



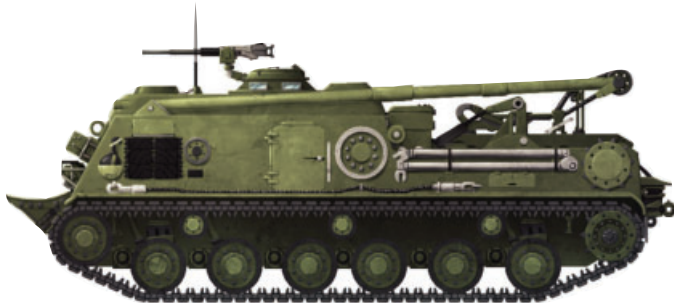
# Thunder Run

Vol. 35 – NO. 3

“Together Then – Together Again”

3rd Quarter, 2020

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



## An Ode to the Faithful M88

There's an old saying that's true in the Army as with civilian life – the more things change, the more they stay the same. You can confirm it by taking an old tanker or cavalry trooper from the 1960s into a modern armored unit motor pool (what we used to call the hardstand).

There are many differences between a hardstand of yesteryear and today's motor pool. But if you asked that veteran Soldier which vehicles he recognized from his service in the old Army, he would quickly point out two: the M113 armored personnel carrier, and the M88 tank retriever.

My dad was a tanker from the late 1940s into the 60s. Although I never asked

him, I'm sure he and his battle buddies required the services of the then-new M88. I served for eight years as a cavalry scout on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle in the 80s and 90s. I came to respect our trusty 88s and the Soldiers who crewed them. Whether at the hardstand on motor stables or out in the field doing everything from road marches to combat, our mechanics in their 88s went with us every step of the way.

The Army has gotten its money's worth out of both the M113 and the M88. Although the 113 might (and I stress might) be replaced with something new

Please turn to **M88** on page 4

## The Hardest Job in the Army, 2.0

By Blandin “Bill” Karabinos, Chaplain & Director, 11th ACVVC

Some years ago, I wrote an article for this newsletter called “The Hardest Job in the Army”. You can look it up at Qtr 2014, page 11. It's a discussion of the procedures in place for casualty notification during the Vietnam War. At the 2019 11th ACR reunion in Las Vegas, during the visit to Ft. Irwin, I met with five chaplains to learn about the way notification is done today. I am pleased to report that the process, though still difficult and heart-wrenching, is much improved over the 60-70's version.

Present during the meeting were Bill Karabinos, CPT, United States Army (Retired), LTC James Key, CPT Daniel Kim, CPT Ron Marshall, and CPT Anselmo Brillion, chaplains all, from various denominations. Here is what I learned from these fine gentlemen:

Chaplains and casualty notification officers respond to requests within approximately a 200-mile radius. They perform the notification duty for killed-in-action (KIA), missing-in-action (MIA), and trooper suicides.

Each squadron has one commissioned

Please turn to **JOB** on page 8

## A Day in the Field

By Robert “Bob” Kickenweitz

It was a typical day of 90 plus degrees with thunder showers every two to three hours. We were beating the bush looking for Charlie or as some of us called him, Mr. Charles, in an area known as the Ho Bo Woods, located in Binh Duong Province, Vietnam. We were also providing security for the 984th Land Clearing Company that was clearing the area with Rome Plows.

**We were beating the bush looking for Charlie or as some of us called him, Mr. Charles, in an area known as the Ho Bo Woods, located in Binh Duong Province, Vietnam.**

As the 984th clearing operations continued we started receiving machine gun, mortar, RPG's and small arms fire from the enemy in the uncut area of the field. We called in 155mm howitzer fire to the area, after the artillery fire mission had ended, F troop made an assault in to the area but was repelled. A second artillery mission had to be called in, F troop made another assault into the area only to have three ACAVs and a Sheridan tank disabled for their effort. Only after a third artillery mission was fired, F troop was able to go in and retrieve the disabled vehicles as darkness was starting to set in. I was a gunner with F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, my name is Bob Cadmus.

It was the 28th of May, 1971, we had just gotten the word to head for the NDP (Night Defensive Position) that we had been using for the last week or so. It had

Please turn to **A DAY** on page 23





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

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

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

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# President's Message

By Pete Walter

Greetings to my fellow Blackhorse Troopers, families and friends! I hope you are all healthy and staying safe.

We are ready to roll with our 35th annual reunion, August 26 – 30 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The full schedule for the reunion appears in this issue. We all need to thank Vice President and Reunion Chairman Frank Church for all the time and effort he has put into this reunion. Frank and I (but mainly Frank) have worked closely with Laura Stephenson, our agent from Helms-Briscoe. We have been fortunate to be able to renegotiate almost every aspect of our contract with the JW Marriott. We have been able to reduce the room attrition rate so we (11th ACVVC) do not pay any penalty for not reaching our original contracted 2,035 room night total. Similarly, the hotel has waived the food and beverage minimum. These revisions required almost constant commo between Frank, Helms-Briscoe and the JW Marriott that extended deep into June. Indeed, the final revised addendum to the original contract was signed just fourteen days ago.

One punitive clause that remains is the "Cancellation" clause. Many Troopers have called me and other Officers to suggest we just cancel the reunion. Some of the Officers feel the same way, but the contract stipulates a heavy penalty if the 11th ACVVC cancels; to be exact, the penalty would be \$312,716. Yep, you read that right. Cancellation clauses exist in all hotel contracts, which of course are written to benefit the hotel.

So, the Officers of the 11th ACVVC met in an online video meeting on Tuesday, June 30 to discuss all options for the umpteenth time. Thanks to Mike Rafferty for setting up the Zoom meeting! We discussed every idea that came up regarding the pandemic and our reunion. It was pointed out that Marion County (where Indianapolis is located) has recorded 683 deaths; the state of Indiana has suffered 2,687 deaths.

## We are ready to roll with our 35th annual reunion, August 26 – 30 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

### The full schedule for the reunion appears in this issue.

Another point was made that while the infection rate continues to climb, the number of people dying is stable or declining in many areas. It appears that many new infections are incurred by younger folks who have a much higher survival rate. By contrast, our organization is composed almost totally of "senior citizens", who have a much lower survival rate. After much discussion, we agreed that we cannot be sure what the situation will be like in seven weeks, which is where we were three months ago. We tried to narrow our options to the best choices available, some which we knew months ago. Here is the summary of that discussion

**Option 1. Cancel and pay \$312,716** – We do not consider this a viable option. Our 11th ACVVC Judge Advocate, William Suhre, Esq., believes if we cancel we would likely be sued by the JW Marriott for the total amount of the penalty but also believes we would have a good chance of winning this in court. Bill also feels a court battle with the Marriott chain is a last resort. Some of our Officers feel that the negative publicity the Marriott would receive (a multi-billion-dollar corporation suing a group of senior citizen combat veterans) would disincentivize the hotel from taking us to court. The Officers agreed this is not a viable option. We cannot cancel under these conditions.

**Option 2. Reschedule to 2022** – The hotel offered this option while still requiring we pay a penalty of \$312,716 with half of that amount being applied to the 2022 reunion, meaning the penalty would be "only" \$156,358. The hotel could not guarantee the 2020 room rate (already the highest we have ever paid) would be the same in 2022. Given the loss of \$156,358 and the likelihood of a higher room rate, the Officers agreed

this is not a viable option. We will not reschedule with the JW Marriott in 2022.

**Option 3. Wait It Out** – This suggestion has merit but requires incredible patience as we all would like to know with certainty what we'll be doing and where we'll be doing it in the last week of August, now only seven weeks away.

There are many issues involved in "waiting it out". As I type this the COVID-19 pandemic has claimed 129,305 lives and by the time this issue gets to you that number will likely be over 140,000. The infection rate has increased in 36 (72%) states. As the pandemic spreads throughout the mid-West and even into rural states like Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota, it is obvious that we are nowhere near the end of this pandemic, indeed we may not even be through the first phase. Because the infection rate may continue to climb, there are additional factors we may be facing in the next few months.

Some states in the northeast are requiring a fourteen day "self-quarantine" for folks coming from high infection rate states, i.e., Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Arizona. If infection rates continue to rise there may be travel restrictions in states that currently have low rates of infection. The JW Marriott may decide the risk of infection to their guests is too great and decide to not open. If this occurs, we will not be penalized, and the contract requires the JW to find us suitable lodging in the area. If the JW closes it is unlikely any other hotel that could accommodate our group would be open. In this situation, the Officers agree that rebooking our group in another hotel, (if available) would not be the preferred choice of our members and we would notify all regis-

Please turn to **PRESIDENT** on page 21

## M88 from page 1

sooner or later, the old 88 is still soldiering hard all over the world. Tanks, be they M48s or M60s from the Cold War era, or the newest model M1s, look, sound, and sometimes even feel unbreakable. Same thing with the Bradley, M109, MLRS, and other medium-weight tracks.

The big 88s are crewed by mechanics, and they're trained not only in how to fix the things we break, but also how to get our tracks unstuck. They're some of the Army's unsung heroes. 88 crews carry everything they need to mired tracks, no matter how badly stuck. Winch, tow cables, A-frame, spade, cutting torch; it all goes with them. Think of it as a dual-purpose tracked wrecker and garage combination, and a rolling house for the crew.

All of the Army's armored vehicles – while not exactly delicate – are intricate machines with countless moving parts. And they get used in the toughest conditions. There's an endless list of things that break, usually at the worst possible time. Ever seen a picture of a bunch of M1 tanks driving around in some desert somewhere? Well, there's a better than even chance that after they're been going for more than a few hours, something will go wrong with at least one. What, you might ask? Here are just a few examples.

Know what a wedge bolt and end connector is? It's the thing that holds all the track shoes together. Crews check them all the time. Even so, they vibrate loose, or sometimes just go snap. When that happens, the tread falls apart. Not good. Sprockets shear off. Packs (that's what the engine and transmission are called) blow. Treads run off the road wheels or sprocket, which is called throwing a track. Final drives break.

Electrical systems stop. Air and fuel filters get hopelessly clogged. And those are just the simple problems.

We haven't even talked about where armor crews drive tracked vehicles. From personal experience, I can vouch for the fact that vehicle crews get their tracks stuck in the darndest places. Bogs, swamps, sand, washouts, stream beds, and tiny little trails in the woods are all places we love to drive our armored combat vehicles. Those kinds of terrain make it harder for bad guys

to shoot us. Plus, they help us sneak around. I know, you're thinking, "How do you sneak around in something that big and noisy?" Trust me on this one, it's possible.

Here's just one extreme example of tanks getting stuck. This happened in Germany and was so bad, the *Stars and Stripes* wrote about it in 1987:

[SSgt James] Timmons' mired tank could be called a sunken battleship. Timmons' 60-ton chariot is one of three tanks partially submerged in a wooded area during Certain Strike maneuvers. Three tanks, that is, until an M88 recovery vehicle also became stuck while trying to free them. And every tank commander knows that when a tank goes into the muck, you don't get out and push.

In the above case, not even the trusty 88 could get the tanks unstuck. It eventually took an entire German army engineer company with heavy equipment to get them out of their predicament. I saw this article back in the day while serving in Germany and remembered it all these years. When I was writing this story, I knew exactly what I was looking for! No doubt, SSgt Timmons' old buddies recall the incident too, and remind him about it whenever they can.

To cite just one of my own (mis)adventures, in about 1988 we were doing field operations at Hohenfels, which is a big troop training area in southern Germany. It had been raining and the ground was mushy. (Are you seeing a pattern here?) Anyway, it was very early in the morning, totally dark, and I was navigating from my Bradley turret with night vision goggles. I saw this grassy

meadow out ahead of us and told my driver to go ahead.

Well, the grassy meadow turned out to not be grassy, but swampy, very swampy. Next thing I knew, the driver reported that he couldn't go forward. So, I told him to back up. I knew right away that we were bogged when the treads began throwing mud in front of our track when he pushed the pedal.

I took out my flashlight and looked down, seeing the water up over the front of our track. At this moment I experienced a sinking feeling. That's when I said, like Ralphie in *A Christmas Story*, "Oh, fudge," although this wasn't exactly the f-word that escaped my lips. Let me tell you, this was some mighty deep mud.

Some of our buddies drove up behind us with their tank to pull us back out with our tow cables. Guess what? They sunk too, worse than us. We weighed just under 30-tons to their 70. We had mud halfway up our hull, and the tank was good and stuck too. (SFC Byrd, if you ever read this, I'm sorry for that night.) Take one guess who we called in that fudged up situation to come save the day. Yep, it was our trusty old M88 and crew.

88 crews might get a handshake after they save the day, that is, if there's time. But you won't find their names displayed on a top gun trophy in battalion or squadron headquarters. Hell, you can hardly find a mention of them in books about armor and mechanized operations. Their job isn't glamorous, but it's absolutely essential.

I guarantee you that no armored unit can

**M88A2: The Hercules**



shoot, move, and communicate for long without their 88s. Our mechanics are brave too. If a combat vehicle gets knocked out or breaks a tread in a firefight, the 88 responds. Enemy fire might be raining down, but they come, sometimes with the medics. They earn their spurs like the rest of us.

