



Thunder Run

Vol. 38—NO. 3

“Together Then – Together Again”

3rd Quarter, 2023

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



Memorial Day Wreath Laying at The Wall

Because their fathers had,

Words have a way of haunting me. They stick in my head. Before I realize where they came from, I am humming or mumbling them. My eyes pop open and I look around and ask “where did that come from?” It is like when someone mentions Gettysburg and you think “four Score and seven years ago ...” or, a politician starts talking about patriotism and you think the Declaration of

2023 Election of 11th ACVVC Officers

By Greg Mason, Secretary

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

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

A special election will be held to fill the unexpired term of Vice President of Stephen Page who resigned earlier this year. An elec-

tion to fill the office of Vice President on a pro tem basis was held in June 2023 among the incumbent Officers and Directors and Allen Hathaway was elected until a special election could be held to fill the unexpired term for the period ending December 31, 2023.

Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident ... “. Or even better for those of us who made the pledge, “I do solemnly swear to uphold the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic”

On Memorial Day, this past May, words from the prayer/poem we recite at each reunion at our Memorial Service struck me as loudly and as sharply as the sound of a .50

caliber discharge. Those words “... their father had and their fathers had before” played on my mind. Like the machine gun round, that poem, Bury Me with Soldiers is so explosive with meaning that over the years, many of us have had to pause, catch a breath, and dry our eyes before we could continue the reading. It is such a great meditation, a heart throbbing prayer, a lyric poem

All candidates must be Life Members of the 11th ACVVC. Candidates will have an equal opportunity to state their qualifications at the General Membership Meeting. The elected candidates must be able to attend the annual reunion and participate in Board Meetings held during their elected term, that are generally held by conference call.

Please turn to **MEMORIAL DAY** on page 13

3rd Quarter 2023

State of the Reunion

Steve Page, Reunion Chair, will no longer serve as the Reunion Chair. Steve had a health issue that prevented him from fulfilling his duties in that role. I initially played back for him, but his condition has not recovered sufficiently enough to continue in that role. He and Gerri will continue to join us at the reunions and that is what really matters. When you see him thank him for his long devotion to the 11th AVCVVC and the very professional job he did in planning our reunions. He set the standard and the template that we still follow.

Please turn to **ELECTION** on page 3

Please turn to **REUNION** on page 3





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

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

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REUNION from page 1

We are looking for someone to take on some of the work that the Reunion Chair does. It is a very demanding job prior to and during the reunion. The entire job takes a few years to acquire a working knowledge and to become proficient. To start the requirements would only be to do the leg work at the reunion, put together the seating charts and place the Troop guidons by Troop on the tables and assure each seat is filled, handle signs and posters, field, and relay issues back to the Reunion Chair. You would be expected to attend all reunions. If there is anyone out there that is willing and able to step up to this need, see the Reunion Chair or any officer.

Hotel Reservations and reunion registrations are strong and trending to be another well attended reunion. As of this writing we are close to 75% of our forecasted attendance. Grand Rapids is among the most popular sites we have had and the hotel has proven to be competent and

Hotel info:

- **Amway Grand Plaza Hotel**, Sept. 18-Sept-24, 2023 187 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
- **Reservations by phone-** 1-800-253 3590 use code "ARMOR" all caps
On line- <https://book.passkey.com/e/50392329>
Room rate- \$139
Parking- Complimentary

• Scooter rentals:

Amigo Mobility Center- 616-361-7559; <https://amigomobilitycenter.com>
Clock Mobility- 616-698-9400; <https://clockmobility.com>

Please make your reservations early. **Cut off date for the hotel is Sept 1, Reunion Registration cut off is Sept 13, 2023.**

- The registration fee is \$100 for this year. See the Registration form for further details.

organized. The downtown area is easily accessible to many "restaurants and bars by foot and the river is a beautiful and relaxing place running adjacent the hotel property. Our last visit to Grand Rapids was very successful and is one of the most popular sites we have visited.

Cancellations are always a problem if not done by the cutoff date. Registration monies are committed after this date and cannot be returned. We are all looking forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids. Come join us for another great reunion.

Frank

Election

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

The position of Vice President serves as the President's right hand man. In the absence of the President the Vice President shall perform the duties of and be subject to all restrictions upon the President. Sound leadership skills are fundamental to the position.

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

incurred from the various projects supported by the 11th ACVVC.

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

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

Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for
Thunder Run

1st QuarterJan 1
2nd QuarterApr 1
3rd QuarterJul 1
4th QuarterOct 1

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

2023 National Horse Cavalry Competition

Fort Reno - Oklahoma

Come support our own 11th ACR Horse Detachment from Fort Irwin.

**Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Tribute
September 27-30, 2023**

Open to the Public –
No Admission Charge

The U.S. Cavalry Association, a non-profit organization, will host its annual Bivouac and National Cavalry Competition September 27-30, 2023 at Fort Reno, OK. In conjunction with the event, the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall to be on display at Fort Reno. The replica Wall is 8 feet tall and 350 feet in length with the names of 58,000 soldiers who died for our country during the Vietnam War. All veterans and community members are invited to visit the display which will be free of charge. There are plenty of hotels nearby in El Reno and Oklahoma City.



WISCONSIN TROOPERS: 1st Row, L to R: Hank Simon, 1st HOW BAT, Dennis Emery HHT 2/11, Larry Arft D CO, Richard Kern G TRP, Lee Nelson HHT 1/11, Bob Moreno G TRP, John Miller HHT 2/11, Kenneth Alt 3rd HOW BAT. Back Row, L to R: Bruce Canney, 1st HOW BAT, Will Stryker REGT, Jim Van Matre, REGT, Vernon Lowell HHT 1/11, Everett Funk C TRP, Richard Krebs ACT, Jim Buechner 398th TRANS, Jim Swenson 398th TRANS, Paul Tebo E TRP, 2/11, Alan Andresen, 398th TRANS.

Wisconsin Troopers of the 11th ACVVC

Lee Nelson lives in Madison, Wisconsin, and served in Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th ACR in 1968 – 1969. He is a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC. He was born and raised in Madison and left college in his third year to join the U.S. Army, serving from 31 OCT 1966 to 3 June 1969. He served at Fort Leonard Wood and Fort Benjamin Harrison before being shipped to Germany and was later deployed to Vietnam and served in the 11th ACR, where he worked in the Finance Section at the Blackhorse Base Camp. After being honorably discharged, Lee worked as a salesman with a home entertainment company and retired in 2012 as a Regional Sales Manager.

He and Joan have been married for over 50 years and have two daughters, Erica and Kerstin.

For many years Lee has hosted a breakfast/lunch gathering for Blackhorse Troopers in Wisconsin at Paul's Neighborhood Bar, 2401 Parmenter Avenue, Middleton,

11th ACVVC Wisconsin Troopers visit Truax Field Air National Guard Base

At our May 2022 Coffee Hour, we featured COL Brian Parker, a pilot with the 115th Fighter Wing stationed at Truax Air Base in Madison, Wisconsin. At the end of his talk, and Q and A, COL Parker invited those 11th ACVVC Wisconsin Troopers present for a tour of the Air Base at a future date. So, in the middle of August 2022, eleven Troopers and 3 Vietnam Veteran friends took a tour of the base and got to see the F-16 fighters up close and personal. CPT Alex Abbott was

our tour guide. Our first stop was to see an F-16 and hear about all the functions the plane had and its capabilities. What a game changer they would have been if we had them in Vietnam. Between the laser guided and the radar guided missiles and the various size bombs, we definitely would have had a better advantage.

Some photos of their guest speakers and field trips follow. Lee has done a great job in reaching out to Blackhorse Troopers in Wisconsin and the time they have shared together bears witness to the truth of our motto: "Together Then – Together Again"

If you live in the Madison area and are interested in attending one of the group's get-togethers, contact Lee at: leecnelson1926@gmail.com

We then traveled back to their briefing room for a history of the unit and of the planes they have used over the years. They



LEFT: Wisconsin Troopers learn about fighter planes. RIGHT: Wisconsin Troopers pose with an F-16 fighter plane.



also showed us new information on the F-35 fighters which they will be getting next year. We went back outside and watched as 4 F-16 fighters took off for a training run, then over to a hangar for a group picture with an F-16. We want to thank COL Parker

and CPT Abbott for their invitation to come out to the Air Base to see how ready they are – whenever they are called upon.

Lee Nelson

The 11th Cavalry Memorial

By Allen Hathaway

Nine new names from World War II were added to the 11th Cavalry Memorial during the 2023 Memorial Day weekend. The additional names were found in 2019 while developing the 11th Cavalry Memorial website.

During the website development, thorough research was done to ensure that all casualties of the 11th Cavalry Group were accounted for, and that all biographical information was complete and accurate. The research discovered these nine names were not previously listed on the memorial.

Prior to this research project, the names listed for WW II came directly from the book “The Eleventh Cavalry from the Roer to the Elbe”. The book was written at the end of WW II to document the actions of the 11th Cavalry during the war. A list of names of those who were Killed in Action was included as part of the book.

Among the sources used in the recent research were, The National Archives and Records Administration,



New plaque added to Blackhorse Memorial at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning, renamed May 11, 2023) honoring 11th Cavalry Group Troopers, who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War II

The American Battle Monuments Commission and local hometown newspapers.

The additional names and brief circumstances are:

- ★ JOHN D. DONOVAN reported dead while a prisoner of war.
- ★ THADDEUS A. GADZINSKI was declared dead while missing in action.
- ★ JACK M. GARRITY, ★ EDWARD M GRONKOWSKI and ★ FLOYD A. KITTRELL were on a flight taking 40 American soldiers that were ill or injured to a hospital in the Paris, France area when one of the engines caught fire and the plane crashed. All passengers and crew were killed.
- ★ PAUL B. KLASE died of wounds received in action.
- ★ DON B. POSTLEWATE and GEORGE B. ★ STEWART died of non-battle causes.
- ★ MILTON J. WOOD was killed in an accident when hit by a vehicle.

These nine names and dates of casualty were cast on a bronze plaque which joined their fellow comrades from WW II at the 11th Cavalry Memorial. The bronze plaque was funded by the Blackhorse Association.

For more information on all casualties of the 11th Cavalry, please visit the memorial website at: www.memorial.blackhorse.org

Together Then...Together Again
 Register now for the 2023 National Reunion in Grand Rapids, MI

President's Message

By Frank Church

The 11th ACVVC is still rolling along, although a little slower than in the past. Age and a loss of our youth is affecting all of us. Your leadership is not immune to that. We realize that and are taking steps to keep our organization viable into the future. We know that we last forever but are putting plans in place to last as long as we can. To do that we must outsource functions that would be very difficult to continue when any one of our committee chairs can no longer perform. Looking to the membership and current Officers/BOD is only pushing the problem down the road is only a temporary fix that will need to be addressed again when another one of us falls.

Our Reunion Chairman and Vice President Steve Page has stepped away from both positions. His health and age prevent him from fulfilling his duties. I am grateful that Allen Hathaway as agreed to fill that role of Vice President pro-tem until the next election is held. I will take the lead for Reunions until we can find an alternate solution. We owe Steve a huge "thank you" for all the contributions he has made to the 11ACVVC. Ollie Pickral, our Treasurer, also had a health scare but continues in that role. These two occurrences have confirmed the need for us to find a more permanent solution to our aging.

