



Thunder Run

Vol. 29 – NO. 3

“Together Then – Together Again”

3rd Quarter, 2014

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

11th Cavalry Memorial Project

By Allen Hathaway,
President, 11th ACVVC

The project to relocate the 11th Cavalry Memorial from Fort Knox to Fort Benning took a large step forward during these past few months.

In March we received the initial drawings for the new memorial design. The new memorial will feature all the components of the original memorial including the Vietnam Memorial, the three memorials which are dedicated to the Philippine, World War II and Iraqi Freedom campaigns, plus the nearly 1,000 granite bricks which surround the memorial.

The cost of the move will be shared between the 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia and the Blackhorse Association. .

The move also provided an opportunity to add several new features. These new additions include a bronze plaque placed in front of the Vietnam monument with a narrative of the history and special significance of this particular monument. Two additional, freestanding granite stones will be added to the memorial site. One stone will contain a brief history of the 11th Cavalry since 1901 and will feature a large

Please turn to **PROJECT** on page 7



Proposed design for 11th Cavalry Memorial at Fort Benning

Former C Troop Commander to Speak at Reunion

We are honored to have Major General George L. (Larry) Gunderman (USA Ret.) address the banquet at the 29th Annual reunion of the 11th ACVVC.

General Gunderman graduated from West Point in June 1962. After attending Armor and Airborne schools, he spent three years in the 3rd Armored Division as Platoon Leader, Aide de Camp, and Cavalry Troop Commander.



Gen. George Gunderman, USA (Ret)

Returning from Germany, he attended the Infantry Officers’ Advance Course at Fort Benning, Georgia. On graduation, he was then assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

He joined the First Squadron at Fort Meade as S-3 Air. After pre-deployment

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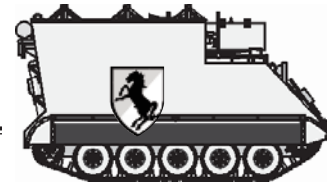




Allen Hathaway
President

From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



There are only a few more weeks before the 29th annual reunion in Las Vegas. By all accounts it looks as though this will be another great turnout. As of the first week in June the 500 rooms set aside at the Rio for the reunion had been taken. Nearly 1,000 have registered for the reunion. There are only a few more days to register before the deadline of August 16. It looks as though this will be another great reunion!

We are pleased to announce that George L. (Larry) Gunderman (MG USA Ret) will be our guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet and program. As a captain he was assigned to HHT, 1/11 in early 1966 at Fort Meade, MD. This was the time when the regiment was training and preparing to deploy to Vietnam. When the regiment arrived in Vietnam he served in the S-3 Air in HHT, 1/11. From February to July 1967 he served as troop commander of C Troop, 1st Squadron. During that time the regiment was involved in several large scale operations including Junction City I and II and Cedar Falls. His service in the US Army included two tours in Vietnam as well as Germany.

One of the highlights of the reunion will be the trip to visit the regiment at its home at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. We're looking forward to visiting our regiment and the Blackhorse troopers there. The regiment has a schedule of demonstrations and displays that we know you won't want to miss. Veterans, family members and friends are encouraged to attend the reunion AND to join us on the trip to Fort Irwin.

If you plan to take the trip to Fort Irwin, please keep these things in mind:

- Buses will begin loading at 6:30 am. The last bus will depart at 7:00 am.
- Please get your morning coffee, juice or breakfast early so there is no delay in loading buses.

One of the highlights of the reunion will be the trip to visit the regiment at its home at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. We're looking forward to visiting our regiment and the Blackhorse troopers there. The regiment has a schedule of demonstrations and displays that we know you won't want to miss.

- Lines form early at the various coffee outlets or restaurants and may be long. Plan ahead. Give yourself plenty of time.
- All those who wish to go to Fort Irwin must take the bus. We will be stopping at two or three different locations on Fort Irwin. Parking is limited at these locations and reserved for the buses.
- Deadline to sign-up for the trip is August 27.

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

Raffle tickets were mailed to all members in June. Proceeds from the 2014 raffle will help raise funds to relocate the 11th Cavalry Memorial from Fort Knox to Fort Benning. The Memorial is an everlasting tribute to all who served with the 11th Cavalry and especially to those Blackhorse troopers have made the ultimate sacrifice in each of the campaigns since 1901. The raffle is one way for each of us to contribute to this very important project. We're offering prizes of \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200 and 11 \$100 prizes for a total of \$2,500 in prizes. Drawing will be held on September 4, 2014, during the reunion.

Please help us keep our records up-to-date by contacting us if you move, change telephone number or e-mail address. If you are moving, take the time to fill out a change of address form at your local post office or complete the form online at the USPS website. We

receive and average of 150 change of address notifications every three months. Unfortunately, some of our members move and don't notify us or the post office. This results in the *Thunder Run* magazine being returned by the post office marked "Undeliverable — No Forwarding Address". We don't want to lose any of our members!

The same holds true with telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. Many times we try to contact members only to find their phone number has been disconnected or their e-mail address is no longer valid. We don't want to lose track of any of our members so please use the handy change of address form printed in every issue of *Thunder Run* to notify us of any change.

On Jul 1, the regiment held a Change of Command ceremony. Taking the reigns as the 66th Colonel of the Blackhorse Regiment is COL Kevin Jacobi. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome COL Jacobi to the Blackhorse. We would also like to welcome CSM Carl Ashmead who became the 21st Regimental Command Sergeant in March. We would like to take this opportunity to wish COL Lanier Ward, 65th Colonel of the 11th ACR best wishes on his new assignment with the 1st Armor Division at Fort Bliss, TX.

Finally, always remember the men and women serving in uniform. Many have been deployed multiple times. Whenever you see someone in uniform take a minute to thank them for their service to this great country of ours.

ALLONS! We'll see you in Las Vegas. It's good to be "Together Again."



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

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

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

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Joanne Patton Honored



Joanne Patton is admitted as a Distinguished Knight in the Order Of Saint George.

Joanne Holbrook Patton was recognized for her long and honorable service to Armor and Cavalry and became the first lady recipient.

She was admitted as a Distinguished Knight in the Order of St George Medallion at a ceremony at the Blackhorse Association Reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado on June 14, 2014 in the presence of over 300 members.

The Order of Saint George

Saint George was born about 280 AD in the region of Greece known as Cappadocia, where he was known as the "Nestor of Cappadocia" and was a member of the Roman Emperor's mounted guard. In 303 AD, the Emperor issued a decree to destroy all Christian churches and sacred writings while outlawing the Christian faith. The Nestor, a recent convert to the faith, tore down the written order and stood against the Emperor. For his act of bravery and defiance, he was imprisoned, tortured, and finally executed. After word of his sacrifice spread, early Christians changed the Nestor's name to Saint George, a saint that would symbolize bravery, dedication to faith and decency.

Later in the 12th Century, more than 1000 years after his execution, the citizens of a small Italian village claimed to have seen him appear suddenly out of the mist to slay a fierce dragon that had been tormenting them. This heroic image of Saint George defeating the dragon symbolizes the gallantry and righteous bravery of mounted warriors and the ultimate victory of good over evil. Throughout history, warriors of many nations have related accounts of Saint George appearing on battlefields to help the righteous achieve victory. Saint George is unique among all of the saints in that he is the only one portrayed as fighting mounted. His name has been linked to famous battles, military orders, and cavalry forces around the world. In fact, to this day, the red cross of Saint George is the main element of the National Colors of Great Britain, the Union Jack. In 1986, the United States Cavalry & Armor Association established the Honorable Order of Saint George to recognize the very best tankers and cavalrymen among its members.

SPEAKER from Page 1

training at Camp Pickett, VA, he deployed with the unit to Vietnam. Gunderman served as S-3 Air until taking command of C Troop in February of 1967.

Following his Vietnam tour, General Gunderman attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he earned a Master's Degree in mathematics.



CPT Gunderman - circa 1967

Subsequently, he taught math at West Point. Then he served another tour with the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) in Saigon.

General Gunderman left active duty in 1973 and was commissioned in the Army Reserve. He spent several years in the 87th USA Maneuver Area Command, and the 87th Division Exercise which he commanded. In January 1995, he returned to active duty as the Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Reserve Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia. He retired in August of 1996.

He is a graduate of the Army War College. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Services Commendation Medal the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, and the Parachute Badge.

In the Dark of the Night

Robert V. Yeager, HHT, 3/11, 1969

We were at Bien Hoa and we heard explosions and we ran out to see what was going on. The NVA or VC was lobbing rockets in on the Bien Hoa airfield. The air force or whoever had the F-104 fighter jets, parked them under the big tile covers. The NVA / Viet Cong were trying to hit the fighters. It looked like fireworks in the pitch darkness.

All of a sudden there was an explosion to our left. A friend of mine and I started to run toward the sand bag bunker (Looked like a EGLE). The door was very little and he was ahead of me. I pushed on him and yelled "hurry get in there!"

We stayed in the bunker quite a while, and there were no more explosions so we came out and went back to our tent. The next day we found out that one of the guys who had just come in from the field had thrown a grenade in the ditch not too far from our location. Needless to say he was sent right away back out to the field.

As I look back on what happened, I realize that things are always a great deal more scary in the dark of the night.

Memorial Day 2014



Attendees at Wall on Memorial Day 2014 gathering

By: Allen Hathaway,
President, 11th ACVVC

We had an excellent turnout at the Wall on Memorial Day. Someone counted 56 Troopers, family members and friends. The weather was perfect. We have been gathering regularly at the wall with our wreath since November 1986. There were many Troopers who have attended for many of those 28 years. There were also a few

new faces who attended the first time. Thanks again to Don Snedeker for making our beautiful wreath. Don has been doing this for 15 years.

