



# Thunder Run

Vol. 38–NO. 2

“Together Then – Together Again”

2nd Quarter, 2023

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

Frank Church

I plan to use my column to keep you, the membership, informed and up to date on the business of the 11th ACVVC. There are some changes coming that you need to know about.

To put everything in context we are all getting older and that includes the Officers and Board of Directors. Our hearts and minds are still in the game, but our bodies are ready for less strain. Like our members it is getting more difficult to maintain the energy level we once had.

**Our Secretary, Greg Mason has decided to step away from that responsibility and not to run again after his term expires in 2024. He has done a remarkable job and will be missed. We are taking applications for that position and to chair the Silent Auction.**

The leadership has had many discussions over the last few years on how to deal with this reality. Our first thoughts were to have a back-up person for every officer and committee chair. That is a sound idea but temporary at best, we will all be gone at some point in time. That fact has forced us make some difficult but needed changes in, to start, the Quarter Master store and Thunder run.

Our QM has been managed by Jerry Beamon and his wife Jan plus a cadre of volunteers for the past 17 years. They have all done a superb job. But it is the consensus of the officers that we need to have an outside vendor handle that for us in the future. I will ask Jerry to be the point person for the 11th ACVVC to coordinate with whoever that may be. Our proposed timeline is the 1st quarter of 2024. The items that sell well such as hats,

shirts and pins will remain in the inventory and new items will be added. You will still be able to purchase items on line, by mail and at the reunions.

*Thunder Run* is huge undertaking that requires coordination of editing articles, pictures, layout, printing, mailing, etc. Our current Editor, Pete Walter has done an outstanding job also. But it is time to assure that the quality, timing of publication and content is not interrupted by the loss of the editor regardless of who that may be. We are in the process of finding a publishing firm to do that work for us also. We hope to have that in place by the 1st quarter of 2024 also. Pete will be the coordinator for the 11th ACVVC. This does not change the need for stories and articles from the members so please continue to submit those to Pete.

We are committed to delivering *Thunder Run* in its current format 4 times a year although the number of pages will most

Please turn to **President** on page 3

### 11th ACVVC Scholarship Reminder

Mike “Doc” Rafferty; platoonmedic36@gmail.com; 575-915-2921

Scholarship applications are due May 15, 2023. The scholarship application is printed in this issue of *Thunder Run*. If you have questions please contact me as soon as possible.

*Regimental Ball*



Presented by  
The Blackhorse Association



May 20th 6:00 pm  
South Point Casino – Las Vegas

Ticket Pricing:

E1 – E4: \$70

E5 – E6: \$80

E7 – O3: \$100

E9 – O6: \$110

Spouses/Dates: \$70

Veterans: \$80



For more information scan the QR Code

Trooper Tickets and Table sponsorship options are available  
Special Hotel rates available with code CAL0519

Celebrating 122 Years of Service





## 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.

<b>President</b>	<b>Frank T. Church</b> , (G Troop, '69-'70) 2917 N. Vista Way Payson, AZ 85541 <fchurch4@aol.com> (386) 365-0487	<b>Membership KIA Issues/Website Mgr &amp; Operation Embrace</b>	<b>Allen Hathaway</b> (HHT Regiment, 66-67) 13194 Rettew Dr. Manassas, VA 20112 <11thcav1966@comcast.net> (703) 791-6610
<b>Vice President &amp; Reunion Chairman</b>	<b>Stephen R. Page</b> , (B Trp, '66-'67) 4201 Ravenwood Drive Little River, SC 29566 <srpage1@outlook.com> (843) 249-5278	<b>Information Tech./ E-commerce</b>	<b>Otis Carey</b> (F Troop, 2/11, 71-72)
<b>Secretary &amp; Silent Auction Co-Chair.</b>	<b>Gregory R. Mason</b> , (HHT 3/11, '68-'69) 4636 W Knights Griffin Road Plant City, FL 33565 <gregmason311@gmail.com> (813) 754-2980	<b>Assistant Information Technology/Ecommerce</b>	<b>Paul Gruber</b> (G Troop, 2/11, '68) 11047 Tung Grove Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32317 <pgruber@polaris.net> (850) 878-8425
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ollie W. Pickral</b> , (K Troop 3/11, 68-69) 571 Ditchley Road Kilmarnock, VA 22482 <11cavalry@verizon.net> (804) 435-3658	<b>Women's Group Coordinator</b>	<b>Sheryl Myers</b> 19155 Royal Troon Drive Monument, CO 80132 <sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com> (571) 721-9189
<b>Directors</b>	<b>Mike "Doc" Rafferty</b> , Scholarship Chairman/ Silent Auction Co-Chairman (G Troop, 2/11, 1969-1970) 5837 Habanero Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88012 <platoonmedic36@gmail.com> (575) 915-2921	<b>Veterans' Information</b>	<b>Chuck Bosko</b> (F Troop, 2/11, '69-'70) 1230 Robinhood Lane La Grange Park, IL 60526 <chuckbosko@att.net> (708) 205-3541
	<b>Robert "Bob" Moreno</b> , Reunion Registration (G Troop 2/11, '68-'69) 24284 Endeavor Ave, Tomah, WI 54660 <gtroopbob@gmail.com> (608) 387-3346	<b>Historian</b>	<b>Don Snedeker</b> 38888 Sandpiper Circle Frankfort, DE 19945 <blackhorse7478@gmail.com> (571) 215-9610
	<b>Eric Newton</b> , Public Affairs (K Troop 3/11, '68-'69) P.O. Box 956 Colleyville, TX 76034 <armor11ACR@aol.com> (817) 239-3437	<b>Auditing Committee/ Judge Advocate</b>	<b>William "Bill" Suhre</b> , (I Troop 3/11, '68) 3230 SW 3rd Lane Cape Coral, FL 33991 <william@suhrelawfirm.com> (970) 381-0335
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Blandin W. "Bill" Karabinos</b> (HHT 2/11, '71 - '72) 7312 Little Creek Road Toano, VA 23168 blandinkarabinos@gmail.com (757) 566-8885	<b>Quartermaster</b>	<b>Jerry L. Beamon</b> , (K Troop, 3/11, 1969-1970) 15926 Cedar Bay Dr Bullard, TX 75757 <jerrylbea@aol.com> (903) 805-0703
<b>Funeral Honor Guard Calendar &amp; Thunder Run Editor</b>	<b>Peter L. Walter</b> , (How, 3/11, 70) 8 Tallowood Dr. Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 <basepiece70@verizon.net> (609) 261-5629	<b>Facebook Manager</b>	<b>Robert Kickenweitz</b> (HHT Reg't, 66-67) 155 Hickory Tavern Rd Gillette, NJ 07933 <bob11acr@comcast.net> (908) 803-3455

## PRESIDENT from page 1

likely decrease in step with our inevitable loss in membership numbers and their contributions of articles. TR has had a major increase in cost this year and currently runs about \$35,000 to publish and mail. We will be asking everyone to sign up for the electronic version to help reduce that cost. The printed version will still be available.

For the many years we have kept the reunion registration fee at \$100. That is no longer financially feasible. The cost for Food and Beverage, Audio Visual, and function space has increased considerably because of inflation. Beginning with the 2024 reunion in Omaha the registration fees will be determined by the actual costs to hold a reunion. I cannot predict what the prices will be at this time, but we want our events to remain first class and to continue to hold them as long as there are enough of us left to meet.

In the past we have partnered with the Blackhorse Association on many projects

and I want to continue to partner with them on projects into the future. We are limited in the time that the 11th ACVVC will be a viable organization. The BHA will outlive us and we need to have them take on more of what we do together and individually. I have had numerous conversations with The President of the BHA and they are committed to work closer together with us also. We are also putting emphasis on continued and closer relationship with the current Regiment at Ft. Irwin. We all share the pride of serving with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and are all Blackhorse Troopers.

Allen Hathaway has done additional research on the 11th Armored Group in Europe during WWII and found additional names to be added to our Memorial in FT. Benning. We are currently engaged with the BHA to fund that update and for future maintenance of the 11th ACR Tank Memorial in Colorado Springs. More to follow on those projects.

I want to also recognize the 11th ACVVC Women’s Ladies Group for the work they do. As you may be aware they make prayer shawls for the families of deceased Troopers and Troopers wives. They also contribute to the Scholarship Fund. They enrich our Blackhorse family, and we are fortunate to have them.

Our Secretary, Greg Mason has decided to step away from that responsibility and not to run again after his term expires in 2024. He has done a remarkable job and will be missed. We are taking applications for that position and to chair the Silent Auction. If you think you have the qualifications to perform either of these duties, please contact me or any other officer.

Please see the other Officers and Committee Chairman’s articles for more details on their respective functions.

We were, are and always will be proud “Blackhorse Troopers”!

*Frank*

# 2023 Elections

*By Greg Mason, Secretary*

Three positions will be up for election this year during the General Membership Meeting to be held Saturday morning, September 23rd, during the 2023 Reunion. **The three positions are Vice President, Treasurer and one Director.**

The Vice President and Treasurer will serve two-year terms beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2025. The Director will serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026.

All candidates must be Life Members of the 11th ACVVC. Candidates will have an equal opportunity to state their qualifications at the General Membership Meeting. The elected candidates must be able to attend the annual reunion and participate in Board Meetings held 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 Vice President serves as the President’s right hand man. In the absence of the President the Vice President shall perform the duties of and be subject to all restrictions upon the President. Sound leadership skills are fundamental to the position.

Candidates for Treasurer must have verifiable experience in accounting and/or finance. Excellent skills in using Microsoft Excel are required. Most importantly, the Treasurer is accountable for maintaining accurate financial records, preparing reports, budgeting, forecasting, etc., of the General Fund, the organization’s investments, and all expenses and obligations incurred from

the various projects supported by the 11th ACVVC.

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.

Newsletter Deadlines	
Due dates to submit articles for <i>Thunder Run</i>	
<b>1st Quarter</b> .....	<b>Jan 1</b>
<b>2nd Quarter</b> .....	<b>Apr 1</b>
<b>3rd Quarter</b> .....	<b>Jul 1</b>
<b>4th Quarter</b> .....	<b>Oct 1</b>
All submissions for publication must be sent to: Peter L. Walter, 8 Tallowood Drive, Westampton, NJ 08060-3721; email <a href="mailto:basepiece70@verizon.net">basepiece70@verizon.net</a> .	





# Blackhorse Women's News

By Sheryl Myers, Women's Group Co-coordinator

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

Hope this finds you all well and looking forward to some Spring-like weather. Our 38th 11th ACVVC Reunion will be here before we know it, so be sure to keep this edition of the Thunder Run handy, as you plan your trip to Grand Rapids.

**Sadly,** I was recently informed of the passing of two our Blackhorse Ladies. Thelma Walker, spouse of Henry Walker, D CO 1st Sq '66-67, passed in Sept 2022. Thelma & Henry were married 58 years and attended many 11th ACVVC Reunions. Barbara "Barb" Moreno, spouse of Robert "Bob" Moreno, G Trp, 2/11 '68-69, passed earlier this year. Barbara served the Womens Group as a coordinator, for many years. These two ladies' names will be added to our Sarah's Angels Honor Roll and they will be honored at the Reunion Memorial Service.

