I must share the loss of two of our Blackhorse Ladies:

Doris J Waugh - Trooper : Rufus A Waugh, I Troop 3/11, 7/1968 - 7/1969

Janice Louise Trosper - Trooper: Eddie Trosper, L Troop 3/11, 1/1/1969- 1/31/1970

We will surely miss these ladies, as will their families. We will enter their names in our Sarah's Angels Remembrance Book and they will be honored also at the Memorial Service in Omaha.

We will chat again in the Spring !!

Sheryl Myers, Blackhorse Women's Group

sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com



# 11th ACVVC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE



by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Committee Chairman  
E mail address: [platoonmedic36@gmail.com](mailto:platoonmedic36@gmail.com)

We are now accepting applications for 11th ACVVC scholarships. Children and grandchildren of current life members, deceased life members, and troopers who were KIA in Vietnam or Cambodia are eligible to apply. More information about applicant eligibility requirements can be found online at [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com). If you have additional questions or are not comfortable using a computer, please do not hesitate to contact me at the e mail address listed above or give me a call.

You will find the latest application in this issue of Thunder Run. Please have the applicant send the completed application and required grade transcripts to me at the following address:

Mike "Doc" Rafferty  
11th ACVVC  
PO Box 13188  
Las Cruces, NM 88013

The deadline for applications this year is May 15th, 2024. I look forward to receiving applications from your children and grandchildren.

## Scholarship Chairmen Memories

Bill Lewellen, John Sorich III, Gene Johnson, Frank Cambria and Mike Rafferty

The fundraising for a scholarship program began in 1989. Ben Hotchkiss, who was Vice President at that time coordinated the raffle, which was the only scholarship fundraiser. He chose Concord Printing to print and mail the raffle tickets. We still use Concord for this purpose today. From 1989 to 1995 we donated the proceeds from the raffle to the BHA scholarship fund. Unfortunately, Ben passed away in 2019.

Bill Lewellen succeeded Ben as Vice President and took over the duties of coordinating the raffle in 1996. Bill remembers his time in charge of our new scholarship program:

"Allen Hathaway asked me to put together a plan for our own scholarship program in 1996 and present it to our board. At the time, I was serving as president of my local board of education. I asked for help from our superintendent and a good friend of mine who was a retired high school principal. The three of us collected over thirty different scholarship applications and from those we made the first 11thACVVC scholarship application form.

I served on several local scholarship selection committees around my town, and I asked one of the committees to look over our applications and select the winners. They selected as many as we had money for plus two alternates."

John Sorich followed Bill Lewellen as Scholarship Chairman. John remembers:

"Both Ben Hotchkiss and Bill Lewellen were a great help in their guidance to me during the time I was Scholarship Chairman (1999-2003). In the early years of the scholarship program, the main direction had been well established, but I did make some refinements. One item I submitted to our Board of Directors was a

proposal to increase the scholarship grants from \$1500 to \$3000. That same figure is still being used. Unlike today, in those days, the necessary duties were all done by the Scholarship Chairman. They included the planning, coordination and execution of the Calendar, Raffle, and the Silent Auction. At most reunions, I would take my wife a few days before the start to enjoy ourselves. Once the reunion began, I joked with her that she needed to look at a photo of me to remember what I looked like! There are so many things to accomplish to make things run smoothly at our Reunions. Thanks to all who helped me when I had those responsibilities."

Chuck Schmidt, 11th ACVVC President, took over the scholarship duties in 2004. He was instrumental in putting together a panel of judges for the scholarship applications. Unfortunately, we lost Chuck to cancer in 2007.

Gene Johnson became Scholarship Chairman in 2005 and continued in that role for two years. Unfortunately, Gene was unable to submit any reminisces about his time leading the scholarship program. However, I can say Gene was a big help to me in learning about how the scholarship program worked.

In 2008 Frank Cambria, Secretary of the 11th ACVVC, became scholarship chairman. He asked me to be co—chairman and we worked together for two years. In a 2008 article in Thunder Run, Frank reported that we had given \$647,000 in scholarship awards since the program began in 1996. He also stated that in the future, each scholarship would be dedicated in honor of one of our KIAs. A new scholarship honoring Chuck Schmidt had also been established and one scholarship recipient would be chosen each year to receive this award by Bonnie Schmidt, Chuck's widow.