As we always do, we formed a semi-circle around the wreath. Everyone had the opportunity to introduce themselves, tell the unit and dates and tell of someone special they would like to remember on Memorial Day. Everyone had someone to remem-

ber. It was very moving to hear some of the tributes. Thanks also to Chaplain Karabinos for offering prayers to our fallen.

For the first time at the VVM on the National Mall, the names of each and every American service member who has made the ultimate sacrifice since the attacks on September 11, 2001, were read on Saturday, May 24th. (Photo by Pete Walter)

Photos Needed for Our Calendar

Bring Yours to Las Vegas!

By: Pete Walter,
Vice President, 11th ACVVC

Troopers, thanks to you our annual calendar is our most successful fund-raiser; you have donated over \$65,000 in both 2013 and 2014! Thank you for your continued generosity! The calendar cannot be a success without your input, but the input starts not with your donations, but rather with your submission of high quality photographs from your combat service in Vietnam and Cambodia.

For the purpose of reproduction the best photographs are those from medium-format (2 1/4" x 2 3/4", 2 1/4 x 2 1/4") 120 film. Most of us did not have the luxury of toting professional quality cameras into the field, but if you did these photos are the best. Many of us did use good quality 35mm (~1 3/8" x 15/16") cameras

and this format often produces good quality photographs. Many soldiers used "Instamatics" or other convenient 126 film format cameras; while fine for snapshots, this format rarely produce an image of sufficient quality to copy, enlarge and print in an 8 1/2" x 11" calendar.

If you have any quality photographs, slides or negatives taken with a 35mm camera or a medium-format camera I urge you to:

- 1) Submit copies to me via surface mail **or**,
- 2) Scan them electronically at a resolution of 300 dpi or higher and e-mail the scan as an attachment in jpeg format, **or**
- 3) Scan the photos and copy them to a CD and mail me the CD via surface mail, **or**
- 4) **Bring your photos to the Las Vegas reunion.**

We will have a scanner available at the reunion in order to scan your photos and return your originals to you in minutes. All good quality photos will be scanned; the best and most interesting will be used in future additions of our calendar. Please see me or Allen Hathaway when you get to the reunion.

Remember, the calendar is a product of your input – the photos contained therein are the memories of the country and people that you saw. Our annual calendar is a photographic history and a tribute to your service in Vietnam! Thank you for making it a success!

Please send your photos or CDs to:

Pete Walter, 8 Tallowood Drive,
Westampton, NJ 08060-3721

Editor's Corner

C.E. "Bill" Gregory



Bill Gregory, Editor
Thunder Run

As I write this, it is the 3rd of July and barely 2 months remain before the 29th Reunion begins in Las Vegas! This looks like it is going to be another great reunion, made special by being held in one of the nation's top playgrounds and made memorable by having the chance to visit with the Regiment at their home in California. This issue of *Thunder Run* has about all the information you need to get yourself signed up and all registered for a good time in Nevada and California. Some of the information and forms in this issue are really on a short fuse as the deadlines are very close to when you should get this issue. Be sure to quickly check the registration for the reunion, the golf tournament, the bus to Ft. Irwin and the auction forms. If you are not already set to go, do not delay, it is almost too late!

I hope you find this issue of your

newsletter entertaining and informative. We have our usual columnists like Chaplain Haworth, Kathy Tandberg, and Allen Hathaway, who have all done great jobs this quarter, along with Chaplain Karabinos, George Ruggles and Robert Yeager who each have written articles I am sure you will enjoy. This is Colonel Ward's last column for us as he moves on to his next army assignment, he has been a supporter of the 11th ACVVC, and we will miss him. For those of you going to Las Vegas, you will have the chance to meet the 66th Colonel of the regiment; COL Kevin Jacobi, who assumed command on 1 July 2014. We look forward to working with COL Jacobi as we continue to support the Blackhorse!

Memorial Day has just passed and Independence Day is about to. I hope we can all take the time to pause amid all the

festivities of this hectic summer and remember why we are here. Remember those friends and comrades who never left Vietnam, the ones from all the battles and wars since before 1776 and after. Remember not only the soldiers but remember all our fore bearers, soldier or not. Men and women who through sacrifice and toil - on and off the battlefields - left for us a great nation that offers a level of personal freedom not seen in any organized society before it. Remember them with respect; then pass that heritage on to the next generation with pride.

I have to sign off now, until we meet again, keep safe, enjoy life and may God bless each of you.

Silent Auction Items Needed

Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during the 29th Annual Reunion in Las Vegas. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item or service of value is welcome, Cav related or not. You can bring items with you to the reunion, or you can ship them to ART EHRENBURG who has volunteered 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.

All proceeds from the silent auction will be used to benefit the Scholarship Fund. We look forward to another successful silent auction. Thanks in advance for all that you do to keep this the best military reunion organization ever!

11th ACVVC Silent Auction

Donated Items Information Form

Please provide the following information with your donated item. It is important for our records. If you wish to donate anonymously, please check the box below.

Description of item donated: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Address of Donor: _____

Value of Item Donated \$ _____ I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

Mail silent auction items to: 11th ACVVC
C/ O Arthur Ehrenberg
1620 Plata Pico Dr
Las Vegas NV 89128-7370



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman



Mike 'Doc' Rafferty

I received a total of 19 scholarship applications by the May 15th deadline this year. That is the same number of applications that were submitted last year. All of the applicants are children of our members. 13 applicants are female and 6 are male. The youngest applicant is 18 years of age and the oldest is in her 30's. Eleven of these students fall into the "traditional" college age bracket (18-24 years of age). The applications came from all across the country ranging from California to New Jersey. There were fourteen States represented in all. These students are majoring in a variety

of disciplines including: Medicine, Engineering, Nursing, Conservation, Accounting, Psychology, and Education.

In the past, one of the eligibility requirements of our scholarship program was the requirement that applicants be enrolled in an undergraduate college program. However, the Board of Directors voted last year to expand the eligibility requirements to include graduate studies (Master's, Doctorate, Medical, Law degrees, etc.) starting in 2014. Two of this year's scholarship winners are graduate students.

The 11th ACVVC Board of Directors was pleased to be able to award scholarships to all of these deserving applicants this year. Their names and photos will appear in upcoming issues of *Thunder Run*.

Allons,

PROJECT from Page 1

Blackhorse insignia. The second granite stone will list the 24 campaigns credits of the 11th Cavalry since 1901 along with the regimental crest. Minor refinements are still being made to the overall design.

In mid July, the plan called for cleaning the entire memorial, cataloguing and marking the location of each brick then packing them on pallets ready for shipment. A professional contractor will remove the four monuments and prepare them for the move. The concrete pad surrounding the memorial will be removed and the entire area will be cleared and reseeded. All the components will be loaded on a flatbed and transported to Columbus, GA, where they will be stored until early 2015 when construction of the new site will begin.

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

Anyone can purchase a memorial brick. The bricks are a lasting tribute of YOUR SERVICE to our regiment. The bricks are a special way in which we ALL can participate and show our support for our fellow Blackhorse troopers whose names are listed on the memorials. The bricks measure 8 x 4 x 2 inches and can accommodate inscription of up to three lines of 15 characters per line. Many choose to have their name, unit and years of service with the regiment inscribed on their brick. The cost of the granite bricks is \$100. We currently have orders for approximately 160 new bricks which will be placed at the new memorial site at Fort Benning during the construction phase.

The opportunity to purchase a brick will end on December 31, 2014. The bricks add a very special and personal touch to the memorial. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this project. We urge you to support this worthwhile project by ordering a brick before the deadline.

Hall of Fame

Deege Honored

Leonard (Leo) Deege, a former Battery Commander (How, 3/11, 65-67) with the Blackhorse in Vietnam, and frequent contributor to *Thunder Run*, has been honored by being inducted into the Field Artillery OCS Hall of Fame for a lifetime of distinguished service to our Nation. He was inducted on May 2, 2014 at Fort Sill, OK.

Among the accomplishments listed at his induction were: He served a year in Korea as XO of an Honest John Battery, Commanded Howitzer Battery, 3rd Squadron, 11th Cavalry in Vietnam and received the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart and Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leave Cluster. He served as an Auditor and Audit Manager in the Naval Audit Service, the Inspector General Department of Defense and the Agency for International Development, where his audits were responsible for redirecting programs and ultimate cancellations of acquisitions resulting in billions of actual dollar savings directing to higher priority requirements. He helped to redirect the USAID financed Privatization Programs in Poland, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan and Russia.

About his service with the 11th ACR Leo says: "We were the original boat people who sailed with the 3rd Squadron on board of the *USNS Barrett*, last Battery to arrive in Vietnam and the first 11th Cavalry Battery to fire a round in Vietnam on September 28, 1966. The Officers, NCOs and Men of How Battery were the best ever and I was privileged to serve with them. Howitzer Battery received several valorous and meritorious unit awards."

Congratulations to Leo, he represents the Blackhorse and How Battery 3/11 well!

Notice of Election

*Adrian Vaaler,
Secretary 11th ACVVC*

This year there will be one Director's position available.

■ Candidates must be Life Members of the 11th ACVVC. Candidates will have an equal opportunity to state their qualifications at the General Membership Meeting.

■ The elected candidates must be able to attend the annual reunion and two Board meetings, each year of their elected term.

■ The elected candidate must be able to communicate by email with the other Board members and be able to help the Board make decisions on a variety of organizational matters.

■ The 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.

There has been one nomination submitted to the Secretary: Steve Page (incumbent).

If you are interested in running for this position, please send your name to the Secretary (11thsecretary@gmail.com). Nominations may also be made from the floor at the General Membership meeting.



11th ACVVC Reunion Trip to Fort Irwin The BusBank - Order Number: 100799 Friday, September 5, 2014 from 6:30 AM to 8:30 PM (PDT)



The BusBank is proud to be providing transportation for the 29th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion.