We are in the process of finalized the transfer of managing the Quarter Master to Finish line Awards. They have experience in doing this for other organizations and are very capable of meeting our needs. That company will be at the Grand Rapids Reunion. Jerry

We are still in need of a secretary to replace Greg Mason when he retires at the end of his term in 2024. If you have the skills and desire to do this job, please see any Officer or BOD member.

and Jan Beamon will still be involved in the QM but will not have the work load and responsibilities they now have. There will be new look with the addition of new merchandise as well as our unique items. So, continue make the QM your second stop, Bob is still in the registration booth.

A large part of our success is due to volunteers that every year step up, any changes in our procedures does not take away the need for volunteers to help so please continue to support that. With that said, the role of President and Reunion Chair is very demanding and one person cannot do both for an extended period. I am making a plea to anyone out there that feels they can be an assistant to the Reunion Chair at the reunions please speak to me or any officer. I have provided some detail to what that would entail in the Reunion update article.

We are still in need of a secretary to replace Greg Mason when he retires at the end of his term in 2024. If you have the skills and desire to do this job, please see any Officer or BOD member. Mike Rafferty has agreed to manage the Silent Auction but will still need volunteers to help. The permanent position of Vice President will be voted on at the 2024 Grand Rapids Reunion. Our By-laws require nominations to be made and a vote to taken.

A few updates on what has been hap-

pening in the past few months. Allen Hathaway has completed an update to Our Memorial by having the names of 6 previously unknown WW2 KIAs' added to their place of honor on their monument. Thank you, Allen, for your work and the to The BlackHorse Association for paying the cost of the plaques.

We are close to closing an agreement to set up a trust fund to maintain our Memorial into the future. Details of this endowment is still being defined.

Chaplain Bill has secured a scholarship match from his alma mater, St. Francis University. They will match the scholarship funds of any awardee of the 11th ACVVC if they chose to enroll and is accepted at SFU.

The transfer of ownership and responsibility of the M-60 Tank in Colorado Springs is still an ongoing project. We continue to have discussion with the BHA on how best to do that.

Pete Walter continues to seek cost reductions in the cost of publishing Thunder Run while maintaining the present quality and in quarterly editions.

The leadership of the 11ACVVC is and will always be committed to its members and the continued success of the organization. We will ride this horse until we are no longer able.

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

Frank

Photos needed for 11th ACVVC 2024 Calendar

Note to all 11th ACVVC members! We need you to submit your high quality photos for possible inclusion in the 11th ACVVC 2024 calendar! Please send copies, not originals. I can work with any format; preferred would be a digital scan (300 dpi) that you can attach to an e-mail me or send me a DVD by surface mail; however, I can work from prints or slides. The best photos for reproduction purposes are 35mm transparencies (slides) or prints that have good contrast and high resolution (not blurry or grainy). Photos of groups, vehicles, landscapes, villages are all more interesting to the viewer than an individual photo of one soldier with his M-16. Please consider submitting your photos to me at the address below or digitally by e-mailing images to: basepiece70@verizon.net or mailing to Pete Walter, 8 Tallowood Drive, Westampton, NJ 08060

Thank you! Pete Walter, Editor, 11th ACVVC

Finance Committee

PURPOSE: The Finance Committee is established as a committee to advise and make recommendations to the 11 ACVVC Board of Directors regarding the finances of the organization. This includes checking, savings and investment strategies to assure 11 ACVVC is financially secure for the life of the organization.

HISTORY: Since its inception in 1985, 11 ACVVC has managed monies from memberships and donations. Each year since 1986, a financial report has been provided to the officers and directors for their use in directing our organization's funds. Presently, the Treasurer prepares quarterly, both a detailed checking account report and a finance report on our investments and five internal accounts.

DURATION: The duration of the Finance Committee shall be perpetual, effective January 01, 2023.

MEMBERS: Membership in the committee shall be no more than five (5) Life Members who should have expertise in the financial, legal and investment fields of education. The President and the Treasurer of 11 ACVVC shall be permanent members of the standing committee. Term limits for the members are 2 years (as per our Constitution), staggered for continuity.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Submit to the Board a quarterly financial report of the expenditures and income activities of the organization, with recommendations for future financial activity.

Produce an annual budget and future budgets for placement and movements of monies for the organization.

Make recommendations to the Board for movement of funds in the areas of savings, checking and investments as required to enhance our financial condition.

INAUGURAL MEMBERS:

- Committee Chairman William Suhre – Legal and Finance Advice, Investments
- President Frank Church – All facets of committee
- Treasurer Ollie Pickral – Finance Reports, Deposits/Expenditures
- Committee Member Allen Hathaway – Annual Budgets, Internet
- Committee Member Dennis Freeman – IRS Tax Reporting, Financial Advice

Coffee Hour - 11th ACVVC Wisconsin Troopers & VA Representatives

Thursday May 18th, twenty-four 11th ACCVC Troopers and their wives attended the 11th ACVVC Wisconsin Coffee Hour with guest speakers from Dane County Veterans Service Office, Bridgette Nelson, Deputy Veterans Service Officer and Margaret “Muggs” Garvin, Asst. Veterans Service Officer.

Bridgette and “Muggs” spoke on all the benefits the VA have



Bridgette Nelson & “Muggs” Garvin, Dane County Wisconsin Veterans Affairs

for Veterans and new benefits through the PACT Act, which are now available. Now is the time to get signed up for these benefits, since the wait time is long (100,000 veterans have signed up for new benefits). The new PACT Act (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act) is covering more cancers. The two benefits which are least used are death benefits and real estate taxes. There were lots of good questions from both Troopers and their wives. Their response to what should be done - is get in contact with your local Veterans Affairs Office and learn the benefits you might be missing or are eligible to receive.

With their presentation finished - both VA representatives had questions about the 11th ACR Troopers and about the 11th ACVVC. Troopers filled in with their stories of the 11th ACR and Bob Moreno (11th ACVVC BOD) filled them in on the 11th ACVVC and the projects we have going to better everyone's lives. Bridgette is a U.S. Army Veteran and “Muggs” is a U.S. Navy Veteran.

We presented them both with an 11th ACVVC coffee mug which they really appreciated.

Three days later, a letter of thanks was received by us, telling us how great a time they had. They were very, very impressed with our organization!

Lee Nelson, HHT 1/11th

Message from COL Timothy J. Ferguson,

70th Colonel of the Blackhorse



CSM Christopher Shaiko, 28th CSM of the Blackhorse Regiment

ALLONS!! Hello from the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA and from the Troopers of the Best Damn Regiment in the U.S. Army! The Regiment has been fighting hard over the last several months with multiple rotations of Brigade Combat Teams to the Mojave Desert.

The Troopers once again showed the rotational units who the biggest, baddest unit in the desert is and continued to act as the measuring stick that the Army assesses readiness of formations. We concluded an unusual but very challenging fight against the 75th Ranger Regiment and recently executed combat operations against the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. In addition to the fight against 1/1 CD, the Army included an experiment that looks at a future force structure decision toward Division-level reconnaissance formations. This experiment in conjunction with the rotation saw the Blackhorse operate two separate fights in the maneuver area and challenged us to our limit in terms of generating combat power and coordinating the two efforts. But once again, the Troopers of your

Regiment performed exceptionally well, taking it to them in multiple engagements over an 11-day fight.

The Blackhorse Regiment continues to integrate new threats into our portfolio to challenge rotation units with the hardest

fight they will ever have short of war itself. As we concluded the rotation with 1/1CD, we postured the Regiment for a well-deserved summer block leave that will allow us to recharge our batteries for our summer rotations. We will face two back-to-back Stryker Brigade Combat Team rotations, first the “Brave Rifles” of 3rd Cavalry Regiment are coming for a “Lucky 16” battle, followed by 1st SBCT, 4th Infantry Division. Then the Regiment will conduct its fall testing in the Expert Infantryman, Expert Soldier, and Expert Field Medical Badges.

Additionally, the late summer will see a dramatic modernization of the Regiment’s combat power as we field 16 M1A2SEPV3 main battle tanks that will make our tankers more capable. This is the most modern version of the Abrams tank in the Army inventory and our tankers are very excited to conduct their new equipment training and then integrate it into the fights against the rotational units.



The Blackhorse Regiment continues to uphold its reputation as a lethal and professional Opposing Force (OPFOR). Our Spouse Spur Ride, Squadron Spur Rides, and the Regimental Ball were all exceptionally successful and really helped continue to build the team and instill the pride in our organization that all of you treasure so very much. We are also undergoing significant transitions of leaders and Troopers as the summer permanent change of station (PCS) season is in full swing. In a few weeks, we will have changed out nearly every Troop/Company commander, multiple First Sergeants, several key Regimental Staff positions and are seeing Troopers depart with new Troopers arriving every day.

Recently, we held a change of responsibility ceremony for CSM John Lacnico, who is now the CSM of 1st Squadron, 11th ACR and an assumption of responsibility for CSM Christopher Shaiko, who assumes duty as the 26th Regimental Command Sergeant Major. CSM Shaiko is no stranger to the Blackhorse, having served as the Operations Sergeant Major in 1/11 ACR and comes to us from a successful tour as the Brigade CSM of 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. We welcome him, his wife, Christy, and their three children to the Regiment. The 25th RCSM, CSM Burg, has returned to his position as the CSM of 2/11 ACR and now our CSM team is set and ready to move us forward. I want to thank him for his eight months of positive leadership and guidance as he carried us until CSM Shaiko could arrive and assume his duty.

Finally, I look forward to participating in the 38th Annual ACVVC Reunion in September and speaking to all those that can attend as to the success of the Blackhorse, where we have been, and most importantly, where we are going. I wish you all nothing but the best and assure you that the Troopers of today continue to build on the excellence of the past 123 years and preserve and protect our legacy into the future as THE FINEST IN THE LAND!

Allons!
Sincerely,
COL Timothy J. Ferguson, 70th RCO

Thunder Run Flash

St. Francis University will match 11th ACVVC Scholarships

St Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania has a nationally known and stellar reputation as a “military friendly” school. That reputation could easily date back to the 1860s, over 160 years ago, when a terrible civil war divided our nation. St. Francis was established in 1848, and the school’s students and graduates have served in every American war since. A significant number have even sacrificed their lives for their country.

In the Vietnam War alone, 225 SFU graduates and students left the comfort of the Allegheny Highlands to serve in the sweltering heat and fiery crucible of the tropical climate of Southeast Asia. Among those men, three Marine Corps lieutenant/pilots were killed in that cause. Their names are engraved in our on the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

This agreement, to match any scholarship awarded to the children or grandchildren of the members of the 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia who attend SFU, salutes the valor of those three warriors as well as the other 222 graduates of the university.

“It is therefore agreed upon that St. Francis University will match either the \$3,000.00 or \$5,000.00 scholarships awarded by the 11th ACVVC to the sons or daughters, the grandsons or granddaughters of the 11th ACVVC members, deceased members or to the children or grandchildren of our KIAs, who are, or will enroll at the University.”