Please turn to **Memories** on Page 24



**11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia**  
**Scholarship Application (effective August 1, 2023)**  
 Please review Scholarship Guide at [www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html](http://www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html)  
**Application Deadline May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**



**IMPORTANT: A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED AN 11<sup>TH</sup> 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 mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt./Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Status:**  Child  Grandchild of a current life member of the 11<sup>th</sup> ACVVC.  
 Child  Grandchild of a deceased life member of the 11<sup>th</sup> ACVVC.  
 Child  Grandchild of an 11th ACR veteran who was killed in action in Vietnam or  
**Cambodia.**

Your Sponsor (11<sup>th</sup> Cav Veteran): Full name: \_\_\_\_\_ E mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's 11<sup>th</sup> Cav unit in Vietnam: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates in Vietnam \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of College or Trade School you plan to attend: What is your major? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Schools and Colleges Attended (10<sup>th</sup> Grade to Present)**

Name	City, State	Dates (From/To)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**You must attach a copy of your grade transcripts from your last 2 yrs. of High School or College.**  
**Requirements: at least a 3.5 unweighted Grade Point Average for applicants pursuing a 4 yr. degree. At least a 3.0 unweighted Grade Point Average for trade or vocational school applicants.**

**Briefly tell us about your extracurricular and volunteer activities and include your name and email address on a separate sheet of paper.**

I, the undersigned verify the answers given above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I give my permission for a copy of my high school/college grade transcripts to be submitted with this application.

Signature of Applicant	Printed Name	Date
Signature of Sponsor Veteran or Guardian	Printed Name	Date

Please send your completed application and grade transcripts to:  
 Mike "Doc" Rafferty, 11<sup>th</sup> ACVVC Scholarship Chairman, PO Box 13188, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88013  
 Email: [platoonmedic36@gmail.com](mailto:platoonmedic36@gmail.com)



## Fiddler's Green

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

Over 500 U.S. newspapers are checked daily for the keywords "11th Cavalry" or "11th Armored Cavalry". Information is then posted on our website to allow us to post notices. Please check the "Funeral Honor Guard check daily" at [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com)

**Carlos Arce, HHT**, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 5, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Walkerton, IN. He was laid to rest in Porter-Rea Cemetery, North Liberty, IN.

**Wayne Bailey**, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 25, 2023. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rocky Mount, NC. He was laid to rest in Forest Hills Cemetery, Nashville, NC.

**Jack Leroy Beckman**, F Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on September 23, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tacoma, WA. He was laid to rest in New Tacoma Cemetery, University Place, WA.

**Johnny L. Brinkley**, HHT 11th ACR (1964-1968) passed away on June 5, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Anacoco, LA. He was laid to rest in Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, Leesville, LA.

**Louis Ignatius Brown Jr**, F Troop, 2/11 (1972) passed away on January 17, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chelsea, AL. He was laid to rest in Alabama National Cemetery, Montevallo, AL.

**Keith Harmon Burch**, 37th Medical Company (1970-1970) passed away on March 31, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Houghton Lake, MI.

**David Lane Christensen**, F Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 26, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gold Hill, OR. He was laid to rest in Sparlin Cemetery, Williams, OR.

**Larry E. Clark**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on November 23, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Merritt Island, FL.

**Lionel Antonio Clay**, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 7, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Louis, MO. He was laid to rest in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

**William McAvoy Cranford**, G Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on November 9, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Palm Desert, CA. He was laid to rest in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

**Joseph Mark Dickensheet**, 919th Engineer Company (1966-1967) passed away on November 14, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marion, IN. He was laid to rest in Marion National Cemetery, Marion, IN.

**John Hadyn Dobbs**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on September 26, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Russiaville, IN. He was laid to rest in Sunset Memory Garden, Kokomo, IN.

**David Allen Drake**, 541st Military Intelligence Det (1970-1971) passed away on December 10, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chapel Hill, NC.

**Dennis Joseph Gallegos**, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 17, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Farmington, NM.

**George William Gomoll**, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1970) passed away on October 14, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in River Falls, WI.

**Santos Gonzales**, M Company, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on August 23, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Richmond, TX. He was laid to rest in Houston National Cemetery, Houston, TX.

**Donald Shelton Green**, F Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 8, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Beaufort, NC. He was laid to rest in Oakland Cemetery, Middleburg, FL.