Pick up at Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino, 3700 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV

6:30 am - Buses begin loading

7:00 am - Depart Rio All-Suites Hotel for Fort Irwin

8:30 pm - Estimated arrival time back at Rio All-Suites Hotel

Please provide the following information with your ticket order (please print):

Name _____ Telephone : _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Number of tickets: _____ X \$38.00 per person = TOTAL \$ _____

Pay with credit card by phone by calling: 1-866-428-7226 ext. 6157

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From the 65th Colonel of the Regiment

COL John Ward



COL John "Lanier" Ward

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – I write this article with a bit of hesitancy as I know it is my last one to the “Thunder Run” as the serving commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. I will change command on 1 July at 0800 on Fritz Field before heading off to become the 1st Armored Division Chief of Staff. You are all invited to attend. This note being my final update to our Veterans, Troopers, Families, and Friends, I want to thank all of you for the lifelong impression you have made on me and for making this assignment the best of my career. I will take a little part of each of you with me and hope to find myself in the company of many of you at some point in the future even if just sitting out in a garage enjoying a “Fat Tire.”

The Regiment has been very active the past three months. With one of my priorities in keeping Family members engaged and included as a part of the Regiment, we’ve hosted a Kids’ Spur Ride, a Spouses’ Box Tour, a Box Tour for the 7th graders, and the Horse Detachment put on a spectacular show for Spring Stable days.

We’ve also been active participants in our surrounding communities. We sent a few tanks, a platoon of our finest troopers, and the Horse Detachment to represent big Army in the Torrance Armed Forces parade. I tell you, they were the absolute highlight of the event and brought great pride to the Regiment. The same day we sent a Bradley and crew to Victorville in support of our local recruiting efforts and to honor the students and teachers of Southern California who completed the school year with perfect attendance. Lastly, the Regiment was called upon again to represent big Army at the Victor Valley and Apple Valley Memorial Day services. LTC McFarland, the RSS Commander, and MAJ Shumate, the RXO, delivered heartfelt speeches and personal accounts to honor our Nation’s fallen.

Please reference our Facebook page for stories, highlights, videos, and photos of the aforementioned events. <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/11th-Armored-Cavalry-Regiment-Blackhorse/158715460811763>

As far as our primary mission, we started this quarter hosting one of our sister units, The 3rd Cavalry Regiment, for Rotation 14-05. Without reservation, that Rotation was one of the most emotional and professional engagements that we’ve had to conduct. Our brothers of the Lucky 16 were the last Security Force rotation scheduled at the NTC before deploying to Afghanistan. It was our duty to give them the fight of their lives so that they would be better prepared to bring home as many Troopers as they deploy with. There are no words that can describe the camaraderie that our units shared at our Fiddlers’ Green and renewal of our Lucky 16 pact amongst Cavalry Regiments.

The next rotation wasn’t as emotional but just as personal... in a bad way. 1st Brigade, 11ID thought that they could just waltz into our house with dirty boots on, stand on top of our display tank, and think that they owned the place. After the

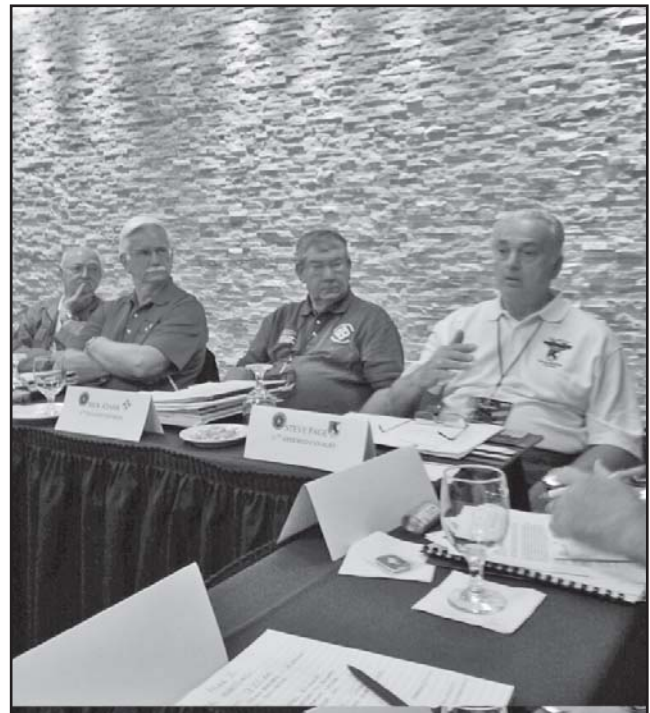
two week butt kicking we gave them, we were called liars, cheats, and everything else in the book which further let us know that the unit realized that “This is our House.”

For rotation 14-07 we hosted 2nd Brigade, 25 ID. They were indeed humble and we appreciated the opportunity to mutually train our formations. There isn’t much to say about this rotation other than both units truly learned more about themselves and came out much stronger because of the fights that took place.

My last fight here will be with one of my old boss’ current units. MG Ferrel, the previous NTC commander, is sending 2nd Brigade, 2ID down from Fort Lewis to get a taste of the pain. They are also coming with some of our current Allies and we certainly look forward to the challenge.

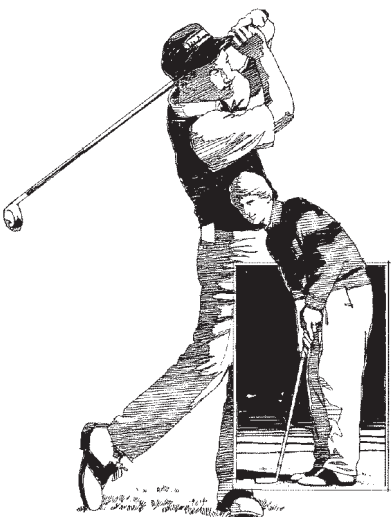
Again, it has been an honor to serve as the 65th Commander of the 11th ACR – Blackhorse and I want to send a warm welcome to the 66th Commander, COL Kevin Jacobi and his wife as they make their transition to the Blackhorse Family. I look forward seeing you all at the upcoming reunions or out in that garage. – Allons!!!

Officers at Work...



Well Represented: President Allen Hathaway and Director Steve Page represent the 11th ACVVC as guests of the Army Divisions Association at a meeting held in May 2014 in Knoxville, Tennessee. The 11th ACVVC is a member organization of the ADA.

THE 23RD ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Thursday, September 4, 2014
Wildhorse Golf Club

Wildhorse Golf Club
Ross McCullough, PGA Professional/GM
2100 W. Warm Springs Rd
Henderson, NV 89014
Phone 702-434-9000

Veteran Friendly Championship Golf Club

\$80 per golfer includes greens fees, carts, balls, tees, lunch and prizes! Fill in the form and mail it to the address below with a check for \$80 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by August 15, 2014 to guarantee your entry! You don't need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. This outing is open to men and women. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! FORE!

Call 651-246-8009 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by August 15, 2014. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of the best facilities in the Vegas valley. They have a dress code to include: 1) No denim (Blue jeans), 2) No tank tops or T-shirts. Shirts must have collars. 3) Soft spikes only facility. Tee times will be an 7:00 AM shotgun start—to beat the heat with lunch following golf. The golf course is a short 20 minute ride from our hotel. Top line rental clubs are available. Let Joe know if you need them.

22ND ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Name _____ Average Score _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

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

This storied golf course was established in 1959 and is the second oldest in the Vegas area and was once owned by Howard Hughes. Ross McCullough and the Wildhorse staff are proud to host our 11th cav veterans and guests attending our 29th reunion.

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



Name: _____

Old Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Effective Date: _____

Email: _____

2014 Newsletter Deadlines

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

1st Quarter Jan 15

2nd Quarter Mar 25

3rd Quarter Jun 25

4th Quarter Oct 1

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

THE HARDEST JOB IN THE ARMY

Preface: Some time ago, I wrote a piece for Thunder Run entitled "The Best Job in the Army." It had to do adjusting artillery fire from the air for the Regiment. There was another side to that coin; it was "The Hardest Job in the Army." I knew what that was, having done the work, not in the Cav but later upon return to the US, and believed it was a story that should be told. But I also knew it had to be written carefully, meant to inform, not to elicit sympathy for those of us tasked with the job. We did our best and walked away, but the folks whose doors we knocked upon, the parents, wives, kids, brothers and sisters, they had to live with the bad news we brought for the rest of their lives. G.R.

By: George Ruggles, How Battery,
3/11, 66-67

If you've seen the movie "We Were Soldiers", or read the book by LTG Harold Moore, you know that, in the early days of the war in Viet Nam, casualty notification to families was done via telegrams delivered by taxi drivers. This was true in WWII and the Korean War as well. At Ft. Benning, GA, the Army decided to move to a system of personal notification to next of kin in the late 60's, and as a member of the 2nd Battalion, 10th Artillery for 2 ½ years there, I was tasked with these duties several times.

The system has several parts: notification of KIA/MIA, survivor assistance KIA, and survivor assistance MIA, the latter two being very different things.

At Ft. Benning, a notification officer/KIA was assigned to deliver the news to next of kin in areas in and around the post near Columbus, GA. As I recall, there was no special training prior to this assignment. You were given a 3" X 5" card with "The Secretary of the Army regrets to inform you.....", words to that effect. Accompanied by a chaplain, it was your job to present this news in a formal but sympathetic manner. The chaplain was there to offer solace to the family, and to back up the line officer if he were unable to continue. General Moore writes about Army wives peering out their front window curtains as a staff

car with two officers drives slowly down the street, and her prayers that it's not her house they are looking for. That's the way it was, and we knew our little 3X5 card held life-changing words.

The only time I got this assignment, I went to a guy in the battalion that had done notification/KIA before and asked his advice. He said to try to think of how you would want your folks to get the news. This was not good advice for me; the picture of my family listening to the regrets of the Army Secretary made for too much emotion when I needed calm. Thankfully the chaplain saved the day; I was unable to finish that 3X5 card.