Our recovery crews live through the same dangers as we all do in combat. In armor and cavalry, there's no such thing as "just a mechanic." They're our battle buddies, which is about the highest compliment one Soldier can pay to another. And although it isn't something we like to think about, sometimes our mechanics give the last full measure of devotion.

The 88 has been beefed-up and modified over the years since it was introduced in 1960. The modern version is the 1050-hp M88A2, officially called "the Hercules". That stands for "Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lift and Evacuation System." You have to wonder how long it took the PR people to come up with that moniker (but I digress). 1960 or 2020, it's the same big squat powerful dinosaur.

Track crews in the modern Army are doubtless happy to hear the throaty growl of an 88 chugging up the trail to the rescue today, just like we were in the old Army. That beautiful diesel rumble has been music to the ears of tread heads for sixty years, and there's no sign of it stopping any time soon.

Allons,

Mark Flowers  
1SG, USA (ret)  
E 2/11 ACR, 1985-89

**Notes**

1. I include the M577 command post track, which is a derivative of the M113. The 113, 577, and 88 have all undergone modernization and improvements since entering service.

2. Soldiers use the word track in reference to tracked armored vehicles in general. To make it more opaque for civilians trying to figure out Army lingo, the same word is used when referring to the treads that armored vehicles ride on. They're also called tracks, but just for clarity, I call them treads in this article.

3. Cited passage from *Stars and Stripes* (Europe edition) article "Three tanks, recovery vehicle defeated by mud," page 9, 22 September, 1987

# 2020 Election

By Greg Mason, Secretary, 11th ACVVC

Three positions will be up for election this year during the General Membership Meeting to be held Saturday morning, August 29th, during the 2020 Reunion. The three positions are President, Secretary and one Director.

The President and Secretary will serve two-year terms. The Director will serve a three-year term. All terms will begin January 1, 2021.

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

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

The position of President requires considerable time and superb organiza-

tional skills. The President needs to frequently multi-task in his responsibility to oversee all projects, programs, and activities of the organization.

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

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

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

## Show Your Pride



"Kurt Wolf wears his pride."

### MOVING?

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# 2020 Summary of Motions

1. Motion 2020-0108 Membership Mailing
2. Motion 2020-0124A Authorized Signatures
3. Motion 2020-124B Bank Employee Recognition
4. Motion 2020-0125 Tabling Motion 2020-0124A
5. Motion 2020-0127 Bank Employee Recognition
6. Motion 2020-0317A Acceptance of Minutes and Reports
7. Motion 2020-0317B 2022 Atlanta Reunion Site
8. Motion 2020-0317C 2022 Columbus Reunion Site
9. Motion 2020-0424 The Book "The Blackhorse in Vietnam"
10. Motion 2020-0515 2020 Silent Auction
11. Motion 2020-0612 Order of the Spur Certificates
12. Motion 2020-0618 2020 Scholarships

## 1. Motion 2020-0108 Membership Mailing

Pete Walter has made the following motion and Greg Mason seconded the motion:

*"The 11th ACVVC will spend an amount not to exceed \$1,000 to contact expired members and urge them to renew their membership."*

The Motion passed unanimously.

## 2. Motion 2020-0124A Authorized Signatures

Greg Mason made the following motion and Pete Walter seconded the motion:

*"Financial accounts and Investment accounts of the 11th ACVVC will have the following officers as authorized signatures on these accounts: President, Vice President and Treasurer."* (See 4. Motion 2020-0125)

## 3. Motion 2020-0124B Bank Employee Recognition

Pete Walter Made the following and Greg Mason seconded the motion:

*"I move the 11th ACVVC present a cash (check) award to Raquel Edwards of the Virginia Commonwealth Bank for exemplary performance."*

The motion was withdrawn and replaced by Motion 2020-0127.

## 4. Motion 2020-0125 Tabling Motion 2020-0124A Authorized Signature

Ollie Pickral has made the following motion and Mike Rafferty seconded the motion:

*"Table Motion 2020-0124A Signature Authority to be discussed at length at the annual board meeting."*

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Pete Walter	No
Ollie Pickral	Yea	Greg Mason	No
Bob Moreno	Yes	Bill Karabinos	No
Mike Rafferty	Yes		

The motion passed.

## 5. Motion 2020-0127 Bank Employee Recognition

Ollie Pickral made the following motion seconded by Pete Walter:

*"The 11th ACVVC will present Raquel Edwards with a certificate and letter of appreciation from the President and receive a check award in*

*the amount of \$100."*

The motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Motion 2020-0317A Acceptance of Minutes & Reports

The minutes of the Reunion Board Meeting and many of the routine reports were provided in advance of the Mid-Year meeting held March 17, 2020 for the Board members to review and express their approval or acceptance of these reports. As a result, the following motion was made by Greg Mason and seconded by Pete Walter.

*"Accept the following minutes and reports as presented:*

- *The Secretary's 2019 Reunion Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*
- *The Treasurer's report*
- *President's Report*
- *Membership Report*
- *Operation Embrace Report*
- *Scholarship and Raffle Report"*

The Motion passed unanimously.

## 7. Motion 2020-0317B 2022 Atlanta Reunion Site

After much discussion of the pros and cons of a 2022 reunion site of Atlanta versus Columbus, the following motion as made by Greg Mason and seconded by Frank Church:

*"Hold the 2022 reunion in Atlanta."*

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Ollie Pickral	No
Pete Walter	Abstain		
Greg Mason	Yes	Bob Moreno	No
Mike Rafferty	Yes	Bill Karabinos	No

The motion failed.

## 8. Motion 2020-0317C 2022 Columbus Reunion Site

Then the following motion was made by Greg Mason and seconded by Ollie Pickral:

*"Include the Columbus site as one of the options for the 2022 reunion for the membership to vote on at the 2020 reunion membership meeting."*

The vote was as follows:

Pete Walter	Yes	Frank Church	No
Ollie Pickral	Yes	Greg Mason	No
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	No
Bill Karabinos	Yes		

The motion passed.

## 9. Motion 2020-0424 The Book The Blackhorse in Vietnam

The following motion was made by Pete Walter and seconded by Greg Mason:

*"I move we pay Casemate Publishing \$2,274.19 to purchase and ship 112 copies of 'The Blackhorse in Vietnam' to Jerry Beamon, 11th ACVVC QM, 15926 Cedar Bay Drive, Bullard, TX 75757."*

The motion passed unanimously.

### 10. Motion 2020-0515 2020 Silent Auction

Greg Mason made the following motion and Pete Walter seconded the motion:

“Cancel the 2020 Silent Auction”

The vote was as follows:

Pete Walter	Yes	Frank Church	No
Ollie Pickral	Yea	Bob Moreno	No
Greg Mason	Yes	Mike Rafferty	No
Bill Karabinos	Yes		

The motion passed.

### 11. Motion 2020-0612 Order of the Spur Certificates

Pete Walter made the following motion and Greg Mason seconded the motion:

“The 11th ACVVC will spend not more than \$1,200 to process and mail approximately 500 Order of the Spur certificates.”

The motion passed unanimously.

### 12. Motion 2020-0618 2020 Scholarships

Mike Rafferty made the following motion that Bill Karabinos seconded:

“11th ACVVC award 46 (\$3000) scholarships and 1 (\$5000) scholarship for a total of \$143,000 in 2020.”

The motion passed unanimously.

## VSO INFORMATION

### For veteran’s survivors

Howdy fellow Blackhorse vets!

Seems I confused some folks with the article submitted previously (*Thunder Run*, 2nd Quarter, 2020) wherein I attempted to explain Dependent Indemnity Compensation benefits for widows/widowers whose veteran spouse died from a service-connected disability. Reason being, I sort of used the exact wording straight from a VA handbook. My error there. So, allow me to rephrase all this information in order to clarify this benefit. Here goes -

**Under ten years, regardless of percentage of disability:** If our vet Jody (we all remember Jody, right?) receives disability ratings for one or several conditions, the cause of death must be a service-connected disability. Example- Being a Nam vet, Jody is service connected for Diabetes Mellitus II, Coronary Heart Disease and bad attitude syndrome. If Jody dies from DM II problems and that is on the death certificate, the surviving spouse will be eligible for DIC. However- IF Jody dies from the bad attitude syndrome, the surviving spouse is not entitled to DIC.

**Totally disabled (100%) ten years and greater.:** Jody again with the same medical conditions. So, Jody meets his maker, June 1, 2030 due his bad attitude syndrome. However, because Jody was in receipt of 100% ten years or more, the condition does not matter, and the surviving spouse is eligible.

Note: Marriage certificate, death certificate with cause of death will be required for the claim. And obviously, the vet and spouse must have been married at the time of death. This seems obvious, but when it comes to claims for financial benefits - it is amazing who shows up at VA’s doorstep.

### Medications and service-connected disability ratings

Many veterans are prescribed medications (by their VA providers) for their service-connected disabilities. And many veterans forget to share that information when they submit a claim for an increase for those service-connected conditions. This is an important issue not to be forgotten. When a veteran submits a claim for an increase, it is usually because his/her condition has worsened or there is an increase in discomfort and or pain. Most often, the VA will schedule a compensation examination to determine the severity of the condition(s). And most often, a veteran will attend the examination and not share he/she is on meds for the pain or to control the severity. If the examiner does not ask the crucial question (“Are you on meds?”) or the veteran does not volunteer this information, the examiner will conclude the condition has not worsened and thus the veteran does not receive an increase. The problem is – the medication will “mask” the condition during the examination.

This is even more important for mental health conditions. When a veteran follows the prescribed medication to control behavior (such as sudden anger outbursts) on the day of an examination, then of course, the veteran’s behavior is “controlled”. Thus, the examiner does not observe the veteran’s true instability and renders an opinion that essentially keeps the veteran at a low rating.

Fellow vets - always share with examiners the meds you are currently prescribed. Sure, they are supposed to review your medical records and include such in the examination- but in the real world, this may not be the case. Simply make sure they know.

*Chuck Bosko  
F Trp, 2/11  
chuckbosko@att.net*



## Membership is Our Strength

**It’s not the price you pay to belong, it’s the price you  
paid to become eligible to join**



## JOB from page 1

and one non-commissioned officer assigned to notification and casualty assistance duty, two different tasks. Both soldiers have had two weeks training in notification and assistance work, a major improvement in the way the situations are handled. They must respond to requests within 24 hours. NCO's are typically E-7 or higher. The individual doing notification must be of equal or higher rank than the trooper deceased or missing.

The reason for the 24-hour requirement has much to do with social media. It's understandable that a trooper would want to express his condolences to the family of the deceased, for example, if he or she is friends with them on Facebook. Because of this, as U. S. Senator Tom Cotton writes in his book *Sacred Duty*, after a "battlefield death..... private internet service was switched off and personal cell phones were confiscated". Cotton writes that the blackout would normally last a day or two.

In determining which chaplain and which line soldier gets the next assignment, it's basically next man up. Although some effort will be made to match religion with the trooper, i.e., if the deceased is Jewish try to get a Rabbi, the 24-hour requirement takes precedence. Much as when Bill Karabinos was the last chaplain on the ground in RVN for the 11th ACR, these dedicated men are prepared to work with all faiths.

The chaplain's role in casualty notification remains essentially the same as we knew it 50 years ago. They are there to provide comfort not only to the family of the deceased but also to the notification officer who may have difficulty performing his task. LTC Key mentioned a case where the line soldier froze, and he had to take over. His description of that scenario mirrored my own experience many years ago, when my emotions took hold and the pastor had to finish the job.

While the line officer's focus is on the notification itself, the chaplain is just as interested in follow-up assistance to the family of the deceased. Grief counseling and emotional support are aspects of this process that they are trained for and stand ready to perform. For them, the job doesn't end when they walk out the door; that's

**LTC (R) Bill Karabinos, LTC James Key, CPT Daniel Kim, CPT Ron Marshall, and CPT Anselmo Brillon, chaplains all, from various denominations.**



**Tight-knit military communities know what it means when two soldiers in Class A uniforms drive into the neighborhood looking for an address. Terrified families peek out behind curtains hoping theirs is not the number this time.**

just the beginning.

Surely one of the most difficult tasks for a notification team to address is suicide. It's one thing to tell a family their trooper died in the line of duty; it's a different story if the soldier took his own life. Sadly, suicide among active-duty soldiers is an increasingly common occurrence.

After notification, a casualty assistance team is assigned to help the family. This group is made up of local soldiers prepared to help with housing, pay, insurance, and other issues. A significant change from previous times is that if MIA becomes KIA, which often happens, a new notification officer will be assigned so the assistance team does not have to perform that duty. Again, this is a major improvement in the process.

The Army has come a long way from the days of a telegram delivered by a taxi driver, but some things don't change. Tight-knit military communities know what it means when two soldiers in Class A uniforms drive into the neighborhood looking for an address. Terrified families peek out behind curtains hoping theirs is not the number this time. The chaplains mentioned they are trained to expect the unexpected; some families will refuse to

answer the door. It's important to make the announcement inside the home, not on the front porch for the neighbors to see. On the other hand, chaplains have been amazed at the support from those same neighbors once the word is out.