**Thomas J. Hofstaedter**, 37th Medical Company (1969-1970) passed away on December 17, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mesa, AZ. He was laid to rest in Our Lady Of The Sacred Heart Cemetery, Hilltown Township, Bucks County, PA.

**Gregory A. King**, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 9, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Finland, MN.

**Leonard R. Knell**, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on October 17, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Staten Island, NY.

**Francis Bernard Martin**, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967) passed away on June 8, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Potomac Falls, VA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. Frank is also a veteran of the Korean War.

**Ronald Alfred Musk**, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on May 9, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Guyton, GA.

**Jimmie Lloyd Nichols**, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on November 7, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wichita, KS. He was laid to rest in Kansas Veterans Cemetery at Winfield, Winfield, KS.

**Terry Corwin Pilon**, 188th Maintenance Det (1966-1967) passed away on October 15, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tucson, AZ.

**Ronald Aurele Pineau**, D Company, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 7, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jay, ME.

**John Clyde Sabol JR**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 2, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ankeny, IA.

**Frank Yoshito Sasaki**, HHT 11th ACR (1966-1967) passed away on October 3, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Honolulu, HI. He was laid to rest in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, HI.

**David Harvey Saxby**, K Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 21, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bryan, TX.

**Wolfgang Paul Smailus**, HHT 11th ACR (1966-1967) passed away on November 16, 2023. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waterman, IL.

**James Dexter Smith**, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on August 19, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Strawberry Point, IA.

**James Glenn Snodgrass**, A Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 9, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fairfax Station, VA. Internment is planned for a later date in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

**Arnold Gerald Strunk**, 919th Engineer Company (1968-1968) passed away on June 16, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Merriam Woods Village, MO. He was laid to rest in Missouri Veterans Cemetery Springfield, MO.

**Hilman Dewayne Studler**, 124th CS Maintenance (1968-1969) passed away on April 22, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Winona, MO. He was laid to rest in Dallas - Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX.

**William Randall Suhre**, I Troop, 3/11 (1968) passed away on November 30, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cape Coral, FL. Internment is planned for a later date in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

**Alexander J. Tanyi**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on July 19, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lackawanna, NY. He was laid to rest in Forest Lawn, Buffalo, NY.

**Michael Carl Taute**, K Troop, 3/11 (1967-1967) passed away on February 17, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wellfleet, MA. He was laid to rest in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Wellfleet, MA.

**John Riley Tomblin**, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on May 20, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Harts, WV. He was laid to rest in Mountain Home National Cemetery, Mountain Home, TN.

**Michael A. Vande Vyver**, HHT 11th ACR (1969-1970) passed away on July 9, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Black Creek, WI. He was laid to rest in Saint Lawrence Cemetery, Navarino, WI.

**Richard Roger Wagner**, C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1969) passed away on December 8, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bluffton, SC.

**William Townsend Weaver**, HHT 11th ACR (1969-1970) passed away on December 27, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Evanston, IL.

**Mark W. Wilkerson**, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 18, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Springville, UT. He was laid to rest in Larkin Sunset Gardens Cemetery, Sandy, UT.

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## First Medal of Honor recipient from Vietnam War dies at 89 By Jonathan Lehrfeld (Reprinted courtesy of militarytimes.com)

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Roger Donlon, the first American to receive a Medal of Honor for heroism during the Vietnam War, died Thursday in Leavenworth, Kansas, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. He was 89.

Donlon's bravery in Vietnam during the summer of 1964 earned him the decoration, which President Lyndon B. Johnson presented him at the White House in December of that year.

The Special Forces soldier's passing followed a 12-year battle with Parkinson's disease, according to an obituary shared online. Donlon was just five days short of his 90th birthday.

"In my situation and every other situation that leads to the Medal of Honor, there is absolutely no input from the recipient. It's all done by observers," Donlon previously shared, according to the announcement of his passing. "Heroism is a product of what other people see."

President Lyndon B. Johnson presented Roger Donlon with the Medal of Honor in the East Room of the White House on Dec. 5, 1964, for his actions in Vietnam on July 6, 1964. (Army)

On July 6, 1964, then-Capt. Donlon was serving as the commanding officer of the Army Special Forces Detachment A-726 at Camp Nam Dong, Vietnam, about 15 miles from the border with Laos, when a Viet Cong battalion launched an early morning ambush that led to his distinguishing actions.