**BWG Meeting:** Our Blackhorse Women's Group Annual Meeting will be held as usual on Saturday morning of Reunion Week. Our agenda is still in the planning stage.

**TOUR:** On Friday morning, please join us on a Tour to Heritage Hill, a residential neighborhood that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the largest urban historic districts in the United States. From there we will be heading out to the "country" to Dunneback & Girls Farm. The Girls will be giving us a tour of this 4 generation farm, and serving our Box Lunches. It will be Apple Harvesting season in Michigan, so pick a bag of apples while you are there!

(See the farm's story below.)

**REGISTRATION FORM :** The registration form for the tour is in this edition of the Thunder Run; please save, copy, or print the form, in case you do not receive the next Thunder Run before our registration deadline of August 15th. The registration form

will also be posted on the Blackhorse Women's Group webpage.

## Dunneback & Girls Farm -A Family Tradition-

It all started nearly 100 years ago. Edwin Dunneback purchased the farm in Alpine Township in 1922.

He farmed 170 acres of apples, peaches, corn, hay and a herd of dairy cows. Edwin had four sons & one daughter. Edward & Joseph continued on the farm adding strawberries & the cold storage, now known as our farm market. From the 30's to the-60s, the barn hosted dances, weddings, farm tours, & hay rides. Edward met his wife Helen at one of these dances! Edward & Helen had 3 children, Pamela, Michael & Suanne. In 1969, the family was forever changed, when

our beloved Michael, son, brother, & uncle, was killed in action in the Vietnam War. Ed could not bear seeing "& Sons" on the front of the barn, so Pam climbed up and changed it to "& Girls". The tragedy caused irreparable damage to the family, but they pulled together and continued farming. Suanne moved back to the farm to work with her Dad everyday. She has run the farm for the last 40 years. Suanne, her husband and two daughters, Stephanie & Sarah, now live on the farm working to carry on the family tradition of four generations. We offer "u-pick" asparagus, strawberries, sweet & tart cherries, apples and pumpkins. The same barn houses our fresh produce market, gift shoppe, bakery, kitchen & tap room.

## Blackhorse Women's Group Tour

to

### Heritage Hill and Dunneback & Girls Farm

Friday, September 22nd – 8:30am – 1:30pm

**Cost per person: \$39.00 - Includes Transportation, Tour Guide & Lunch.**

**Registration open to all in our 11th ACVVC Family**

This form & payment must be received by **Aug 15th.** (We are limited to 78 registrations)

Name(s) : \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Meal Choice: Box Lunch created by Dunneback Farms will include beverage, and dessert. Please choose one of the following:

- Pulled Pork Sandwich
- Chicken Salad Sandwich
- Black Bean Taco (Vegan meal)
- Gluten Free Meal (Please add \$3.00.)

Make check or money order payable to Blackhorse Womens Group. (Sorry no credit cards) Please mail this form and payment to: Sheryl Myers, 19155 Royal Troon Dr., Monument, CO 80132

**Note:** If you must cancel your tour reservation, please notify Sheryl by Aug 31st to receive a refund. Cancellations after that date will be considered a donation to the Blackhorse Women's Group.

Contact: 571-721-9189 or sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com



**Blackhorse Women's Group Offers Tote Bags For Sale!**



**Blackhorse Women's Group Fundraiser!!**



All proceeds raised benefit the women's group Prayer Shawl and Wreaths Across America projects and our group donation to the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund.

Please complete the order form below and mail with payment to:  
**Marguerite Austin 34578 Kimble Shores Dr. Pequot Lakes, MN 56472**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Number of bags \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 each =\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Shipping: \$7.50 for 1-3 bags; \$15 for 4 or more bags.

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



TOP TANK

# Together Then...Together Again

Register now for the 2023 National Reunion in Grand Rapids, MI

## Memorial Day Wreath at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial (The Wall)

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

**When:** 10:00 AM, Monday, May 29, 2023. Please be there by 9:45 AM.

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

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

**What:** We will initially gather by 10:00 AM near the statue of the Three Soldiers, make introductions, say a few words, and then informally carry the wreath to the apex of The Wall. Look for the Blackhorse Patch wreath that will be there by 09:30. Please pass this information to anyone who might be interested in participating.



# 'Hazel' and the Northern Lights

In 'Nam, I became good friends with Norman "Hazel" Lindjord, an LT who was in FDC (Fire Direction Control) in the 3rd Squadron Howitzer Battery after serving as an FO (Forward Observer) in one of the line troops (K Troop I think). He was a great guy and I never heard a bad word about Hazel. His nickname came about because he was very neat and always did his best to keep himself and his area clean - not an easy task in the jungle in a war zone. He actually had a broom and was frequently sweeping out the constant dirt and debris that would settle in the FDC track. Back in the world in the 60's there had been a TV show with a maid named Hazel who was a neat freak...hence Norm's monicker "Hazel."

Hazel was quite a physical specimen, immensely strong, and often engaged in "feats of strength". The "mud run" (photo attached) was a bet he took and won. He also was the champion of tearing the plastic six-pack holders (photo attached) with just the middle fingers...a task which I also performed that left my fingers numb for years. He was pictured in the 2021 calendar in April (photo attached); that's Hazel with the white towel around his neck...always striving to stay neat and clean!

Hazel and I spoke a few times on the phone many years after 'Nam and he attended only one reunion, that being the 2003 reunion in Eugene, Oregon. He lived on Camano Island,

Washington and had become a very wealthy man after 'Nam. He loved gardening and had a spectacular estate where he tended all his flower gardens. He came to Eugene along with Dave Coover (who flew in from Corpus Christi, TX) another LT who was the 3rd Squadron How Bat XO. The three of us spent one great evening in the bar/lounge drinking and recalling some great stories...and some were true!

Anyway, a few years passed and I learned from Jerry "Hog Body" Trainor (a Spc 4 in FDC from Wisconsin) that Hazel was sick...very sick and dying from cancer. I called Hazel in the hospital and talked about flying out to visit him (as Jerry had). He was very upbeat and denied he was that sick and assured me he would be leaving the hospital in a few days...he did so...dying on February 6, 2005.

I was devastated and when I learned of the service details, I flew to SEA/TAC and attended along with Jerry, Dave, Leo Regala and his wife (State Senator Debbie Regala) and Harold "Beau" Mann. We had a great time and spent a long night - maybe too long - at a local restaurant/bar telling more war stories about Hazel.

I had already checked out of the hotel and caught a serious "red-eye" flight back to Philly with a BAC that already had me at 30,000 feet.

I kept in touch with his parents, Hal & Mary and one year when they were visiting friends in New Jersey I met them for dinner at the Grand Cafe in



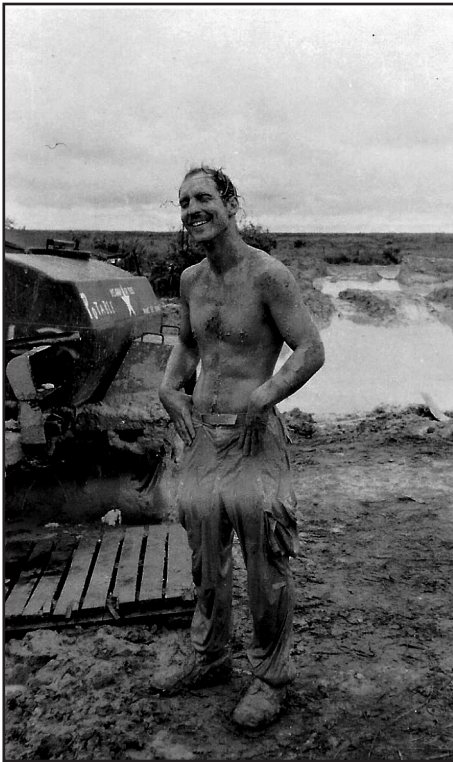
FO Hazel

**Back in the world in the 60's there had been a TV show with a maid named Hazel who was a neat freak...hence Norm's monicker "Hazel."**

A feat of strength







Mud Run

Morristown, NJ...another great night with great people. Hal and Mary lived long and happy lives, both making it almost to 100.

So where is this long-winded story going?

Tonight, on the news they had a bit about an airline pilot flying a plane while the "Northern Lights" put on a spectacular display...he did a 360 so the folks on both the port/starboard side (left/right for you non-nautical types) could see the Aurora Borealis.

On my return back to Philly in 2005, in the middle of the night (I do not sleep on airplanes) there was this great exhibition of the Northern Lights. Most everyone was asleep, but the pilot came on the PA and in a quiet voice told those of us who were awake that the show was on the port side of the aircraft but he would make a slow 360 so those on the starboard side could see it too. For those who were awake and plotting the path of our flight he mentioned we were over Norman, Wisconsin.

Way to go Norm!

P.S. It's been eighteen years and like anyone who matters in your life...I still miss you Hazel.

# 11th ACVVC Board of Directors Form Finance Committee

by *Ollie Pickral, Treasurer*

In the past 36 years of operation, the Board has made financial decisions for us to assure we continue our programs and reunions for our members. The Board in the early 80's made the decision to invest our Life Membership monies into CD's, bonds, mutual funds, etc. The idea was that at some time in our future, we would need these monies to continue our organization in our latter years. While we were placing your membership monies into investments, we relied on donations, Quartermaster store sales and annual memberships to finance our yearly operations.

As you are aware, our membership rolls are at nearly 100%, eliminating that as a source of income. The same with Quartermaster sales as they have decreased in recent years because of our troopers passing. Cash donations follow that logic as well.

So, as previously planned, we are

depending on our investment money to pay our way into the next 10 years or so. The committee will analyze our past income and spending, make adjustments, plan our future with annual budgets and quarterly reports to the Officers and Directors for their use. They then will be fully informed and can better direct our organization.

The members of the committee are:

- Bill Suhre – Chairman
- Frank Church – President \*
- Ollie Pickral – Treasurer \*
- Greg Mason – Member
- Allen Hathaway - Member

\* Position is permanent - not the person

All members bring their professional experience in finance, law, accounting and money management to give the best financial advice for the 11th ACVVC. You may not hear from us directly as we are advisory to our board. We hope our recommendations will allow 11 ACVVC to prosper in our future years.

## LIMBO

There he lay in the hospital bed, barely breathing  
and if he knew I was there, he gave no sign of it,  
hovering in that space that is the ultimate tipping point  
and probably not happy about it, becoming the bare bone of existence  
where the dwindling essence is all that is left of a life close to its end

I recall his telling me not too long ago of his gratitude,  
not for possessions held, since he had so few, and meager  
by his peers' standards, who often judge them in spite of themselves  
and assign him to a certain class out of innocent ignorance  
of our own standing in the eyes of creation and feeling

But he had told me of his appreciation for the prayers of others  
with an eloquence spoken from the core of his soul  
that was comforting to me in a way I would not have expected  
and I felt drawn to the generosity of this fellow-traveler of ours  
whose experience is large enough for all of us to claim a share

So I left him there in that ward full of dying soldiers,  
such good company after all, and boon companions  
to travel with him on this last journey he would take  
to that home we all yearn for so passionately  
and I shared his joy in the peace and love he would soon find.