I asked these gentlemen for their thoughts on this idea: while it's the Army that goes into battle, it's Congress that sends the Army there. You can say that in recent times it's the President, but bottom-line it is Congress that funds the Army. What if, whenever a notification is called for, a member of the local Congressman's staff is required to ride along and participate. If nothing else, this might make Congress think twice before putting boots on the ground. It could encourage them to review the situation through the lens of the Powell Doctrine prior to commitment of forces. The chaplains thought this might be a good idea, but it will likely never happen. What do you think?

No amount of training or experience will make the job of notification an easy or pleasant one. The procedure has definitely been improved, however, for the benefit of all concerned. But, just as before, this is still The Hardest Job in the Army.





# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman



Mike 'Doc' Rafferty

I received a total of 124 scholarship applications by the May 15th deadline this year! 122 of the applicants were grandchildren and 2 were children of our members. We had 92 female applicants and 32 males who applied. Most of the applicants were high school seniors.

The 11th ACVVC Board of Directors are **pleased to be able to award 47 scholarships for a total of \$143,000 this year!** We can do this because of the generosity of hundreds of our members who support the Calendar, Raffle, and Silent Auction fund raisers every year. However, since the Silent Auction was canceled this year due to COVID-19 concerns, we were not able to award as many scholarships as last year.

Each of the scholarship recipients will receive a \$3000 award

except for the winner of the Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Award scholarship who will receive \$5000.

All the applicants should have been notified of whether they qualified for a scholarship by the time you receive this issue of *Thunder Run*. The determining factors for scoring applicants were Grade Point Average for their most recent two years of education and how involved they were in extra-curricular and volunteer activities.

Allons,

Mike "Doc" Rafferty  
Scholarship Committee Chairman

## 11th ACVVC 2020 Raffle to Benefit Scholarship Program 2020

By: Mike "Doc" Rafferty

The proceeds from this year's raffle will go towards providing scholarships for our children and grandchildren. From 1996 through 2019, the 11th ACVVC's Scholarship Program has awarded 536 scholarships totaling \$1,713,000 to children and grandchildren of our members! This year we expect to award 47 more scholarships totaling \$143,000. This is an incredible accomplishment due solely to the generosity of our membership.

You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in the 2020 raffle. The drawing will be held Saturday, August 29th during the 35th annual reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana. You need not be present to win. The suggested ticket price is

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

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

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

## 2018 Scholarship Recipient Visits 11th ACR Memorial

Kathryn Holcek, an 11th ACVVC scholarship recipient, and her grandfather, Ev Roper (HHT Regt., 70-71), visited our memorial at Ft. Benning recently. Her scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Rob Wilson (KIA 05/06/68) and Ev wanted her to see our monument and locate his name. Thank you Ev for sending me the photo of you and your granddaughter holding the dedication certificate she received with her scholarship.

Mike "Doc" Rafferty  
Scholarship Chairman

Hathryn Holcek and grandfather, Ev Roper  
visit Memorial at Ft. Benning.



## Can you ride?





### Remember Me

I earned my first quarter on Memorial Day.

I was not quite 11 years old and didn't know anything about an allowance. I had nickels and dimes and even quarters in my hands before, mostly from relatives, but I had never worked for the money. Whatever I got was always a gift. Once I earned a tip from a tipsy uncle for getting him a beer, but on Sunday, May 30, 1948, I earned my first quarter by the sweat of my brow.

The big kids were headed to the cemetery to make some money. They said it was Decoration Day and people would be planting flowers on graves and you might get a dime to carry water to wet them down. So, with water bucket in hand, I joined the trek to Calvary Cemetery in Pittsburgh. It wasn't a far walk from where we lived in the Projects.

Once there we located the spigots, filled our buckets and started down the line of graves until an old man or his wife paid us a dime for the water. Sometimes they asked us to go back and get another bucket, so the dime became a quarter. Wow, I came home with over a dollar never understanding what I had done.

I never felt the sorrow, never saw the tears, couldn't understand the anguish. I was insensitive as to why they stood with heads bowed around the stone makers for so long.

We walked home gleefully with coins jingling in our pockets, momentarily tired, but as youth, quickly recovered. We looked forward to next year and how we could make even more money.

But with the swiftness of a rain-swollen stream, youth was swept away and the next time I carried water to a grave site, I was the "old man" and the day was now called Memorial Day.

Decoration Day had morphed into Memorial Day and is now the most solemn of our national holidays. Now, it is a day to honor the men and women who died while serving their country. For most it is a time to say thank you, but for the many another, whose loved ones never walked home, it is a time of

solemn remembrance and of a sorrow so deep in their hearts that no verbal surgery or literary ramblings can ease.

More than seven decades after earning my first quarter, this old man still walks the rows of our National Cemetery at least twice each year and tip toes down the slate path of the Vietnam Memorial — and with clouded eyes somehow finds a way back up that glistening trail to gaze at the triumphant Washington Monument. I do so not because I have to, but because I want to. Yet, I feel I must. I was never taught how to "feel," I don't know of anyone who has been schooled in that subject. It just came upon me as life unfolded and becomes more defined as the number of candles on my birthday cake increase.

I was taught to admire and respect, to love and revere, to be courteous and say thank you. And so, part of my hike around Arlington or the monuments in DC is to say thank you to the veterans of many wars. And I noted this year that a new monument is under construction to honor those veterans who died in the First World War. 'Bout time!

But the most solemn of all walks is to the Vietnam Memorial ... there I know somebody. There I find the names of men whose hands I shook, whose backs I slapped, whose beer I drank, whose chow I ate, whose track I rode on. On the polished granite wall, I read and trace with my fingers names of comrades I knew, of hundreds of other compatriots I would have liked to have known.

This year I found the name of William Pitsenbarger, Jr., Medal of Honor Airman, who decided to become an instant Infantryman-Grunt and a Combat Medic for the last day of his life. He rappelled from a hovering rescue helicopter and landed in a hail of bullets, a real hell of carnage and death, a hell of explosive fears, of blood-soaked fatigues, boots detached from stumps ten yards apart, of screams for "Ammo" or "Medic." He carried on, he treated the wounded, he gathered the survivors, he led a charge ... and he died in the jungle. His story was featured in the recent movie: *The Last Full Measure*.

But as is my want, I also sought out the names of our 11th Cav brothers who gave their "last full measure." I have often been touched by the reverence of so many other 11th Cav survivors who over the years, since 1987, (according to our venerable President Emeritus, Allen Hathaway, who has been there from the beginning of our streak of 33 years of gatherings on Memorial Day), trace the names of their friends on The Wall. Year after year, after our gathering and as we split up to walk away, they look back.

They actually walk back, and touch that Wall. They touch a particular name, usually more than one, of guys they served with and who paid the ultimate price in Vietnam. I vividly remember my friend Bill Knowlton, always going back to touch the name of his roommate from West Point, Richard Green. Dick Green and Bill both served with the 2nd Squadron in 1971 in Vietnam. Platoon Leader Knowlton, whose track I was often privileged to ride on as we trekked through the elephant grass plains of Tay Ninh Province, himself has a Purple Heart. Bill used to insist I wear a flak jacket and steel pot and I didn't like it then, but he was taking good care of me. Bill served in Vietnam in 1971 and 1972, and then many more years in the Army and then just as many teaching at an Army War College before he retired. He was and is forever a proud Blackhorse trooper, a soldier I much admire. But after each visit to The Wall, Bill would silently seek out the name of Dick Green and with great affection, pride and honor, slowly run his fingers across the etching. I too have to do that now.

I could reach a few names on panel 2W. I found Arthur Likens, the last Blackhorse trooper to be killed in Vietnam and then I found the name of Ronnie Longfellow, an Aero-Rifle Platoon Scout in the Air Cav. Ronnie died in January from his wounds on a scouting patrol. He was medevac'd to a field hospital in Long Binh, where I visited with him a few times and realized that all the nurses fell in love with him. He had a hell of a struggle, was really badly torn up inside and out, but still a courageous and joyful young man. Not



The name of Ronnie Longfellow, an Aero-Rifle Platoon Scout in the Air Cav, etched on the Wall.

resentful, not apologetic, his outlook was forward, never backward. Even while receiving the Last Rites, he smiled and kidded about whether our next visit would be in Pennsylvania or Heaven.

They transferred him to a hospital in Japan, where he passed away. Gosh, how I loved that lad. I have yet to tell his story; will do so one of these days. I couldn't reach up to the top of panel 1W to touch a few more names, though I always make a special case of locating another great trooper, Mike "Chief" Aguilar.

Going across the bridge and saluting the motorcade of President Trump as he drove by, I found my way around security into Arlington. It was really closed, except to family members, but I thought that meant my brother Troopers of the 11th Cavalry. Somehow, I ended up at Section 60 to leave a card with 21 cents attached on the headstone of a dear friend, a mentor, and a veteran, even though he was a Navy Captain.

While there, I saw a man and woman settled in folding chairs at the headstone of an Iraq or Afghanistan hero. I could

see on their faces that they were broken but their love endured for that son of theirs ... and of America, whose earthly remains rested there. It was so touching a moment that it was the first thing I related to my wife when I returned home later that day. She saw the tableau better than I as she explained "that his soul was so present to that father and mother that they were conversing."

That son was the little boy she carried, the young man he taught to play ball, the son they saw graduate from high school, maybe college, and even from boot camp. That was the son they waved off to war, who was now home to stay, not with them, but on American soil where they could find him and talk with him ... and still love him. While watching the couple I was distracted by the sound of Taps echoing from above, at the Tomb of the Unknown, where the President had just placed a wreath. I straightened. I saluted.

And then I looked back at the man and woman at their son's grave. It dawned on me that they had been there a long time already, the flowers they brought were wilted, the tears they shed were dry on their cheeks, their folding chairs had sunk deeply into the soft but sacred soil. They were sturdy and strong and although hurting, still taught me a lesson. The lesson no one could teach me as a child carrying water in a cemetery, a lesson on how to feel, on how to love.

## 11th ACVVC Funeral Honor Guard

*Pete Walter*

Troopers, families and friends, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Funeral Honor Guard has not been making many calls or sending many emails. Most families who have lost their veteran have opted to delay services until a later date. Others have chosen to have a private service with a Celebration of Life planned for a future date. At some point in the future we will return to something resembling normalcy. At that time, I am hopeful that we will again return to regular services and the Funeral Honor Guard will once again be there to visit with the family members of a fallen Trooper. The follow-

ing paragraphs are from an article written many years ago, but I am optimistic that we will again be able to pay our final respects.

Most of us have heard of the mythical "Fiddler's Green", the "...good old time canteen" located "Halfway down the trail to Hell". Legend has it all Cavalrymen stop here for a drink with departed comrades and never leave.

In reality we will all depart this world at some time. The loosely organized and informal 11th ACVVC Funeral Honor Guard renders the last respects for deceased comrades by simply attending the viewing or funeral service of our fall-

en brothers.

Any member of the 11th ACVVC who lives within an hour's drive of the funeral service might get a call or an email from me asking that they attend a viewing or funeral. All we ask or expect of attendees is that they dress neatly, introduce themselves to the family, tell them you served with the Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam and are paying your respects and expressing your condolences to the family of a fellow Blackhorse Trooper.

To accomplish this last farewell, we need to be informed whenever you know of the death of a Blackhorse brother.

Please turn to page 22

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

*Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian*

## DOC

**20 May 1967.** Operating with the 2nd (Republic of Korea) Marine Brigade in May, Echo Troop ran into a well-entrenched enemy in a hamlet north of Chu Lai. The 2nd Squadron annual historical summary for 1967 tells that story. "About midday on 20 May, E Troop was approaching a small village when it began receiving heavy automatic weapons fire and rifle grenades. It was during this action that Private First Class Joseph P. Tamboia first experienced the taste of combat. Private First Class Tamboia was a medic assigned to E Troop when the initial burst of enemy fire wounded several men in his platoon. With complete disregard for his own safety Private Tamboia left the safety of his armored vehicle and ran to the aid of his stricken comrades. He repeatedly exposed himself to intense enemy fire as he moved to treat the wounded. As the enemy fire increased in volume, Private Tamboia noticed that the machine gunner, who had been providing suppressive fire for the friendly forces, was wounded. Without hesitation, Private First Class Tamboia grabbed the machine gun and fired at the insurgent position from which the accurate enemy fire came until it was silenced. Troop E, crushing the enemy resistance, continued on its mission and later in the day it again received heavy fire from another enemy emplacement. Another cavalryman was wounded and Private First Class Tamboia again moved unflinching through the hail of bullets to render aid. Private First Class Tamboia was awarded the Silver Star for his gallant actions."