In a five-hour fight, Donlon directed defense operations against the assault, exposing himself to mortar shells, grenades and heavy gunfire, according to his citation. He endured multiple injuries while leading the valiant response, administering first aid and encouragement to his fellow troops, which ended with the successful defense of the camp.

Born in Saugerties, New York, Donlon enlisted in the Air Force and served from December 1953 to July 1955, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. He then attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point but left in 1957 to enlist in the Army the next year. Donlon commissioned as a second lieutenant after graduating from Officer Candidate School at then-Fort Benning, Georgia, and later went on to earn the "Green Beret" by completing the U.S. Army Special Warfare School at then-Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The Special Forces officer retired at the rank of colonel in 1988. He donated his Medal of Honor to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) during a ceremony in 2018.

There are currently 64 Medal of Honor Recipients alive today, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

*[Note: This article was originally published by Military Times. Link: First Medal of Honor recipient from Vietnam War dies at 89 (militarytimes.com)]*

## A Scholarship Recipient Updates the 11th ACVVC

In 2021 I was selected to receive one of the Blackhorse scholarships. In December 2023 I graduated from Arizona State University with a BS in Business Data Analytics. Just wanted to share this picture with you of my Grandfather Lyle "Skip" Monson Air Cav Troop 11th ACR 68-69 Scout Pilot & me. Thank you for helping me achieve my goals.

Alex Monson



(Editor's note: Lyle Monson served as a 1st Lieutenant in the Air Cavalry Troop and received the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat on 15 April 1969.)

## Memories

Frank wrote in another article for Thunder run: "When you think about it, it is quite amazing that our association is currently awarding nearly \$100,000 of scholarship dollars per year to the children of our members. It is especially significant that 100% of this money comes from donations and fund-raising events, most of which is from our members themselves!"

I have been Scholarship Chairman since 2009 and it had been a pleasure and an honor to oversee this great program. The biggest change for me came in 2018 when the BOD decided to open the program to grandchildren of our membership. This was a necessary change because we would have had to terminate the program had we not done so. I enjoy receiving and reading all the applications which come in every year. It is such a pleasure to see the gratitude and appreciation the scholarship winners display in the thank you notes which we publish along with their photos in Thunder Run.

Mike "Doc" Rafferty

## 2024 Elections

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 7th, during the 2024 Reunion. The three positions are President, Secretary and one Director.

The President and Secretary will serve two-year terms beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026. The Director will serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

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 should be able to attend the annual reunion and participate in Board Meetings during their elected term that are generally held by conference call.

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.

# Small Towns Never Forget

By Pete Walter

## John Mellencamp sang about small towns...

*"No, I cannot forget from where it is that I come from  
I cannot forget the people who love me  
Yeah, I can be myself here in this small town  
And people let me be just what I want to be..."*

*Well I was born in a small town...  
Oh that's probably where they'll bury me..."*

Mount Holly is the county seat of Burlington County, New Jersey, located 22 miles East-Northeast of Philadelphia... and it's a "small town". Settled in 1677 on the banks of the Rancocas Creek, it was originally known as Bridgetown due to the many small bridges crossing the Rancocas. A small town steeped in history, on December 23, 1776, Mount Holly was the scene of The Battle of Iron Works Hill involving 2,400 Hessian troops, who had been diverted from Bordentown, NJ. The Hessians battled 600 members of Colonel Samuel Griffin's colonial militia in a three-day artillery exchange.

*"After George Washington crossed the Delaware River on December 25, 1776, the fact that thousands of Hessian troops had been drawn to Mount Holly aided in the Continental Army's success in the Battle of Trenton the next day, a surprising American victory that helped turn the Army's fading morale after the disastrous defeat at the Battle of Fort Mifflin just weeks before and the ignominious retreat through New Jersey." (Diversionsary Battleground of December, 1776, Burlington County Library.)*

William "Bill" Curtis Moorhouse was born September 10, 1945, to Edith Mary Moorhouse (nee Nixon) and Joseph Longfellow Moorhouse. He was a 1963 graduate of Rancocas Valley Regional High School (formerly known as Mount Holly High School) commonly known hereabouts as "RV". Six RV graduates gave their lives in the Vietnam War; Kenneth D. Norton (class of 1962), Joseph J. Reilly (1965), Gordon DeGarmo (1966), Richard Plotts (1966), Wayne P. Reeves (1967) and Bill. The RV website lists them as well as twenty-three graduates who were killed in WW II, three who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Korean War and three who died fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom-Enduring Freedom; they were all residents of a small town.