Rod Covington



# 11th ACR Horse Detachment



The 11th ACR Horse Detachment participated in the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo in Denver in February 23-26 along with the Fort Carson Mounted Color Guard and the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

The Horse Detachment's next competition will be in San Angelo, Texas at the National Historic Landmark of Fort Concho April 20-22, 2023.

In September 27-30 2023 the National Cavalry and USCA Annual Bivouac will be held in El Reno, Oklahoma at historic Fort Reno. This year the traveling replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall will be on display. For more information visit the US Cavalry Association at: <https://uscavalryassociation.org/events/>

Competitions to be held:

- Military Horsemanship
- Combat Horsemanship
- Military Field Jumping
- Mounted Saber
- Mounted Pistol

Some of the competing Army horse detachments are from Fort Carson, Fort Hood, Fort Riley, Fort Huachuca as well as civilian reenactment groups.

Please take time to come out to these events and support our active troopers. They have a record of winning over some of the other best competitors in the nation. I promise you they are eager to take time to visit

with you and your guests. You are the celebrities at their events, and it means a lot to their morale to have the support of their veterans.

*Eric Newton, 11th ACVVC BOD*





# A Face to Every Name

[Excerpted from] *The VVA Veteran* (January/February 2023), by Matthew Simmons

**Y**ears of work searching for photographs to go with every name inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall is finally complete.

The project began in 2001 ... and as Tim Tetz, VVFM's Director of Outreach, said "But we never thought we'd find a photo for every name." In August of 2022, they succeeded.

The process has been sort of like solving a jigsaw puzzle piece-by-piece, except there are 58,281 pieces, and each one must be hunted down individually. Most of the photos were assembled by a group of dedicated volunteers. One volunteer, Janna Hoehn, joined the puzzle hunt in 2011 through a series of coincidental events.

"The way that they were treated upon their return has never left me," said Hohm.

The lingering impact led her to visit the Wall. Despite not knowing a single name, Hoehn was amazed at the impact the black granite wall had upon her. On a whim, she decided to do a rubbing of a name chosen at random.

Upon returning home, Hoehn began to research the name. After discovering a photo, but failing to find any family contact, she put the rubbing and picture in a scrap book and forgot about them.

By chance. Hoehn saw a news story in 2011 about the then-titled "Faces Never Forgotten" effort, which sought to match a photo with every name on The Wall. Hoehn immediately thought of her rubbing and the image she saved, and submitted the photo to the VVMF. Not long after, founder and then-President, of the VVMF, Jan Scruggs asked her if she wanted to join the project as a volunteer. Hoehn started with the 42 names from Maui ... and began her search at libraries, where she scoured obituaries and yearbooks.

After 6 months of searching, she had a photo for all the Maui names. [Janna] commissioned a banner that displayed photos of the 42 men from Maui who died in Vietnam and took it around the island. Meeting the families and learning their stories turned into a special experience. "It was a wonderful process," Hoehn said: "I knew I couldn't be done with this."

Hoehn then decided to search for photographs of men from her hometown of Hemet, California, which grew to ... the entire state. As she continued, Hoehn learned the best ways to get the best results was in reaching out to local newspaper ... [as] they were quick to jump on publishing a story on the Wall of Faces photo hunt. [This] led to more families and friends reaching out to her with photos or information.

"About one percent who reached out to me actually stuck with it," Hoehn noted. Those who could handle the painstaking process kept at it, and she wound up with a team of 12 people who shared her interest in trying to solve this mighty puzzle.

One of these volunteers was the widow of a Vietnam veteran

**Years of work searching for photographs to go with every name inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall is finally complete.**

who helped complete Oklahoma's list of names. Another was the wife of a Vietnam veteran who helped finish Arkansas. After these volunteers finished their home state, they wanted to continue to help. They stuck with her and, "Now I've got life-long friends," Hoehn said.

Janna and her team were not the only volunteers, thousands of individuals contributed their efforts, and her story exemplifies the tireless spirit of the many individuals. "There were thousands who contributed photos, maybe a 100 who found more than a few, but volunteers as dedicated as Janna were rare," Tim Tetz said. In the end Hoehn helped finish 28 states.

Veterans of our Blackhorse Regiment and their wives also got involved, as they completed the match of all of our 730 KIAs and posted them on our web site.

When I asked Allen Hathaway, Director of Operation Embrace, about his involvement, he wrote: "The project was so important and certainly makes a difference in how we remember the casualties of Vietnam. An image of the person means so much more than just a name."

"There were thousands of volunteers and organizations who participated in this project. The bulk of the work was spread out among these unnamed volunteers who contacted family members or searched newspapers to find an image of a casualty. I may have found a handful, but as I said the bulk was done by these volunteers. Credit should be given to them."

"We have also done photos of our WW II casualties as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom which was separate from the VVMF project."

But returning to the article in the *VVA Veteran*, a publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America, we read:

The final photo was discovered on August 5, 2022, by a volunteer who asked to remain anonymous. "When the last photo came in, it was wonderful to see the fruition of all these people's labors come to bear," Tetz said.

The seemingly impossible feat was accomplished, and Hoehn was elated. Her time searching for photos may have concluded. But the memories from her journey will never leave her. She remembers many bittersweet emotional phone calls to ask families for photos and information, and the many amazing people she met along the way.

Even though this major milestone was reached, there is still more work to be done. Unfortunately, some of the photos are not great, and a search for better photos to replace them is underway.

Please turn to **FACE** on page 11

# A fond memory

When I was living in Vietnam I occasionally saw young American soldiers milling about as I rode in a pedicab - xe xích lô - to and from school. I only saw them from a distance as they were patrolling the street, and they always looked very statuesque in their uniforms. But at times, I'd see them mingling and eating at restaurants among the Vietnamese, whose sentiment seemed to be like mine - we feel safe with you here.

But I never dared to come up close to them. They were to be respected from afar and not to be touched.

Then the war came to our city, Saigon, in 1975. We fled to America - no, we were saved and brought to America; started a new life.

Many years later, my mom, in her 70s, shared with me this story.

She was working late one day. One of the officers at the office offered to take her home. My mother worked for Military Assistance Command in Vietnam, (MACV) a joint service command of the department of defense for the United States. She was a secretary who helped transcribe reports of events that happened in the field. (That would have been a very interesting story if only I was wise enough to ask.)

In the iconic army-green convertible Jeep (quarter ton) he drove her home. As they were approaching the house, they saw children playing in the field along the side of the road. Then more children gathered and looked on. Boldly, they came up to the street, closer and closer to the Jeep. So much so that the driver had to slow down and finally stop because he was afraid he was going to hit one of them.

"As soon as we stopped, the children swarmed up and climbed into the Jeep, all smiling and laughing," my mom recalled. "I was slightly alarmed by the apparent ambush, but when I looked at the driver and saw that he was smiling and giggling, I started to laugh too," she continued. And through her giggles, she added, "they were touching everything, the steering wheel, the blinker thing, and jumping on the back seat, filling the space with laughter - hooting and hollering."

But what she noticed most was how they were touching him. They were curious. They ran their little fingers against his uniform, the patches on his arm, and the front pocket. They touched his face as if he was not from this world; then his cap, so he took it off and placed it on one of the children's head.

She remembered them laughing hardily because it was too big and the cap spun loosely on the child's head. They took turns grabbing the cap from each other to try it on all the while my mom and her driver sat watching them.

The laughter of the children was so heartwarming, but she was more touched by the driver's reaction. She recounted, "I saw his young face, so kind, thật là dễ thương - so lovable. He was patient, not because he felt obligated to appease the children, but because he was truly enjoying being around them." "It was a relief for us," she continued, "A reprieve from the seriousness of our work - there was a war going on after all." Her face turned serious for a moment.

That brief moment of joy where everyone was so happy was imprinted in her mind. I can't remember how her memory was triggered when she shared that with me, but I felt so lucky to have heard that story.

I pictured that scene in my mind. Then I saw another one - with

**If I were to guess by the way she told me the story, my mother was not only happy, she was proud. Proud to be with him. Proud to be with a person who is compassionate, gentle, and kind. Proud to be protected by that kind of person. She saw not just a soldier, but a person.**

me in it. I saw myself watching the soldiers from afar with a sense of wonder and admiration, but I was not brave enough to approach them. I like them here, being around. But I was not like the other kids; I didn't run up to them. I couldn't.

I saw the soldiers as my protectors, not as my friends. A friend is someone you can laugh and joke around with. They are warriors, invincible, and serious. They don't have frivolous feelings like being playful and joking around. Or maybe I was afraid that they would disappear if I come near them, like bubbles floating about and if touched, would burst and be gone.

I was so wrong. Yes, they were my guardians, but if I was bold enough, they would have been my friends too. It is not a frivolous thing to laugh and joke around- it's human. It's not a frivolous thing to connect with people. That whimsical encounter brought them relief and unexpected joy and left an indelible mark on my mom's heart.

If I were to guess by the way she told me the story, my mother was not only happy, she was proud. Proud to be with him. Proud to be with a person who is compassionate, gentle, and kind. Proud to be protected by that kind of person. She saw not just a soldier, but a person.

Now, many years have passed. My mom had passed along with all of her memories, except for the few she shared with me. I treasure them all in my own mind. But I'm glad that you'd allow me to share this one with you.

I am more confident now, finally. When I see a person with the Vietnam veteran ribbon, a yellow color background with three red stripes and two green ones on his cap or shirt, I will not look and admire from a distance. I will make up for lost time. Please let me approach you, to thank you and honor you up close. Let me shake your hand and give you a hug.

*Van Marosek*



# To Shave or Not to Shave

It is April 10th, 1970, and after spending three months in the jungles of Bo Duc and War Zone C I am in Bien Hoa for a couple of days. Back in civilization again! I received word yesterday that my request to come in from the field to get my pay records straightened out had been granted by Captain Menzel. I got on a chopper about noon and was in Quan Loi twenty minutes later. I reported to the G troop area only to find out I would have very little chance of catching a plane to Bien Hoa that afternoon. Even so, I went to the dusty airfield and waited for several hours but I could not get on a flight and had to spend the night in Quan Loi. There were several guys I knew in the aid station, so I managed to borrow a cot and a clean uniform. I was dead tired and slept like a log.

The next morning, I was able to get on a flight which landed in Bien Hoa at 10 am. I hitched a ride on a jeep to the finance offices only to find out that the 11th Cav records had been moved to Di An! Therefore, I had to spend the day in Bien Hoa. I stayed on the air force base and marveled at the luxury our fly boys enjoyed. I found a beautiful, air-conditioned library where I could relax and read. The cleanliness, newness and civilized appearance of this base contrasted so greatly with the surroundings I have grown accustomed to in the jungle. I had not left the field since January 17th. I ate dinner in the mess hall where I enjoyed the good chow. The guys stationed here don't appreciate the food, but they have never had to eat what we have to in the field. I enjoyed having real eating utensils and trays to put my food on. There was even real butter and napkins of all things!

Anyway, the next day I got to the finance offices in Di An and collected some back pay. While I was there an amusing incident occurred. Those of us who spent time in the field were, in a way, proud of our ragged and unkempt appearance. Our dirty uniforms, covered in the red dust of Bo Duc or the white dust of War Zone C, showed we came from where the action was. Although I had made myself presentable in my own eyes by obtaining fresh clothing in Quan Loi, an officer at Di An didn't see it that way. While I was in the finance offices, he noticed my unshaven face and called me into his office.