If notification officer seemed like the worst task in the system, survivor assistance officer/KIA was the one where you could at least feel like you'd done some good. The sad news was already presented, your task was to step in and help with arrangements: funeral, burial detail, bugler, flag presentation, as well as housing accommodations for families who lived on post and would have to vacate eventually. If you did your job well, you could ease the family's road to acceptance and closure. The one time I had this assignment the family lived some distance from Benning, had already received the soldier's remains, and had elected to have a civilian burial without military honors. The deceased had suffered a fatal head wound; he was a big, strapping guy,

way too young for this. My experience was in the relatively early days of the conflict; it must have been much harder as the country became more disillusioned with the war in Vietnam.

The most difficult of all the duties, as I recall: survivor assistance officer, MIA, changed to, as often happened, KIA. You have already visited the family and have started the ball rolling on issues like what happens to pay, allowances, and so on. You know the folks; they have become a part of your life and you a participant in theirs. They are accustomed to your knock on the door, they look forward to your news that some problem has been resolved; you are their source of reason in a chaotic time. When you got the assignment, the authorities neglected to tell you that if the MIA status were changed to KIA, you would be the notification officer. So now you must deliver the news that has been dreaded since the first day of that soldier's deployment: Killed in Action. I had to do this only once, and I do not recall having a chaplain along. For the family, it was an especially cruel ordeal; thankfully, a new assistance officer was then assigned, as I remember, so they did not have to see me again and again, a constant reminder of the terrible news.

At the end of the day, all one can hope for is that you did the best you could for the families. I have thought long and hard about how the Army's notification system could be improved. My ideas drift into the realm of politics, requiring the elected officials responsible for war decisions to play a part in casualty notification, but those thoughts are best saved for another venue. I agree that a line soldier, particularly one with combat experience in the war zone, is best equipped to assist the family. The presence of a chaplain is essential. The system is far better than the taxied-telegram.

There's not much point in arguing about which of the notification jobs is the toughest; taken together, I'm convinced they are "The Hardest Job in the Army."

The most difficult of all the duties, as I recall: survivor assistance officer, MIA, changed to, as often happened, KIA.

Now, I'm Finally Home!

By: Blandon Karabinos
HHT, 2/11, 1971-72

"Shortly after Tet, I headed home. Flying over Blackhorse (21 Feb 68) I felt a wave of homesickness for the people and place that had been my home for a year – a sadness also that so many young people would not be celebrating a homecoming. Broken hearts, broken bodies and broken spirits seemed to sum up that tour of duty."

Exactly a year earlier at age 22, only 8 months out of nursing school, 2nd LT Roberta "Bobbie" MacLean arrived in Vietnam and reported to the 24th Evac hospital in Long Binh. She was assigned to the 7th Surgical then at Ch Chi, but as it was on the move to Xuan Loc she was introduced to cleansing bloody soldiers at Long Binh. She wrote home

"The experiences there helped to prepare me skill wise for the casualties I would soon encounter at the 7th but of course nothing prepares you for the emotional toll it would take."

Each Memorial Day and Veterans Day, at least for the last 10 years, maybe longer, Bobbie MacLean Fry with husband Gary, gather with the Blackhorse troopers at The Vietnam Memorial, our Wall, and exchange greetings, hugs and tears with 11th Cav troopers. Those gatherings have continued since 1986 and are so important that many 11th Cav veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia drive from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, and the Carolinas. They drive three or four hours just to spend an hour with their particular band of brothers and to help lay a wreath at the Wall to honor our dead ...and, Bobbie Fry's story is as amazing as that adventure.

The 7th Surgical hospital found its way to Long Giao and the Blackhorse base camp on 23 April 1967 and Bobbie wrote her parents that

"We feel safe, surrounded by tanks and no Vietnamese are allowed to work at this base camp unlike the 24th Evac. Kind of love this old mud hole and especially the people I work with."

Nurse Bobbie Fry worked in the post-op recovery ward and so was there when our lads woke from the anesthetic. I don't know about you, but I remember when I first come out of an operation and woke up, I saw an angel who I called "cutie pie." I'm kind of betting that Blackhorse troopers waking up in the 24th Evac felt the same way when they looked up to see our Army nurses looking over them.

In June of 1967, Bobbie wrote home to her parents that she was *"looking at my sleeping men so cute and peaceful. In a few more hours they'll be awake to raise hell again. They are worse*



Surgeon and nurses in Op room. (l-r): Major Rafferty CO & Surgeon; CPT. (Nurse) Mariam Lanier, and Lt. Bobbie" MacLean.

than kids and have now discovered how easily I blush." She may have been called "cutie-pie" also, or "Ma'm" by some of our southern gentlemen.

As an idealistic young and talented American girl, Bobbie went to war, volunteering soon out of nursing school. She had grown up in a real American family that believed in duty, honor and country; believed that we not bury the talents God gave us. In nursing school she was taught more than binding up wounds, but to restore her patient's spirit, hold their hand, wipe their brow, tuck them in like a mother and smile at them like a sweetheart. Where better could she serve her God, Country and fellow human but in the military, most especially in a time of war?

She was in Vietnam during some of the worst times: the Tet offensive, Operations Atlanta, Valdosta, Fargo, the K Troop Ambush at Soui Cat in May, L Troop's battle on HWY 20 in July and G Troop's encounter with an NVA Battalion in September. In the 12 month period that Nurse Fry worked at the Evac hospitals in Vietnam, the 11th Cav alone had 178 KIA and probably six times as many wounded. Bobbie was there to bind up their wounds, and ... to weep over our dead.

It is hard for any of us to think about the brutal times; it is just something we don't talk about ... or write for that matter. Later on, historians, strangers, those not attached can write those things we don't want to talk about. Yes, we remember, but bury those images deep in our hearts. They hurt too much ... embarrass us, the strong. Our dark wounds have been seared: bound up, put away. So we laugh, poke fun at one another and carouse.

We are bonded together by events and fraternity as Blackhorse troopers. Bobbie Fry didn't wear a Blackhorse patch in Vietnam, but she is one of us. She is a lifetime member of the 11th ACVVC.

We can all remember our bonding moment. It wasn't when we sewed on the patch, or got off the ship or chopper. It wasn't when the CO greeted us or we packed off to the field. It was a time, when the veterans, those already stained with dirt and diesel looked at us with eyes that said you are my brother. Maybe it was a handshake, or our christening with a new moniker, or a pat on our steel pot. It could have even been a kick in our derriere. But we were in.

Bobbie's bonding moment was when she was presented a bike. Already appreciated and loved by the wounded and sick who passed through her recovery room, they noticed her looking at a Sears catalog and voicing how she would love to have a bike. A few days later a freshly painted OD Green bicycle was presented to her. Helicopter rides followed, including a near fatal spin, when it was time to "auto-rotate" to bring the chopper in. After that, she said that near the end of her tour, nurses could no longer hop on med evac choppers.

Her vivid recall of the 21 May ambush of K troop at Soui Cat: *"How will I ever forget the last chopper carrying our dear men back to our base camp in body bags? I'm saddened for their buddies who saw them taken off the chopper and lined up side by side in front of the hospital waiting for graves registration to take them away."*

Then to top off that bitter and sorrowful day, there were two red alerts that evening, when they covered those who couldn't be moved with mattresses, moved some on the floor under their beds while the ambulatory were helped to the bunker behind the hospital.

Bobbie was not alone in treating our soldiers; there were usually 6 other female nurses and a few male nurses besides the corpsmen and doctors. In her notes to her family, she lauds the devotion and professionalism of nurses (CPT) Lee Ann Clutter and (CPT) Mariam Lainer as well as the surgeon Major Rafferty, who she thinks was a member of the ACVVC before he passed away.

But treating wounds from bullets and bombs, shrapnel and mines were not the only causes of serious and near fatal injuries. The patient she treated the longest was in her recovery room for 30 days resulting from a snake bite. A deadly Banded Kraite got him in the foot, and when the anti-venom arrived, the instructions were in Thai.

Bobbie said, they almost lost him and it was touch and go for over a week. Finally, he was alert enough when (Lt Col) Martha Raye came to wake him up. Martha and seven other members of her USO tour stayed overnight in the nurses hootches and provided a show for the Blackhorse troopers, which she didn't get to see, as she was working.

In December of '67, after almost 10 months in country, Bobbie's buddies threw her a surprise birthday party. Two of her former patients, conspired with the head nurse to get her to the club to have a drink. All the doctors, nurses, corpsmen, patients and guys from various troops were there.

"They had even gone to the head nurse previously to make sure I worked the day shift. It was a tremendous party, the best yet. They were so sweet, invited everyone and supplied all the booze and I even got a gift."

Bobbie left Vietnam with the same Vietnam syndrome that most of us had felt. She was glad to go home, but missed the guys. When she arrived it wasn't to an exactly enthusiastic greeting. Her memories were both sad and painful, yet to her reflecting back more than 40 years, "as painful as those memories are they are sweet memories."

Her attention to our troopers is not forgotten. For Bobbie, the Vietnam Memorial and the Vietnam Women's Memorial started the healing process. But as Bobbie wrote:

"Nothing has touched me more than a letter delivered to me a few years ago at the doctor's office where I worked. It had a Black Horse patch on the envelope and inside was an invitation from Allen Hathaway to become a member of the 11th ACVVC. I don't know how he found me - Now I'm finally home."

Thank you Nurse Roberta MacLean Fry and, I wish we could thank and mention all the other nurses who cared for the men of our regiment. But in you we see their graciousness, their solicitude, their loving care, and so we thank them by thanking you and saying ... Welcome home!



Bobbie and her bicycle at Blackhorse base in 1967.