Awards for bravery were presented to a large number of Blackhorse medics between September 1966 and April 1971, but relatively few were awarded to squadron and regimental surgeons. It wasn't for a lack of bravery, but a lack of opportunity that led to this situation. For the most part, these cavalry doctors were located in relatively secure base camps and fire support bases, where their surgical skills were needed the most. But 1st Squadron's Captain (Dr.) Paul Gold was an exception. He joined the Blackhorse just one year out of medical school in September 1967. By mid-1968, he was nearing the end of his tour and was beginning to think about going into family practice back in Michigan. On 28 June 1968, 1st Squadron was under the operational control of the 3rd Brigade, 1st (US) Infantry Division. Alpha Troop was conducting reconnaissance-in-force operations between Phu Loi and Lai Khe. This was relatively open territory, known to be frequented by the 88th and 101st (NVA) Regiments. Without warning, two of the sweeping ACAVs detonated anti-tank mines. Almost immediately, a firestorm of rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) and automatic weapons fire broke out, coincidentally wounding every medic in the troop. The call went out to the 1/11 command post for a medevac, as well as additional medics. CPT Gold heard the call and boarded the first helicopter. Briefed on the situation while en route, the squadron surgeon knew that Alpha Troop was in the middle of a mine field, fighting for its life. Knowing that other mines might be in the area, but

**Awards for bravery were presented to a large number of Blackhorse medics between September 1966 and April 1971, but relatively few were awarded to squadron and regimental surgeons. It wasn't for a lack of bravery, but a lack of opportunity that led to this situation.**

realizing that Troopers' lives depended on him, he didn't hesitate. When the Huey landed, he leapt to the ground, charged across the minefield, and began to treat the most seriously wounded. As his Silver Star citation reads: "Completely ignoring shouted warnings concerning the presence of mines, he administered first aid to the wounded crewmen and then fearlessly went from one injured soldier to the next, rendering emergency medical treatment."

**31 July 1968.** Arthur Dowding was awarded a Bronze Star for valor for his action on 31 July 1968. On that day, the 2nd Platoon of Golf Troop – to which "Doc" Dowding was attached – was working with the tanks of Hotel Company south of Phuoc Vinh in the area called the Catcher's Mitt. This was an area known to be home of the Dong Nai Regiment, as well as a number of very active local Viet Cong cells. Many of the villages were known to be pro-VC, so it was not very surprising that when the tanks and ACAVs went to recover an Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge (AVLB), the dismounted Golf Troop scouts found the ground at the temporary bridge site to be strewn with anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, as well as booby traps. Arthur Dowding's Bronze Star citation tells the rest of the story: "Extreme caution was being exercised by the recovery team as the entire area around the bridge was heavily mined. Suddenly one of the flank security men [SP4 Charles Hamner] detonated an antitank mine which blew him 25 to 30 feet from the point of contact. Specialist Dowding, hearing the explosion, reacted instantly and with a total disregard for his personal safety, dashed through the heavily-mined area to administer first aid to and prepare the seriously wounded soldier for evacuation."

**1969.** 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 three years and three months of providing medical support to the Regiment. Working with the 7th Surgical Hospital until its deactivation in June 1969, the 37th Med cared for casualties brought in by dust off from the Regiment, from the 1st Cav Division's 3rd Brigade, the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, the 18th ARVN [Army of the Republic of Vietnam] 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, Ong

Que, and Lai Khe. By the time it moved to Quan Loi, the 37th Med was the largest separately operating medical company in Vietnam – providing division-level medical support to the Blackhorse family.

**26 December 1969.** In a letter to his parents on 26 December 1969, Mike ‘Doc’ Rafferty summed up what it was like to be a Blackhorse medic in combat. He had come under enemy fire for the first time earlier that day while working with Golf Troop. One Trooper was wounded, so Doc had the opportunity to employ all of the skills he had learned at Ft. Sam Houston during Advanced Individual Training. He treated the wound, he reassured the man he would be alright, he looked for signs of shock, he filled in the medical casualty tag, he stayed with the wounded warrior until the medevac arrived. He even helped him to the helicopter. Later, after he had a chance to take stock of what had happened, he wrote: “Over here, I have the terrible responsibility of human life on my hands. It will take all of the love, understanding, and courage I possess to meet that responsibility successfully. Today, I had more responsibility for two hours than I ever had in my life.”

**21 January 1970.** Blackhorse medics were a breed apart from their counterparts in infantry units. The 7.62mm slug from an AK47 rifle caused some pretty horrific wounds – but nothing compared to the wounds made by a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG). Bravo Troop’s Kip Hammond recalls treating his first casualty in country. “A tank commander had been hit in the head and half of his head was gone, but he was still alive, and he was conscious. He asked me for a cigarette, and the whole time I was working on him, he was talking to me, and I just didn’t understand how somebody with this bad of an injury could be doing this. I mean, I could actually see his brain ...” (The wounded Trooper survived. He and Kip met at the

2013 reunion in Indianapolis.) Less than two months later, Kip was himself wounded (his first of three) in the chest and leg by shrapnel from an RPG; despite his wounds, he continued to care for his fellow Troopers, earning him a Silver Star. He believes that as a 20-year old, he and his fellow medics experienced things that “a lot of doctors in the Chicago emergency room will never see in a lifetime ... The destruction to the human body is unbelievable.”

**1970.** In mid-1970, Sergeant First Class (SFC) Bill Rehm was the 1st Squadron medical platoon sergeant. A number of fire support bases (FSBs) were being attacked in War Zone C at the time, and he thought about how he could best prepare his medics for the inevitable attack on the command post itself. When the squadron occupied FSB Kramer on 12 April, he designated four collection points for the wounded – one next to the Howitzer Battery tent, one each on the north and south sides of the perimeter, near the AVLB, and the final one on the west side. He briefed the leadership on where the collection points were located, then walked his medics and the cooks (who served as litter bearers during a fight) through the procedures to be followed once the wounded arrived. SFC Rehm remembers: “‘This was the first time we put it into effect... because other fire support bases were getting hit.’” Three days after occupying Kramer, the 95C (NVA) Regiment attacked. The new procedure worked just as planned. The wounded were brought to one of the collection points, where a medic provided immediate first aid. From there, the wounded Troopers walked or were carried by the cooks on a litter to the squadron aid station located near the center of the fire base. Each collection point had a portable radio, and the medics periodically reported their status to SFC Rehm. This procedure soon became the standard operating procedure at every new FSB.

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

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

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

### General Fund

#### Gold Level

Bates, Terry  
Parkins, Judy  
In Memory of , Tom  
Parkins

#### Bronze Level

Schaefer, Sue  
In Memory of, Larry  
J. Ward

### Scholarship Fund

#### Platinum Level

Huddle, Douglas

#### Gold Level

Cartwright, Waverly  
Cressman, Charles  
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Ingram, Glendon  
Mason, Greg  
Murdock, Monte  
Parkins, Judy  
In Memory of Tom  
Parkins  
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Charles Harris  
Jeter, Jeff  
Kallina, Gerald  
Kelliher, Patrick  
Kern, Donald  
Klink, Robert  
Labrecque, Simon  
Mason, Clinton

Smith, Wade  
Sowell, Jerry  
Washington, Benjamin  
Young, Jerl

#### Silver Level

Caldwell, Ronald  
Carter, Richard  
Duckwall, John  
Gleditsch, Herbert  
Kaul, Terry  
Lantrip, Gary  
Lewis, David  
Longhouser, John  
McIntosh, James  
McMillion, David  
Moyer, Jack  
Noetzel, Al  
Young, Jim

#### Bronze Level

Alexander, Doyal

Bennell, John  
Blunt, Wallace  
Brewer, Joel  
Courtney, Patrick  
Doll, Thomas  
Dunlop, James  
Gerhardt, Terry  
Hansen, Paul  
Holmes, Eric  
Jack, Fred  
Kurihara, Harry  
Mireles, Mike  
Pelton, Andrew  
Phillips, Frank  
Schoephoerster, Harry  
Schwarm, Mark  
Smith, Lawrence  
Wehrle, Hubert  
White, Russell  
White, Reginald  
Zeller, Larry

# 2020 Reunion Registration Information

Dear troopers and friends of the Blackhorse let us start with the year in general. Was not the last reunion a blast from the past? Even if you just walked around all weekend and looked at all the posters, it was so easy to let yourself be transported back to a time of our youth.

Of course, as many of you know most years following the reunion the Moreno's go on vacation and last year was to be no exception, or so we thought! First stop, you got it, Disneyland. Trip halted when Barb fell and broke her leg, which we did not know it was broke until we got home five days later. Almost a year later and the leg is still not fully healed. Next up Raleigh contracted a sore on his foot that ended getting infected resulting in losing all his toes on the left foot. Now he is learning to do things with only one set of toes.

So far, I have stayed healthy; let us hope that I stay that way.

Now on to the reunion. Everything is on track for Indianapolis. Name tags and supplies are being packed. Now all we

need is you. As of today, we have over 300 registered. So, if you are not sure what to do, plan on joining us. You can always cancel. Please keep in mind all of the cut-off dates that we have in place.

The easiest and fastest way to register is online. Ollie and I get it at the same time and as soon as I get ten new registrations in, I can update the list that is on the web site.

If you are mailing in your registration form, it will take some time for me to post it on the web site. Keep that in mind when mailing in your registration form to Ollie, he holds on to them until he gets ten or fifteen registrations. Then he mails them to me. As soon as I get the forms, I post them on the web site. Thanks for using the mailing address labels on the registration form, it sure makes it easier in making your name tags. Ollie just sends me the registration form and not the envelope. No matter how you register do it soon. We want you there!

So, here is what needs to be done.

1. Decide to come.

2. Make hotel reservation.

3. Send in your reunion registration form-save time and do 2 and 3 at the same time.

4. Check flights, maps, or whatever means of getting there are.

5. Have fun.

If you have any questions, please call me ph.# (Home) 608-372-5892 or (Cell) 608-387-3346 I'm always up until midnight, or email me at [gtroopbob@gmail.com](mailto:gtroopbob@gmail.com). If you decide to cancel please inform me so I can get all the information that Ollie needs to do a refund or donate your registration money.

From Barb, Raleigh, and myself

Have a great summer.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy and wash your hands.

"ALLONS"

Roberto "Bob" Moreno  
G Troop 2/11th (12/68-12/69)  
11th ACVVC Member Board of Directors  
Reunion Registration

## 2020 11TH ACVVC REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

All pre-ordered shirts will be available for pick-up at the Quartermaster Store during the 2020 reunion in Indianapolis, IN  
**Orders must be received by July 24, 2020.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

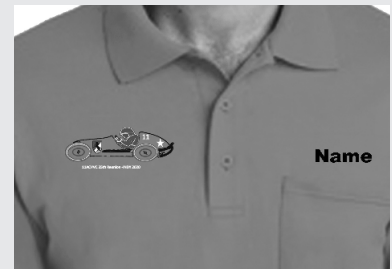
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Shirt Color:** White with reunion logo embroidered on **left** side; name, troop, year on **right** side.

**Adult Sizes:** S, M, L, XL - \$42.00 each / 2XL, 3XL - \$44.00 each. **Shirt size:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Shipping:** If you can't attend the reunion, you can still order the shirt. Add \$7 for shipping and we will mail your shirt to you.



Prices include up to 3 lines of 40 characters per line of personalized embroidery (Name, Unit, Dates, Etc.)

PLEASE PRINT

Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa

MasterCard

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ CVC Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make checks or money orders payable to **11th ACVVC**. If paying by check, write your drivers license number on the check.  
Mail form to **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, C/O Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757.**

REGISTRATION FORM



35th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion  
Indianapolis, Indiana

August 26 - 30, 2020

JW Marriott

10 S. West Street Indianapolis, IN 46204

Reservations: 1-317-860-5800



Registration fee is \$80 per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner.

All registrations must be received by Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer no later than August 15, 2020.

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION**

(print clearly or use mailing label)

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 PICKRAI  
571 DITCHLEY RD  
KILMARNOCK, VA 22482



# 11th ACVVC 35th Annual Reunion Indianapolis, IN August 26 – 30, 2020



## Schedule of Events

### Wednesday, August 26

10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Quartermaster Store open	Room 103-104
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration open	White River Ballroom Registration (floor 1)
2:00 pm - 12:am	Bunker open	White River Ballroom (floor 1)
5:00 pm -8:00 pm	BOD Meeting	Room 101-102

### Thursday, August 27

9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Quartermaster Store open	Room 103-104
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration open	White River Registration (floor 1)
2:00 pm - 12:am	Bunker open	White River Ballroom (floor 1)

### Friday, August 28

9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Quartermaster Store open	Room 103-104
10:00 am - 12 noon	Veterans Seminar	Room 201- 204 (floor 2)
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Registration open	White River Ballroom Registration (floor 1)
2:00 pm - 12:am	Bunker Open	White River Ballroom (floor 1)

### Saturday, August 29

8:30 AM	Raffle Drawing	White River Ballroom (floor 1)
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Annual Membership Meeting	JW Grandballroom 6-10 (floor 3)
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Memorial Service	JW Grandballroom 6-10 (floor 3)
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Quartermaster Store open	103-104 (floor-1)
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Registration open for late arrivals	White River Ballroom Registration (floor 1 )
5:45 pm - 6:45 pm	Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)	White River Ballroom Foyer
6:00 PM	Banquet room Doors Open	
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Banquet, Presentations and Salute	White River Ballroom (floor 1)
10:00 pm - Midnight	Dancing (DJ)	Whie River Ballroom Prefunction

### Sunday, August 30

10:00 am - 11:00 am	Worship Service	Room 201- 203 (floor 2)
All Day	Farewell and Safe Travels	No space Required

**Follow me to Dallas 2021**





# State of the Reunion

**I**t has been a very difficult few months for the Officers of the 11th ACVVC. with a lot of discussion on finding the best course of action to take concerning our 2020 Reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Officers have had ongoing and very difficult discussions internally, as well as the Hotel, on whether to hold this year's Reunion as scheduled or cancel completely. Our choices were to cancel and pay a substantial penalty to the hotel or go forward with the reunion and put our members at risk of exposure to the Corona Virus 19. After much deliberation and many "sleepless nights" as one Officer put it, the decision was made to go forward with our 2020 Reunion as scheduled on Aug. 26-Aug. 30 2020. This decision was made in part based on the response of you, the members. We have enough registrations to be able to go forward with a smaller reunion in numbers but just as big in comradery and brotherhood as any other reunion.