Relaxing after a mission

The rash made it impossible for me to shave half of my face, so I didn't try to shave that morning. I pointed out this fact to the captain, but he replied, "you should have shaved the half of your face that doesn't have a rash."

"Soldier, this is a United States Army post and all personnel shave at least once a day." As a matter of fact, I would have shaved that morning had it not been for an irritating skin rash I had developed on the right side of my face and neck. The rash made it impossible for me to shave half of my face, so I didn't try to shave that morning. I pointed out this

fact to the captain, but he replied, "you should have shaved the half of your face that doesn't have a rash." How can you respond to that kind of reasoning? I had a good laugh about this after I left his office. War hath no fury like the non-combatant REMF officer, I guess!

*Mike "Doc" Rafferty*

## FACE from page 9

Finding one photo per name is a start, but VVMF wants to gather as many as they can.

"None of us want to be known by just one photo," Tetz said. "The more photos we can get for an individual, the better we can tell their story."

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial changed the landscape of how the nation designs and constructs war veterans memorials. The Wall singled out every individual who died in the war, and in doing so, helped everyone who sees The

Wall comprehend the true cost of war.

The completion of the Wall of Faces helps convey the intent behind the Memorial's design: it is not just an encompassing list of names; it is a recounting of the lives of men and women in service to their country. Putting a face with each name is an amazing feat.

You can see the Wall of Faces at <https://WWW.VVMF.ORG/WALL-OF-FACES>.

*(Submitted by Chp. Bill Karabinos)*

# 11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

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Hatch, Knolen  
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Husing, David  
Johnson, Eugene  
Jones, John  
Keller, Steven  
Kern, Donald  
Kerrick, Jonathan  
Kerrins, William  
Klink, Robert  
Klinn, Lewis  
Knieriem, Dennis  
Krieg, Steven  
Labrecque, Simon  
Lozano, Oscar  
Lumpp, Edward  
Lyle, Ross  
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Prendergast, Mark  
Rice, Danny  
Rich, Harry  
Rinne, Howard  
Ritter, James  
Rolnick, Rosco  
Rubas, Ronald  
Ruiz, Luis  
Schmidt, Dennis  
Sellars, Marvin  
Sevelius, Arthur  
Sink, Woodrow  
Sobus, Darlene  
Soule, Robert  
Steege, Greg  
Stivers, Terry  
Sullivan, Donald  
Swiger, Rocky  
Tomchick, James  
Tufankjian, Haig

Waddell, Darrell  
Wardrope, Scott  
Weeks, Keith  
Wheelock, Thomas  
Wieland, David  
Witzel, Terrence  
Wright, George

### Silver Level

Ahrens, Daniel  
Austin, Julius  
Baird, Robin  
Blackman, Clarence  
Boesz, Arthur  
Brewer, Joel  
Brewer, James  
Bridgeford, Daniel  
Brockwell, Ronald  
Burns, John  
Carrier, Arlie  
Davis, George  
Dobbs, John  
Duckwall, John  
Duncan, Thomas  
Dyer, Rodney  
Evenser, Kathryn  
Futch, Oliver  
Gathe, Wilbur  
Gilbert, Howard  
Glaser, Barry  
Gordon, Dalton  
Grabenhorst, John  
Harvey, Michael  
Hennings, Verle  
Higden, Ross  
Highbanks, Lyle  
Ingram, Glendon  
Jackson, Chuck  
Juskiewicz, Thomas  
Kennedy, Markie  
King, Edward  
Koch, Anthony  
Lingle, Soapy  
Lopez, Joseph  
Lundahl, Richard  
Mankowski, Carl  
Mashburn, Lewis  
Mitchell, William  
Mussche, Harry  
Parkhurst, Michael

Purifoy, George  
Reid, Daniel  
Reinfeld, Edgar  
Rieth, Gary  
Robinson, Arlise  
Sanford, Clinton  
Schaefer, Michael  
Schoettle, Francis  
Schoonmaker, Tracey  
Scott, Charles  
Shake, Donald  
Sheldon, Dennis  
Shinault, Angus  
Thrasher, Harrison  
Villwock, Jay  
Wagg, Robert  
Walter, Peter  
Watters, David  
West, George  
Whitmore, Charles

### Bronze Level

Adamonis, James  
Andersen, Arthur  
Arellano, Nasario  
Balas, John  
Banks, Patricia  
Barnhill, Leonard  
Bartley, Carl  
Bennett, Ronald  
Berry, David  
Bertolini, Francis  
Bloemker, Garland  
Bohr, Joseph  
Bomba, Robert  
Bowens, John  
Bowers, Joseph  
Brandt, Wesley  
Brumm, Maurice  
Buchholz, Nathan  
Callahan, Donald  
Carosella, Joseph  
Carter, Stanley  
Coates, Gary  
Cole, Larry  
Collman, Ron  
Compton, Bob  
Coney, Frank  
Cooper, Jackie  
Crook, Jack

Czerepuszko, Daniel  
Derk, David  
Dickinson, Paul  
Dougherty, Edward  
Dove, Russell  
Dye, Donald  
Eager, Michael  
Einck, Rodney  
Finch, Jeffrey  
Flaherty, Thomas  
Floyd, Gary  
Ford , Timothy  
Fowler, James  
Fry, Bobbie  
Gambol, Roland  
Garcia, Aurelio  
Garren, Kenneth  
Gatewood, Henry  
Geddings, Larry  
Gharing, Richard  
Gochenour, Samuel  
Godwin, David  
Grisham, William  
Grunloh, John  
Gutierrez, Winslow  
Guy , Michael  
Haberer, John  
Hall, Rick  
Hall, Douglas  
Harris, Gerald  
Hawes, James  
Helm, Robert  
Hernandez, Douglas  
Hnatusko, Theodore  
Holk, Roland  
Hooten, G.M.  
Horgdal, Ole  
Horvatic, Michael  
Humbertson, John  
Hutchins, George  
Jewell, Thomas  
Johnson, James  
Jones, F. Edward  
Kaiser, Paul  
Karels, Roger  
Keirns, Tommy  
Keller, Ernest  
King, William  
Kitchen, Gary

Kloewer, Leo	Schuman, Elmer
Knight, George	Schwier, Richard
Kowalski, James	Seeley, Martin
Kunkel, Robert	Shank, Thomas
Kura, Joseph	Shimel, Dale
Lane, Dennis	Skurat, Steven
Langley, Rickey	Slone, Kermit
Lemperle, Myron	Slusarski, Robert
Lessnau, Robert	Southerland, Gary
Lindell, Craig	Spencer, Gary
Lingen, John	Story, M.F.
Loudon, Orrin	Stumbo, Gregory
Lyster, Larry	Swanson, James
Magee, Howard	Tandberg, Lauren
Markin, Roger	Taylor, F. Robert
Mayer, Jan	Templin, William
McGinnis, Peter	Thain, Gary
Miller, Richard	Toole, Larry
Mladjen, Lewis	Tripp, Louis
Moon, Bradford	Troxell, William
Mulcahey, Michael	Van Matre, James
Munson, Charles	Velie, Richard
Newman, Frederick	Ward, Bobby
O'Neal, Robert	Ward, Bruce
Ostrander, Robert	Wasdovitch, J.
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Pelvas, Bruce	Waters, Theodore
Pintaric, Bonnie	Welmon, Harry
Proctor, Jay	Wemhoff, Gregory
Ray, Kenneth	Werner, James
Rego, Ronald	White, Russell
Richardson, John	Wolfenden, William
Riggsby, Oakley	Wollschlaeger, Kenneth
Robertson, Melvin	Wright, Curtis
Robinson, Elwood	Yirsa, Harold
Rosevear, John	Zeller, Larry
Russell, Becky	Zepf, Robert
Schaunaman, Donni	Zimmerman, Winn



## From the Editor's Desk

Fellow Blackhorse Troopers, families and friends, I hope you enjoy reading *Thunder Run* and want to remind you that this is your publication. Your dues make the publication and mailing of TR possible and most of the articles contained herein are provided by you, the Blackhorse Troopers whose service in Vietnam and Cambodia made the 11th ACR "legendary."

Our Officers administer the business of the 11th ACVVC and as we are older than ever before (can't turn back the clock!), much of their focus will be how we navigate the future of an organization whose members are now older than their fathers were when we left for Vietnam.

There will be changes in *Thunder Run* in the next year, but these updates should be transparent to the reader and will provide you with a better and more timely publication.

We have encountered price increases in almost every aspect of the production of *Thunder Run* and in the mailing costs. We have very little control over these costs and the Officers have discussed options that we may implement to keep these increases from skyrocketing out of control. In future issues we may have fewer pages and/or fewer color photos. Printing and mailing of *Thunder Run* is

the single largest expense we have budgeted each year.

In addition to reducing costs, an additional consideration is the reduced number of submissions from the membership. Unfortunately, this is also a function of our diminishing numbers. So, I am asking for your input - stories about your service, your fellow Troopers, anything you think might be interesting to the reader. You don't have to be Hemingway or Shakespeare; I use every proofing app I can to ensure the articles we publish read well.

On the topic of editing and proofing *Thunder Run*, I could use some help. In the past few years Jim Scahill, (Kittanning, PA, F Trp, '71) provided help in proofreading submissions. Jim was a great resource, but we lost him in the summer of '21...I lost not only a valued assistant but a friend. If you have a background in English literature, or publishing, editing, etc., and have some time to volunteer, please contact me and we can discuss putting you to work! We are all mortal human beings and there will be a need for someone to move into my position when (not if!) I am no longer able to serve as your Editor. Thank you for your support!

Pete

## Wives Words on War...

"Hope is like a light, even the tiniest bit gets you through the darkness."

"You are my love, my protector, my hero, and no matter the distance, I will always wait for you."

"The longer the wait, the sweeter the kiss."

"A man in the military is worth waiting for."

"Together forever, never apart. Maybe in distance, but never at heart."

"He's not just a number. He is more than his rank. He is my hero. He is my soulmate."

"You are my favorite hello and hardest goodbye."

"You're worth every mile between us."

"You know you are a military spouse when relatives visit and think they hear thunder, and you have to explain it is just artillery."

"The smallest adventures lead you to the greatest happiness."

"Our love is greater than any deployment."

"Distance is only a test."

"Couples that are 'meant to be' are the ones who go through everything that is meant to tear them apart and come out even stronger than they were before."

"It doesn't get easier. You just get stronger."

"Distance means so little when you love someone so much."

"Every minute feels like an hour, every hour feels like a day, every day feels like forever. But I will wait forever and a day for you."

"Behind every soldier, there is an even stronger woman who stands behind him, supports him, and loves him with all her heart."

"Some people look up to their heroes. I'm in love with mine."

"Half my heart is deployed."



# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

(March 2023)

## I thought that was normal

James 'Jim' Schaffer was born in 1944 in Brooklyn, NY. His father shipped off to war in Europe 30 days before Jim came into the world. Like many of his generation, Jim was drafted out of college in south Florida in 1968. Jim made it through Infantry Basic at Ft. Benning and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Lewis, WA. After AIT, Jim was selected for Officer Candidate School. He made his three branch choices and the Big Green Machine sent him to Ft. Sill, OK, for Artillery OCS. Artillery was not one of Jim's three choices.