Jungle Fatigues

I won't ask if you remember jungle fatigues. If you were in Viet Nam, you remember. If you were there early in the war you probably wore regular stateside fatigues. Stateside fatigues were regular cotton (I think) with full color (non-subdued) patches that the VC could see quite well. They were too heavy for the Vietnamese climate which was hotter and even more humid than Florida. They were replaced by jungle fatigues which came in 1965 or '66. I got there in '67 and was issued jungle fatigues. I brought khakis along which I stored in a Conex container at Di An. They didn't come out again until I went on R & R.

Jungle fatigues were very good uniforms. Personally, I think they were the most practical uniforms the Army issued during all my 27 years of active duty. Dress greens looked better because they were so professional looking and each patch and ribbon told a story of the soldier wearing it. But jungle fatigues were the most practical - I guess they got their name because you wore them mostly in the field which was jungle in Viet Nam. The field was also rice paddies, dirt highways, teak and rubber plantations, and such. Naturally, troopers in the rear also wore jungle fatigues.

Jungle fatigues were made of some sort of synthetic fabric that was light so you weren't as hot as with stateside fatigues. Later in the war, they (whoever "they" were) came up with a version that was even lighter than the earlier ones. They called them summer weight jungle fatigues. "Did the troops like them better?" you might ask. I would reply, "Well, I did and I think everyone else did too. That is, if they ever thought about it. They did have other things on their mind too, you know, such as shooting, ducking, guarding, or fixing things." Anyway, these uniforms were very comfortable, generally speaking. They didn't always come in your size, but they were light weight enough so they were fairly comfortable anyway.

One of the best things about jungle fatigues was they dried out quickly. Don't forget the monsoons - those extreme downpours that didn't care where you were when it decided to rain hard, then rain some more.

When you were out in the bush do you know how you got "new" jungle fatigues? Did you ever think about it? Jungle fatigues wore out pretty quickly. They got a lot of hard use. Right?

You were probably outside when it rained so you got soaked thoroughly. Eventually, the sun came out and the air got steamy, but your jungle fatigues dried out tolerably well anyway. That was real nice. There was little enough "nice" out in the bush so it was nice to be dry occasionally during the monsoon season. Then, during the dry season it turned super hot and your jungle fatigues got soaking wet, not from monsoon rain, but from your sweat, which was profuse. We discussed before about how your sweat mixed with dirt when you were riding in a column of tracks such as tanks or ACAVs - also when you were humping a jungle trail, of course. Either way, your jungle fatigues probably turned dirt red (aka, Quan Loi red), but at least they dried out, like we said.

One of the "virtues" I liked best about jungle fatigues was their versatility. We didn't have to have them altered because the uniform had its versatility built in. Do you remember all those pockets? The shirt (also called top? or jacket?) had pockets on both sides of the chest and one on each side at the waist. You wore the shirt outside the pants (trousers?) and the pockets were big. They had flaps with buttons covered by another flap - I guess it was to protect the buttons out in the bush. "Protect them from what?" you ask. I don't know. Maybe they could snag on jungle vines, bamboo (remember bamboo?), or something. The pants were particularly useful. They had built in adjustable waist straps so you didn't have to wear a belt if you didn't want to. They had pockets on both sides of the rear, regular deep pockets in front, and, get this, huge pockets on the sides of both legs. I think they might have had little pockets on top of some big pockets. If you know for sure, email me with what you know. Remember, the pants had straps at the bottom of the legs to keep bugs out. Also remember, the shirt had waist straps too, maybe to fit better or to keep creepy-crawlies off your torso... right?

Speaking of versatile, which we're

doing, those pockets were wonderful. They were my portable office. I kept a steno pad in one side pants pocket and a small notebook in the other. I kept my daily schedule in one shirt pocket and my pen and pencil in another. Besides that, I had my personal stuff in my regular pockets, you know, comb, wallet (almost empty), handkerchief, pocket knife, and no cigarettes. No car keys, of course, for reasons you can easily figure. I kept records of my visits to the hospitals whenever I'd go visit troopers who were casualties or got sick with malaria, VD (huh?), or whatever. I also kept records of memorial services with the names of our KIAs and the dates of the services. To this day I have opportunities to refer to my old notes to let someone know the dates of events in those days. This may seem like no big deal, but to the vets and their families who were involved it is. It's important to me too.

When you were out in the bush do you know how you got "new" jungle fatigues? Did you ever think about it? Jungle fatigues wore out pretty quickly. They got a lot of hard use. Right? Once in a while a pile of clean, used uniforms was brought out to the field for the troopers. They (you?) would dig through the pile and pick out what fit. Just before I DEROSed out of country I learned that these "new" jungle fatigues were the ones troopers had to turn in when they processed out of country at the replacement depot (LBJ - Long Binh Junction or Cam Ranh Bay). So, who got the real brand new jungle fatigues? Well, I remember that everyone was issued some when coming into country. After that I guess the brand new ones went to the troops in the rear. Who knows? I didn't check it out, but someone got the new ones and it sure wasn't the troopers in the bush. Maybe, just maybe, it wasn't too important - I don't recall anyone complaining about it or going around in the raw. Everyone seemed to have what jungle fatigues they needed.

A tribute to jungle fatigues was that, after the war, civilians bought jungle fatigues at war surplus stores for roughing it in the great outdoors.

I'll finish by letting you know that the Bible has something to say about clothes too. I find it reassuring that God cares about such things for us: "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them." Matthew 6:28-32 (NIV). Check it out.

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

Find an Old Friend

All Troopers, please go to "Find an Old Friend" on our web site www.11thcavnam.com. Click the letter which corresponds with the first letter of your last name. Now go down the list to find your name, now click the e-mail box. Is this your current e-mail address? If not please send your current e-mail address to Bob Kickenweitz at bobk11acr@comcast.net. Remember if your e-mail address is incorrect, how are your buddies going to find you? Don't forget our Facebook site at www.FaceBook.com/11thACVVC.

Allons,
Bob Kickenweitz



Membership is Our Strength



It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to become eligible to join

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.

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

SER NO RANK (during tour) _____ SSN NO _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

TYPE MEMBERSHIP: NEW RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____
 ANNUAL (\$15) LIFE (\$100)
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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.**

50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Vietnam Veterans Interviews

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

In 2008, Congress directed the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Department of Defense has initiated this program with the following objectives:

- 1) To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war (POW), or listed as missing in action (MIA), for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
- 2) To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
- 3) To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
- 4) To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
- 5) To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

As part of this program, the History and Education Branch of the Office of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Program is conducting interviews with Vietnam Veterans. These video-taped interviews will be sent to schools and civic organizations to be used in informing the American people about who we veterans are. At the completion of the commemoration, all interviews will be given to the Library of Congress and added to their Veterans History Project.

The Department of Defense has enlisted Joe Galloway – the co-author of “We Were Soldiers Once... And Young” and the speaker at the 11th ACCV Reunion in 2010 in Washington, DC – to conduct the interviews. According to Mark Franklin, the chief of the office doing the interviews, telephone interviews are not conducted because they want to “capture the veteran’s experiences and non-verbal cues are just as important as the words.” They are especially interested in interviewing Vietnam Veterans in the ranks of Staff Sergeant and below.

Continued on page 26

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49	
<p>General Fund</p> <p>Gold Level</p> <p>Hughes, Joseph Lynch, James</p> <p>Active 11Cav Reunion Assist</p> <p>Ahrens, Daniel Arble, Patrick Austin, William Bowman, David Carraher, Joseph Coopet, Joe Delve, Bob Doyle, Timothy England, Billy Fake, Philip Frantz, Wild Bill Frantz, William Garloch, Dale Gentry, Lee Gerlach, Ronald Goldsmith, Gary Halvorsen, Richard Hamilton, William Hand, Rocky Hotchkiss, Ben Jack, Bill Jacoba, Dennis</p>	<p>Janke, Roger Jolly, John Joseph, N.L. Kent, Raymer Kenyon, Richard Labrecque, Simon Longhouser, John Mason, Ray McKenna, Thomas Mike, Huml Moore, William Nelson, Ronald O'Hara, James Olson, Gene Oracz, Robert Page, Stephen Platt, Fred Platt, Brian Portagallo, Tom Rosendahl, Myron Ross, Ivan Rusteberg, Homer Sieminski, Edmund Skinner, Mike Thornton, Bob Tutwiler, Edgar Valenti, Tom Vanzo, Ronald Waldroop, Clinton Whitcomb, Scott</p>	<p>Wolfe, Okey Wooley, Linda</p> <p>Memorial Fund</p> <p>PLatinum Level</p> <p>Brumm, Errol</p> <p>Gold Level</p> <p>Batting, Douglas</p> <p>Silver Level</p> <p>Morrow, Michael</p> <p>Bronze Level</p> <p>Ellis, Stephen Ferrill, Wayne Hydeos, Harry Qualteri, James Rolinski, Robert</p> <p>Trooper Assistance Fund</p> <p>Gold Level</p> <p>Larner, Wayne</p> <p>Silver Level</p> <p>Confer, Richard</p>	<p>Scholarship</p> <p>Gold Level</p> <p>Smith, Willard In Memory of Christian Vessers</p> <p>Silver Level</p> <p>Confer, Richard Johnson, Gene</p> <p>Calendar</p> <p>Gold Level</p> <p>England, Billy Frazier, Wiley Graham, James Gunn, Dennis Holman, Gustaf Newman, Roger Sinclair, Robert Smith, Wade Turner, Edward</p> <p>Silver Level</p> <p>Confer, Richard Egan, F.E. Gallman, David Gathe, Wilbur</p>	<p>Kuenzel, Orlin Martz, Stanley McGrail, John Ortiz, Anthony Stubbs, Jerry Wagg, Robert Young, James</p> <p>Bronze Level</p> <p>IArble, Patrick Arnold, Charles Barnes, Joe Basas, Tony Bostelman, Christopher Brunet, Gerald Burek, Jerome Czys, Samuel Dunkle, Stephen Dye, Donald Erickson, Larry Fegenbush, Edward Fields, Clifford Frantz, William Gamble, Jimmy Gaul, James Giesler, Donald Gilbert, Howard Gordon, Dalton Graham, Raymond Gregory, Bill</p>	<p>Hafer, John Hawley, Robert Holmes, Malcolm Hyatt, George Kersey, Mark Madsen, Per Markowicz, Carl Marshall, Robert Mayerara, Jan Parisien, Dennis Pejakovich, Michael Pope, Ronald Raper, Ronald Richards, Dennis Stottsberry, Kenneth Switek, Joseph Tinsley, Jack Toler, Floyd Tutwiler, Edgar Varljen, Frank Wallech, Joseph Walton, Carroll Werner, Warren Wing, Shayne Wolf, John Wood, Kenneth Woodruff, Leon Wright, Curtis</p>