This agreement is in effect beginning

This is only the first of, hopefully many colleges and universities, we want to sign up for matching scholarships....We have a template in place at St. Francis University, we wish to expand this program nationwide.

with the Fall Semester of 2023 and signed by University President, Very Reverend Malachi Van Tassel, T.O.R., Ph.D.

This is only the first of, hopefully many colleges and universities, we want to sign up for matching scholarships. Troopers of the 11th ACVVC can be of great assistance in expanding this program, especially if you have a contact within the faculty of a local college or university. We have a template in place at St. Francis University, we wish to expand this program nationwide. There are 583 colleges and universities listed in the United States, it would so benefit the progeny of our membership to see our program doubled with matching funds. If you have a contact, please contact Mike “Doc” Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman, or any member of the Board of Directors for follow-up and for forging an agreement program.

Bill Karabinos, 11th ACVVC Chaplain

Mike Rafferty, 11th ACVVC Scholarship Chairman





11th ACVVC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Committee Chairman
E mail address: platoonmedic36@gmail.com



I have received a total of 116 scholarship applications this year. 115 of the applicants are grandchildren and only 1 is a child of one of our members. There are 78 female applicants and 38 male applicants. As in past years, most of the applicants are high school seniors.

The 11th ACVVC Board of Directors are pleased to be able to award 55 scholarships for a total of \$167,000 this year. Since the establishment of our scholarship program in 1996, we will have awarded 746 scholarships totaling \$2,353,000 by the date of our reunion in Grand Rapids! This is a tremendous accomplishment for an organization of our size and is only possible because of the generosity of hundreds of our members who support the Calendar, Raffle, and Silent Auction fund raisers every 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. The winner of this scholarship will be chosen by Bonnie Schmidt, Colonel Schmidt's widow. This year we received an anonymous donation which will add \$1000 to the Schmidt Scholarship and \$500 to one of the \$3000 award winners!

All the applicants will have been notified that they have or have not qualified for a scholarship by the time you receive this issue of Thunder Run. The determining factor for scoring applicants is their unweighted Grade Point Average for their most recent two years of education.

11th ACVVC Raffle to Benefit Scholarship Program in 2023



The proceeds from this year's raffle will go towards providing scholarships for our children and grandchildren. **From 1996 through 2022, the 11th ACVVC's Scholarship Program has awarded 691 scholarships totaling \$2,186,000 to children and grandchildren of our members!** This year we will award 55 more scholarships totaling \$167,000. This is an incredible accomplishment due solely to the generosity of our membership.

You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in the 2023 raffle. The drawing will be held Saturday, September 23rd during the 38th annual reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. You need not be present

to win. 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 on May 16th. If you have not already done so, 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 me a donation for the 11th ACVVC scholarship program.

The Beast

People from all walks of life can face dealing with PTSD... someone who is in a car crash, a policeman, someone who is assaulted, etc., etc. People who struggle with PTSD all have similar problems and issues. However, Combat PTSD, is the outcome of many weeks, or months, or years of experiencing life threatening events.

Whatever the source, this poem says a lot about the challenges and difficulties our warriors face. They must have our support and understanding as they struggle with "The Beast" called PTSD.

They said I would be changed in my body.
I would move through the physical world in a different manner.
I would have pain where there was no blood.
I would react to sights, sounds, movement and touch
in a crazy way, as though I were back in war.

They said I would be wounded in my thoughts.
I would forget how to trust, and I would think that others were trying to hurt me.
I would see dangers in the kindness and concern of my relatives and others.

Most of all, I would not be able to think in a reasonable manner,
and it would seem that everyone else was crazy.

They told me that it would appear to me that I was alone even in the midst of the people,
and that there was no one else like me.

They warned me that it would be as though my emotions were locked up, and I would be cold in my heart
and not remember the ways of caring for others.
While I might give meat and blankets to the elders,
or food to the children, I would not be able to feel
the goodness of these actions.
That I would do these things out of habit and not from caring.

They predicted that I might do harm to others without plan or intention.
They knew that my spirit would be wounded.

They said I would be lonely and that I would find no comfort
in family, friends, elders or spirits.
I would be cut off from both beauty and pain.
My dreams would be dark and frightening.
My days would be filled with searching and not finding.
I would not be able to find connections between myself and the rest of
creation.
I would look forward to an early death.

*And, I would need cleansing in all these things.
Eric Newton, Dec 1, 2014*



From the Editor's Desk

Troopers, families and friends of the 11th ACVVC, I hope you are looking forward to our 38th annual reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan as much as I am! Though we communicate all year long with our Blackhorse brothers, the reunion is often the only chance we get to see each other in person. It will be another great assembly of Troopers who made the Blackhorse a legend in Vietnam and Cambodia!

As always, I remind you, urge you, to submit your stories to Thunder Run. The 11th ACVVC is your organization and Thunder Run is your publication. Though we may see minor changes in future issues of Thunder Run, we are committed to publishing the same high-quality magazine that you have come to expect. Thunder Run is your voice and your way to share your memories of your service with the legendary Blackhorse Regiment! Text submissions should be made in MS Word and photos should be sent as jpg files. Any other format for text or photos may not be easily convert-

ed to the format that works best for the printer. As a related topic, if you own a printing company, or are associated with a printing company that can manage the type and volume of publication that you are holding in your hands (approx. 7,300 copies quarterly), please contact me directly. Printing costs, (paper, ink, wages) always go up and postage has also increased. We are always looking to save our members' money and Thunder Run is an expensive publication.

In the 2nd quarter issue, I had asked for some help in proof-reading. Bryant Nelson, (HOW 1/11, 69-70) from Murietta, California stepped up and will be my right-hand man as long as he can put up with my quirky demands! Bryant has been a frequent contributor to Thunder Run and I am happy to have him on our staff. Thank you Bryant.

At the conclusion of the 2023 reunion, I will begin editing the 11th ACVVC 2024 calendar. Like Thunder Run, this annual publication is your production, as the images contained therein were made fifty-one to fifty-seven years ago by you, the Troopers of

the legendary Blackhorse Regiment. These are your memories and your history. Please consider submitting high quality, interesting photos from your collection for possible inclusion in the annual calendar. Do not mail me any original photos or slides (unless you no longer want them). The best way to submit images is to scan them at 300 dpi and attach the scans to an email as jpg images. The annual calendar is the largest fund-raising tool for our Scholarship Program that has awarded \$2,353,000 in scholarships to our children and grandchildren, all because of your participation and generosity. Thank you all for your involvement and contributions!

If you have complaints about Thunder Run or suggestions on how we can improve the magazine or reduce costs, please let me know, as I work for you! (Remember the old adage, "You get what you pay for!," well the fact is - like all of your Officers and Chairpersons - I work for free!)

Stay safe, enjoy your summer and I'll see you in September!

Pete

11th ACR Medal Of Honor Recipients will be recognized at Angel Fire Memorial in New Mexico

In a joint effort the 11th ACVVC and the Blackhorse Association donated to the Angel Fire Memorial to fund the installation of three memorial bricks inscribed with the names of CPL Jerry W. Wickam*, SFC Rodney J.T. Yano* and CPT Harold A. Fritz. These three Blackhorse Troopers were awarded the Medal Of Honor for their actions in the Vietnam War. (*Posthumous award)

The installation will take place on Saturday, September 2, 2023, and 11th ACVVC Frank Church will attend and participate in the emplacement of the bricks. Background information on the world-famous Angel Fire Memorial follows (reprinted from the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services website).

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In the 1960s, Victor Westphall (Doc) and his wife, Jeanne, purchased more than 800 acres of the Val Verde ranch near Angel Fire, NM, with the intention of building a resort

complete with homes, a golf course, and ski slopes. Then on May 22, 1968, their eldest son, Lt. Victor David Westphall III, was killed in an ambush in Con Thien, Vietnam just south of the DMZ. David Westphall was buried in the Santa Fe National Cemetery in early June 1968.

David's mother, Jeanne, suggested using David's life insurance money to build a chapel to honor the memory of their son and the fifteen men who died with him. Fueled by this inspiration, Doc drew out the initial sketches for the Chapel and submitted them to a local Santa Fe architect for final drafting. Construction of the Peace and Brotherhood Chapel began in September 1968. The vision for the Chapel soon expanded to commemorate the service and sacrifice of all Vietnam veterans.

The Chapel was the first major memorial created to honor the veterans of the Vietnam War. It was recognized by the United States Congress as a "memorial of national significance" and served as inspiration for the

Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

In 2017, the Department of Veterans' Services took over management of the Memorial. Today, the Memorial includes a visitor center and museum, with a library of over 1,000 books and 2,000 photographs, memorabilia exhibits, touchable displays, artwork, and sculptures that provide a glimpse into the daily life of our troops. The Memorial also includes an amphitheater, a memorial walkway, memorial gardens, a Huey Helicopter display, and the gravesites of Doc and Jeanne. The Memorial also overlooks the Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery, which opened in July 2020. Approximately 45,000 individuals come each year.

The Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located at 34 Country Club Road, Angel Fire, New Mexico 87710, approximately 190 miles northeast of Albuquerque.

Burial and Memorial Benefits for Veterans

Preparing for a funeral can be a difficult and confusing process. Veterans, service members, and their families may be entitled to VA burial benefits to help plan and pay for burial, funeral service, and transportation costs. Veterans can plan their legacy with VA burial and memorial benefits

No one wants to leave their family with large burial and funeral expenses. VA's compassionate and professional memorial and burial services can help ease families through loss and save them thousands of dollars. If you are a Veteran, service member, spouse or dependent, you may be eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery and other benefits. These benefits include:

- Access to more than 140 national cemeteries, 95 of which are open to interments of caskets or cremated remains. Specific burial options are limited to those available at a cemetery and will vary based on availability.
- A United States flag, provided at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a Veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- A single headstone, columbarium niche cover or a flat marker for a Veteran's final resting place, whether in a private, state or

national cemetery.

- A medallion for use on a headstone, or other memorial in a private cemetery, to indicate a deceased person's Veteran status. Multiple sizes are available, and VA delivers the headstone or marker anywhere in the world at no cost.

- A Presidential Memorial Certificate – an engraved certificate signed by the current president that honors the memory of honorably discharged Veterans – for families of deceased Veterans.

VA also provides burial benefits to partially offset the cost of burial expenses, plot costs and transportation costs for a Veteran's remains. These benefits are paid at different rates based on whether the Veteran's death was service-connected or non-service connected. More information on burial benefits compensation is available at VA.gov.

VA will pay the first living person to file a claim as listed below:

- The Veteran's surviving spouse, or
- The survivor of a legal union between the deceased Veteran and the survivor, or
- The Veteran's children, regardless of age, or
- The Veteran's parents or the surviving parent, or

- The executor or administrator of the deceased Veteran's estate, or the person acting for the deceased Veteran's estate.