While at Ft. Sill, Jim volunteered for flight school, motivated because his dad "had volunteered in World War II ... He wanted to go to flight school, but because he had damaged his eyesight during college studying, he was not qualified for flight school. So, I wanted to become a pilot." After completing basic flight training at Ft. Wolters, TX, Jim and his classmates moved to Ft. Rucker, AL. He graduated in April 1969 as a UH1 Huey helicopter-qualified pilot and a 2nd Lieutenant of Artillery.

Jim was assigned to Air Cavalry Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, upon arrival in South Vietnam in May. May and June were especially busy for the Blackhorse. As the official after-action report says: "Numerous contacts were made by elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during the period of 27 May to 30 June resulting in 335 enemy killed and 18 captured."

One of those contacts was Jim Schaffer's baptism by fire. Air Troop was short one front-seat Cobra pilot at the time, so for his first ten days in country, Jim was on strip alert at Evans Army Air Field at Blackhorse Base Camp. Although not Cobra qualified, Jim recalled in an interview: "I was told to stand by the flight line, and if there was any enemy contact, I was to get into the front of the Cobra and get briefed on the weapons systems on the way to the contact." A resupply convoy was ambushed on Highway 13 (Thunder Road), and Second Field Force called for the Cav. "I was told on the way to the ambush how to use the mini-gun ... I had fired the mini-gun in training at Ft. Rucker, but never in a Cobra." Jim told the pilot that he was concerned he might "kill all the friendlies", but the pilot reassured him that he wouldn't let that happen.

Jim's most significant recollection from that day stuck with him for the rest of his very eventful tour with the Blackhorse. "And we took [ground-to-air] fire, had a few holes in the aircraft. And the rest of my time in Vietnam, I thought that was normal – getting shot at all the time."

After two months flying Hueys in the Lift Platoon, Jim volunteered to fly a scout helicopter. "The Scout Platoon was the most dangerous job in the [Air Cavalry] Troop. You basically were a human target." Blackhorse aero-scouts flew the OH6 Cayuse – officially a Light Observation Helicopter, but known to everyone as a Loach. It was the scouts' job to search an area that was thought to be occupied by Viet

Cong (VC) or North Vietnamese Army (NVA) units. Scouts flew at treetop level or even lower, looking for bunkers, heavily-traveled trails, even individual Ho Chi Minh sandal prints in the dust or mud. It was their mission to "find the bastards". So they flew low and slow. Of course, flying so low and without a whole lot of firepower on board, the Loaches were extremely vulnerable. The bastards usually didn't like being found, because they knew that the Cavalry would "then pile on". So, they tried to knock the scouts out of the sky. With anything and everything they had. AK47s, .51-calibers, and RPGs. Even rocks sometimes.

Eight months into his tour, Jim was flying a first-light visual reconnaissance (VR) out of Quan Loi. He recalls he was flying so low that "I could literally see footprints." January was the middle of the dry season, so there was plenty of Quan Loi red dust to leave footprints in. Jim and his scout observer, Sergeant (SGT) Charles 'Lucky' Hunt, didn't spot any enemy on the morning of 17 January, so they went back out at noon.

In late 1969 and early 1970, the entire Blackhorse Regiment was operating along the Cambodian border under the operational control of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. Late December was a busy time for Air Cav Troop, with aero-scouts initiating two major fights along the border north and west of Loc Ninh on the 24th and 27th. Higher headquarters had warned that enemy forces would likely be infiltrating from their Cambodian sanctuaries, crossing the border to take up pre-attack positions in the rubber plantations surrounding Loc Ninh, An Loc, and Quan Loi. Intelligence indicators were that there would be an attack in the area before the Tet holiday (16 February 1970).

A contemporary newspaper report describes the 27 December fight.

"U.S. tank troops supported by artillery and jets reported killing 72 North Vietnamese infantrymen Saturday [27 December] in a battle near the Cambodian border that broke out six hours after the Viet Cong's Christmas cease fire. No U.S. casualties were reported in the fighting about 83 miles north of Saigon but South Vietnamese units joining the fight lost more than 60 men killed or wounded, field reports said ... The combat, two miles from the Cambodian border, was the heaviest single action in six weeks and shattered the general lull which has settled over most fronts in the first hours after Christmas. Spokesmen said the fighting started when U.S. helicopter crews spotted a North Vietnamese force of about 270 men and opened up with rocket and machine gun fire. Elements of the U.S. 11th Armored Cavalry riding tanks and armored personnel carriers moved in, blazing away at the jungles with help from artillery batteries in nearby fire support bases and low-level strafing runs by Air Force F100 Supersabre jets. The bullets, shells and bombs ripped apart 40 bunkers, spokesmen said."

By mid-January, Blackhorse aero-scouts and electronic sensors

confirmed the intelligence predictions. Large numbers of VC and NVA soldiers were detected crossing the border and heading in the direction of Loc Ninh and An Loc.

The day before they conducted their visual reconnaissance on the 17th, Troopers from 2nd Squadron had uncovered a large enemy bunker complex eight kilometers northwest of Loc Ninh, so Jim and Lucky knew for sure the bastards were out there. It was their mission to find them.

Just outside the edge of the rubber trees, they spotted fresh footprints on a trail. The footprints ended in a bamboo thicket. After flying around the thicket three times, Jim realized that the bastards were hiding in the bamboo. “The enemy had to be in that thicket”, Jim remembered in 2019. “And I approached it one more time, and four or five Viet Cong stepped out from the thicket, and all of them emptied at least two [AK47 rifle] clips into the aircraft ... I was hit immediately, the engine was knocked out. The aircraft was burning ... I began an emergency procedure to try to land safely with the engine off [autorotation].”

Jim had taken five bullets in his left leg and, without knowing it, another bullet in the back. These wounds prevented Jim from executing the autorotation, so the Loach crashed. In flames. Upon impact, the Loach flipped onto its right side – the side the pilot was on. Jim recalled: “My observer, he was in the left seat, so he was hanging up in the air. And he appeared to be dead. And, it’s kind of a miracle, ‘cause he looked down at me and he thought I was dead.”

In a feat of adrenalin-induced superman strength, Jim lifted the burning aircraft just enough to crawl out from inside it. He crawled 50 to 75 feet away from the wreckage – with mini-gun ammo, grenades, and fuel cooking off – into a bamboo thicket to hide. Lying prone, instinctually Jim did three things. He pushed the button on his survival radio that sent out a signal for other pilots to home in on. He pulled out his .38-caliber revolver “and made sure it was loaded.” And he laid his survival knife on his chest, just in case.

And then he waited: “I don’t know for how long.”

The Aero-Rifle Platoon (ARP) was scrambled from Quan Loi. A Huey deposited them in a field of elephant grass as close as it could

to the burning wreckage of the Loach. The ARPs deployed, unsure of where the pilot and scout observer were, if they were dead or alive, and if – big IF – if there were still any bad guys in the area.

Lucky Hunt – lucky to be alive, but unlucky because he was burned while exiting the aircraft. He went into shock and was found wandering around. That’s what some people do when they go into shock; they get disoriented and sort of wander around. He was also lucky because the ARPs didn’t mistake him for a bad guy and shoot him. He was quickly put aboard a helicopter and flown to a nearby evacuation hospital.

“I was gonna make a last stand,” Jim recalled in 2019. “I didn’t know where the friendlies were, didn’t know where the enemies were”. From inside his bamboo hideout, Jim saw a line of soldiers moving from left to right in front of him. They were dressed in green and had weapons. They could be friendlies or not-so-friendlies. If the latter, Jim knew that as a wounded prisoner of war, “I would not be treated well.” At the last minute, Jim realized they were friendlies. “When I was almost about to fire [my pistol], I recognized the lead figure.”

While other ARPs cut down two bamboo poles, SGT Ed Cook and Private First Class Paul Krueger took off their shirts and made a makeshift stretcher for the badly wounded Jim Schaffer. They then carried him to the medevac bird.

Fourteen years later at the dedication of the Three Soldiers Statue, Jim was walking near the apex of The Wall. He noticed a man coming towards him with a Blackhorse patch and wearing a black beret (which only the ARPs were authorized to wear in the 11th Cav). As they got closer, the ARP stopped. It was Paul Krueger. “Paul Krueger called out to me – and he was with Ed Cook. He turned white and said: ‘Captain Schaffer, I thought you were dead.’”

Jim Schaffer made the trip to Fiddlers Green on 21 March 2022. His full video interview can be seen at:

[https://stars.library.ucf.edu/veteransoralhistories/631/?fbclid=IwAR3uMdGxUpqkSTiCjWzokLv7EWR3oJ3uSmtcGMA\\_wTrnWWaLwHomp\\_ADz3s](https://stars.library.ucf.edu/veteransoralhistories/631/?fbclid=IwAR3uMdGxUpqkSTiCjWzokLv7EWR3oJ3uSmtcGMA_wTrnWWaLwHomp_ADz3s)

## PAPA TANGO SIERRA DELTA

Its a wonder that you don’t bleed,  
the damned pain that conceals itself  
and makes you feel like  
forty pounds of crap,  
when everyone you talk to  
wishes you would just “get over it”  
because they have no idea what “it” is  
and you really can’t blame them for that, can you,  
since you have learned the hard way  
that a wound is a wound is a wound  
and never a good thing at all, screw the medals.

The hurt takes something out of you  
and leaves behind a hole, size not an issue,  
like those flesh wounds cops speak of as if

an insult to your body  
can be reduced to what good parts were not destroyed  
when someone was trying to kill you.

But your soul is part of your frame, too  
more essential than blood or organs or limbs  
because once you are done here  
that’s the piece you will need the most  
and use the most  
since it joins you with all of us  
who know what you are going through  
and, after all, this is one of those rare times  
when it really is all about you.

*Rod Covington*

# Do You Have A Seasonal Address? Are You Moving?

By Allen Hathaway, Membership

With each mailing of *Thunder Run* we receive 25-35 copies returned by the post office marked "Not Deliverable as Addressed" or "Moved, No Forwarding Address". We pay a fee for these returns but more importantly **we've lost track of a member!** Please help us deliver your mail!

## Do you have a seasonal address?

Quite a few of our members have seasonal addresses. They live in the north during the Summer and south or southwest in the Winter.

*Thunder Run* is mailed as nonprofit Standard postage versus First Class postage. The post office **does not forward *Thunder Run*** mailed at the Standard postage rate for seasonal addresses. Instead, *Thunder Run* is returned to us marked "**Temporarily Away**" or "**Unable to Forward**" and we pay a fee for postage. When we receive these notices, we may have lost track of the member. There is no additional information provided that might indicate if the member moved or has a seasonal address. For the November 2023 mailing of *Thunder Run* there were over 130 members with these markings.

If you have a seasonal address, please take a few minutes, and notify me or any board member of both your summer and winter addresses, along with months at each address, phone number and e-mail address.

We will arrange to continue to deliver your *Thunder Run* magazine wherever you are!