The JW Marriott Indianapolis has put into place extensive measures to keep their guests as safe as possible. Each guest room will be sanitized and a "seal" will be placed on the door to guarantee that is has not been entered prior to your arrival. (for details on the latest updates go to the web site "Back on Track Indiana"). The hotel will continue its cleaning and sanitizing protocol over the Reunion dates to ensure we will be as safe as possible during our stay (see those procedures elsewhere in this issue of the Thunder Run). All meeting and functions will be held in such a way as to allow distancing for those who wish to follow that precaution. Masks will not be required, that is your choice. By July 4, 2020 the state of Indiana is predicting to be in the final Stage 5 of their reopening plans and fully open with no restrictions on group gatherings. All restaurants and bars will be open with no restrictions and no limits on the size of social gatherings.

The Reunion registration fee is \$80, the cutoff date is Aug. 15, 2020. The hotel will take registrations and cancellations

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**The JW Marriott Indianapolis has put into place extensive measures to keep their guests as safe as possible. Each guest room will be sanitized and a "seal" will be placed on the door to guarantee that is has not been entered prior to your arrival.**

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until Aug. 17, 2020. To make room reservations call 317-860-5800 or go to the pass key link web page <https://book.passkey.com/go/11thACVVC2020>

Parking is discounted at 30% off the existing rate, no Valet parking. We still get a %15 discount at the Osterio, Pronto, High Velocity, TGI Fridays and the Bistro restaurants in the hotel. Scooter rentals are still available, call 317-855-3158 or go to their web site [www.lifestylescootersinc.com](http://www.lifestylescootersinc.com) to reserve. I made the decision to cancel the Trolley Service. The Company made offers to sanitize after each stop and provide masks for each rider but putting the members in such a confined space was more of a risk than I considered wise or acceptable.

There will not be a silent Auction this year. If you have items to donate hang on to them until next year, if you have already sent one in we will hold those for you. The Women's Meeting and the Indiana History presentation has also been cancelled. All other functions will be held as planned (see the Reunion Schedule elsewhere in this issue).

I want to thank the other Officers of the 11th ACVVC for making the very hard choice of going forward with this year's Reunion. That decision was made because of the number of our membership that wanted to "....Be together Again". You are what makes this such a great organization and being together is a therapy we all need.

"Allons"

*Frank Church,  
Reunion Chairman/Vice President- 11ACVVC*

***"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity.***

***I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were willing to die for one another.***

***As long as I have my memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades. Ahhh... Such good men."***

(Framed quote posted over the intake desk at the VA Out Patient Clinic at Fort Dix, NJ. Author Unknown.)

# My 'Top' Sergeant

## Rosalio C. Montelongo (Monty)

First Sergeant Rosalio C. "Monty" Montelongo was an icon in the US Army, especially the Cavalry units. Many of you older Blackhorse troopers undoubtedly met Monty or knew of him. Some of you younger troopers may have at least heard stories of Monty (most of them probably true). I first met Monty in September 1969 when I took command of L Troop, 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse) in the rubber plantations and jungle west of An Loc, South Vietnam. I was a 23 year old Captain with two-plus years of commissioned service - just six weeks of Armor Officers Basic Course (AOBC), Ranger Tab, one-plus year in the 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and less than six months in the Vietnam combat zone, including as platoon leader in K Troop. Monty was the recently assigned L Troop 1 SGT at the age of 50 years with twenty-seven years of highly decorated Army service, much of that time in combat in three wars - WWII, Korea, and two previous tours in Vietnam. Monty and I became a close-knit command team for the remainder of my command time with L Troop. We reconnected many years later and remained close friends until he died in September of 2005.

I'm writing this article at the request of several Blackhorse troopers and to recognize and honor Monty's service; renew some old memories of Monty; acquaint you younger troopers with a truly unique NCO leader; and give you my view of why Monty was so valuable to the units in which he served, the soldiers he led, and to then Captain Caldwell (later Lieutenant General Caldwell).

Monty retired from active military duty in 1972 at the age of 53, having served in the Army thirty years. He died September 17, 2005, in Severn, Maryland, at the age of 86 after a full and colorful life. His ashes are inurned at Arlington National Cemetery (Court 5, Section QQ, Column 26, Niche 1). He received full military honors. I truly regret not asking Monty to tell me more stories of his military life -

By  
Lieutenant General, USA (R) John S. Caldwell, Jr.

but he did tell me some.

Born August 24, 1919, in New Braunfels, TX, Monty enlisted in the Army in 1939. He was assigned to the European theater and served nearly four years in the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe campaigns. While I do not have detailed documentation of Monty's units of service during those four years, the fighting was bitter leading up to V-E Day, May 8, 1945. He performed as a Cavalry Squad Leader, SGT. My uncle was KIA during those campaigns. Monty told me he was in General Patton's Army and Monty said he had the pleasure of pissing in the Rhine River as they attacked to the west.

Monty returned to Europe in 1947, serving as a Cavalry Platoon Sergeant. During this tour of duty, he met and married a beautiful German girl, Erika, in 1948. I had the pleasure of knowing Erika and Monty as a couple from 1989 until 2001, when she passed away. Looking back on Monty's life, I expect that Erika was not only the highlight of Monty's life, but she was also the disciplinarian in his life.



Monty: WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War

Returning to the United States in 1950, Monty reported as a Platoon Sergeant to the 3rd Armored Cavalry at Fort Meade, Maryland. However, the Korean War kicked off in June of 1950 and Monty was soon assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division and on to the 3rd Infantry Division in the Korean theater. He served as a Platoon Sergeant where he earned the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars and Purple Heart medals. In August 1953, after deploying back to the States and Fort Pickett, Virginia, his Platoon Leader retroactively recommended Monty for the Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH). The cited action was brutal hand-to-hand combat with outnumbering Chinese forces. Monty never told me about that and I don't know why it was not approved. Having served on several Medal of Honor evaluation boards, I expect there was not sufficient first hand documentation from surviving eyewitnesses. Therefore, the award was probably downgraded to one of Monty's many Silver Star medals. I can't find that documentation.

Monty returned to USAREUR and the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry in August 1963. He had been promoted to First Sergeant. I don't have any documentation of his record there, however over many beers and many times later in the 1990s, Monty told me he knew Elvis Presley there - perhaps in the same unit, but it's hard for me to verify (Monty knew I was a huge Elvis fan). While Elvis was on active duty in the 1-32 Armor, 3rd Armored Division in Europe until March of 1960, he was in the Reserves until March of 1964 - so, Monty's tales are quite likely true. What I do know is that Monty was also a huge Elvis fan and he had "collected" quite a few Elvis mementos. During the 1990s when I would visit him at his home in Odenton, MD, he would always have an Elvis gift for me. Specifically, I'm the proud owner of several Elvis Jim Beam Bourbon decanters, a large Elvis painting on a black velvet canvas, and a head-and-shoulder Elvis table

**It was obvious to me that “Top” was a combat leader and a truly unique senior NCO. Monty was clearly a “fighting First Sergeant.” He was always accessible by his soldiers.**

lamp (fancy Jump Suit included). I always asked Monty how/where he acquired these collectors’ items. He just smiled that devilish Monty smile (those who knew him can see that smile now) and mumbled a few vague words never to reveal the truth.

Monty remained in USAREUR until March 1966 when he was assigned to the 3-5 Cavalry, 9th Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS, and the entire division deployed to Vietnam. The US Army was massively increasing its forces as the fighting escalated in 1965. The 1st Infantry had already deployed from Fort Riley to Vietnam in late 1965. The Blackhorse Regiment deployed from Fort Meade to Vietnam in September 1966. In April of 1967, Monty was reassigned as 1SGT of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th ACR (Blackhorse). It’s difficult for me to precisely decipher copies of the old records I have, but the fighting was intense and escalating and Monty was awarded at least several Bronze Star Medals and at least one Silver Star Medal. One thing was very clear, Monty was NOT a “rear area” First Sergeant. He performed all traditional 1st Sergeant duties well, but he also led troops to the “sound of guns!” Monty departed Vietnam in December 1967 enroute to USAREUR and the 3rd Squadron, 8th Cavalry, 8th Infantry Division.

In August 1969, Monty returned to Vietnam and reported to L Troop, 3rd Squadron, Blackhorse, as the new “Top” Sergeant. The Blackhorse, having fought valiantly and decisively in the Tet Offensive of early 1968, was in the process of redeploying from Blackhorse base camp just north of Saigon to further north toward the “Fish Hook” area of Vietnam vicinity of An Loc and Loc Ninh. The objective was to block and destroy the large North Vietnamese Army (NVA) forces marshaling along the Cambodian border and preparing to attack into Vietnam, destroy South Vietnamese

forces and capture the capital city, Saigon. Intense combat would ensue to accomplish this objective.

Having served as a Platoon Leader in K Troop and as the S-3 Air of the 3rd Squadron, Blackhorse, I took command of L Troop on September 19th, 1969, and met my “Top” Sergeant, Monty Montelongo. There was no pause in constant, 24 hour operations (search and destroy), but Monty and I, along with the Platoon Leaders and Platoon Sergeants, assessed the condition/morale of our troops, the operational tactics, status of training, equipment maintenance, etc. We made necessary changes, which would now mandate every trooper getting one hot meal per day, a “shower” at least every three days, a routinely clean uniform, and a noticeable shave every few days. In addition to daily “Search and Destroy” operations, we implemented a rigorous training program and pressed squadron HQ for replacement of worn out combat vehicles.

All of this was facilitated with the advice of “Top” Montelongo and my recognition that he was the “X factor” enabling all of this as opposed to his simply adequately performing the traditional 1st SGT duties of supporting operations. It was obvious to me that “Top” was a combat leader and a truly unique senior NCO. Monty was clearly a “fighting First Sergeant.” He was always accessible by his soldiers. In fact, he was reported to address all enlisted soldiers up to E5 as “Combat!” One trooper stated that Top was the first senior NCO that “actually would talk to you, not at you. He was aggressive in a combat situation, but I can never remember him raising his voice, however, when he spoke you listened.” My assessment would be validated during the significant combat operations during my time as Commander of L Troop.

Allow me to amplify and expand my above assessment. I hope I’ll adequately explain the true value of my having

Monty as my Top Sergeant.

I was blessed with the opportunity to attend, graduate from, and receive my officer commission from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. I was taught and I learned the responsibilities of an officer, no matter what rank, in the US Army. I was also taught, and I fully absorbed, the wisdom that officers, especially junior officers, MUST rely on the experience of their NCOs, seek their views, and embrace them as a treasured asset and partner to enable required leadership of soldiers. This is even more important in a combat theater when soldiers will live or die based on the quality of their leadership, both officers and non-commissioned officers.

As mentioned earlier, L Troop operations during September – October 1969 were focused on 24/7 Search and Destroy missions pushing further to the west and north of An Loc and Loc Ninh. Inherent in these operations was establishing and securing supply lines, both air and ground, over an expanding, distributed area of operations. While I maneuvered daily with one or more of my platoons, Top Montelongo was focused on the security of our HQ, the effectiveness of our supply and maintenance operations, and the health, welfare and morale of our troopers. My confidence in his experience and skill allowed me to focus on maneuvering to find and destroy the enemy.

Encounters with the enemy, both VC and NVA, were mostly small scale, but intense. However, theater-level intelligence indicated large NVA units were positioning along the Cambodian border, probing into South Vietnam War Zone C. Expectations were the NVA were preparing to massively strike deep into South Vietnam seeking to destroy the South Vietnamese Army and capture Saigon. The Blackhorse Regiment was placed under the operational control of the First Cavalry Division. We could sense something big was imminent.

Top Montelongo and I knew we needed to further improve L Troop’s combat operational status for the large scale operations to come – better training, better equipment readiness, better everything – and fast. We built and executed a plan to do just that. Top and the Platoon Sergeants

got the troops and equipment ready. The Platoon Leaders and I sharpened our reconnaissance-by-fire and maneuver battle drills.

In November, US forces launched Operation Texas Traveler to rapidly strike west across War Zone C to cut off, disrupt and destroy the large NVA forces maneuvering toward Saigon. The First Cavalry Division, supported by 3rd Squadron, spearheaded the attack. L Troop led on the ground through very difficult terrain and soon located and engaged NVA forces much larger than expected. The fighting was intense, but our advanced training paid off in spades. We suffered casualties, but relatively few considering the large enemy forces encountered.