How to apply for benefits

When applying for burial and memorial benefits, there are basic forms that must be completed, including:

- VA Form 21P-530 for burial benefits (must be received within two years of burial or cremation)
- VA Form 40-1330 for a headstone, grave marker or niche marker
- VA Form 40-1330M for a medallion to be placed on a privately purchased headstone or marker
- VA Form 40-0247 for a Presidential Memorial Certificate
- VA Form 27-2008 for a United States flag for burial purposes

The VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit provides instructions on how to apply for each benefit and includes copies of the VA forms needed, so you can familiarize yourself with them now. Current versions of these forms (and more) are available on VA.gov. The Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit also includes tips on how to fill out applications with examples of completed forms.

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

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

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

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49
Scholarship Fund	Bronze Level	Cole Scott, Larry	Walter Hernandez, Jacqui	Long, Robert
Platinum Level	Page, Steve	Coopet, Joseph	Twigg, Paul	Confer, Richard
Anonymous	Assistance Fund	Stoll, Ned	Patch, Buzz	Woodruff, Doris
Gold Level	Gold Level	Bradshaw, Anthony	Hipps, William	In Memory of Leon Woodruff
Henshaw, Russell In Memory of "Paul Myers, Medic"	Silver Level	Durr, Merritt	Sowell, Jerry	Caldwell, Ronald
Cartwright, Wavely	Calendar Fund	Gold Level	Scott, Charles	Phelps, Charles
Bonds, Larry	Gold Level	Schubert, Jack	McDaniel, Romaine In Honor of Thomas E. Barnett	Norris, Michael
Bowen, Alfred	Memorial Fund	Wheeler, Richard	Tepper, Elliott	Starbucks, Todd
Anonymous	Platinum Level	Monson, Lyle	Vicario, Raymond	Ostrom, David
In Memory of Jake Watrous	Wayne, Mollhoff	Simmons, Michael	McHenry, Philip	Tidwell, Phillip
Carr, Mark	Gold Level	Hathaway, Frederick In Honor of Peter L.	Davis, James	Bradshaw, Anthony
Young, James	Worthey, Donna In Memory of Larry		Marotta, Robert	Enloe, Ernest
			Silver Level	Woodruff, Barry
			Bradshaw, Anthony	Murphy, Robert
				Bronze Level
				Alfred, Hubert
				Vaughan, Travis
				Pressgrove, Fletcher
				Henson, Donald
				Lamgo, Floyd
				Bird, Robert
				Vanhorn, David
				Smiley, Paul
				Green, James
				In Memory of George S. Deckon
				Figueroa, Michael
				Newton, Kenneth
				Boyce, Roger
				Stalnaker, Patrick
				Laite, Allan
				Smith, Sherman

Submit Your DNA to Identify a KIA/MIA

Whenever our government classifies a member of the military as Missing in Action (MIA) or Killed in Action (KIA) the family is notified. However, it may be years or decades before recovery of any remains is achieved, if ever.

In 1991 the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL), a division of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, was established as the only Department of Defense (DOD) forensic DNA testing laboratory for the identification of human remains.

Advances in science now makes it possible to identify human remains through the analysis of DNA. To assist AFDIL in the identification process families can submit their own DNA for matching with currently recovered remains, or the DNA will be stored in government labs specially designed to preserve it for future recoveries.

Each military department maintains a Service Casualty Office. Each office dedicates the following addresses and telephone numbers for family use:

U.S. Air Force
HQ AFPC/DPFCM
550 C Street West
JBSA-Randolph, TX 78150-4716
Tel: 1-(800) 531-4716

U.S. Army
Department of the Army
Attn Past Conflicts AHRC-PDC-R
1600 Spearhead Div. Ave. Dept. 450
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5405
Tel: 1 (800) 892-2490

U.S. Marine Corps
Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps
Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MFPC)
Personal and Family Readiness Division
2008 Elliot Road
Quantico, VA 22134-5103
Tel: 1 (800) 847-1597

U.S. Navy
Navy Personnel Command Casualty
Assistance Division 5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-0000
Tel: 1 (800) 443-9208

Please contact the address below if you wish to provide information about an American missing in action from any conflict, or have an inquiry about MIAs:

Public Affairs Office
Washington, D.C.
2300 Defense Pentagon
Attn: External Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20301-2300

MEMORIAL DAY from page 1

and an endearing message of brotherhood. I get to read it a number of times each year at the burial of a soldier, even once read it at Arlington. It doesn't get any easier, no matter how many times we read it aloud.

We had a nice turnout this past Memorial Day in Washington. Troopers who served in Vietnam, as well as 11th ACR people from the Fulda Gap era and even veterans of the Gulf War gathered, many with family members. "Their father had, and their father had before...". Loren Klink, son of Robert (D Company 69/70) brought his father and mother, Luann, from Frostburg, Maryland. John Boland, Gulf War Blackhorse veteran, came up with his children from Stafford, Virginia. Eamon McGready, who served in the Legion in Germany reunited with both Brian Butcher and Glenn Snodgrass of Cold War days, and my son, Michael and his children, Savannah and Jacob, came up from beyond Richmond to honor their "Papa." The two brothers of Raymond Crowder (K Troop), Steve and Gary brought their families, including sons and daughters to trace their brother's name off the Wall. Ray was killed in action on June 19, 1967. Their dedication and presence, honored all Blackhorse veterans of Vietnam killed in action and all of us as well. They all came because their fathers had (and their brothers too), and their fathers had before. And so too did many of our regular participants from the metropolitan DC area and from as far away as Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania and distant hamlets in Virginia. They come, because they honor the words: "their father had and their fathers had before..."

A lot of other people pass by our gathering: we don't put up fences or tape, we don't have a reserved space, we just seem to have inherited an honored place next to the statue of the Three Grunts. From there we look down a slightly sloping hill to view the names chiseled into that Wall. Names that will always be there to remind us, and all future generations that "their father had."

After a bit of camaraderie and a few moments to lie and laugh, we gather in a widened circle, introduce ourselves and our family members, get a few updates and an encouraging message, then pause in respectful silence for a short prayer, before we carry our Blackhorse Wreath in procession down to the Wall's center point.

As it so often is, our gathering and introductions are interrupted by the loud yet familiar noise of circling helicopters. No one can be heard, so while we pause, some of us recall that same noise from Vietnam. This past May was no different ... except for some reason when it came time to pray a momentary silence surrounded us. So we prayed:

Long ago on night watch, staring into the darkened sky, maybe behind a machine gun on top of an M 48 "Patton Tank," a Blackhorse trooper prayed all alone. He whispered - "I hope dear Lord that I will not too quickly forget that you are an awesome God. That you reign from heaven above with wisdom, power and love. That you will protect my brother troopers - and me as well. But if you decide that it is my time to come home, bring me to your embrace and comfort me with your grace."

Eternal God, let Your Grace and mercy rest upon us as we, with grateful affection, remember those warriors listed on that Wall. We may not be able to remember all 58,000 plus names. We may not be able to remember even our 740 Blackhorse brothers listed there, but we do know some ... or at least one name.

May that remembrance of that one life, or of the several lives recalled, remain long among us and be a source of guidance and strength. Give to those who miss them deeply, wells of consolation from which to draw comfort, let them also draw strength and mercy to serve others in time of need. We don't know them all ... but we owe them all. They wore the uniform, that stood tall, they stood up for America ... they are our brother and sister warriors.

After the prayer we did an about face and looked down at The Wall. We stiffened our sagging spines, stretched our legs, stood tall, and held our salute of that Wall. No that's wrong. We saluted the warriors, those names on that Wall. We saluted our Vietnam and Cambodian KIA's.

Then as proud troopers we marched behind our Blackhorse wreath to place it at the base of that Wall. "They fought because their fathers and their fathers had before. They cursed and killed and wept. God knows, they're easy to deride. But bury me with men like these; they faced the guns and died."

Chaplain Bill

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

In 1966 and 1967, Regimental Headquarters and each of the Squadrons submitted Monthly Evaluation Reports. Ranging from three to more than ten pages, these reports provided a summary of Blackhorse activities to higher headquarters (II Field Force in Long Binh). They give insights into the Regiment's first year in-country – especially how the rest of the in-country system was dealing with the large number of armored vehicles and weapons employed by Blackhorse Troopers. The following are excerpts from those reports.

October 1966 (Regiment): “During October over 500,000 leaflets were dropped in conjunction with Operation ATLANTA [movement to and occupation of the new Blackhorse Base Camp south of Xuan Loc].



Two of the leaflets were printed especially for the regiment based on a design created by the S5 [Civil-Military Operations staff section] and employed during the move by the 1st Squadron to Xuan Loc. One leaflet was dropped on friendly towns and the other on

units to combat in the Republic of Vietnam. During CEDAR FALLS and COLBY/IOLA, the unit utilized its awesome firepower and extreme mobility to continually route the Viet Cong from their well-entrenched, ingeniously concealed bunkers, spider holes, and underground shelters ...”

December 1966 (1st Squadron): “Squadron morale continues to be high. During the Christmas holidays the troops receive presents from various organizations in CONUS [Continental United States], as well as Christmas cards from school children, civic groups and private citizens. The men of the ‘First of the Blackhorse’ responded with many thank-you notes and letters of appreciation. Each troop adorned its own mess hall with Christmas trees, lights and other decorations even though the Squadron was participating in vigorous operations during the holiday season.”

January 1967 (Regiment): “A total of 18,223 artillery rounds were fired by the 11th Armored Cavalry Howitzer Batteries, with 1st Squadron firing 1,480, 2nd Squadron 9,378, and 3rd Squadron 7,365.” May 1967 (Regiment): “A total of

The 11th Armored Cavalry has arrived in Vietnam. They have mighty tanks that will seek out and destroy the Viet Cong. When not fighting the Viet Cong bandits who rebel against their own people, the U.S. 11th Armored Cavalry will be helping to build schools, treat the sick and injured and distribute food to the people of Vietnam. But, they can only help you if you help them. When you see the American soldiers wearing the big black horse on their shoulder, remember, we are your friends.



possible VC areas in the Xuan Loc area. The friendly leaflet depicted the proposed patch of the regiment and informed the people the ‘Blackhorse Regiment’ was here to stay and to help them against the VC. While the leaflets were being dropped a HU1D [Huey helicopter] with speaker circled the area telling the people more about the regiment. Later reports from intelligence sources indicated the people were very receptive and pleased with the announcement of the regiment's arrival and its intentions.”

October 1966 (1st Squadron): “Initial PLL [Prescribed Load List – repair parts kept on-hand at troop/company/battery level for vehicles, weapons, and radios] rapidly depleted. Repair parts, especially for weapons, very hard to get. Most automotive repair parts needed were procured at salvage yards.”

Meritorious Unit Commendation: From Department of the Army General Orders 32, dated 2 July 1968: “The 3D SQUADRON, 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT distinguished itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 13 September 1966 to 31 May 1967

By making tactical movements in areas previously considered inaccessible to tracked vehicles during Operation HICKORY, the 3D SQUADRON, 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT completely revised the concept of the adaptability of armored

14,303 rounds were fired by the Blackhorse Howitzer Batteries, with 1st Squadron expending 7,515 and 3rd Squadron expending 6,788 rounds.” [From April to October 1967, 2/11, was under the Operational Control of Task Force Oregon at Chu Lai in I Corps, just south of the Demilitarized Zone with North Vietnam; 2nd HOW is not included in this total.]