## Are you moving?

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

## Update your phone number and E-mail address

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

You can notify me or any board member for any change in your contact information. Contact information for all board members is printed in this issue and every issue of *Thunder Run*.

# Reunion Assistance Fund

**History:** In 1989, the Officers and Directors of 11th ACVVC agreed there was a need for monies to assist our member Troopers in getting to a reunion. Prior to 1989, the organization received many calls for assistance directly from the Trooper needing assistance or from the buddy of a Trooper hoping to get his buddy to the reunion. It was decided in 1989 that during the meeting of its members, a "passing of the hat" for donations would take place. With those donated funds, the 11th ACVVC could assist in getting some Troopers who might otherwise not attend because of monetary limitations.

During the 2008 Reunion Members Business Meeting, the Board of Director proposed and the membership passed Motion 2008-0823A to modify the definition and name of the fund to include immediate family members (Parents, siblings, children, widows) of our KIAs. During the 2019 Meeting of the Board of Directors Motion 1019-0821K was passed that expanded the "immediate family members" definition to also include grandchildren.

**Purpose Statement:** The purpose of the Reunion Assistance Fund is to assist, if requested, Troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Survivors of our Troopers Killed in Action in Vietnam and Cambodia, to attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Qualified applicants will be given one or more of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and the degree of assistance required:

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

**Maintenance of Funds:** Funds collected through direct donations or the "passing of the hat" at the annual membership Business Meeting shall be maintained and

Please turn to **ASSISTANCE** on page 25

## MOVING?

**We want you to get your copy of *Thunder Run* without a lot of trouble.** Complete this form and mail it to: 11th ACVVC Membership Update, Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112; Email [11thcav1966@Comcast.net](mailto:11thcav1966@Comcast.net)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Reunion Registration

**Bob Moreno, BOD Member, Reunion Registration Chm.**

Raleigh and I were at the Social Security Office in La Crosse, WI and the guard there, yelled “Blackhorse.” He had noticed the Blackhorse jackets that we had on. That was John C. Wittenberg from West Salem, WI. He said he was with E Troop 2/11th ACR (69-70). He also said that he has not been to a reunion, but he is thinking of making this one. John, we are looking forward to seeing you there.

A week later Raleigh and I were out for lunch and a young girl came up to us and said she noticed the Blackhorse on our Jackets and that her grandfather, Kenneth E. Reynolds, was in Viet Nam with the 11th CAV. He was with D Co 1/11th (67-68) and had passed on April 19, 2017. She said that he always talked about his time with the CAV. Whenever we can, we wear our Blackhorse Jackets.

As always, please get your registration form in the mail or online as soon as possible and make your hotel reservation at the same time. If you are going to use the registration form that is in this issue of Thunder Run, please send in the whole page, or make a copy of it. I keep all the registration forms in a three-ring binder and if you trim the page it will not fit properly in the binder. I know most of you know how to fill out the form so I’m just going to point out a few things that you need to check before you mail it out. Is it readable, is it complete and did you keep it as a full page? If you register online, then never mind. And please make sure to get it in before the cut-off date.

I always get calls about bringing guests or friends to the reunion; well anyone can attend our reunions and partake in all of its functions. All guests or friends must be registered, and the registration fee paid. However, to attend the membership meeting, you must be a dues-paid card holding member of the 11th ACVVC.

Don’t miss this reunion. If this is your first reunion be sure to let us know by marking the registration form where it asks, “Is this your first reunion?” It is very important that we know this for our records. Our goal is to locate as many, if not all of our brothers who proudly served with the Blackhorse.

On a personal note, I and my family would like to thank all of you that sent Christmas cards and Get-Well cards to Barbara the last two years. She had me pin them all on the wall near her bed. Alas, It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that the family of Barbara Louise (Gray) Moreno announces her passing on February 7, 2023, in her home with her husband and under the care of hospice. She will be missed.

If you have any questions please call me, I’m here for you all. My phone number is (H) 608-372-5892, (C) 608-372-3346, or e-mail me (gtroopbob@gmail.com)

ALLONS

*Roberto (Bob) Moreno, G troop 2/11th (Dec 68-Dec 69)  
11TH ACVVC Board of Directors, Registration Chairman*

## A Brief History of Jody, The Original ‘Mr Steal Your Girl’

by Sarah Sicard

Meet Jody. Jody decided to shirk his patriotic duty and stay home while you chose to serve your country. Jody is lying in wait, plotting to steal your girl when you’re away. It’s easy: Jody will swoop in, console her when she’s lonely, then slowly fill your boots simply because he’s there and you’re not. He’s the original “Mr. Steal Your Girl,” and he is every soldier’s worst nightmare.

Everyone’s heard of a Jody: whether you’ve met one, had a brother come to you for advice about one, or seen one in your favorite military movie. “Jarhead’s” infamous “Deer Hunter” scene did him the most justice, when Brian Dettman thought his wife had sent him the war classic on VHS, which had instead been taped over with homemade porn featuring her and Jody.

But where did Jody, scourge of the deployed soldier, come from?

The U.S. military’s use of term dates back to roughly 1939 when it was introduced to the U.S. Army by African-American soldiers during World War II. Originally, “Jody” was “Joe the Grinder,” and blues singers used to croon about him — a disreputable man who cuckolds prisoners and soldiers by stealing their wives and girlfriends. While he’s Joe simply because it’s a common name, the “Grinder” comes from the 19th century slang for sex. Jody literally grinds up on, and then, in your girl.

By the end of the war, the name had been shortened to Joe D., then Jody, which stuck. And everyone knew who Jody was. The idea of him even worked its way into cadences.

Ain’t no use in going home  
Jody’s got your girl and gone  
[...] Gonna get a three-day pass  
Just to kick old Jody’s ass.

— *U.S. Army marching cadence, circa 1944*

Tad Tuleja and Eric A. Eliason, authors “Warrior Ways,” explain that Jody permeated military culture after World War II, not just because men were concerned about civilians stealing their women, but because they were keenly aware of their own “waywardness.” If a soldier could seek the company of another woman while in theater, there’s no reason why his wife or girlfriend couldn’t or wouldn’t do the same.

“The same soldier who curses Jody one day may on another occasion spout the common saying, ‘What happens , stays ,’” they write.

It’s essentially the military equivalent of “what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.” And while some soldiers can get away with cheating scot-free, what Jody does happens at home, and — there’s no escaping that.

The good news is, at least in most marching cadences, Jodies are far lesser men than service members. So if Jody does steal your girl, you can always kick his ass.

This story was written by Sarah Sicard and originally published May 11, 2017 by Task & Purpose. The 11th ACVVC thanks Mr. Marty Skovlund Jr., Editor-in-Chief, Task & Purpose for granting us permission to reprint it.

# 2023 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason And Mike Rafferty

The 2022 Silent Auction raised \$6,106 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 85 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 38th Annual Reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. 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 Fred Droski, to collect, hold and bring the items to the reunion for display. If you plan to ship items, please use the convenient Silent Auction Donor Form printed in this issue. If you bring the items to the reunion, also complete the donation form and include it with the item.
4. The **auction will be from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on Friday night** with the bidding ending precisely at 8:30pm. Those in wheel chairs 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 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 Grand Rapids and thanks in advance to all the donors!

## 11th ACVVC Silent Auction

### Donated Items Information Form

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

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

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

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

Phone # of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_ Value of Item Donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

**Mail silent auction items to:** 11th ACVVC,  
C/O Fred Droski  
192 Collindale Ave SW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49634-5817

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

Together Then - Together Again



## 38th Annual Reunion Information September 18-24, 2023



- Registration Cutoff Date: **September 1, 2023**
- Registration Cancellation Date: **September 13, 2023**
- Hotel Cutoff Date: **August 8, 2023**

**All registrations must be received by Friday, September 1, 2023. 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 Wednesday, September 13, 2023. After this date, all food orders will have been placed. We will have to pay for all dinners that we commit to. Service Dogs are welcome. Please bring your valid documentation.

- Grand Rapids is known as Beer City with many Pubs and Eateries. There are over 200 places to visit in The Grand Rapids area with 53 Mexican and Spanish Restaurants. The Gerald R. Ford Museum is directly across the river from The Hotel. There are many sites to visit such as The Meijer Gardens and The Grand Rapids Art Museum. Please make your travel plans and Hotel Reservations early. Grand Rapids is serviced by Allegiant, American, Southwest and United Airlines.

**PLEASE REMEMBER ALL CUTOFF DATES  
WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO!**

**Hotel Registration Information  
for the 38th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion  
September 18 - 24, 2023**

**Amway Grand Plaza Hotel,  
187 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Reservation Booking Website:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50392329>

By Phone 1-800-253-3590 before cutoff date of August 18, 2023. Tell Agent that you are with the 11thACVVC group. Room Rate \$139, Single, Double, Triple, Quad. Complimentary Overnight Self-Parking, No Resort Fees.

- Scooter Rental Information:

**Amigo Mobility Center**, 4280 Plainfield Ave NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525; (616) 361-7559; <https://amigomobilitycenter.com/locations/grand-rapids-michigan/>

**Clock Mobility**, 6700 Clay Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49548 (616) 698-9400: <https://clockmobility.com/>

## VSO INFORMATION

### Another revisit with the Pact Act

**With a focus especially on hypertension**

Hi Black Horse folks. Hypertension (HtN) is a medical condition which affects many individuals. And now, with HtN added to the presumptive list of illnesses due to agent orange exposure, vets may be curious as to how VA will address future claims for this condition. I'll present two scenarios of claims for hypertension, a new claim and one previously denied.

#### 1. A new claim.

**A.** What I have observed so far from the VA is hypertension ratings will be granted as any presumptive condition will be. However, most hypertension ratings will be non-compensable which results in zero percent. This is still a rating, just no \$\$\$\$. The rationale is that the condition is "managed" by medication. However, in a rating decision, VA will include the paragraph "a higher rating of 10% is not warranted for hypertensive vascular disease unless the evidence shows:

- A history of diastolic pressure predominately 100 or more and there is a requirement for continuous medication for control, or:

- Diastolic pressure predominantly 100 or more; or
- Systolic pressure predominantly 160 or more"

#### 2. Previously denied hypertension claim

**B.** A claim previously denied - Now a vet can "reopen" that denied claim. The new approach is to submit a Supplemental claim (VA form, 20-0995 Decision Review Request, Supplemental Claim) with new evidence, the new evidence being the new Pact Act law. The claim will be granted but the date will be the date of the Pact Act which is August 10, 2022. As Mentioned previously (1st Qtr. Thunder Run) hypertension will not be treated as a Nehmer case such as coronary heart disease or lung cancer.

My advice - any Nam vet who has been diagnosed with hypertension, submit the claim. Even if you are rated at zero percent, you will still be service connected!

As always, I am available to discuss or clarify this or other questions.

Allons!