Operation Texas Traveler was planned and executed against the backdrop of the Paris Peace Talks between the US and North Vietnamese, whereby combat operations were to be scaled back on the pathway to a negotiated declaration of peace and withdrawal of US forces from South Vietnam. However, the intense, large-scale battles in War Zone C exposed the true NVA intentions and severely disrupted the negotiations. Though the US forces led by 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Squadron, Blackhorse Regiment, succeeded in at least temporarily blunting the NVA attack on Saigon, the order came from Washington to withdraw from War Zone C. Thus Operation Texas Traveler ended.

The enemy activity in our area fell off fairly substantially and shifted to the north and east centered in the vicinity of Song Be, near the Cambodian border. The 1st Cavalry Division shifted significant forces there. This necessitated a very long ground supply line from Long Binh through very hostile territory. In fact, the much needed supply convoys were frequently being ambushed and damaged to a degree it was limiting combat operations. The 1st Cavalry requested combat forces to secure the supply convoys. L Troop was sent to perform this mission under the operational control of the 1st Cavalry. Due to the experience and expertise of Top Montelongo and most other L Troop leaders, we were able to rapidly adjust to the new and different mission of convoy security and prevent disruption of the vital supply convoys. After about a month of

### Monty gets scalped

successful convoy security, L Troop was returned to the operational control of the 11th Cavalry – and the enemy action was increasing again west of An Loc/Loc Ninh and in War Zone C.

In early March 1970, L Troop experienced our heaviest combat action since Texas Traveler in November 1969. The NVA was once again massing in Cambodia preparing to attack into South Vietnam. During two well-documented battles against large NVA forces on March 2nd and March 10th in the rubber plantations, Top Montelongo demonstrated his expertise and leadership under fire. He was awarded another Silver Star for his valor on March 10th.

I changed command several days later and departed for Fort Knox. Top Montelongo remained with the new commander and prepared L Troop to attack into Cambodia about a month later. He was wounded in Cambodia and evacuated to the USA where he recovered on his way to a new assignment in Europe. He retired from active duty in 1972. We essentially, broke contact until early 1989 when Top sent me a letter filling me in on the interim years that had passed so quickly.

By 1989, I had served as the S-3 of the 2nd Squadron, Blackhorse, in Bad Kissingen, Germany; played an active role in developing both the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the Abrams Tank; commanded the 2-66 Armor battalion in Northern Germany; was serving on the Joint Staff (J-5) in the Pentagon; and had been promoted to Colonel. I can state with complete assurance that throughout the years after I departed L Troop, I often reflected on Monty's expert leadership and his teaching me about soldiers. I am equally confident of his lasting impact on my professional success. PRICELESS!

We would not break contact again until he passed away in 2005. I'd like to close this article by telling you about our friendship as "old soldiers."

Monty re-established contact with me when I was stationed at the Pentagon with a home in Springfield, Virginia. Monty



and his wife, Erika, lived in Odenton, Maryland, next door to Fort Meade and maybe 50 miles from my home. Monty was a "fixture" in that area. Fort Meade, at one time or another, had been the home station for Cavalry units including the 11th ACR, the 6th ACR, and the 3rd ACR. Therefore, there were numerous retired cavalry troopers, mostly NCOs, in the area to regularly gather at the local pubs and diners, American Legion Post, Masonic Lodge, Elk Lodge, and many other clubs/social organizations. It seemed to me that Monty was a member in good standing and regular attendance at all of them. How do I know? Because over the years he invited me to join him at most every one of them - - and I accepted. And man, did the war stories and beer flow as the old troopers gathered. They loved each other more as the hours passed, kinda like the Mickey Gilley lyrics, "the girls get prettier at closing time!" It was at these gatherings that I heard the General Patton stories, the Elvis stories, the firefights in Vietnam and some from Korea and even a few from WWII. I loved the stories, though the credibility weakened as the speech often became a little slurred.

And then there were the Blackhorse reunions. These gatherings resembled the local Maryland gatherings, only on a larger scale – as were the stories and the booze supplies. It seemed everyone knew Monty and Monty knew everyone. Monty always encouraged me to attend. I should have attended more of them while he was alive, but I did attend a few. I remember

Please turn to **MONTY** on page 27

## PRESIDENT from page 3

tered that we are cancelling the reunion.

If the JW is open, there may be restrictions in place that will make the reunion unique. We may have “social distancing” in place, masks encouraged when not eating or drinking, etc. Lounges (bars) may not be open. For information on the JW Marriott’s “Commitment to Clean” go to: <https://vlean.marriott.com>.

It is our intention to host our 35th annual reunion in August and as of today we have 329 people registered for the reunion. If we learn that the hotel will not be open or if any federal, state or county restrictions are enacted that will prevent our members from traveling to Indy, we will notify all those registered by email and/or phone. Check the website daily for any updates at: [11thcavnam.com](http://11thcavnam.com)

As with any action an adult chooses to take, attending the reunion is always a personal choice which should be made with consideration of all risk factors, individual health being paramount. As an asthmatic with COPD, I have made the decision not to attend the 2020 reunion. I regret that I will not be with my Blackhorse brothers and their families, but you will all be in my thoughts and prayers.

There are other items of interest to follow.

“**The Blackhorse in Vietnam**,” Don Snedeker’s superb book about us is on sale in our on-line Quarter Master store. We will also have a limited number of copies for sale in person at the Indy reunion. Buy one there or bring your copy and Don will sign it!

“**Taking Fire**,” by David Porter, (Air Cav Troop, ’69-’70). We are negotiating to carry “Taking Fire!: Memoir of an Aerial Scout in Vietnam” in the QM store. Watch the website for updates.

**Order of the Spur Certificates:** Allen Hathaway and the active duty Regiment at Fort Irwin collaborated in printing and mailing out approximately 900 certificates. As a result of the recently heightened interest in The Order of the Spur, we are carrying a limited supply of spurs and spur lapel

**If the JW is open, there may be restrictions in place that will make the reunion unique. We may have “social distancing” in place, masks encouraged when not eating or drinking, etc.**

pins in our Quarter Master Store. Get yours while they last!

**11th ACR Change of Command:** On June 29, 2020 COL Scott Woodward, 68th Colonel of the Blackhorse passed the Regimental colors to COL Todd Hook, 69th Colonel of the Blackhorse taking command of “...the best damn Regiment you will ever see!” You can watch the entire ceremony by clicking on the link following link:

[https://www.](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=651279015471729&ref=watch_permalink)

[facebook.com/watch/live/?v=651279015471729&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=651279015471729&ref=watch_permalink)

Colonel Woodward attended two of our reunions and was welcomed by everyone he met. He was the only Colonel of the Regiment to petition The Institute of Heraldry to update the Distinctive Unit Insignia (Regimental Crest) with an image to reflect our service in Vietnam. While the effort proved futile, we know that he fought for recognition of our service. Thank you COL Woodward and Good Luck in your future assignments!

11th ACVVC Plaque at the National Museum of the United States Army: As you may recall, last September, Vice President Frank Church and I were guests on a private tour of the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Our docent was LGEN Roger Schultz, USA, (Ret), President of the Army Historical Foundation. We were guests later that night at a dinner where LGEN Schultz spoke about the history of the United States Army and the museum. The museum was originally scheduled to open June 6, but the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the grand opening indefinitely. The Officers voted last year to purchase a Unit Tribute plaque that is embedded in the wall along the

Path of Remembrance which leads to the museum. Every visitor to the museum will see the plaque honoring the Blackhorse Troopers of the 11th ACR who fought in the Vietnam War with special remembrance for our 730 Blackhorse brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice. We hope you get the opportunity to visit the museum and inspect the plaque honoring you. Until then, I’ve included the final design of the plaque. We believe it is an appropriate remembrance of the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment.



Finally, if there are any Troopers out there who have not yet received a 50th anniversary Vietnam Veteran lapel pin, paste the link below into your browser and follow the prompts.

<https://www.vietnamwar50th.com>

That’s all I have for now, probably more to absorb than you were expecting. Please remember, the Officers of the 11th ACVVC work for you!

*“Together then – Together again.”*

# OUR DARK PLACE

Deep in the psyches of many Vietnam war veterans there is a dark place that is the repository for the secrets and demons that haunt us. It is a repository of our darkest memories and secrets, our worst and uncontrolled fears, our biggest disappointments, our perceived inadequacies and greatest failings, the shame of the worst things we have ever done, the darkest side of our guilts, beliefs, and personality, and all of what we believe are the worst things about us we don't want anyone else to ever know. In all they are the things we may avoid or be unable to talk about or deal with ever again for the fear that they may overwhelm and consume us, stealing away our sanity, consuming our psyches whole, perhaps even threatening our lives.

Some are deeper and darker than others. There are things we are hiding from our friends, family, spouses, employers, maybe even ourselves. These things can reside on a spectrum ranging from just embarrassing, to revealing misdeeds in our pasts, character flaws, maybe even horrific acts committed in the name of our country. Fortunately for many of us our secrets lie quietly on our conscience, and we just learn to live with them and pretend that as long as they are never revealed everything will be just fine.

The problem is that for some veterans, demons become the messengers of conscience that refuse to lie quiet, constantly rising up to torture their very souls. They reside in a place often devoid of logic or reason, a well of black emotion that can rarely (and ONLY cautiously) be visited on inward journeys to explore how we may coexist with them and hopefully avoid self-destruction. It is a place devoid of self-forgiveness, with no apparent hope for redemption. They keep their victims hovering on the edge of the abyss, just back from the edge, unable to step away, unable to find peace, unable to reconcile the past with their conscience, trying to keep the demons at bay. Tortured souls are reduced to living day to day, one eye in the light, one eye in the darkness, trying to suppress the worst demons, hoping they won't come creeping up into the light and shatter the fragile glass that separates the appearance

of a normal life from the darkness within, a darkness that can be an ever present uninvited companion reaching into and disrupting our daily lives and stealing our sanity, peace, happiness, and even our lives. For many veterans, alcohol, drugs, and other self-destructive behaviors can become an uncontrolled crutch that holds the demons at bay for ever decreasing periods of time, perhaps even allowing them to believe they are maintaining a thin veil of normalcy. Struggling to tamp down the memories that have created those demons cannot erase the history that brought them to life.

It's not always obvious when someone is suffering the near constant onslaught of their personal demons. How often have we been surprised by the sudden breakdown of a friend or loved one, or the revelation of a suicide that no one saw coming? Even with care, counseling, medications, and the support and understanding of loved ones, too often some new event triggers uncontrolled falls into the deepest depression where the tortured are enveloped by the darkness, their spirits are crushed, their souls are forever lost, and they fall victim to the deadly path of suicide as the only relief to their suffering.

As veterans we find it difficult to talk to folks that haven't shared the same kind of experiences. How can our friends and family members understand something we have difficulty understanding and dealing with ourselves? If we talk at all it's usually with other veterans. While that's not always enough, at least we understand each other, and when we're there for each other perhaps we can find some shared solace.

As long as we are talking to someone, there is hope of banishing the demons.

Who are we now? We are a slowly passing generation that took our turn in a crucible that tested our very spirits; we did (whether drafted or volunteers) what others in our generation were loath to do. We met the most important test of our lives by being there for each other, independent of politics or public opinion. Now we are aging out. Soon enough we will all be gone and the last edition of this newsletter documenting our exploits in Vietnam will have been published. History will have long since judged us from a societal perspective. So what? Whether or not the rest of society believes the Vietnam war was justified, or whether they judge us harshly for our participation makes no difference to me. I am proud of my service. I am proud because I passed the most important test; I was there for my brothers, and you passed the test too because independent of all the negative press and public opinion you were there for me too. And even if we are never understood by the rest of society, and even if we never fully understand ourselves what we experienced or why, the most important thing is that until the last one of us has passed on to Fiddler's Green we must still always be there for each other, no matter what.

*Together Then....Together Again...  
..Together Always.....We are Family.*

*Keith H. Elliott, 11th ACR,  
541st MID 1970-71*

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## HONOR GUARD from page 11

Please contact Pete Walter directly at the phone number and/or e-mail below. If you can provide date/time/details of the viewing and funeral service, it will make the task easier.

It is also important to help us keep the contact information for every member up to date. If you move, change phone numbers or e-mail addresses, please use the convenient change of address form in every issue of Thunder Run or contact Allen Hathaway, (11th ACVVC President

Emeritus) directly at 703-791-6610 or by e-mail at: 11thcav1966@comcast.net

We have been doing this for many years, and have received callbacks and notes from Troopers who were contacted for the first time to attend a funeral service – all were honored to do so and reported the family was very grateful that we never forget our brothers. It is the last service we can provide. "ALLONS!"

Contact: Pete Walter, basepiece70@verizon.net, 609-261-5629

**“Are you aware that you were awarded a Bronze Star with “V” device?” He answered, “Nobody ever said anything to me about it,” and he never received anything.**

two circular berms one inside the other. We had the Rome Plows in the inner circle for their protection, and E and F troop’s vehicles were positioned in the outer circle along with a Reconnaissance Company of the 25th ARVN Division. After resupplying our munitions and fuel, and checking our weapons, we settled in for the night. No choppers had flown out to our NDP, which meant no hot meals tonight, and no mail call, so we passed around the “C” rations and if we had cigarettes, you could light them up. Everybody knew what the deal was as to who would be on watch, and at what time.