January 1967 (1st Squadron): “It has been the experience of this Squadron that the most effective method of conducting a security mission (whether area or route) in an economy of force role is to saturate the area with platoon sized mounted and ambushes. Aggressiveness is the key to accomplishment of the mission.”

January 1967 (2nd Squadron): “During the period 27 through 31 January, the Squadron conducted S & D [Search & Destroy] operations (OPERATION MUNCIE) in conjunction with 1st Bn. 43rd Inf, (ARVN) [South Vietnamese]. The force consisted of three rifle companies and a headquarters company. The three rifle companies were attached to Troops E, F, and G and conducted dismounted sweep and search operations ... Due to ARVN's use of cook fires at day's end, light discipline is a constant problem. Water is also a problem due to the excessive amount needed to prepare their rice. Recommend that where possible operations be terminated early enough to allow ARVN units to prepare their rice and have the cookfire extinguished by dusk. Also plans should be made for a minimum of three (3) gallons of water per man per day, half to be issued in the morning and half

in the evening.” [Water weights 8 1/3 pounds per gallon.]

March 1967 (1st Squadron): “The First Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment continued participation in OPERATION JUNCTION CITY from 1 March to 16 March [under the operation control (OPCON) of the 25th Infantry Division]. During this period daily contact was made with VC local force and main force units. A large number of enemy installations and defensive positions were discovered and destroyed, including two VC printing presses, each weighting ¾ ton, psywar [psychological warfare] center, radio broadcasting installation and a rice mill.” On 21 March, the Pacific Stars & Stripes newspaper published an article entitled “Troops Shut Down VC Newspaper”. From that article: “While sweeping an area near the Cambodian border 25 miles northwest of Tay Ninh, the first squadron of the [11th] Armored Cav. ran into a heavily defended Viet Cong base camp. After battling the cavalry troopers for more than six hours ... the VC had had enough. They slipped out under cover of darkness, leaving behind 31 dead. When the cavalry moved into the deserted area the following day, they found the prize the VC guerrillas had tried to defend. Located in a reinforced concrete bunker 15 feet underground, was a communist Chinese printing press. A direct hit by an artillery shell had knocked a hole in the top of the bunker. Following wire leading from the printing press, the troops located a generator with another wire attached. The second wire led to another concrete bunker which also contained a printing press.” CH47 Chinook helicopters evacuated the printing presses to Cu Chi. One stayed there, and the other became property of the Blackhorse. “The [11th Cav] troopers plan to put the press in operating condition and use it for their own printing needs.”

March 1967 (2nd Squadron): “Howitzer Battery experienced a severe loss when a howitzer exploded and burned causing a fire which destroyed their Fire Direction center [FDC] on 22 March 1967. All FDC equipment was destroyed. Individual weapons and equipment was also destroyed. As of this date [31 March] the losses have been partially replaced.”

May 1967 (Regiment): “On 6 May, the Regimental CP [Command Post] and Trains [logistics elements] ... received approximately 60 rounds of 82mm mortar fire which resulted in 3 US WHA [Wounded, Hostile Action]. Counter-mortar fire and LFT [helicopter Light Fire Teams] were employed with unknown results. Five mortar positions and approximately 20 bunkers and foxholes were later found in an area where the VC had cut down the young rubber trees to clear the position, then sawed the trees into 6 foot lengths to use as overhead cover for the bunkers. It appeared the position had been prepared during the night and that the VC had possibly moved into and out of the area by vehicle. On 20 May, K Troop, 3rd Squadron, at the GIA RAY rock quarry received 15 rounds of mortar fire (estimated 82mm) ... All of the rounds landed outside the perimeter and there were no casualties or damage. Counter-mortar fire and a light fire team were employed with unknown results.”

June 1967 (Regiment): “The Blackhorse Regiment [1st and 3rd Squadrons] participated in Operation QUICK SILVER in support of the 18th Infantry Division (ARVN) [South Vietnamese] elements conducting operations between National Highway 20 and the DONG NGAI River ... At 271917H [7:17 pm on 27 June] 1st Squadron moved to provide direct support to 3/5 Cavalry Troop (ARVN) and 52nd Ranger Battalion in contact with elements of the 3rd Battalion, 275th VC Regiment (-) vicinity YT327325. Forces under the operational control of the Regiment were 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry, 1st Battalion, 11th Artillery (-), B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery, and Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry [all from the 9th (US) Infantry Division]. VC losses were 37 VC KIA (BC) [37 Viet Cong Killed in Action (Body Count)], 31 lbs. documents, 107 grenades, 3 lbs. medical supplies, 11 small arms weapons, 1 RPG-2 with carrier captured; 22 military structures, 6 grenades, 85 RPG-2 rounds, 82 fortifications, destroyed. US losses were 11 WHA [Wounded, Hostile Action], and 1 ACAV [Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle] damaged. The operation is continuing.”

June 1967 (2nd Squadron): “The logistical situation of the Squadron is considered to be fair ... Combat losses for the month of June include 5 M-113 APC’s [Armored Personnel Carriers] and 2 M-48A3 tanks ... It is noted that, from the date of first loss of M-113’s at Chu Lai, to the date of receipt of first replacement, a total of 40 days had elapsed, which is entirely too long.” [From April to October 1967, 2/11, was under the Operational Control of Task Force Oregon at Chu Lai in I Corps, just south of the Demilitarized Zone with North Vietnam.]

December 1967 (2nd Squadron): “On three occasions the Squadron found 750# bomb duds which had been dismantled and the explosive charge removed. Comparing the size of the mines employed [against the Squadron ... with the amount of TNT available in one 750# bomb it is estimated that the US supplied the VC with a minimum of 30 mines for use in the immediate area ... [The VC] were successful in destroying 3 ACAVs and two tanks from the Squadron.”

MOVING?

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



Name: _____
Old Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
New Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone _____ Effective Date: _____
Email: _____

VSO INFORMATION

SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS

As there seems to be an increasing interest regarding “survivor’s benefits” I have been requested to focus some attention on this subject. The Veterans Administration has several such benefits of which if I were to feature in detail in one edition of *Thunder Run*, the editor would pull his hair out. Good thing we live in different states. So I thought it best to simply provide a summary of sorts for said benefits I believe are of interest to the members and spouses of the 11th ACVVC.

Here goes.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation or DIC VA form 21P-534EZ

A benefit for a surviving spouse if the veteran dies from a service-connected disability. This is a monthly disbursement, currently about \$1,500.00/month, and it is tax free. Further “IF” the veteran was 100 % total and permanent for ten years or more, the cause of death does not need to be service connected.

Survivors Pension VA form 21P-534EZ

A financial benefit for a surviving spouse, of a war time era veteran, if the cause of death was not service connected. However- this benefit is often referred to as financially sensitive. Meaning- there is a financial threshold for an applicant to meet. Currently, the monthly benefit for a survivor is about \$800.00. IF there is household income above that level, the applicant is not eligible. So, if the spouse has Social Security of \$1,800.00 month, the spouse is not eligible AND if another person lives with the spouse and has income, that is also considered as above the threshold. Note here: there are deductions and other factors that are considered for each applicant which would lower the total income amount. This benefit is one that really needs the assistance of a VSO.

Internment at a National Cemetery

A surviving spouse may be interned at a National Cemetery with the veteran in the National Cemetery System which includes the gravesites, a headstone or marker, opening and closing the grave and perpetual care. Many National Cemeteries have columbaria or gravesites for cremated remains.

Financial Burial Benefits VA form 21P-530

Reimbursement for non-National Cemeteries.

Dependents Educational Assistance VA form 22-5490

Eligibility standard: the veteran must have been 100 % permanent and total at time of death.

VA Bereavement Counseling 202-461-6530

This is a service available at all VA Medical Center Clergy services. The above telephone number is for the national call center. Calls are forwarded to the nearest VA facility.

Civilian Health And Medical Program

Health Care at VA for survivors.

A benefit for a surviving spouse to receive health care at the VA medical center. The caveat for this- the veteran must have been at 100% perma-

nent and total at the time of death. Commonly called Champ VA There are several “qualifiers” for survivors under and over 65, and Medicare parts A and B.

I have been invited, or drafted, to provide a presentation during the 38th Reunion. The manner in which this invitation was delivered made me laugh a bit. Since I live in the Chicago metropolitan area and Grand Rapids is simply a brief drive, I have no excuse not to attend. Hence, just as I did on May 19, 1969, I enlisted for the 38th Reunion. Further the above summary will be expanded upon in conjunction with an overall review of how to develop a claim for benefits. A side bar here. I may not remember many of the guys from F Troop but there are a few although the names are lost in the cobwebs. I do remember our senior medic was from Appleton Wisconsin, another medic from Downers Grove, Illinois, our 1SG, Willie Johnson (KIA 3/5/70) and Troop Commander, William Bailey. Anyway- see ya there!

DD FORM 214

Thought I would share some information a bit different with members this edition. A previous article focused on the importance of keeping copies of your DD 214 available, especially if your family needs to have those. The accompanying article is courtesy of Wikipedia and is rather interesting. Many veterans are not aware of the history, how to request copies and how to request corrections. One source to obtain a DD 214 not indicated in the article is, archives.gov/military. Trust you will enjoy reading this.

The DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, generally referred to as a “DD 214”, is a document of the United States Department of Defense, issued upon a military service member’s retirement, separation, or discharge from active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States (i.e., U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Space Force, U.S. Coast Guard).

History and usage

The first DD Form 214s were issued in 1950, replacing the older “WD AGO” (War Department Adjutant General’s Office) Forms and the NAVPERS (Naval Personnel) discharge documents. These documents had existed since 1941. In earlier versions of the form (1 November 1972) it was called a “Report of Separation from Active Duty”; the current title dates from 1 July 1979.

DD Form 214 is the capstone documentation of completed military service, representing the complete, verified record of a service member’s time in the military (Active, including Reservists on active assignments). Among the most important details is the character of service (Honorable, Dishonorable, General Under Honorable Conditions, etc.), which greatly affects veteran benefits and can have long-term reputational impact. Other important data includes the servicemember’s awards and medals, highest rank/rate and pay grade held on active duty, lengths of service (including total time, sea time, overseas service, and prior service periods), job specialty, and a record of training and schools completed. Job specialty documents primary and secondary qualifications, such as Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC), Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC), Navy officer designa-

Please turn to **VSO** on page 24

Reunion Registration

Bob Moreno, BOD Member, Reunion Registration Chm.

Here we are again, another newsletter, another article, and a month closer to seeing all of our friends again at this year's reunion. I hope this finds everyone safe and in good health.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE while you are at the reunion, and you see a 1st Timer (Yellow Ribbon on their name tag) give them a handshake and a welcome home greeting. We also have Star Family members (Red, White and Blue Ribbon on their name tag) attending, please talk to them and make them feel welcome for they are Blackhorse families that lost loved ones.