Bill was married to Mary Ann Hackett and he was of the Methodist faith. Though various sources list his hometown as Maple Shade, NJ, he resided with his family on Hulme Street and later with Mary on Rutland Avenue, both in Mount Holly.

He was drafted into the United States Army February 6, 1969, and deployed to Vietnam July 5, 1969, as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist, MOS 11D20. He was assigned to C Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment. As noted on "Disposition Form, DA-2496" at 0630 hrs, 12 March 1970, "Individual was killed while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force" in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam. Two other Blackhorse Troopers lost their lives in this attack; Sp 4 Garlin Henderson, Jr., (D Co), age 19 of Rialto, California and SGT Jack Messer (C Trp) age 21 of Inman, South Carolina.

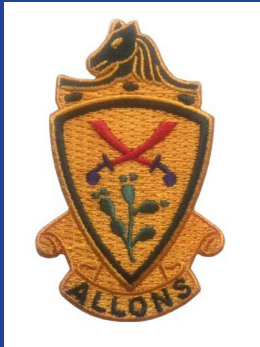
Sp 4 William Curtis Moorhouse was the recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Sharpshooter Medal w/ M-14 & M-16, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Bill rests in eternal peace in Mount Holly Cemetery, one hundred yards from his old high school.

In November, 2023, the small town of Mount Holly honored hometown veterans by posting banners with their photos and names on the light standards throughout the downtown area. 11th ACVVC members often say "We never forget". Neither will Mount Holly.



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

## QM Store



#1 Allons Patch -  
3 " x 2" inches  
\$5.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#4 Window  
Sticker \$3.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#2 11th Armored Cavalry Patch  
3" x 2" \$5.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#9 CIB car  
magnet,  
3"x4" \$6.00



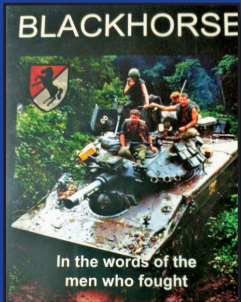
#16 Eddie Bauer Hooded  
Soft Shell Jacket \$94.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin  
\$5.00



#20 Vietnam  
Blackhorse Pin,  
Wreath \$5.00



#DVD Blackhorse \$15.00



#45 See  
through  
Window Decal  
Blackhorse  
Patch, 12" x  
13" \$15.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black  
w/white letters \$15.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch  
Colored \$5.00



#18 11th ACR  
Regimental Crest  
\$7.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$6.50



#26 Large Blackhorse Magnet  
7 X 8 1/2" \$10.00



#12 "The Beast" Blackhorse Knife  
- It is a multi-purpose tool. \$22.00





#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



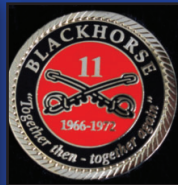
#24 Blackhorse Fleece Vest \$29.00



#27 Eddie Bauer Polo \$32.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



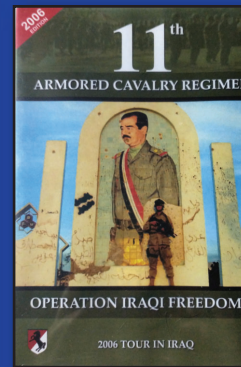
#21 Port Authority Soft Shell Jacket \$52.00



#6 Knit Cap \$18.00



Dark Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$35.00



#DVD 11th ACR in OIF III \$15.00



#8 Metal Crest on Leather Key Tag \$8.00



#11 Blackhorse Logo Sticker 2" X 2.5" with adhesive on back" \$2.00



#38a



#38b

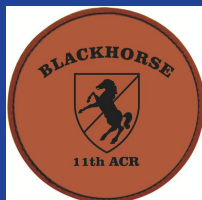


#31 Lapel pin size spurs \$7.00



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



#15 Leatherette Coaster 4" Rawhide Round Coaster \$4.00



#39-#40 T-shirt, Light Gray and Green Gildan ultra cotton with full color insignia \$20.00





# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM | 1st Qtr 2024

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total	
1.	Allons Patch .....	15.00				
2.	11th Armored Cavalry Patch .....	5.00				
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With the Blackhorse" w/ full color BH insignia .....	3.00				
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon .....	3.00				
5.	Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt .....	30.00				
6.	Knit Cap - Black and Grey .....	18.00				
7.	Full Color Shoulder Patch .....	5.00				
8.	Metal Crest on Leather Key Tag .....	8.00				
9.	CIB car magnet, 3"x4" .....	6.00				
10.	Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt .....	15.00				
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia .....	60.00				
12.	"The Beast" Blackhorse Knife.....	22.00				
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11.....	9.00				
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white .....	15.00				
15.	Leatherette Coaster - 4" .....	4.00				
16.	Eddie Bauer Hooded Soft Shell Jacket .....	52.00				
17.	Blackhorse Pin.....	5.00				
18.	Allons Unit Crest .....	7.00				
19.	Blackhorse Regimental Pin – 11 over cross sabers.....	6.50				
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin - 11 over cross sabers .....	6.50				
21.	Port Authority Soft Shell Jacket .....	52.00				
22.	DVD 11th ACR in OIF III .....	15.00				
23.	DVD - Blackhorse .....	15.00				
24.	Blackhorse Fleece Vest.....	29.00				
25.	Blackhorse Coin .....	15.00				
26.	Large Blackhorse Magnet (7" x 8.5") .....	10.00				
27.	Eddie Bauer Polo .....	32.00				
28.	Blackhorse Logo Sticker – 2" X 2.5" with adhesive on back .....	2.00				
31.	Lapel Pin Size Spurs .....	7.00				
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a <input type="checkbox"/> 38b <input type="checkbox"/> 38d .....	17.00				
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. GREEN.....	20.00				
40.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. GRAY.....	20.00				
41.	Dark denim shirt – men's short sleeve.....	35.00				
42.	Dark denim – men's short sleeve.....	35.00				
45.	See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 12" x 13" .....	15.00				
					Subtotal	_____
					Shipping and Handling	_____
					Total	_____

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

### Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple Items)

- A) \$3.00 — \$5.00 = \$3.00      C) \$10.00 — \$35.00 = \$15.00      Gear Bag Only = \$25.00
- B) \$6.00 — \$10.00 = \$9.00      D) \$36.00 and up = \$20.00      Gear Bags with other items = \$28.00

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **Finish Line Awards**. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC QM, c/o Finish Line Awards, P.O. Box 475, Wellington, CO 80549**

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

# The 3rd Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing

Thursday, September 5, 2024 Miracle Hill Golf Club  
1401 N 120th Street, Omaha, NE 68154  
402-498-0220

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In 2024 we will make our first trip to Nebraska and as usual, we've planned a great reunion and a wonderful golf outing! We'll play Miracle Hill Golf Club in Omaha, a championship 18 hole course located in the heart of Omaha, Nebraska. Originally a dairy farm called "Friesland Farms", when the dairy farm closed the Davis family decided to build a premier golf course in what was then "western Omaha". Things moved quickly and the course was completed in 1961. On Oct 7, 1965, Bob Mitera teed up a ball on number 10 and let it rip. His ball bounced, hopped, and rolled...all they way down and into the cup. 444 yards, a Guinness Book of World Records mark!

The entry fee includes balls, tees, greens fees, cart, LD & CTP contests, continental breakfast, luncheon and prizes. Complete the form below and mail it to the address shown with a check for \$99 per golfer (payable to Peter L. Walter). Form and fee must be received by August 22, 2024 to guarantee your entry! You do not need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of equal (or worse!) talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. The outing is open to men and women. Dress code: no denim, shirts must have collars, shorts must be Bermuda length, soft spikes only!

Call 609-261-5629 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation of you registration in the mail. All entries must be prepaid. We will have an 8:00 shotgun start with lunch and prizes following golf. Each golfer is responsible for getting to/from the golf course. All golfers who will be driving should offer rides to their fellow golfers. Do not delay!!! Mail today!!! August 22 deadline!!! "FORE!"

\*\*\*\*\*

### **32nd Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing** (Please include an e-mail address if you have one!)

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

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

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

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

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

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entry form and check to:  
**Pete Walter**  
**8 Tallowood Drive**  
**Westampton, NJ 08060-3751**



NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Cleveland, OH  
Permit No. 1056

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



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