*chuckbosko@att.net 708-205-3541*





**11th ACVVC  
38th Reunion Schedule  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
September 19-24, 2023**

**Tuesday, Sept. 19, 3:00 PM**

**Rooms available for set up  
No Reunion Functions**

**Storage - Lyon**

**Wednesday, Sept 20**

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

Pantlind Ballroom  
Registration Desk 2  
Ambassador Ballroom  
Fine Arts  
Registration Desk 2

**Thursday, Sept. 21**

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

29th Annual Marty Ognibene Golf Outing  
Quartermaster Store Open  
Registration  
Bunker Open  
Silent Auction Items Accepted

TBD  
Pantlind Ballroom  
Registration Desk 2  
Ambassador Ballroom  
Registration Desk 2

**Friday, Sept. 22**

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 - 9:30 pm

Quartermaster Store Open  
Veterans Seminar  
Silent Auction Items Accepted  
Registration Open  
Bunker Open  
Silent Auction Sell Off  
Silent Auction Pay/Pick Up

Pantlind Ballroom  
Gerald R Ford Room  
Registration Desk 2  
Registration Desk 2  
Ambassador Ballroom  
Vandenburg  
Vandenburg

**Saturday, Sept. 24**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
9:00 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)

Gerald R Ford Room  
Vandenburg  
Gerald R Ford Room  
Pantlind Ballroom  
Registration Desk 2  
Convention Center  
  
Convention Center  
Convention Center

**Sunday, Sept. 25**

10:00 am - 11:00 am  
All Day

Worship Service  
Farewell and Safe Travels

Vandenburg  
No space Required



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



REGISTRATION FORM



38th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion  
Grand Rapids, Michigan Sept. 18-24, 2023



Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

187 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids Michigan 49503

Reservations- 1-800-253-3590 on line link <https://book.passkey.com/e/503923>

Scooter rental-Amigo Mobility 616-361-7559 / Clock Mobility 616-698-9400

Registration fee is \$100 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 Friday, September 1, 2023. 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 Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

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)**

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

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

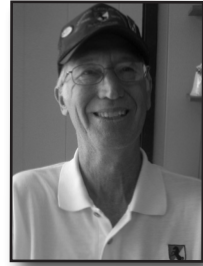
**Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail registration form along with payment to:**

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



# SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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



The proceeds from this year's raffle will go towards providing scholarships for the children and grandchildren of life members, deceased life members, and our KIAs. If you have a grandchild or child who is planning on attending a university, community college or trade school, please encourage them to apply for an 11th ACVVC scholarship. Please advise them to look at the scholarship guide and application on our website ([www.11thcav-nam.com/scholar.htm](http://www.11thcav-nam.com/scholar.htm)) or contact me for more information or if they have questions.

You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in the 2023 raffle. The drawing will be held Saturday, September 23rd during the 38th annual reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. You need not be present to win. Only one prize per person (if your name is drawn twice, you will receive the higher prize). The

suggested ticket price is \$1.00 per ticket and is not tax deductible. The prize pool consists of:

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

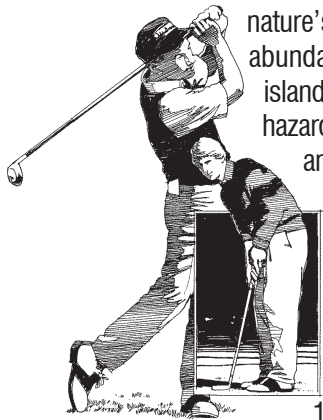
Raffle tickets will be mailed to all 11th ACVVC members in May. Please consider purchasing tickets to help fund this important program. If you do not wish to participate in the raffle you are still welcome to send a donation to the 11th ACVVC scholarship program. Any checks received that are not accompanied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

## THE 31ST ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

**Thursday, September 21, 2023, Saskatoon Golf Club; 9038 92nd Street SE, Alto, MI 49302**

In 2023 we will again visit Grand Rapids, Michigan and for those who were not here in 2018, I can assure you we had a great reunion and a wonderful golf outing!

We will play The Saskatoon Golf Club in Alto, MI, featuring 45 holes offering the perfect combination of natural beauty and challenging play. The unique landscape blends well-groomed fairways and bent grass greens with nature's peaceful splendor and abundant wildlife. There is an island green and plenty of water hazards for an exciting round for any level of golfer. The club has a driving range, practice facilities, restaurant & bar.



Fee includes balls, tees, range balls, greens fees, cart, LD & CTP contests, 10% discount off Pro Shop merchandise, continental breakfast, luncheon and prizes.

Complete the form below and mail it to the address shown with a check for \$100 per golfer (payable to Peter L. Walter). Form and fee must be received by Sep 8, 2023 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 your registration in the mail. All entries must be prepaid. Tee times will be at 8:30 AM with a 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!!! "FORE!"

### 31ST ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

(Please include 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 Checks To: **Pete Walter, 8 Tallowood Dr., Westhampton, NJ 08060**





**11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia  
Scholarship Application (effective September 15th, 2022)**



Please review Scholarship Guide at [www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html](http://www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html)  
**Application Deadline May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**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 extra-curricular 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)

**Benjamin Harvey Bailey**, I Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 4, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oklahoma City, OK. He was laid to rest in Memorial Park Cemetery, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Ernest Lewis Bigelow**, Air Cavalry Troop (1967-1969) passed away on July 16, 2021. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gordon, NE.

**Herman Henry Blair**, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 12, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pennington Gap, VA. He was laid to rest in Lee Memorial Park, Woodway, VA.

**Michael R. Bourdeau**, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 22, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Glens Falls, NY. He was laid to rest in Glens Falls Cemetery, Glens Falls, NY.

**Michael Joseph Cabot**, E Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 28, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Manistee, MI. He was laid to rest in Mount Carmel Cemetery, Manistee, MI.

**Theodore Aston Clarke**, HHT, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on January 19, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Port Charlotte, FL. He was laid to rest in Sarasota National Cemetery, Sarasota, FL.

**Larry Earl Cole**, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 22, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rockmart, GA. He was laid to rest in New Prospect Baptist Church Cemetery, Rockmart, GA.

**James McArthur Coleman**, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 22, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ruskin, FL.

**Donald L. Corriere**, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 21, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Elma, NY.

**Orvil Delon Fouts**, K Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 4, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chickamauga, GA. He was laid to rest in Chattanooga National Cemetery, Chattanooga, TN.

**Allan John Grotheer**, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 9, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cromwell, CT.

**Raymond Arthur Hender**, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on March 15, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Derby, NY. He was laid to rest in Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, NY.

**Rodney Lane Hinrichsen**, E Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on May 1, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cambria, CA.

**Howard Diehl Honaker**, H Company, 2/11 (1967-1967) passed away on March 1, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mount Gilead, OH.

**George Robert Hyatt**, USAF FAC 11th ACR (1967-1968) passed away on March 21, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Seguin, TX. He was laid to rest in Guadalupe Valley Memorial Park, New Braunfels, TX.

**David J. Luppi**, L Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on January 22, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chicopee, MA. He was laid to rest in Massachusetts Veteran Memorial Cemetery, Agawam, MA.

**Richard Lee Marcinik**, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on March 25, 2022. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bel Air, MD. He was laid to rest in Bel Air Memorial Gardens, Bel Air, MD.

**Donald Wendell Mccord**, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 3, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oxford, MS. He was laid to rest in North Oxford Cemetery, Oxford, MS.

**Robert Cilla Merriman**, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967) passed away on December 31, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Parrish, FL.

**Willie Henry Norman**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 17, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Deridder, LA. He was laid to rest in Community Cemetery, Deridder, LA. Willie is a veteran of the Korean War.

**William R. Reinhart**, Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1971) passed away on November 15, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brodheadsville, PA.

**Charles Wallace Rhineheart**, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on July 3, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Emerson, AR.

**Lawrence G. Shattuck**, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 14, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Westfield, PA.

**Jacob Morris Watrous**, F Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on February 8, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Santa Rosa, TX.

**Glenn John Zimmermann**, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on November 13, 2021. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Canon City, CO. He was laid to rest in Saint Pauls Cemetery, Silver Creek, WI.

# Message from COL Timothy J. Ferguson,

70th Colonel of the Blackhorse

**A**LLONS!! Greetings to you all from the Mojave Desert and the Troopers of the Best Damn Regiment and the Finest in the Land! Since the turn of the calendar year, we have started strong from a training and rotational standpoint at making our formation more lethal, more capable, and more ready. The pace has picked up and will not stop until our Summer Block Leave period.

January saw the Regiment execute a tank gunnery and Infantry team and squad live fires. Additionally, we hosted a Dining-In, which was a great success. The Regiment took the time to recognize the leaders of our past, with our honored guests, the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Major General (Ret.) Terry L. Tucker (56), and the Honorary Regimental Command Sergeant, Sergeant Major of the Army (Ret.) Kenneth O. Preston. The Command Team also visited the Arlington National Cemetery to mark the 122nd Anniversary of the Blackhorse with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. Following the theme of tradition, the leadership had a dinner with Blackhorse Veterans and the following day the Command Teams visited Fort Meyer, Virginia and the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard).

We then started back into our combat rotations. Rotation 23-04 was a "battle in the box" where the Regiment divided into two forces and fought one another. Over top of the rotation was 3rd Infantry Division, which served as a U.S. Division arriving in Atropia, which was under attack by Donovanian forces. For six days the two Brigade Tactical Groups (BTG) tangled and gave no quarter to each other. The Regiment then executed a compressed recovery and combat power regeneration to confront 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division in Rotation 23-05... the first brigade to complete the Army's new modernization program. The Blackhorse Troopers gave them all they could handle. Following, the conclusion of that fight, much of the Regiment recharged during opportunity leave week and then began building combat power for Rotation 23-06, against 3rd Armored Brigade

**...the Regiment will host a Spouses Spur Ride on May 13, 2023, and then a Regimental Ball in Las Vegas on May 20, 2023.**

**It is open to Blackhorse Veterans as well, so if you are able, we hope to see you there ...**



Combat Team, 1st Armored Division out of Fort Bliss, TX, which is ongoing as I write this update. Following 23-06, the Blackhorse will fight the 75th Ranger Regiment in a unique scenario that will test both proud formations to their limit.

The Blackhorse Regiment continues its role of challenging and honing the technological mastery and the operational proficiency of the units coming to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin. Examples include our increasing use of drone swarms, updated threat vehicles, and even the integration of robotic vehicle platforms to give the rotational unit the hardest fight they will ever have.

The Blackhorse Regiment continues to uphold its reputation as a lethal and professional Opposing Force (OPFOR). We are also preparing for several events to continue building unit cohesion and celebrate this fantastic organization. First, the Regiment will host a Spouses Spur Ride on May 13, 2023, and then a Regimental Ball in Las Vegas on May 20, 2023. It is open to Blackhorse Veterans as well, so if you are able, we hope to see you there and toast one another and celebrate 122 years of honorable service to our nation.

Allons!

Sincerely,

COL Timothy J. Ferguson, 70th RCO

## ASSISTANCE from page 16

accounted for by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall include the Assistance Fund as a separate reporting item on the quarterly financial report. The Treasurer shall disperse funds from this account as directed by the Officers and Directors of the 11th ACVVC.

**Rules of Acceptance:** To be accepted for consideration for assistance, the Trooper or the KIA's immediate family members (defined as Parents, siblings, children, widows and grandchildren) requesting financial assistance to attend a Reunion of the 11th ACVVC, must:

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

2. Provide evidence of the Trooper's service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry "Blackhorse" Regiment.