There are still a lot of Blackhorse troopers out there that haven't attended a Blackhorse Reunion. So, you may ask why should I come? I have a few reasons. One: To remember and not forget our fallen troopers that we lost in Viet Nam. It took a long time, but we contacted a family member from almost all the 730 Troopers that were lost in the time frame that we were in Viet Nam. A lot of the Star and Next of Kin family members have been to our reunions, and some have returned more than twice. Two: It's great to talk to someone who can relate to the smell, the heat and all the rain during the monsoon season. Three: This is a great time for our significant others to talk with other spouses. Four: We are not getting any younger so please try to attend a reunion before it is too late. You may be surprised as to what might be an eye-opening experience.

If you haven't sent your Registration Form in yet you need to do it now before you miss the cut off date. All Registrations must be received by Friday, September 1, 2023. The same goes for making your hotel reservations. The hotel cutoff date is August 18, 2023.

If you get your Registration Form out of the Thunder Run, please use the whole page do not trim the page. I am pleased that so many of you are using address labels this year. You have no idea how much time it saves me when I know exactly how to spell your full name and where you all are from. Also thank you for your understanding about what I put on your name tag. If you aren't sure what I mean let me explain. Due to the size of the name tag, there is only so much room to put all the information that I need on it. I have to consider that the type needs to be large enough for our aging eyes to see it. So, when we get someone who wants "John Edward 'Doc' Guggenheim" on their name tag, I try. But sometimes it just doesn't fit. I have to decide if I put John Guggenheim or Doc Guggenheim. When you fill out your Registration Form if you tell me exactly what you want, then that's what I will try to do. If not, then you leave it up to me. If you insist on having the whole thing, I will try my best to do it, but it will be in a much smaller type. Bottom line is – I want to make you happy as well as make your registration check in process quick and easy.

You can always invite anyone you want to come to the reunion as your guest. They must also be paid registered guests

on the Registration Form that you sent to us. I will put their name tag and meal ticket in your packet that you pick up at the registration desk. If this is their first time at our reunion, please include that information on the Registration Form. Also, if they live in a different City or State, you can include that next to their name on the Registration Form. I will include that information on their name tags.

Don't forget to inform me which meals everyone wants, your choices this year are CHICKEN, BEEF, FISH OR VEG-ETARIAN. Be sure you put the correct number of meals on the Registration Form. You should be ordering one meal for each person that is registered. If there are three of you attending, then you should have a total of three meals marked. I will put the meal ticket behind your name tag, that way you won't misplace it.

Now on your Registration Form it's important that you mark down which Unit you were in. I need just one Unit 'NOT TWO' and that's the one you and your guest will be sitting with at the Banquet. There are a couple of reasons for this. The first of course is that you will be seated with your buddies. The second reason: this is where we have your seats set up. I got that information from your Registration Form. I know from my own personal experience how frustrating it is when you can't find a seat with your own Unit. I would like to ask all of you to please be courteous to all the other attendees and sit with your own Unit. Your name tag has the Unit that you said you served with in Viet Nam. That is the Unit you and your guest need to sit with at the Saturday Banquet. So please let's be courteous and sit where we are supposed to. Check the seating chart to see where your Unit is located on the floor, this will be located at the entrance to the banquet room.

If you find you need to cancel after you have sent out your Registration Form, it should not be a problem. Just let me know before the cutoff date and I will let Ollie know. Please let me know what you want to do with your refund. I have troopers donate the refund to either the Scholarship, Memorial or Reunion fund.

If for any reason you can't make the reunion after you have registered, please call me, and let me know. I need to pull your packet from all that I have.

If you see anything incorrect on the web site when you are checking to see who else from your Unit is attending or you don't see your name listed, or it's incorrect please call me, or email me. I am the one who has to have the correct information. My contact information is home phone 608-372-5892 Cell phone 608-387-3346. Email: gtroopbob@gmail.com

I would like to thank all the board members for all the work they do all year long for our membership. A special thanks to all the ladies and guests who also helped in many ways.

From Raleigh, Robert, my sons, and myself.

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy.

2023 Silent Auction

By Greg Mason And Mike Rafferty

The 2022 Silent Auction raised \$6,106 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 85 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many hand-crafted items and one of a kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We are not allowed to have alcoholic beverages or firearms in the auction as many state laws prohibit it. We look forward to another successful auction.

The auction process will be as follows:

1. Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 38th Annual Reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cavalry related or not.

2. We will have a collection site set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on **Wednesday from 1pm to 5pm, Thursday from 1pm to 5pm,**

and Friday from 1pm to 4pm.

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

4. The **auction will be from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on Friday night** with the bidding ending precisely at 8:30pm. Those in wheel chairs or motorized chairs may be allowed in at 6:15 to allow them a little time to view the items before the crowds enter if our space in the rooms is tight.

5. Winning bidders must be present, pick up their items and pay for them between 8:30pm and 9pm after the bidding is closed.

6. If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bid at 9pm or auctioned off at 9:15pm Friday evening. The bid form

will have a place for you to leave a cell phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.

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

We do need volunteers to work the collection site and the night of the auction. We are setting up the collection site schedule in 2 hour shifts and if you would like to volunteer please contact me at gregmason311@gmail.com or 813-220-9027. I will respond to your email as I receive them.

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

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

11th ACVVC Silent Auction

Donated Items Information Form

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

Please print clearly.

Description of item donated: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Address of Donor: _____

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

I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

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

11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia

Together Then - Together Again



38th Annual Reunion Information September 18-24, 2023



■ Registration Cutoff Date: **September 1, 2023**

■ Registration Cancellation Date: **September 13, 2023**

■ Hotel Cutoff Date: **August 8, 2023**

All registrations must be received by Friday, September 1, 2023.
Any registration received after this date will be returned.

• Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the treasurer no later than Wednesday, September 13, 2023. After this date, all food orders will have been placed. We will have to pay for all dinners that we commit to.

Service Dogs are welcome. Please bring your valid documentation.

• Grand Rapids is known as Beer City with many Pubs and Eateries. There are over 200 places to visit in The Grand Rapids area with 53 Mexican and Spanish Restaurants. The Gerald R. Ford Museum is directly across the river from The Hotel. There are many sites to visit such as The Meijer Gardens and The Grand Rapids Art Museum.

Please make your travel plans and Hotel Reservations early. Grand Rapids is serviced by Allegiant, American, Southwest and United Airlines.

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

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

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

Reservation Booking Website: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50392329>
By Phone 1-800-253-3590 before cutoff date of August 18, 2023. Tell Agent that you are with the 11thACVVC group. Room Rate \$139, Single, Double, Triple, Quad. Complimentary Overnight Self-Parking, No Resort Fees.

• Scooter Rental Information:

Amigo Mobility Center, 4280 Plainfield Ave NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525; (616) 361-7559;

<https://amigomobilitycenter.com/locations/grand-rapids-michigan/>

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

2023 11TH ACVVC REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

All pre-ordered shirts will be available for pick-up at the QM Store during the 2023 reunion in Grand Rapids, MI.

Orders must be received by September 1, 2023! Please print all information!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Shirt Color: Ash w/ reunion logo embroidered on left side; name, unit, year on right side.

Adult Sizes: S, M, L, XL - \$42 each / 2XL, 4XL - \$44 each. Shirt Size _____

Shipping: If you can't attend the reunion, you can still order the shirt. Add \$8 for shipping and we will mail your shirt to you.

Price includes up to 3 lines of 40 characters per line of personalized embroidery (Name, Unit, Date, etc.)

Visa Line 1: _____

MasterCard Line 2: _____

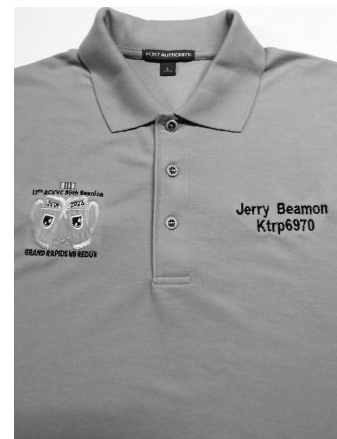
Line 3: _____

Credit Card No: _____ CVC Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card orders) _____

Make checks or money orders payable to: 11th ACVVC. If paying by check, write your driver's license number on the check.

Mail form to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Drive, Bullard, TX 75757**





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



Tuesday, Sept. 19, 3:00 PM

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

Storage - Lyon

Wednesday, Sept 20

10:00 am - 5:00 pm
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
7:00 pm - 12:00 am
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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

Vandenberg
Registration Desk 1
Ambassador Ballroom
Lyon
Registration Desk 1

Thursday, Sept. 21

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

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

Saskatoon Golf Club, Alto, MI
Vandenberg
Registration Desk 1
Ambassador Ballroom
Registration Desk 1

Friday, Sept. 22

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

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

Grand Rapids Heritage Hill
Vandenberg
Gerald R Ford Room
Registration Desk 1
Registration Desk 1
Ambassador Ballroom
Gerald R Ford Room
Gerald R Ford Room

Saturday, Sept. 24

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

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

Ambassador
Gerald R Ford Room
Ambassador
Vandenberg
Registration Desk 1
Convention Center

Convention Center
Convention Center

Sunday, Sept. 25

10:00 am - 11:00 am
All Day

Worship Service
Farewell and Safe Travels

Ruby
No space Required



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



REGISTRATION FORM



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



Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

187 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids Michigan 49503

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

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

Registration fee is \$100 per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner.

All registrations must be received by Friday, September 1, 2023. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer no later than Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

(print clearly or use mailing label)

Name Telephone No:

Address

City/State/Zip

E-Mail Address

Unit Assignment Dates in Country

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

KIA Relative? Yes, Name of KIA:

Relationship to KIA: Unit:

ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)

Table with 2 columns: Name, Amount. Includes Total Registration Fee row.

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

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

Visa MasterCard

Card No. Exp. Date

Signature (Required for credit card)

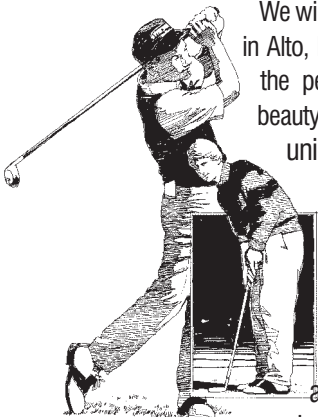
Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail registration form along with payment to:

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

THE 30TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

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

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



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

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

Complete the form below and mail it to the address shown with a check for \$100 per golfer (payable to Peter L. Walter). Form and fee must be received by Sep 8, 2023 to guarantee your entry! You do not need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of equal (or worse!) talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. The outing is open to men and women. Dress code: no denim, shirts must have collars, shorts must be Bermuda length, soft spikes only!

Call 609-261-5629 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation of you registration in the mail. All entries must be prepaid. Tee times will be at 8:30 AM with a shotgun start with lunch and prizes following golf. Each golfer is responsible for getting to/from the golf course. All golfers who will be driving should offer rides to their fellow golfers. Do not delay!!! Mail today!!! "FORE!"

30TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING
(Please include e-mail address if you have one)

Name _____ Average Score _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

E-mail _____

Mail Checks To: **Pete Walter, 8 Tallowood Dr., Westhampton, NJ 08060**

Reunion Assistance Fund

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

During the 2008 Reunion Members Business Meeting, the Board of Director

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

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Reunion Assistance Fund is to assist, if requested, Troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Survivors of our Troopers Killed in Action in Vietnam and Cambodia, to attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th

Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Qualified applicants will be given one or more of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and the degree of assistance required:

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

Maintenance of Funds: Funds collected through direct donations or the "passing of the hat" at the annual mem-

Please turn to **ASSISTANCE** on page 27



Memorial Day 2023

Long ago on night watch, staring into the darkened sky, maybe behind a machine gun on top of an M 48 "Patton Tank," a Blackhorse trooper prayed all alone. He whispered - **"I hope dear Lord that I will not too quickly forget that you are an awesome God. That you reign from heaven above with wisdom, power and love. That you will protect my brother troopers – and me as well. But if you decide that it is my time to come home, bring me to your embrace and comfort me with your grace."**

Eternal God, let Your Grace and mercy rest upon us as we, with grateful affection, remember those warriors listed on that Wall. We may not be able to remember all 58,000 plus names. We may not be able to remember even our 730 Blackhorse brothers listed there, but we do know some ... or at least one name.

May that remembrance of that one life, or of the several lives recalled, remain long among us and be a source of guidance and strength. Give to those who miss them deeply, wells of consolation from which to draw comfort, let them also draw strength and mercy to serve others in time of need. We don't know them all ... but we owe them all. They wore the uniform, they stood tall, they stood up for America ... they are our brother and sister warriors.

Let us now turn ... face the Wall and solemnly and sincerely salute them.

Amen.

(Editor's note: The prayer above was provided by 11th ACVVC Chaplain Blandin "Bill" Karabinos at the annual Memorial Day wreath-laying at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial aka, "The Wall")

THERE ARE NO WORDS

Talking about our experiences in the war can be therapeutic. Being able to access and express our feelings about what we went through can help lift the weight many veterans still feel on their souls, and it can help others understand the true impacts of the war. But not all of us have reached that place where we can share our diverse perspectives on our experiences. I still count among my veteran acquaintances many who don't want to, or can't talk about their experiences, particularly with non-veterans.

After all, if you didn't go, how would you know what it was like? No matter how they try to explain it to you they can't imagine how you would understand. It's not just that sometimes there are no words that can adequately explain what we saw, how it made us feel, or how it didn't relate to anything we had ever experienced. If they seem reticent to talk about what they experienced please understand that it's because they don't know what to say to you...they don't know how to relate it to you in a meaningful way, but more importantly they don't really want to call up the memories that still haunt them to this day. In reality, they don't want to try and talk about it with people who can't relate to or understand the pain. As far as many of them are concerned, you simply can't understand. If they could even find the words to describe what they had experienced, why would they want (why would you want them) to transfer their demons to you? It's different when they talk to other veterans because they went, they understand, they can relate.

Most appreciate when you (and others) thank them for their service, albeit 50+ years after the fact, but it doesn't escape them that you don't really understand what you are thanking them for. I'm sure many now realize that you have some level of appreciation for the sacrifices made by them

and other veterans. They want to believe that you are glad and thankful that they were willing to put their lives on the line but have trouble imagining that you have any concept of what their service in a war zone really meant or did to them.

While there are hundreds of job specialties in the military services, they only fall into two categories. Those that relate directly to killing people (combat arms - killing the enemy), or those who support the people who are directly in the field, face to face with and killing our perceived enemies. Do you understand that? The recruiter never made that plain to me before I enlisted, and I'm sure nobody ever explained it that way to draftees. Do you understand what it means to commit to that level of service? You have to commit to the idea that you are going to serve your country up to and including the possible sacrifice of your own life, or, maybe worse, you may be permanently disabled and unable to pursue a normal life. There are no absolutely safe occupational specialties. Not then, not now.

I don't care who you are, or what kind of background you came from, nobody who goes to war ever comes back the same. I don't know why society expected us to just return and re-integrate into society like nothing ever happened. The impact of the war on our psyches was bad enough, but we came home to a country that was openly hostile to our service in Vietnam....I know I (we) were changed. But when we search for the words to explain what we experienced, to make sense of it at all, there are no words that suffice. Your normal was (and is) no longer our normal. No matter how we appeared on the outside, no matter how normal we seemed to you, we knew our world had been (and remains) forever changed.

K.H. Elliott, 541rst MID, 11th ACR

VSO from page 16

tor, Navy Officer Billet Code (NOBC), and Navy Additional Qualification Designation (AQD). Individuals who served exclusively in the Air National Guard or Army National Guard (with no periods activated to regular service components) do not receive a DD Form 214, but will receive a form called NGB-22 from the National Guard Bureau.

The DD Form 214 is commonly used by various government agencies, chief among them the Department of Veterans Affairs, to evaluate eligibility for veteran benefits, and it may be requested by employers (to evaluate experience, skills, and character, as well as to verify eligibility for preferential hiring where applicable).

This document also contains codes used by the Armed Forces to describe a former servicemember's reason for discharge and, in the case of enlisted personnel, their reenlistment eligibility. These codes are known as Separation Designator/Separation Justification (abbreviated as SPD/SJC) Codes and Reenlistment Eligibility (RE) Codes, respectively.

DD Form 214 is also generally required by funeral directors for immediate proof of eligibility for interment in a VA cemetery, to obtain a grave marker, or to provide military honors to a deceased veteran. On September 1, 2000, the National Defense Authorization Act enabled, upon the family's request, every eligible veteran to receive a military funeral honors ceremony to include the folding and presentation of the United States burial flag and the sounding of Taps at no cost to the family.

Copies of DD Form 214 are typically maintained by the government as part of a service member's 201 file or OMPF (Official Military Personnel File). The 201 file generally contains additional personnel-related forms.

Available versions

There are two versions of the DD Form 214, usually referred to simply as "short" or "redacted" or "deleted" (edited), and "long" or "unredacted" or "undeleted" (unedited) copies. The edited, or "short", copy omits a great deal of information, chiefly the Characterization of Service, Reason for Separation, and Authority for Separation.[1][2]

Copies

Service members are given the option of accepting the "short form" edited Member 1, "long form" unedited Member 4 or both copies upon separation.

The most important copy of the DD 214 for the individual is the long form copy. It is the standard form needed to obtain benefits such as GI Bill or government employment priority.

There are eight original DD214 copies. All but Member 1, the "short form" copy, contain information as to the nature and type of discharge, and the re-enlistment code. This code is used to determine whether or not the service member can go back into the service. For unemployment benefits, veterans affairs benefits, as well as for several other services, the "Member's Copy 4" is usually requested but any other "long form" copy is acceptable. All eight copies are identical except Member 1, the "short form," which lacks this critical information. The military will not provide a replacement "Member's Copy 4" (it is the service member's personal copy and physically given to him at separation) and any request for a replacement is always honored by providing a "Service 2", "Service 7" or "Service 8" copy. All but Member 1 are acceptable legal

substitutes for Member 4.

Other versions of the DD Form 214 include the "Member 1" (deleted version), "Service 7 & 8" (additional copies of the "Service 2"), "Veterans Affairs 3" (sent directly to the Department of Veterans Affairs), "Member 6" (provided to the respective veteran's State Department of Veteran Affairs), and "Department of Labor 5" (provided directly to the United States Department of Labor).

If for whatever reason an original DD214 is unusable, unreadable, or destroyed, upon verification of service, the National Personnel Record Center can issue NA Form 13038, a Certification of Military Service, which is also a perfect legal substitute for DD214.

Electronic Cost-Free Copy of DD 214

eBenefits, a web portal[3] managed jointly by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the United States Department of Defense (DoD) provides Service members with free electronic copies of their Official Military Personnel File, including their DD Form 214. Electronic copies will be provided within 42 hours from the time of request. In order for a service member to request a DD 214 in eBenefits, they must have an eBenefits Premium Account (DS Logon Level 2[4]).

Paper Cost-Free Copy of DD 214

The National Personnel Records Center is the government agency tasked with replacing lost and destroyed DD Form 214s upon request from a veteran. Requested copies are mailed from the Military Personnel Records Center. Most veterans who separated from their service generally pre-1992 can obtain their DD 214 from the National Personnel Records Center, ("NPRC"). The NPRC has two distinct tracks available to obtain records for veterans. The first is for the veteran to submit a Department of Defense Standard Form 180 ("SF180") to the facility via mail or fax. The second is to appear in-person at the facility. The National Archives also maintains a list of independent researchers who will physically visit the St. Louis facility to request records in person.[5]

Corrections

The DD Form 215 ("Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty") is used for additions or error corrections to a DD Form 214. It is distributed in the same manner as the DD Form 214.

Distribution

A DD Form 214/215 is prepared in eight copies and distributed as follows:

- Copy 1 – Service Member
- Copy 2 – Service Personnel File
- Copy 3 – United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- Copy 4 – Member (if initialed in Block 30)
- Copy 5 – United States Department of Labor
- Copy 6 – State Director of Veteran Affairs
- Copy 7 & 8 – Distributed in accordance with Military Service Department directions (shredded and retain)

(From Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia)



Blackhorse Women's News

By Sheryl Myers, Women's Group 3rd Qtr 2023

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

Our reunion in Grand Rapids is just around the corner. If you are planning on joining us for the **Tour on Friday, Sept 22nd**, please send in your registration now! Registration is open to all in our Blackhorse Family, but we are limited to 78 seats on the buses! As I write this we are halfway to that goal! You can always call me to check on availability before you send that check!! Note: Our tour guide for the Heritage Hill visit, has just confirmed that we will be stopping at one of the historic homes, to tour the interior!

Saturday, Sept 23rd – Blackhorse Women's Group Meeting 9:30 am

Ladies, Let's have the biggest turnout ever, to not only support your Blackhorse Women's Group, but to welcome our special guests.

****Grace Aducci-** Grace is the talented musician playing "Taps" on the video shown at our Memorial Services. She will be speaking on her life in America.

****Alexandra Ferguson-** wife of Colonel Timothy Ferguson, 70th Colonel of the Blackhorse, will be speaking on her life as an "active duty" spouse.

Fundraising

The BWG would like to continue to donate generous amounts to the 11ACVVC

Blackhorse Women's Group Tour Heritage Hill and Dunneback & Girls Farm

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

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

Registration open to all in our 11th ACVVC Family

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

Name(s) : _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

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

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

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

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

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

Scholarship Fund, but we need your help. At our Fundraising Table we will have our Grand Rapids Reunion Lanyards with "non-swivel clips,! AND wooden picture frames, adorned with the Blackhorse Patch & "11th Armored Cavalry Veterans Vietnam &

Cambodia " engraved at the bottom. (see below; backing and acrylic picture cover, included. The frames will only be available at this Reunion.)

Fundraising Table Hours of operation: Choose a time slot and bring along a friend or two, to help.

Wednesday-10:00am-12:00pm; 12:00pm-2:00pm; 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Thursday-9:00am-11:00am (taken)
11:00am-1:00pm; 1:00pm-3:00pm;
3:00pm-5:00pm.