29th ANNUAL 11th ACVVC REUNION SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2014

Rio All Suites
3700 West Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89103

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/SRACV4>

RESERVATIONS: 1-888-746-6955
ROOM RATE: \$109.00 SINGLE/DOUBLE + 12% tax

- Rate honored 3 days pre and post reunion
- No resort fee
- Complimentary parking
- Complimentary in-room internet
- Complimentary shuttle to the strip

Reservations must be made by August 11, 2014
MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY

Show Your Pride



Norman Newell, HHT, Regiment, 1966 -1968. Says of his plow truck: "I painted the plow and painted the patch. Everybody would ask me who built the plow; they never saw that before, so I would tell them about 11th cav." Showing a lot of pride in Maine.



Rod Norris, HHT, 3/11, 1970-1971. Is telling everyone around Llano, Texas who sees his Ford Truck where his loyalties are.

Dennis Morgan, K Troop, 1968-1969. Shows his pride around Phoenix, AZ in the Blackhorse (especially K Troop) with his personalized Purple Heart tags.



Mike Shepler, HHT, 2/11, 1970 -1971. Shows his Blackhorse pride around his Wichita, Kansas home displayed on his 2011 Roush Mustang.

29th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion

Las Vegas, Nevada ♦ ♦ ♦ September 3 - 7, 2014

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, September 3

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Registration Open
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
2:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open

Thursday, September 4

7:00 am - 23rd Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament (optional fee per golfer)
9:00 am - 6:00 pm Registration Open
9:00 am - 5:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
2:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm Silent Auction
8:00 pm Raffle Drawing

Friday, September 5

6:30 am - 8:30 pm Fort Irwin Trip (optional fee per person - includes lunch)
6:30 am - 7:00 am Board busses
7:00 am - 10:00 am Travel to Fort Irwin
10:30 am - 5:30 pm Fort Irwin tour and demonstrations (includes lunch)
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm Travel to Rio All-Suites

6:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Registration Open
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open

Saturday, September 6

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Annual Membership Meeting (Members Only)
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Women's Group Meeting
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Memorial Service
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Registration Open for Late Arrivals
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
5:45 pm - 6:45 pm Cocktail Hour
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Banquet, Presentations and "Blackhorse Salute"
10:00 pm - 1:00 am Dancing

Sunday, September 7

10:00 am - 11:00 am Chapel Worship Service (Nondenominational)
10:00 am - 2:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
All Day Farewells and Departures



REGISTRATION FORM



29th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion
Las Vegas, Nevada
September 3 - 7, 2014



Rio Hotel - 3700 West Flamingo Road - Las Vegas, NV 89103
Reservations: 1-888-746-6955

Registration fee is \$95.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled events including the Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and the Saturday Banquet dinner. Register early. The registration fee will be an additional \$25.00 per person for registrations post marked after Saturday, AUGUST 16, 2014. All registrations must be received no later than Saturday, AUGUST 23, 2014.

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

Name Telephone No:
Address
City/State/Zip
E-Mail Address
Unit Assignment Years in Country
(Example: B TRP, D CO) (Example: 1966-1967)

ATTENDEES (please print)

Donation lines with dollar signs (\$)
Please accept my donation to help an active duty trooper attend the reunion
Total Registration Fee

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

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

KIA Relative? Yes Name of KIA:

Relationship to KIA: Unit:

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

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

Welcome to Vietnam. The first major independent operation conducted by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment after arrival in country was Operation Hickory. The week-long operation was a search-and-destroy mission directed against the local VC south and east of Long Binh. It started on 7 October 1966 and involved about two-thirds of Third Squadron; 300 Troopers were left at the Staging Area to process newly-arrived ACAVs [Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles] and to provide perimeter security. The terrain was not like anything seen by the Bandit Squadron Troopers during their training at Fort Meade and Camps A.P. Hill and Pickett back in Virginia. Trouble started the first day. The point where the lead vehicles were supposed to turn off Highway 20 was not visible from ground level; aerial observers had to drop smoke grenades and then guide the tanks and ACAVs to the overgrown entrance into the jungle off the highway. Team M (Mike Company tanks cross-attached with Lima Troop ACAVs), assigned a route clearance mission encountered a section of road that was nothing but a quagmire. Undaunted, Mike 6 (CPT Charles Hertel) set about trying to make the route passable. The after action report describes the Third Squadron Troopers' efforts: "Since there was no bypass available, Tm M attempted to repair the route by using tank dozers to fill an approach and subsequently use an AVLB [Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge] to gap the worst part. This failed when the AVLB (Modified M48A1 chassis) continually got stuck in the mud." Mike Company Troopers spent the better part of the day in vehicle recovery operations. A day later, Team India (with a section of Mike Company tanks cross-attached) found another 'road' that looked good on the map – but not so good on the ground. "After moving a short distance East along this route it encountered a thin crusted, bottomless section of road...which engulfed the 3 M48's, the M88 and several ACAV's." The last vehicle was not extracted from this 'bottomless' pit until six days later.

Air Cav Troop Reorganization. The spring and summer of 1968 was a time of big changes for the Troopers of Air Cavalry Troop. Starting in May, the troop began receiving its first OH-6A Cayuse scout helicopters (commonly called the LOH). Nine OH-23s were turned in when the OH-6As arrived, and the remaining eight OH-23s were assigned to the Squadron Aviation Sections. In late July, the ACT was reorganized in accordance with a modified Table of Organization and Equipment (TO&E), resulting in ten fewer UH-1C gunships (Huey Hogs). But the quantity of gunships was made up for in quality in August when the new AH-1G Cobras began arriving. Pilots were sent to transition courses in Vung Tau, and crew chiefs and mechanics were trained by mobile training teams for the new aircraft as well. And if that wasn't enough, the Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon was reorganized back into an Aero Rifle Platoon. These changes formed the basis for the "pile-on" tactics that led to the spectacular successes of the Air Cav Troop and the Regiment in late 1968 and early 1969.

Medic! In December 1969, the 37th Medical Company made the move with the rest of the Regiment, consolidating its operations from Blackhorse Base Camp to Quan Loi. Moving into its new facilities – a dispensary, two permanent hospital wards, x-ray and laboratory facilities, and a dental van – the Company's 125 assigned personnel could

look back at more than three years of providing outstanding medical support to Blackhorse Troopers. Working with the 7th Surgical Hospital at Blackhorse Base Camp until its deactivation in June 1969, the 37th Med cared for casualties brought in by dust off from the three squadrons and separate troops/ companies/detachments, as well as from other U.S. and allied units operating in the Blackhorse area of operations. From time-to-time, these included the 1st Cav Division's 3rd Brigade, the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, the 18th ARVN [Army of the Republic of Vietnam] Infantry Division, the 1st Australian Task Force, and various infantry, armor, and artillery units under the Regiment's operational control. The daily routine of sick call, mess hall sanitation inspections, rabies control, personal hygiene instruction, training new medics, and medical resupply was routinely supplemented by MEDCAPs (Medical Civic Action Program) and DENTCAPs to Xuan Loc, Bien Hoa, Gia Ray, Cam My, Ong Que, and other villages and hamlets in Long Khanh Province. By the time the company moved to Quan Loi, the 37th Med was the largest separately operating medical company in Vietnam – providing division-level medical support to the extended Blackhorse family.

Radio Relay. From the January 1970 edition of the Blackhorse Newspaper: "For the men on top of Gia Ray Mountain, seven miles east of Xuan Loc, life's a drag – but it's safe. That, at least, is the opinion of SP4 Douglas Kluth and PFC John Timko, the two troopers who man the Blackhorse Radio Relay Station, almost fifty miles from the nearest 11th ACR unit. What are they doing so far from home? FM radios used on tanks and ACAVs operate on a line of sight principle. If an FM signal hits a natural obstacle, it stops. So a tank on one side of a hill can't send its signal directly to a tank on the other side. Instead, it beams the signal to a relay station like the one on top of Gia Ray Mountain. The signal is then retransmitted to the receiving unit. Kluth and Timko see to it that the relay system functions smoothly. To do this, they have to monitor the Regiment's frequencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That means 12 hours a day by a crackling radio. The men share the mountain with a company of the 53rd Signal Battalion and a company of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, which secures the area. Not much happens on the mountain, but some excitement is provided by the resupply chopper that comes in three times a week. A heavy load of supplies, high altitude, and a tiny, wind-swept chopper pad invariably make for tricky landings. Sometimes too tricky, and the landing must be aborted. When that happens, the big Chinooks often cut loose their loads in an effort to regain airspeed. And many an excited spectator has watched tomorrow's dinner prematurely dropped – and scattered across the mountainside."