The applicant Trooper or KIA survivor should describe his/her need for monetary assistance, briefly stating his/her financial situation (i.e., job, income, family, or other relevant facts). In addition, the Trooper may be required to show proof that he is a member, or that he is qualified to become a member, of the 11th ACVVC.

Recipients will only be allowed this assistance one time. Exceptions to the one time only use of the Reunion Assistance Fund will be addressed on a case-by-case

basis by the President and the Treasurer.

Exceptions to the "one time only" rule will rarely be granted and will never be allowed in consecutive years.

The President of 11th ACVVC will decide whom and how much assistance will be given to a Trooper or Survivor of a KIA. The President and Treasurer shall not divulge the names of those assisted Troopers to anyone other than another current Officers and/or Directors.

The Secretary and President will maintain a listing of those who have been assisted and will pass on to their successors.





## Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Blandin Karabinos, HHT 2/11 AGR 71-72

### Legends

“When the truth becomes legend, print the legend” said Ransome Stoddard, the newspaper editor in the 1962 movie *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. The movie featured three Hollywood stars: a bad guy, but a war hero, Lee Marvin, twice wounded serving with the 4th Marines on Saipan in the Pacific theater (Purple Heart, Navy Commendation Medal with “V” device and even a 1st cousin, 4 times removed of Robert E. Lee); the small town newspaper editor played by the all-around nice guy, Jimmy Stewart, another WW II veteran (Army-Airforce pilot and later General); and of course, the strong, brash actor, famous for playing roles of legendary World War II heroes, John Wayne. A great movie for those of us who were, and still are John Ford western movie fans. **Legends!**

Likewise, in the many stories of the Arthurian legends, we read that when the knights took their seats at the Round Table, Galahad sat in a special seat known as the Siege Perilous. It was written that only the knight destined to find the Holy Grail could occupy this seat safely. All others who had sat in it perished.

### Legends!

And legends grow on, and each of us are often guilty of creating or embellishing them in the Bunker at our reunions, they grow larger than life. I don't know who started using the title: **The Legendary Blackhorse Regiment**, but it sure was a jump start for our national prominence.

And it had to happen. Legends begin and are based on true events, facts, words, sentences, deep feelings of loyalty, patriotism and love. And in time they are embellished, blossomed and shouted louder.

Beginning in 2016, 11th Cav veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, have made their way to the polished marble slabs surrounding the Tomb of the Unknown to join with other Blackhorse troopers and veterans to honor our fallen brothers - and all veterans at Arlington National Cemetery. On February 2, each of the last 8 years, the 11th ACVVC has been well represented. Beginning in 2016 when Allen Hathaway (HHT Reg) then president of the 11th ACVVC and Glen Snodgrass (A Troop), also, then president of the Blackhorse Association, carried the Wreath to its place of honor, we have been there. Both Allen and Glen and other Blackhorse veterans and troopers have stood on the cold hard steps annually - even in some of the most frigid weather conditions. We have stood there proudly admiring the Tomb Guards who keep watch, no matter the conditions around the clock, year-round.

Also, standing with us, are active-duty Regiment delegates

Beginning in 2016, 11th Cav veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, have made their way to the polished marble slabs surrounding the Tomb of the Unknown to join with other Blackhorse troopers and veterans to honor our fallen brothers - and all veterans at Arlington National Cemetery.



RCO COL Furgeson and SMA Preston

from Fort Irwin, coming all the way from California to participate in the Wreath Laying Ceremony. Once again, as in past years, a number of our 11th ACVVC veterans trekked up the hill to pay homage and witness the impressive changing of the guard prior to the placing of the Blackhorse Wreath. They came not only from Northern Virginia, but from far away and this year notably from Florida and Missouri. Fred Sheetz (919th Engineers), with his wife, Faye, and their daughter, Karen, and from half way across the country in rain, snow, sleet and hail, a 1300-mile round trip by motorcycle, came Dale Leesman (HOW 3) to join troopers who had served in Vietnam, Germany and in the Gulf wars. The stuff of legends!

Retired Sergeant Major of the Army, Ken Preston; the longest serving SMA (2004-2011) was also there, as he has been a number of times before. When asked why he shovels his way out of the snow-covered Eastern Continental Divide surrounding Mount Savage, Maryland, he said: “Spending time with the Regiment is my opportunity to give back to the Regiment and the Army institution for all it has given me and my family.” SMA Ken Preston served with the 11th ACR, in

1991.

SMA Kenneth O. Preston was the 1st Sergeant for A Troop when they deployed to Kuwait/Iraq in February of 1991. Our Regiment became the security force for the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq and stayed in Kuwait for 6 months to re-establish the border, provided security for firefighters to extinguish hundreds of oil well fires, establish the Udari Range and reopen the American Embassy in Kuwait City. He proudly wears his Blackhorse combat patch on his right sleeve and speaking volumes about his concern and respect for Blackhorse troopers, he stated: Captain Chris Franchek and I took 136 troopers to the desert and brought them all home safe in October 1991.”

I was so honored to sit opposite three exceptional Sergeant Majors at the luncheon (Retired SMA Preston, RSM Kevin Burg, 1st Squadron CSM Frederick Batiste) following the placing of our Blackhorse wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown on February 2, 2023, the 122nd birthday of the Regiment. And, as for Legends - any one of them could have occupied that Siege Perilous.

**We, the veterans of the 11th ACVVC gather three times a year in the Washington, DC area. No formal invitations, no formal program, no TV coverage or political speeches, we just come to honor our brothers, the living as well as the dead.**

Both RCSM Burg and CSM Batiste, along with Deputy Regimental Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Ken Furtick, have made the trip two years in a row, and they also joined us at our reunion in Birmingham in September 2022. And each time, they have been - **one with us** - old veterans of the jungle.

The delegation from Fort Irwin come in their parade dress uniforms with glowing medals and bright colored ribbons, and of course, their Stetson hats. This year, the Command Team was headed by Regimental Commander Tim Ferguson, and also included 1st Squadron Commander Rich Ferrell, 2nd Squadron Commander Darrell Fawley and CSM Oracio Pena; Support Squadron Commander Robyn Boehringer and CSM Fitzroy Ramsey. The other Blackhorse veterans who gather there all wear some proud sign of our Regiment and often get to stand next to a general, or a Sergeant Major of the Army, Silver Star recipients, a number of retired colonels, but all Blackhorse troopers, some of whom we shared a towel with, or ate a stew from the same ammo can heated over a burning piece of C-4, stand proudly as we stare across the top of the Tomb and view our Nation’s Capitol.

It is a truly honorable day, a visit that likely includes a stop or two at the grave(s) of friends resting under the manicured sod of that National Cemetery.

We, the veterans of the 11th ACVVC gather three times a year in the Washington, DC area. No formal invitations, no formal program, no TV coverage or political speeches, we just



RCSM Kevin Berg

come to honor our brothers, the living as well as the dead. Friendships are renewed or made at those times, hands are shaken, backs are back-slapped and no one is offended by our hugs. We even pray together, maybe shed a tear or two, laugh a lot and feel sad as we say good-bye.

On Memorial Day we honor our fallen and are warmed by the joint power of our sincerity. On Veterans Day we all feel honored: knowing that we did our part, we offered selfless service with honor and integrity and courage, and so too did all the group around us. But on the birthday of the Regiment on the 2nd of February, it is much more formal. We have to overdress, not for show but for comfort and as a shield from the cold. At the Tomb of the Unknowns we have to keep silent and hold down our enthusiasm, but not so as we gather above The Wall and at the statue of the Three Grunts. We really are excited to see some of those we may have served with, either in Nam or at a reunion, as we walk now slowly, yet proudly and stand tall, stiffened by the reverence we feel for those who have worn the uniform and in too many cases died in olive drab or passed away since our last gathering or since we all came home.

**Let it be known, that a tear was shed, a hug was in vogue, a slap on the back echoed above the trees, an escorted delegation descended the stairs and a wreath was placed with solemnity and an honorable tradition continues until the last one of us stops breathing. Allons. [Blackhorse Riders]**

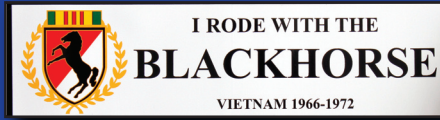
Hope to see you at The Wall on Memorial Day ... Chaplain Bill.



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



#2 Key Ring \$6.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



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



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$22.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



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



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00

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



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



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





#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



#35 See through Window Decal Sabers and Patch, 12" x 13" \$15.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#44 See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch, 5" x 4.5" \$10.00



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



#27 Golden Boot Spurs \$30.00



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



#38a



#38b



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



#31 Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs \$7.00



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



# From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

## Hello Fellow Troopers and Trooper Wives...

We hope you have started planning to attend the 38th Reunion in Grand Rapids, MI. Jan and I are looking forward to seeing everyone there, September 20th – 24th. So, make your reservations now, and do not wait until the last minute and then decide not to come because you waited too long to make reservations.

Just think 38 years and counting... Well, we hope to still be counting come next year. Guys and gals, we are getting older, and not too many more reunions are in our foreseeable future. So, let's not waste time until the next one. Let's do this one as it comes along.

By the time this *Thunder Run* is out we may be in Gladewater, TX at the Antique Capital RV Park, and NO you don't have to have a camper or an RV to come. Our fellow campers have qualified for the Dining Hall so we can have a place to share our lunch around noon. So, if you live in or around East Texas come on by and share lunch with us. (May

17th – 21st, 500 S Loop 485, Gladewater, TX 75647. It is open to for all to come and have Lunch with us. Just let us know you are coming at phone number 903-780-5621.) If you have any questions call 903-780-5621 and talk to our event coordinator. Jan will be happy to talk to you.

Also, back to *Thunder Run*. Yes, we have been deleting items from our store due to lack of sales on certain items. It is our sincere hope to add a few new items and update some others that we have in stock.

With the passing of COVID we should be getting back to normal with the Quartermaster Store. It is My sincere hope that our sales do not fall off so much but keep holding up to keep us afloat so we will be able to stay open to serve you guys as long as we can. Hopefully you have worn out your caps and T-shirts and need to reorder some. And with that I'll close for now and say, "See you soon in Grand Rapids!"

ALLONS Jerry

### 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.**



# Quartermaster

**ORDER FORM • 2nd Qtr 2023**

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

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
2.	Key ring, Plastic .....	6.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia .....	3.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon .....	3.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Hoodie Sweat Shirt .....	30.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
9.	CIB car magnet, 3"x4" .....	6.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle.....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia .....	60.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11 .....	9.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white .....	13.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib .....	22.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath.....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
21.	Small Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (5"x 4 3/4") .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin .....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Large Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (8" x 7 3/4").....	7.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Golden Boot Spurs .....	30.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs .....	7.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Book, "Blackhorse Tales" .....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
35.	See-through Window Decal Sabers and Patch, 12" x 13" .....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a, <input type="checkbox"/> 38b, <input type="checkbox"/> 38c .....	17.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Light Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Green ....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Dark Denim shirt (men's) .....	35.00	_____	_____	_____
44.	See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 5" x 4.5".....	10.00	_____	_____	_____
45.	See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 12" x 13" .....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
<b>Subtotal</b>					_____
<b>Shipping and Handling</b>					_____
<b>Total</b>					_____

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 **11th ACVVC. ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.** Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com**

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





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