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

After everything settled down and the adrenaline subsided, I pulled out a cigarette, and lit it up. I sat down beside my track,

looked around as men started clearing the area and thought to myself, “I helped save one man’s life tonight and helped three others get to safety, it was a pretty good night’s work.” Unfortunately, we found out the next day that the man I pulled from the burning vehicle, SP/4 Joseph Esparza, expired in the dust-off on the way to the med-e-vac hospital. It’s a tough day when you lose one of your own.

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

### **Addendum to the above story:**

After the posting of this story on our web site [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com), our Facebook site [www.facebook.com//11thcavvc](http://www.facebook.com//11thcavvc), and our magazine “Thunder Run,” I received some comments and e-mail from some troopers saying, “Bob should get his award,” and they hope someone was looking into why he didn’t receive his award.

The first thing I did was to send an e-mail to Allen Hathaway, President Emeritus of the 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, asking if he had known anybody that I could get in touch with to help Bob get his award. Allen sent back a reply that he was not sure of the procedure for upgrading an award. I replied to Allen that Bob never received any award! Allen then sent me a copy of an award for a Bronze Star, with letter “V” device awarded to Bob. I told Allen I’ll get back to him.

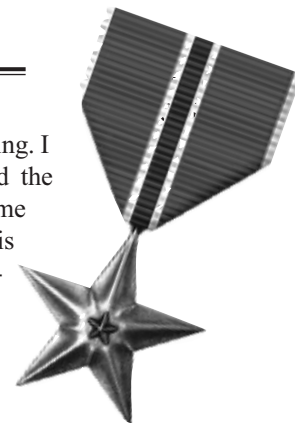
I then called Bob and asked him “Are you aware that you were awarded a Bronze Star with “V” device?” He answered, “Nobody ever said anything to me about

never received anything. I then asked if he had the time for me to come over, and if he had his copy of his DD214 since we only live a few blocks away from each other. When I arrived at

his house, I gave him a copy of the award and he gave me his DD214. It was on his DD214 Bronze Star with letter “V” device, so I asked, “Did you ever look at this?” He said, “No.” After awhile he said, “The date on this award is the same day I flew out of Bien Hoa, Air Base on the Freedom Bird.” I then asked him where he landed. He said “Oakland California, then onto home for about a month of leave. I then drove out to Fort Carson, Colorado. When the sergeant looked over my paperwork, he said, If you’re not going to reenlist, I can give you and early out as you have less than 90 days left to your tour.” Bob replied to the sergeant, “I’m not reenlisting.” So the sergeant then proceeded to out process Bob, and he was able to go home.

We assumed the sergeant thought Bob had been awarded his Bronze Star while serving in South Vietnam, so he didn’t say anything. But at some point in time, his Bronze Star should have caught up with him; however, it never did. So, for 48 years, Bob never knew that he was the recipient of the Bronze Star with “V” device for Valor.

With the help of a DAV Officer at Lyons Veterans Administration in New Jersey, Bob submitted paperwork to the National Personnel Records Center in St Louis, MO to see if he could get his awards, and I’m happy to announce that on December 20, 2019, Bob received a letter stating that they will be sending him not only the Bronze Star with “V” device, but also his Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal with 1 bronze oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 1 bronze service star, Combat Infantryman Badge (1st Award), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon w/Device (1960), and Expert Badge with Rifle bar! He also is qualified to wear the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm.



# Starry's War College Advisory Rings True Today

*Gen. Frederick J. Kroesen, U.S. Army retired*

(Reprinted with permission from *The Magazine of the United States Army*)

The question of the role of the military mind considering the contentious requirements of the battlefield warrior, and the military managers who prepare, organize, equip and maintain the forces needed, is an issue that is never laid to rest. That is, most probably, because requirements change as new equipment is developed, new doctrine evolves, new support means are identified and new direction is exercised by those who must determine objectives or outcomes being sought. A comprehensive and perspicacious discussion of the issues involved was uncovered by the U.S. Army War College and reprinted in its Winter 2018–19 issue.

Then Lt. Col. Donn A. Starry, class of 1966, wrote an essay titled “Profession at the Crossroads” that dealt effectively with the significant issues he identified:

The advent of nuclear weapons introduced a realization that the horrendous consequences of an exchange of the most powerful nuclear bombs forecloses on total war, such as World War II, unless another Hitler is willing to sacrifice his nation to obliteration. That possibility requires continued planning and preparation for defending and probably for retaliation against potential enemies.

In the American tradition, when war became necessary, total victory was necessary and the military mission was absolute. That conviction was still voiced by Gen. Douglas MacArthur early in the Korean conflict even as political considerations were driving us to settle for less. Subsequent evolution of such policies has influenced every conflict in which we have been involved since, none of which has resulted in complete destruction of an enemy.

The challenge of coping with the nuclear threat along with the development of more capable, more lethal conventional weaponry and the explosive advancements in communications drew the attention of scientists, academicians and high-level decision-makers who were developing needs for influencing, even controlling, tactical “how we fight.” Military interest was primarily in improving its capability to participate in the total preparation and readiness for wartime operations.

Their increased participation is required in what historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. expressed as the need for “professional generals ... established as authorities on policy, accepted in the highest national councils and held accountable in the most solemn national debates ... joining a new political elite that will determine the size, capabilities and the deployment of the nation’s military forces.” Most important is the requirement for early identification of the intent and the solution to be sought.

Unfortunately, we were already engaged in the Vietnam War and Schlesinger’s observations were ignored. Our civilian hierarchy ignored the professional generals, never estab-

lished the ultimate goals to be achieved and engaged in piecemeal commitment of forces as they conducted tactical operations from their Washington, D.C., offices.

Two campaigns, the prevention of a communist takeover of Grenada and the restoration of Kuwaiti governmental control, are examples of properly conducted military operations. Objectives were decided early, how to do it was planned by military leaders, and time was provided for necessary preparations. Both campaigns were successfully completed in minimum times with minimum casualties and costs.

Starry summed up with a recognition that combat warriors and competent managers are still fundamental requirements for the conduct of combat operations, but both have expanded responsibilities and therefore more comprehensive education demands. He provided a wealth of guidance concerning that education that I hope is being included in all courses in the Army system and the deliberations of the new U.S. Army Futures Command.

I have in the past expressed a hope that the Army will be able to restore the school system I found so informative. I never attended a course in which I was not amazed at how much I did not know before I got there. Courses were longer, student bodies larger, tours were family accompanied and “political correctness” unthought of. I was chastised severely by a popular columnist for my opposition to diversity. I have never been opposed to diversity, only to the means being employed to achieve it. But I accepted the criticism as a reflection of poorly expressing my views.

Now, however, along with my compliments to the War College for resurrecting Starry’s essay, I have a complaint about the recent disturbing news that a “politically correct” judgment was made to postpone—in elect, to cancel—the appearance of the author of a thousand-plus years of history because one of today’s pressure groups complained his book is offensive. I do not know by whom or at what level such a decision was made, but I am surprised and disappointed that the War College would adopt appeasement as a policy necessary to protect students from being exposed to a distinguished author’s presentation.

I remember when all and any views could be presented, critiqued by the faculty, and students allowed to decide what to believe. A return to that philosophical foundation ought to be a reasonable aim.

*(Editors Note: The 11th ACVVC thanks The Magazine of the Association of the United States Army for allowing us to reprint the article above. Donn Starry was the 41st Colonel of the Blackhorse, serving as RCO from Dec 6, 1969 to 22 June 1970. He was wounded in action on 5 May, 1970 at Snuol, Cambodia. Starry would go on to become a General and command TRADOC from 1977-1981, where he formulated the Air-Land Battle Doctrine. GEN Starry retired in 1983 after serving 40 years on active duty. He died August 26, 2011 at the age of 86. On June 8, 2012, Bldg 661 at Fort Eustis was renamed “Starry Hall”.)*





# Blackhorse Women's News

By Sheryl Myers, Women's Group Co-coordinator

## May 2020 Update

Dear Members of the Blackhorse Women's Group and Supporters of the 11th ACVVC,

The Indianapolis Reunion is still in the planning stages, but the Blackhorse Women's Group Tour/Luncheon – "19th to 23rd -As Told in the Old North Side," has been cancelled. The tours of two beautiful historic mansions, the luncheon, and bus transportation, would have prevented us from practicing social distancing and wearing masks, as we should. If you plan on attending the reunion and would like to venture out into the city, here is the contact information for two special places.

1) Benjamin Harrison's Presidential Home - (317) 631-1888

and

2) The Propylaeum – Home of Women's Suffrage Movement-317-638-7881

The Propylaeum is celebrating their 100th Anniversary this year.

## Remembering our KIA's

Please join the Blackhorse Women's group in our project to recognize those troopers who were Killed in Action while serving with the 11th Armored Cavalry.

Here is how you can help: Find the listing of KIA's buried in your state by going on the 11th Cav website: [11cav-nam.com](http://11cav-nam.com) / Choose Fiddler's Green listing, / Vietnam, / KIA Information page and listing of Cemeteries by State. (or you can send me an email requesting your state's listing). We are asking

that you document your visit, by taking a picture of the Stone or Plaque showing the inscription, and the memorial you placed. Whether it is a single flower, a letter, wreath, or bouquet, please, if possible, attach a

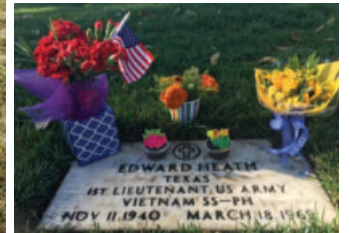
note with these words, "Never Forgotten"-11th Armored Cavalry/Blackhorse". Send your picture by mail to: Sheryl Myers 19155 Royal Troon Dr. Monument, CO 80132 or email at [sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com](mailto:sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com) and I will print it.

Make your visit preferably not on a holiday, so you can maintain social distancing. Enlist the help of friends & family members in other parts of your state or other states – it is a heartfelt experience!

Your pictures will be arranged by State in our Book of Remembrances, which will be present at all our gatherings.

Stay well, Be Safe

*Sheryl Myers,  
for the Blackhorse Women's Group*



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



Are you looking for Christmas, Hanukkah, or birthday gifts for family and friends? The Blackhorse Womens' Group has just the gift for you! Our 2019 fundraising item!

Handy and custom made tote bags. These two colored black and red heavy duty totes are offered for \$10 each, plus postage/shipping as follows: **1-3 bags \$7.00; 4-8 bags \$14.50.**

Remember this is a fundraiser that helps support the group's Prayer Shawl and Wreaths Across America projects.

Please complete the order form below and mail, with payment to:

**Marguerite Austin, 4189 11th Ave. SE, Willmar, MN 56201**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping address (all bags in an order will be shipped to one address.)

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

Provide your Email address and phone number should we need to contact you about your order.

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

Number of bags \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 each = .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping amount as listed below .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Check or money order only, sorry, no credit cards).

For the Bags: 1-3 bags \$7.00 Postage, plus cost of bags at \$10 each. 4-8 bags \$14.50 postage plus cost of bags at \$10 each. Fill out form above and send with payment in full in check or money order only (sorry, no credit cards) to the address above.

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



# Fiddler's Green

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

**Johnny O. Anderson**, 398th Transportation Det (1970-1971) passed away on June 23, 2020. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dublin, GA. He was laid to rest in Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Milledgeville, GA.

**Verlon R. Bishop**, C Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on November 3, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Paragould, AR. He was laid to rest in Linwood Cemetery, Paragould, AR.

**Edward H. Black**, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1969) passed away on April 8, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hudson, FL.

**Wallace Bouchard**, F Troop, 2/11 (1965-1967) passed away on April 6, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gainesville, GA. He was laid to rest in Memorial Park Cemetery, Gainesville, GA.

**Floyd J. Brooks**, C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 19, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dallas, TX. He was laid to rest in Dallas - Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX.

**Jaime Cancel-Quinones**, HHT Regiment (1968-1970) passed away on March 30, 2020. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Killeen, TX.

**Donald B. Daddario**, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 27, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Douglassville, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.

**Wilbur W. Dopita**, M Company, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 7, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Elizabethtown, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.

**Randy Foster**, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 13, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Strunk, KY. He was laid to rest in Stevens-Foster Cemetery, Barthell, KY.

**Jimmy R. Gamble**, C Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 11, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Port Huron, MI. He was laid to rest in Woodland Cemetery, Port Huron, MI.

**Richard W. Grine**, D Company, 1/11 (1964-1967) passed away on October 13, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Stoystown, PA. He was laid to rest in Lambertville Cemetery, Lambertville, PA.

**Charles W. Harris**, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 20, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Modesto, CA. He was laid to rest in San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Gustine, CA.

**Mickey L. Henagan**, HHT Regiment (1970-1971) passed away on June 23, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Luverne, AL. He was laid to rest in Old Union Cemetery, Brantley, AL.

**Freddie Lair**, A Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on March 28, 2020. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Orlando, FL. He was laid to rest in Antioch Cemetery, Moreauville, LA.

**Paul R. Lariviere**, M Company, 3/11 (1969-1969) passed away on May 26, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fall River, MA. He was laid to rest in St Patrick Cemetery, Fall River, MA.