No Rice at the Store. During 1970, Blackhorse Troopers made extensive use of the automatic ambush – a claymore mine attached to a battery which was activated when an unsuspecting enemy patrol hit the trip wire, usually at night but also during daylight hours. On June 5, 1970, an automatic ambush emplaced by Echo Troop, Second Squadron activated, killing two NVA soldiers and wounding North Vietnamese Army Private Pham Van Thang. During interrogation, Pham related the following story: He and two other NVA soldiers were detailed to go to a cache and bring rice back to their unit. The three NVA soldiers, all armed with AK-47 rifles, walked for about six days before coming to the Song Be

Continued 



Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
HHT REGIMENT		409th RR DET		Palmer, Thomas J	70-70	Hamilton, Gary E	67-68
Adams, Raymond C	67-68	Brown, Ernest L	68-69	Shelnut, Phillip W	68-68	Mccall, Rex A	69-70
Brandt, Wesley P	68-69	Flores, Enrique Jr	66-67	B TROOP, 1/11		Vermillion, Van E	70-71
Joseph, N L	67-68	Harbst, Terry V	66-67	Braun, James M	67-68	G TROOP, 2/11	
Morris, Warren M Iii	70-71	Ludwig, Carroll A	69-77	Fahrnbach, Joseph F	66-67	Bradley, James W	68-68
Vogt, Thomas S	68-69	506th S&S COMPANY		James, Clarence L	66-67	Bryant, Ben F	67-68
Williams, Dana L	69-71	Lambeth, Larry V	69-70	Littlejohn, Gary L	66-67	Hausey, Howard E	66-67
Yonkey, Carl R	67-68	591st ENGINEER COMPANY		Palmer, Phillip L	69-69	Hund, Richard P	70-70
AIR CAVALRY TROOP		Pease, Earl	67-67	C TROOP, 1/11		Lucas, Philip E	68-68
Lane, Earl L	69-70	919th ENGINEER COMPANY		Brooks, Floyd J	70-70	Mix, Lawrence T	65-67
Pelfrey, Robert W	65-67	Mastyl, Stanley	66-67	Burnworth, Allan R	70-71	H COMPANY, 2/11	
Stern, Audra R Jr	69-70	Specht, Eugene M	66-68	Funk, Everette R	69-70	Demarest, Robert E	66-67
Strickland, Melvin K	66-67	UNKNOWN		Huffman, Ralph E	70-71	Praught, Mark A	70-71
37th MEDICAL COMPANY		O'Neil, Richard J	67-67	Littlejohn, Gary L	66-67	HOWITZER BATTERY, 2/11	
Brown, Samuel A Jr	69-70	HHT, 1/11		D COMPANY, 1/11		Juneau, Lester Jr	67-69
Gozora, Stephen R	71-71	Boles, Edward A	70-70	Boles, Edward A	70-71	HHT, 3/11	
Mcmorris, Thomas J	70-71	A TROOP, 1/11		Lane, Gary S	68-69	Bolding, Paul J	69-70
Moreno, Fred	69-70	Bishop, William D	68-68	Pellatz, William D	69-70	Fogarty, William J	68-69
Sauter, Robert W	69-69	Cocco, Thomas N	70-70	Reid, Eric P	67-68	Hurry, Bruce B	69-69
398th TRANS DET		Lancaster, James L	70-71	HOWITZER BATTERY, 1/11		Jicha, Edwin J Jr	69-70
Mcmillin, Michael J	69-70	Lyster, Steve E	70-71	Dutcher, James C	67-68	Lindsay, Jock C	69-70
Workman, Paul J	71-72			Frank, Kenneth E	69-70	Neves, Charles A	67-68
				Lopez, Alfred A	69-70	Smith, William K	69-69
				Mitchell, Loren F	64-67	Tomaszewski, Jerry P	70-71
				Pass, Charles A	69-70	Walter, James B	67-68
				Stewart, Eugene O	68-69	I TROOP, 3/11	
				HHT, 2/11		Heronemus, Clarence M	66-67
				Peace, Sherrill D	70-71	K TROOP, 3/11	
				Quives, Andrew L	68-69	Greene, Arnold A	66-67
				Reichman, Harvey	66-67	Lawrence, Lester H	69-70
				Sides, Don	71-71	L TROOP, 3/11	
				Strickland, Melvin K	66-67	Andrews, Jerry R	70-71
				E TROOP, 2/11		Beck, John J	70-70
				Berry, Elzo	68-69	Bolding, Paul J	69-70
				Campbell, Craig S	71-72	M COMPANY, 3/11	
				Hernandez, Manuel Jr	69-70	Beck, John J	70-70
				Sipe, John	69-70	Greisinger, William A	67-68
				Sorrells, Arlo A	71-72	HOWITZER BATTERY, 3/11	
				Trznadel, Larry M	66-67	Birdine, Alfred E	69-70
				Womack, Thomas L	69-69	Christian, Todd M	67-68
				F TROOP, 2/11		Jicha, Edwin J Jr	69-70
				Betts, Stephen W	69-70	Peoples, Thomas G	68-69
				Burnett, Ralph	70-71	Sukow, Dana K	71-71
				Burnworth, Allan R	71-71		

HOOFBEATS continued

River. They swam across the river and walked another three hours to the cache. They had been told to expect "300 liters of rice" (about 300 quarts) to be located in the cache, but found only 100 quarts. They suspected that an NVA engineer unit had gotten there first and 'liberated' most of their rice. The three unhappy soldiers took about 30 quarts of rice – enough for themselves during the long trip back to their base camp – and were headed home when they activated the automatic ambush. Pham admitted that he and his deceased comrades had not conducted any reconnaissance along the way before setting off the claymore.

Stand Down – But not for All. From the 11th ACR Redeployment After Action Report, dated 5 March 1971: "A review was initiated of the status of personnel within the Regiment, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Immediate action was taken to identify outstanding personnel in the redeploying units and ineffective or marginal personnel in the residual units. These actions were initiated to meet the Regimental objective of forming the finest squadron possible, with a maximum fill of the most qualified personnel... A 'shopping list' was developed on anticipated needs by grade and MOS [Military Occupational Specialty]. Commanders of units standing down were requested to submit names of those individuals who were the most desirable for possible retention in the residual squadron. More than sufficient names were submitted and the shopping list was filled."

11th Cavalry Memorial Project

11th Armored Cavalry Memorial Relocation Donations

The 11th ACVVC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals who have purchased granite bricks in support of the 11th Armored Cavalry Memorial relocation project. The list includes orders received through June 14, 2014. **The deadline for ordering bricks is December 31, 2014.**

- David M Berry
- Manuel J Birch
- Donald Blue
- Carl E Brown and Robert E Flockhart in memory of Jeff Benson
- Glenn M Clark
- Kermit Collier
- Daniel J Conte
- Robert E Delve
- Larry W Dumdei in memory of Charles Dumdei
- William Hancock
- Rober M Janke
- Russell L Johnson
- Donald F Kern
- Ronald L Knox
- Ronald L Knox in memory of John J Adduci
- Mark Lownsbery
- Jon Masley
- Jay McNulty in memory of James C Hellman
- James R Moses
- Fred C Platt
- George R Purifoy
- Gerald Strange
- Walter Swords
- Emily A Vissers in honor of Willard E Smith

Brick Order Form

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

LINE 1:

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LINE 2:

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LINE 3:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

4" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$100 enclosed

Visa Master Card Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for Credit Card): _____

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

So that his brethren shall know...

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



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. Funeral Honor Guard, please check daily at www.11acr.com/hg.htm. We check over 500 U.S. Newspapers. The daily obituary keyword is 11th Cavalry. Information is then posted on our website to allow us to attend the funerals.

David A. Barnes Jr., 37th Medical Company (1969-1970) passed away on October 12, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Silver Springs, FL.

Vincent R. Bolognone, E Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 3, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Philadelphia, PA. He was laid to rest in Washington Crossing National Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA.

Richard Bruglia, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 17, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Seaside, CA.

William L. Burrell, D Company, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 28, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Port Saint Lucie, FL.

Dennis L. Carr, F Troop, 2/11 (1970) passed away on August 13, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in White Oak, TX. He was laid to rest in Rosewood Park Cemetery, Longview, TX.

Barry D. Gordon, M Company, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 20, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Seaside, OR. He was laid to rest in Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO.

Gary W. Grams, G Troop, 2/11 (1969) passed away on May 23, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dundee, MI.

Robert E. Gray, E Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on May 21, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Taylor, MI. He was laid to rest in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI.

Bogdan N. Janukowicz, 541st Military Intelligence Detachment (1968-1969) passed away on April 28, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lakewood, WA. He was laid to rest in Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA.

Robert M. Leis, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 20, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hamden, CT.

Hilario O. Lopez, A Troop, 1/11 (1969) passed away on March 14, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Morgan Hill, CA.

Raymond E. Luker, L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on March 23, 2014. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lynwood, CA.

Michael C. Murray, E Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 4, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hawthorne, CA. He was laid to rest in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

Dennis L. Noel, HHT Regiment, (1967-1968) passed away on June 14, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Seymour, IN. He was laid to rest in Lutheran Cemetery, Seymour, IN.

Bill Peasley, D Company, 1/11 (1965-1967) passed away on March 26, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Murdock, FL. He was laid to rest in Sarasota National Cemetery, Sarasota, FL. Bill was a veteran of the Korean War.

Steven D. Philhower, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1969) passed away on June 22, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Indianapolis, IN.

Richard D. Rutter, Jr., K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 6, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Antonio, FL. He was laid to rest in Williams Cemetery, San Antonio, FL.

Robert F. Putney, 37th Medical Company (1969) passed away on May 21, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bakersfield, CA.

John J. Rzadkiewicz, C Troop, 1/11 (1970) passed away on February 3, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cowlesville, NY. He was laid to rest in St. Adalbert Cemetery, Cheektowaga, NY.

Edward S. Salokar, L Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on February 27, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Willmar, MN. He was laid to rest in Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, MN.

Eldridge Sonnier, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on December 23, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lake Charles, LA. He was laid to rest in Highland Memory Gardens, Lake Charles, LA. Eldridge was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

Jerry D. Stubbs, I Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on June 9, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Conrad, MT. He was laid to rest in Hillside Cemetery, Conrad, MT.