Friday-9:00am-11:am; 11:00am – 1:00pm;
1:00-3:00pm; 3:00pm-5:00pm

Please call or email your choice of time to: Sheryl 571-721-9189 or sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com

Sarah's Angels

Sadly, we have been notified of the passing of Blackhorse lady Kathy Osborne, wife of Michael Osborne, G Trp, 2/11. Kathy's name will be added to our Sarah's Angels Honor Roll, and she will be honored at the Memorial Service in Grand Rapids.

See You Soon !!

Blackhorse Women's Group Offers Tote Bags For Sale!

Blackhorse Women's Group Fundraiser!!

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

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

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

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

Shipping* \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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

Thank you for supporting the Blackhorse Women's Group!



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

Vincent Paul Baerman, C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 8, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Anacortes, WA. He was laid to rest in Monument Cemetery, Monument, CO.

Roger Dale Carter, HHT, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 28, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bristol, TN. He was laid to rest in Mountain Home National Cemetery, Mountain Home, TN.

Frederick E. Chattin, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 23, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hilton, NY. He was laid to rest in Parma Union Cemetery, Parma, NY.

Roger Henry Cooper, H Company, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on December 6, 2019. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ontario, NY.

James Phillip Cornwell, K Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 16, 2023. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Colon, MI. He was laid to rest in Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI.

James Ervin Council, K Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on December 21, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tavares, FL. He was laid to rest in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

Bennie Ray Dawkins, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 29, 2018. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Georgetown, GA. He was laid to rest in New Providence Baptist Cemetery, Buena Vista, GA.

George Stephen Deckon, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on February 28, 2022. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marietta, GA. He was laid to rest in Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA.

Edward John Diederich, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1967) passed away on March 13, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Madison, WI.

Paul Richard Garell, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 5, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Carlisle, PA.

George Corbin Gates, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1970) passed away on December 7, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bozeman, MT. He was laid to rest in Montana State Veterans Cemetery, Helena, MT.

Kenneth Howard Geesey, M Company, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 20, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hankinson, ND.

Fairl Gilland, F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on May 23, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waterford, MI. He was laid to rest in Lakeview Cemetery, Clarkston, MI.

Franklin Garfield Green, Air Cavalry Troop (1971-1971) passed away on April 25, 2022. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tulsa, OK. He was laid to rest in Ft. Gibson National Cemetery, Fort Gibson, OK.

William Augustus Hamilton, Air Cavalry Troop (1967-1969) passed away on May 15, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Nampa, ID. He was laid to rest in Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, Boise, ID.

David Richard Hess, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 3, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Linwood, MI. He was laid to rest in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI.

Thomas Reichley Hicklin, 27th Engineer BN (1967-1968) passed away on /2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Evansville, IN. He was laid to rest in Wapello Cemetery, Wapello, IA.

Garland Wayne Howell, HHT 11th ACR (1966-1967) passed away on March 8, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mansfield, OH. He was laid to rest in Mansfield Cemetery, Mansfield, OH.

Francis Joseph Hunt, G Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 14, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Decatur, IL.

Gary Reese Ishley, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 7, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Salt Lake City, UT. He was laid to rest in Utah Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Park, Bluffdale, UT.

Russell Lynn Johnson, B Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on May 28, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Norco, CA.

Ernest Edward Joslin, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on August 1, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Colorado Springs, CO. He was laid to rest in Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

Paul David Madsen, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on May 12, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Antonio, TX. He was laid to rest in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.

Albert Raymond Martin, A Troop, 1/11 (1971-1971) passed away on December 9, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in West Lafayette, IN. He was laid to rest in Dayton Cemetery, Dayton, IN.

Roger Dale Mason, C Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 30, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Walling, TN. He was laid to rest in Jericho Cemetery, Quebeck, TN.

Philip Samuel Mendelson, 37th Medical Company (1969-1970) passed away on February 20, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jacksonville, FL.

Charles Rivers Mitchell, E Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on August 21, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jackson, MS. He was laid to rest in Marks Cemetery, Marks, MS.

Larry D. O'Donnell, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 27, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marion, IN. He was laid to rest in Marion National Cemetery, Marion, IN.

Robert John Opal, 919th Engineer Company (1969-1970) passed away on May 5, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Apple Valley, CA. He was laid to rest in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

Thomas Edward Palmer, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on May 27, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rock Springs, WY.

Charles R. Parker, F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 7, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbus, MS.

Jeffrey Forrest Robinson, 188th Maintenance DET (1966-1967) passed away on August 12, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Benicia, CA.

George W Ruggles, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 13, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Redmond, OR. He was laid to rest in Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, OR.

Claude C. Self, B Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on January 20, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tucson, AZ.

Joe Daniel Serianni, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 24, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Antonio, TX. He was laid to rest in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.

Earland Joseph Sherman, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on April 22, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Shoreham, VT. He was laid to rest in New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, Boscawen, NH.

Ronald Edward Smith, G Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away June 30, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Winchester, TN. He was laid to rest in Franklin Memorial Gardens, Winchester, TN

Russell E. Smith, Air Cavalry Troop (1967-1968) passed away on October 15, 2017. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Connersville, IN. He was laid to rest in Everton Cemetery, Everton, IN.

Jimmy Ray Straw, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 19, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Clarksville, TN. He was laid to rest in Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, Nashville, TN.

Stephen Douglas Vasey, 919th Engineer Company (1967-1968) passed away on July 2, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Manhattan, KS. He was laid to rest in Olsburg Cemetery, Olsburg, KS.

James Armour Ward, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 23, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gurnee, IL. He was laid to rest in West Lawn Memorial Park, Mount Pleasant, WI.

Condolences to the Patton Family

George Smith Patton V, passed away on February 14, 2023. George [V] was the son of Major General George Patton IV, the 39th Colonel of the Regiment, serving in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. Though his son was not a Trooper of the 11th Cavalry, many of us knew and served with his father, and revere his mother for her continued kindness and support of our regiment, especially the 11th ACVVC.

George Smith Patton V was in his own right also a rugged trooper and sterling champion. He won both silver and gold medals in the 1987 Special Olympics as an Equestrian rider and jumper. Over the years he continued to teach and coach many American Equestrians before he succumbed at age 55.

In response to a note of condolence from the 11th ACVVC, Mrs. Joanne Holbrook Patton (98) hand wrote a thank you note on behalf of the whole Patton family:

"Our whole Patton family is grateful for the Mass and prayers provided by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in memory of my son, George Smith Patton V. This son was a proud descendant of his father and devoted to the history of the Blackhorse Regiment. As a man who overcame disabilities and became a champion, he was truly inspired by Christ's example and all of yours. Joanne Patton with love."

Chaplain Bill

ASSISTANCE from page 27

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

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

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

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

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

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

case-by-case basis by the President and the Treasurer.

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

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

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

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



#2 Key Ring \$6.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



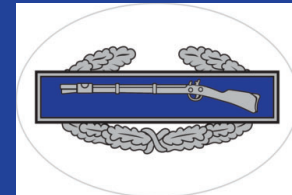
#4 Window Sticker \$3.00



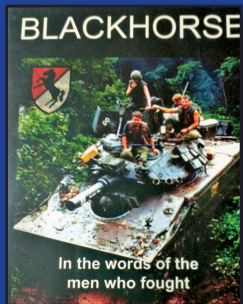
#10 Web Belt with buckle \$25.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



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



#DVD Blackhorse \$15.00



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



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$22.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



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



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



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



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



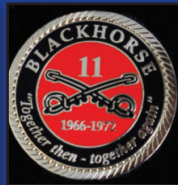
#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



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



1 2023 Reunion Polo Shirt \$42.00 (S-L); \$44.00 (2X-4X)



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

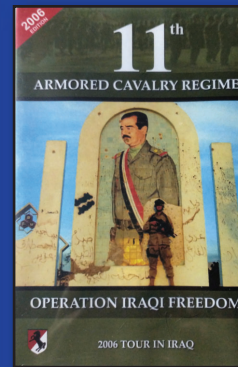
#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#27 Golden Boot Spurs \$30.00



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



#DVD 11th ACR in OIF III \$15.00



#38a



#38b



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$17.00



#31 Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs \$7.00



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





From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello! All, Blackhorse Troopers and Trooper's Wives.

I hope this note finds everyone getting ready for another great reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan! Jan and I are looking forward to seeing everyone there. It is shaping up to be a real good reunion, so don't miss out by putting off making your reservations at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, and get your registration into Ollie Pickral as soon as you can.

As you might have noticed, there have been some changes in Thunder Run concerning our Quartermaster Store. Well, the changes are setting up for a new and improved store to come hopefully in the next issue of *Thunder Run*.

Again, as usual if you have any spare time, we could use some volunteers in the Quartermaster Store. So come on by and give us a hand.

Remember, SEPTEMBER 18th – 24th. Grand Rapids, Michigan, the 11th ACVVC's 38th Reunion. So don't miss out on another great reunion.

ALLONS

Jerry

A CONVERSATION

I died over there and did not deserve to
but I came back to tell you
that I did it anyway
and would do it again,
such is the power of my commitment
to something greater than I am.
It was partly the luck of the draw
that it was my turn,
but I have lots of company here, maybe too much,
and endless, priceless time with my brothers
to get to a point of acceptance, if not understanding.
The strangest discovery
is that this is another form of life
where the only difference is that the need for breath is gone,
when being free from that
means we can talk for a thousand years
and thousands after that,
So, let's get started. You go first. I'm listening.

Rod Covington (17th PID, 1970-71)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

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

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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

SER NO RANK (during tour) _____ SSN NO _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

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

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

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

(Sign) _____

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

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



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 3rdQtr 2023

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Reunion Polo Shirt (\$42 for S-L; \$44 for 2X-4X) <i>NEW!</i>	42.00-44.00	_____	_____	_____
2.	Key ring, Plastic	6.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	3.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	3.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Hoodie Sweat Shirt	30.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	5.00	_____	_____	_____
9.	CIB car magnet, 3"x4"	6.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle.....	25.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	9.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	13.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	22.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath.....	5.00	_____	_____	_____
21.	Small Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (5" x 4 3/4")	5.00	_____	_____	_____
22.	DVD 11th ACR in OIF III <i>NEW!</i>	15.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	DVD - Blackhorse..... <i>NEW!</i>	15.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin.....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Large Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (8" x 7 3/4").....	7.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Golden Boot Spurs	30.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Lapel or Hat Pin Size Spurs	7.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Book, "Blackhorse Tales"	25.00	_____	_____	_____
35.	See-through Window Decal Sabers and Patch, 12" x 13"	15.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a, <input type="checkbox"/> 38b, <input type="checkbox"/> 38c	17.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Light Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Green	20.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Dark Denim shirt (men's)).....	35.00	_____	_____	_____
44.	See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 5" x 4.5".....	10.00	_____	_____	_____
45.	See through Window Decal Blackhorse Patch 12" x 13".....	15.00	_____	_____	_____
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**

Show Your Pride



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



Frank D. Renda (HHT 3/11th ACR, 1966 – 1967) of Somerville, New Jersey, shows his Blackhorse pride with his custom license plate and Blackhorse patches! (The big red “R” represents Rutgers University.)

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