**David F. McCarthy**, C Troop, 1/11 (1968-1968) passed away on September 22, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Centerville, MA.

**Thomas L. Mcchesney**, F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on February 15, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Atlanta, TX. He was laid to rest in Dallas - Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX.

**Stephen A. Meier**, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1969) passed away on April 27, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lincoln, KS.

**Marvin K. Merkle**, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on September 3, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Coldwater, MI. He was laid to rest in Oak Grove Cemetery, Coldwater, MI.

**Joseph F. Moliero**, HHT, 3/11 (1965-1967) passed away on April 10, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Staten Island, NY. He was laid to rest in Forest Green Memorial Park Cemetery, Morganville, NJ.

**James L. Morrison**, HHT Regiment (1968-1969) passed away on November 22, 2015. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Austin, TX. He was laid to rest in Cook-Walden / Capital Parks Cemetery, Pflugerville, TX.

**Ronald D. Owens**, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on May 26, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mobile, AL.

**Thomas M. Parkins**, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 11, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Millville, DE.

**Frederick K. Petrella**, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1969) passed away on April 15, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Frenchtown, NJ.

**Raymond G. Potter**, HHT Regiment (1970-1971) passed away on June 1, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Otterville, MO. He was laid to rest in IOOF Cemetery, Otterville, MO.

**David L. Pylate**, K Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on April 3, 2020. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Alvin, TX.

**Andrew L. Quives**, HHT, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on November 8, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Copperas Cove, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.

**Walter C. Richards**, 919th Engineer Company (1968-1969) passed away on November 29, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lancaster, TX. He was laid to rest in Restland Cemetery, Gatesville, TX.

**Donald H. Robinson**, E Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 4, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Greensboro, NC. He was laid to rest in Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC.

**Dennis A. Sample**, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on April 2, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pennsville, NJ. He was laid to rest in Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Bear, DE.

**Mark T. Schwarz**, G Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 12, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Grimes, IA.

**Patrick D. Sexton**, M Company, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 5, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Andover, MN.

**Lawrence R. Shuey**, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1967) passed away on December 29, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ashland, PA. He was laid to rest in Salem United Brethren Cemetery, Weishample, PA.

**Harry A. Simpson**, C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 23, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Claremore, OK. He was laid to rest in Oakhaven Memorial Gardens, Claremore, OK.

**Michael E. Smalley**, H Company, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on May 21, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rives Junction, MI. He was laid to rest in East Rives Cemetery, Rives Junction, MI.

**George C. Smith**, 398th Transportation Det (1971-1971) passed away on December 21, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Forsyth, MO.

**Arlo A. Sorrells**, E Troop, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on May 10, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbus, GA.

**Robert A. Stengel**, 409th RRD (1968-1969) passed away on July 4, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Stuart, FL. He was laid to rest in Riverbank Cemetery, Stowe, VT.

**David B. Taylor**, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1968) passed away on September 28, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Whitehouse, OH.

**Michael J. Trocha**, 37th Medical Company (1967-1968) passed away on February 13, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Elma, WA.

**Larry J. Ward**, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 4, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Yoakum, TX. He was laid to rest in Restland Memorial Park, Yoakum, TX.

**Ernest K. Whitener**, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on February 3, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waller, TX. He was laid to rest in Houston National Cemetery, Houston, TX.

**Hoyett V. Williams**, 919th Engineer Company (1970-1971) passed away on November 20, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wichita Falls, TX. He was laid to rest in Crestview Memorial Park, Wichita Falls, TX.

**John A. Yurkovich**, (1970-1970) passed away on October 4, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wyandotte, MI.

**Carl A. Zimmermann**, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 11, 2020. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Junction City, KS. He was laid to rest in Kansas Veterans Cemetery At Fort Riley, Manhattan, KS.

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## MONTY from page 20

the first one I attended was in Texas (I believe, San Antonio). Monty had assembled a bunch of troopers and some of their significant others at a very large table. He believed they had known me in Vietnam either in K Troop or L Troop. He pumped them up with stories about their lieutenant/captain that was now a Colonel. After he guided me to my seat at their table, he began to introduce and reacquaint me with those gathered. All was well until he got to the trooper and his wife at the end of the table and in direct eye contact. Monty introduced us – Sir, this is Specialist \_\_\_\_\_ and his wife (wish I could recall his name). You gave him an Article 15 in K Troop! I actually remembered the situation. All got a laugh at the expression on my face. All was good; I was genuinely welcomed; and the war stories erupted.

In 1990, I was assigned to Detroit for the second time to serve as the Project Manager for the Abrams Tank System. While in this position, I often traveled to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD, (just north of Baltimore) to observe Abrams Tank testing. Whenever possible, I would contact Monty in advance and visit him and Erika. He would almost always take me down into his basement and present me with some gift (usually, but not

always, some memento of Elvis).

On one occasion, we were testing newly developed, very high-performance ammunition for the Abrams tank. I asked Monty if he would like to join me at APG. In addition to his witnessing what we would be shooting at the Iraqi tanks in Desert Storm, I wanted him to meet several of my young officers and exchange lessons/stories with “my Top” NCO. Monty knew what I was up to and relished the opportunity. Those officers thanked me then and after these many years recall and thank me for that opportunity.

I remained in Detroit until the summer of 1994. Then I returned to Virginia, the Pentagon and the Army Materiel Command. I was promoted to Brigadier General and then Major General. I was so honored that Monty attended those promotion ceremonies, which gave me the opportunity to brag about him and how important he had been in my life. I returned to Detroit in 1999 to become the Commanding General of the Tank-automotive and Armaments Command. Monty and I maintained contact. Occasionally, I would get a call from him at “Happy Hour” time wherever he was, and he would have another yarn to spin. I treasured these calls!

I returned to the Pentagon in 2001 for my final active duty assignment and retired from active duty in January 2004.

My wife, Judy, and I were always welcomed in Erika’s and Monty’s home. We tried to visit often – but in hindsight, not often enough. Erika passed away in 2001 and Monty was never really the same. When we did visit we had the good fortune to meet two of their very best friends, Nellie and George Osborne. George’s health would soon sharply decline and he would soon pass away. His death deeply affected Monty. Monty’s slope of decline would steepen. Nellie stepped in to try to manage Monty’s care and declining health. Nellie was an angel sent by God to care for Monty when no one else seemed to be able. Monty, true to form, was pretty cantankerous and hard to manage. He was eventually admitted to a care facility in Crofton, MD. Nellie and I would coordinate visits to see Monty – she much more than I. Monty fought the good fight like a Cavalry trooper, but passed away on September 17, 2005. Judy and I attended, along with many cavalry troopers and friends, his beautiful and patriotic memorial service in Odenton and his inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery.

The United States lost one of a kind when Monty, my Top, passed away.

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



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



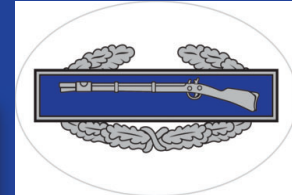
#2 Key Ring Embroidered \$6.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



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



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#8 Mouse Pad \$12.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$22.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



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



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



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



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



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



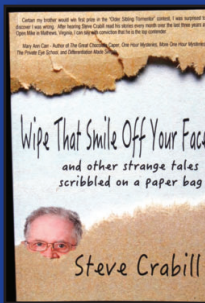
#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00



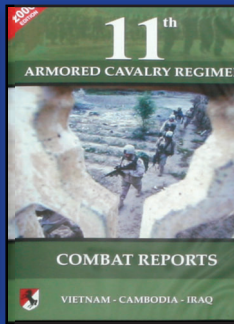
#22 Overnight Bag \$25.00



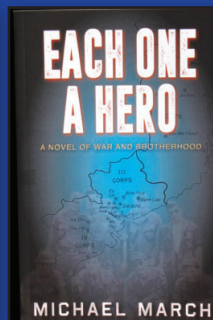
#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



#27 Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" \$16.00



#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



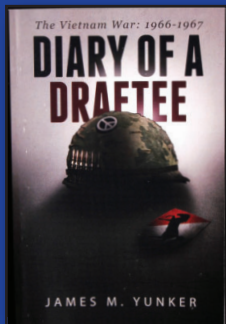
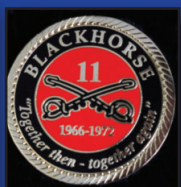
#31 Book, "Each One A Hero" \$20.00



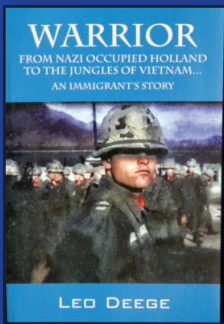
#33 Book: Heroes of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment



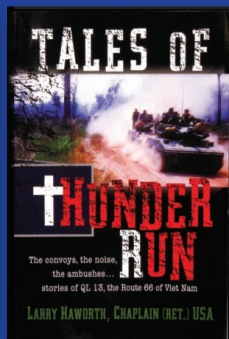
#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#32 Book: Diary of a Draftee \$22.00



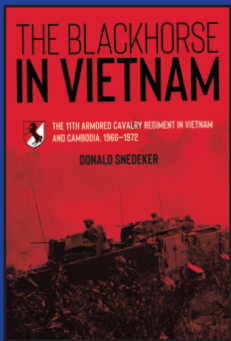
#35 Book, "Warrior" \$16.00



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



#30 Car Flag \$25.00



#34 "The Blackhorse in Vietnam" \$25.00



#29 Ladies Necklace \$18.00



#36. Sweatshirts w/ BH patch, \$28.00

#40 Specialty T-Shirt: sizes S, M, L, 2X, 3X, 4 X \$20



#38a



#38b



#38c



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



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



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



#41 Light (A) or Dark (B) Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$35.00



#42 Blackhorse Jacket (lined), 100% Nylon \$95.00



Hello Troopers...

Hope everyone is staying safe during this stressful time. Unless there is a major reversal in the COVID 19 situation our Reunion is still on. So Please keep up to date on our website at 11thcavnam.com There you will find the latest information and also on our Facebook page.

In just a few short months we will be in Indianapolis again at the J W Marriott for our 35th Reunion. So you can go ahead and make your reservation at the hotel and send in your registration. There is a cut-off date for each one, so if you have to cancel you must do so before the cut-off dates. Rest assured Reunion Chairman Frank Church, President Pete Walter and our BOD are doing all they can so we can have another safe and enjoyable Reunion with all available safety measures in place.

It seems that a lot of you guys do not have

a phone number or a return address. So Please fill out the bottom portion of the order form before you mail it to me.

Please, check out the reunion schedule and if you have any spare time we would like volunteers to help us out in the Quarter Master store.

As an update, the East Texas Round Up went off real well. We had 9 campers and several troopers who came for lunch on Saturday with an overall total of 25 in atten-

dance.

Everyone, just a reminder the on-line Quarter Master Store will be closed from August 19th to September 3rd . We will be in Indy for the Reunion. You can go ahead and mail me your orders, but I will not be able to process them until after we return.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Indy.

*Jerry Beamon, Quarter Master*

### Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

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

All submissions for publication must be sent to: Peter L. Walter, 8 Tallowood Drive, Westampton, NJ 08060-3721; email [basepiece70@verizon.net](mailto:basepiece70@verizon.net).

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

TYPE MEMBERSHIP:  NEW  RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANNUAL (\$15)  LIFE (\$100)  
 LIFE Plan (\$25 enclosed, plus 3 payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 3rdQtr 2020

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 .....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Embroidered square w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	6.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia .....	3.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon .....	3.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Hoodie Sweat Shirt.....	30.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Mouse Pads .....	12.00	_____	_____	_____
9.	CIB car magnet, 3"x4" .....	6.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle .....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia .....	60.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11 .....	9.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white .....	13.00	_____	_____	_____
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, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib .....	22.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath.....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
21.	Small Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (5"x 4 3/4") .....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
22.	Overnight Bag.....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	Leather Gear Bag w/Blackhorse Insignia and pull handle .....	45.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin .....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Large Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (8" x 7 3/4") .....	7.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Book, "Wipe That Smile Off Your Face" by Steve Crabill .....	16.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only) .....	30.00	_____	_____	_____
29.	Ladies Necklace .....	18.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Car Flag .....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Book, "Each One A Hero," by Michael Marsh .....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Book, "Diary of a Draftee," by: James M. Yunker .....	22.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Book, "Heroes of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment" .....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
34.	Book, "The Blackhorse in Vietnam" by Donald Snedeker.....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
35.	Book, "Warrior," by Leo Deege .....	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	Sweatshirts w/ BH patch, gray only. Size: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL .....	28.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run," by Chaplain Larry Haworth .....	11.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a, <input type="checkbox"/> 38b, <input type="checkbox"/> 38c, <input type="checkbox"/> 38d .....	17.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Light Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Green .....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
40.	Specialty T-Shirt: sizes S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4 X .....	20.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Denim shirt (men's) <input type="checkbox"/> Light (A) <input type="checkbox"/> Dark (B) .....	35.00	_____	_____	_____
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	_____	_____	_____

NEW!

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple items)

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to 11th ACVVC. ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: 11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com

\* Required info to process your order



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

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**Indianapolis, 2020**

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**[www.11thCavNam.com](http://www.11thCavNam.com)**