David L. Summers, 919th Engineer Company (1968-1969) and Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on April 23, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Louis, MO. He was laid to rest in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

Earl A. Thompson, III, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on April 7, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cypress, TX. He was laid to rest in Klein Memorial Park, Tomball, TX.

Ernest F. Tietz, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on May 26, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Saint Clair, MN. He was laid to rest in Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lanesburgh Township, MN.

Herman Verner, Jr., 398th Transportation Detachment (1971-1972) passed away on April 21, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chicago, IL.

Donald W. Weathington, Air Cavalry Troop (1970) passed away on September 5, 2013. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tryon, NC.

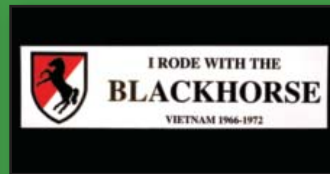
The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$12.00



#2 Key Ring \$4.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



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



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band (men's only) \$35.00



#9 Cavalry Hat \$225.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#10 Belt, \$30.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



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



#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



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

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



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



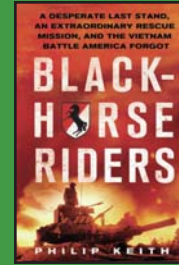
#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



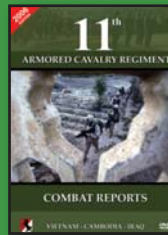
#31 Book: Blackhorse Riders \$25.00



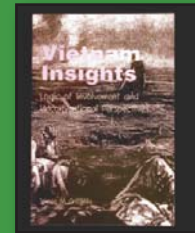
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



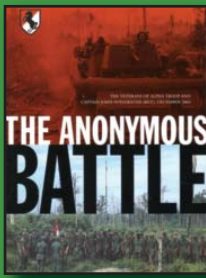
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



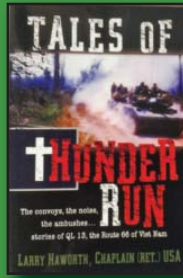
#30 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



#34 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



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



#37 Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Chaplain Laeey Haworth \$11.00



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



#38a Old Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#38b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



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



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



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



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



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00





Prayer Shawl Workshop on Vegas Agenda

The Las Vegas reunion will be here before we know it and the Women's Group is looking forward to the future as we reorganize this year. Blackhorse spouses, significant others and family members are welcome to attend these annual meetings held Saturday morning at the same time as the men's meetings. Please check the reunion schedule for exact time and room location. If you already attend the meetings, invite a friend or more from your bunker or banquet table, some of those great once-once-a-year friends, and bring them to the 2014 women's meeting in Las Vegas. There you can meet more wonderful women and family and share in the fun.

We will be asking for your input this year to learn what you want to see happen at the meetings. Please attend and share what you want, like or don't want or like. This is your group so we want to hear from you. We will also have a couple speakers at this year's meeting to share information on our two most important projects at this time, the Prayer Shawl Project and Wreaths Across America. We look forward to seeing you!

Now on to a little business: In 2011 Cherry Platt brought a wonderful idea to the Blackhorse Women's Group. She offered to coordinate a prayer shawl project for us, a project she also participates in at her church. The idea was well-received at our meeting and Cherry began in earnest with help from Blackhorse Women as well as friends from home. Once our group is notified of a fallen trooper, Cherry goes into action and mails a shawl out. We have had several requests since then from other Blackhorse women and family members wanting to help. If you crochet, knit or quilt you can join this project from your home. We are happy to have all the help we can get because sadly, the number annually of our fallen troopers has increased.

We have had several requests for a prayer shawl workshop so others can see what is done firsthand. Not everyone who has requested the workshop knows how to knit or crochet and would like to learn. That request has been heard and Cherry, with the help of others, will hold an impromptu workshop at our Las Vegas reunion. Time is tight in Vegas this year, and with much to do at regular Women's meeting this year, we will hold the workshop early Thursday evening in the Cocoa A or Cocoa B room, very near the Bunker, at approximately 6:30 pm so we are finished early enough for everyone to participate in the Silent Auction Fundraiser held that evening in the Bunker. Some patterns, yarn and knitting needles will be available for those who want to learn, as Cherry says, bring them if you can. Cherry said it is an easy stitch and anyone can learn it. For those who quilt, Cherry will also have a pattern so you can see how those are made. Then anyone at home can make prayer shawls for this special project.

Words from Cherry Platt, Prayer Shawl Chairperson:

The definition of a prayer shawl or lap robe is: A shawl or lap robe that is handmade (knit, crocheted or quilted) with prayers woven into the stitches as it is made. The prayer shawl project began

at the 2011 reunion by the Blackhorse Women. The first shawl was presented at the reunion. When we lose a trooper, or in some cases a spouse, a prayer shawl or lap robe is mailed to the surviving spouse. These shawls or lap robes are wrapped in ribbon with a bookmark or card that has a prayer on it. Also included is a small card with the Blackhorse logo that reads: "Handmade with love from your Blackhorse Family." Also attached are a crocheted angel and a handwritten card. Each shawl or lap robe is blessed by the person who made it. These shawls are made by volunteers of the Blackhorse Women and to date we have sent out more than 160. The response of the people who have received one has been overwhelming and hopefully brings some comfort to those who have lost a loved one.

This is an important project of the women. Anyone interested in helping with project, or wants more information about it or the workshop in Vegas, can contact (Cherry) by email at fredplatt@att.net or call at 770-445-7534 for information and patterns.

If anyone coming to the workshop has needles, yarn or hooks, please bring them and join us. We will have patterns and would love to get to know you and have you share in this wonderful undertaking. For those of you who are already involved in this project, thank you so much for all that you do to make this such a success.

The chaplain has agreed to bless any shawls that we have at the reunion at the Sunday morning church service. I encourage anyone who has any made to bring them if possible so we can have a special blessing on them before they are sent out to the spouses.

NOTE: Interim Women's Group Co-coordinator Kathy Tandberg can be contacted by email at or call 701-870-6868 (cell) or 701-873-2970 (home).

INTERVIEW from page 16

Typical interview questions include the following.

- How old were you when you went to Vietnam?
- Describe the training you received before going to Vietnam.
- What were your first impressions upon arrival?
- Were you in a combat unit? A combat support unit? A support unit?
- What was your most vivid memory of Vietnam?
- Describe the BEST day you had during your Vietnam tour.
- Describe the WORST day you had during your Vietnam tour.
- When did you return home?
- What was your reception like from family and friends?
- How did your Vietnam experience affect your life afterward?
- How do you think the Vietnam conflict is remembered today?
 - In the end, what did that war mean to you and your generation?

This is a chance to set that record straight. We are not Hollywood-inspired baby-killers, but citizens who did their civic duty in an unpopular war, returned home, and got on with our lives.

Blackhorse veterans who are interested in giving an interview should contact Mark Franklin at his office at 703-697-4849. For more information, go to: <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>.



Quartermaster

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11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white, ceramic (glass) 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	12.00	_____	_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Embroidery square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	4.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	2.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	2.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	4.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	4.00	_____	_____	_____
9.	Cavalry Hat (Brown in color, rope and pin included in price)	225.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Blackhorse Belt – One size fits all	30.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	50.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	5.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	10.00	_____	_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	30.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	20.00	_____	_____	_____
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.	Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, sterling silver w/full BH insignia	45.00	_____	_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	35.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	380.00	_____	_____	_____
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	430.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	5.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	4.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	30.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Book: "Blackhorse Riders"	25.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	10.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Book, "Anonymous Battle II" (Picture not available)	16.00	_____	_____	_____
34.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L)	20.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Chaplain Larry Haworth	11.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new)	12.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> ash <input type="checkbox"/> black	18.00	_____	_____	_____
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black	32.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Blue dress or denim shirt (men's)	32.00	_____	_____	_____
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left	95.00	_____	_____	_____
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	35.00	_____	_____	_____
44.	OTHER: Sale Items, Etc.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Subtotal					_____
Shipping and Handling					_____
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Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL. Specify size and color preference of item requested.

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A)	\$2.00	—	\$5.00	=	\$3.00
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D)	\$61.00	and over	=	\$16.85	

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Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$14.55. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com**

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From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello, fellow Blackhorse Troopers.

We here at your Quartermaster Store are getting ready for our Reunion in Las Vegas; and looking forward to seeing everyone there. On this note, as of August 25th we will not process any orders out, as you know we will be packing up and getting ready to head out for Vegas. So if you go ahead and send us your orders; we will not be able to send out your request until September 15th after we get back.

We are still asking for volunteers. If you have a few free minutes to spare please come on by and give us a helping hand. Jan & I will be glad for all the help we can get. Due to the tight schedule we have this year our time will be limited, so we are expecting a bigger than normal crowd during the times we are open. Your help will be greatly appreciated more than you know...just stop by and give us a little bit of your much needed time. We are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you again in a few weeks.

Just a "Thank You" note to all, the numbers have dropped so

much from the guys who leave off their return address or phone numbers for us to get in touch with them or return their order back to them. So, please continue to check out the order form before you send it in.

Here is a reminder to put on your calendar for next year. The East Texas Round Up will be held again in May. We had a Great turn out this year. For those who attended and said they would be back next year. Plans already are in the making. A fish fry is being held on Friday evening for those who come & camp over night or who live close by. Saturday will be as usual, times are the same as always, lots of food and activities planned. Rusk Texas, May 3rd 2015, at the Rusk State Railroad Highway 84 west. If you are in the neighborhood come on by. A special thanks to all our helpers, and to our special guest who came by for a visit. There is more information to come in the next *Thunder Run*, about the Round up. We wish each and everyone a safe journey to Vegas...see you soon!!

ALLONS, Jerry.

QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS



Cavalry Hat
\$225.00
 (Item #9)

