



Thunder Run

Vol 38-No. 3

“Together Then - Together Again”

3rd Quarter, 2024

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

SSGT Simpson Day March 29, 2024, Cookeville, Tennessee



By Dave Wieland

A celebration honoring SSGT Walter S. Simpson, (MIA) of K Troop was held March 29th, 2024, Vietnam War Veterans Day. SSGT Simpson was listed Missing In Action from the results of action on May 21, 1967.

This event was organized and conducted by Lance Doles, Army and Air Force Iraqi Freedom veteran, who is

an acquaintance of SSGT Simpson's son Pete Simpson. Pete Simpson's family and friends were in attendance. Also present were Tennessee State Senator Paul Bailey, Putnam County Trustee Freddie Nelson, Putnam County Mayor Randy Porter, County VSO Mark Harris, and myself, David Wieland, I Troop 69-70. Members of the Tennessee Patriot Guard Riders attended as well as local veterans, veteran organizations, and a number of 11th Cav veterans (thanks to a “call for Mustering the Troops” by various sources). The ceremony was opened by Freddie Nelson leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance and closed by our Honor Guard with Taps and Paul Bailey singing God Bless the USA.



County Mayor Porter declared March 29th as SSGT Walter Simpson Day. Plaques, certificates, an American flag, and a shadow box (made by Lance Doles) of awards & declarations earned by SSGT Simpson were presented. Presenting these items were Lance Doles, Mark Harris, Randy Porter and Dave Wieland. A few other Blackhorse Troopers in attendance also made presentations.

Editor's note: Life Member David P. Wieland, of Cookeville, Tennessee (I Troop, 3/11 ACR, 1969-70) was the 11th ACVVC representative at this event and presented a plaque to Pete Simpson from the 11th ACVVC that reads, “In Remembrance of SSG Walter S. Simpson – To Honor his Service and Sacrifice in Vietnam from 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment”. We are grateful to Dave and all other Blackhorse Troopers who attended.

Left photo: Pete Simpson and Lance Doles

Right Photo: Presenting a certificate from the 11thACR to Pete Simpson, Walter Simpson's Son is Lance Doles, U. S Army and U. S. Air Force (Retired). In the background. L to R is Putnam County Tn VSO Mark Harris, Putnam County Mayor Randy Porter, David Wieland and Tennessee State Senator Paul Bailey.

11th ACVVC 2024 Elections

By Greg Mason, Secretary, 11th ACVVC

Three positions will be up for election this year during the General Membership Meeting to be held Saturday morning, September 7th, during the 2024 Reunion. The three positions are President, Secretary and one Director.

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

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

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

The position of President requires considerable time and superb organizational skills. The President needs to frequently multi-task in his responsibility to oversee all projects, programs, and activities of the organization.

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

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

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





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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Message from COL Timothy J. Ferguson,

70th Colonel of the Blackhorse



ALLONS! To the Blackhorse Troopers of the 11th ACVVC, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for such an amazing two years as the Regimental Commander. You and all the veterans of the Blackhorse are the reason this unit is so very special. As I send this note, I have completed a change of command with the 71st Colonel of the Regiment, COL Kevin T. Black. COL Black is no stranger to our unit as he previously served in the ranks.

The last several months of command were very busy as the Regiment executed multiple rotations against units across the Army and as you would expect – the Regiment never failed in battle. Each of the Squadrons executed a variety of other training as well to continue preparing Troopers for war. Additionally, they executed Spur Rides, Squadron Balls, Expert Infantryman, Soldier, and Field Medical Badge training, and ranges of multiple types.

In May, the National Training Center executed Desert Warrior Week, which is several days of sports and other competitions, in which the Regiment did very well. 2/11 “Eaglehorse” brought home the Commanding General’s Trophy for a second consecutive year. Also, on the competition front, Blackhorse sent teams to a variety of Army competitions, from Best Ranger, International Sniper, Best Mortar, Lacerda Cup (Army Combatives), and the Sullivan Cup. Our Sullivan Cup crew, with only about 3 months of dedicated train-up, placed 4th overall in the Army, for top tank crew...quite the accomplishment and they definitely represented the Regiment and all of you exceptionally well at Fort Moore, GA.

The Horse Detachment continued its run of success at the Regional Competitions in Texas and prepares for the upcoming National Cavalry Competition in the Fall. They will be pursuing a sixth straight title and Pulaski Trophy as the top Cavalry unit.

This past 24 months has without a doubt been the

most professionally and personally rewarding of my career. One of my fondest memories will be my wife, Alex, and I being able to attend the reunion in Grand Rapids and getting to interact with so many of you. The Regiment honored Glenn Snodgrass by dedicating the conference room in Starry Hall (the current Regimental HQ) to him and the RCSM, CSM Chris Shaiko, myself, and the NCO and Trooper of the Year, traveled to Bastrop, LA to honor the 49th RCO, John Sherman Crow, at his funeral service by presenting the Regimental colors there.

The Regiment is on a well-deserved and much needed block leave. As I mentioned earlier, we completed the changes of command of all three Squadrons and the Regiment, so the new team is ready to go with Rotation 24-09 in July against 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Your Regiment continues to serve as the measuring stick for the Army to assess formation’s combat readiness. It is a very exciting time here in the high desert of California. This will be another busy year of rotations and training and if you ever make it out to the desert – please come by and see the current Troopers in action. You will be proud. You are our legacy, we are the present, and we each look fondly toward the future of our Regiment and continuing to serve our nation.

This has been an amazing ride and I consider you my family now. I wish you good health and much luck moving forward and hope to see you again soon. I am proud and honored to be now and forever - a BLACKHORSE TROOPER!

DEATH RIDES A BLACKHORSE!

Allons!

Sincerely,

COL Timothy J. Ferguson, 70th RCO

State of the Reunion

Reunion planning is in high gear. At the time of this writing, we are close to meeting our contracted numbers, but we are not there yet so if you are planning to attend make your reservations and register now. The hotel will cut off room reservations August 7, 2024.

Omaha may be a small mid-west town, but it has a lot to offer. A sample of things to do and see are in this edition of Thunder Run as well as on our facebook page.

As you all know we have a new Quartermaster. Much of the merchandise you are accustomed to seeing is still available along with many new items. Please continue to make it your second stop when you get to the hotel. You will also be seeing a new face busily making sure that all is going smoothly.

THE 2024 SILENT AUCTION

By Greg Mason and Mike Rafferty

The 2023 Silent Auction raised \$5,909 for the **11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund** with 184 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many hand-crafted items and one-of-a-kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We are not allowed to have alcoholic beverages or firearms in the auction as many state laws prohibit it. We look forward to another successful auction.

The auction process will be as follows:

1. Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 39th Annual Reunion in Omaha, Nebraska. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item of value is welcome, Cavalry related or not.
2. We will have a **collection site** set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on **Wednesday from 1pm to 5pm, Thursday from 1pm to 5pm, and Friday from 1pm to 4pm.**
3. You can ship items to **Tom Doll after April 1**, to collect, hold and bring the items to the reunion for display. If you plan to ship items, please use the convenient Silent Auction Donor Form printed in this issue. If you bring the items to the reunion, also complete the donation form and include it with the item.
4. The **auction** will be from **6:30pm to 8:30pm on Friday night** with the bidding ending precisely at 8:30pm. Those in wheelchairs or motorized chairs may be allowed in at 6:15 to allow them a little time to view the items before the crowds enter if our space in the rooms is tight.
5. Winning bidders must be present, pick up their items and pay for them between 8:30pm and 9pm after the bidding is closed.
6. If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bid at 9pm or auctioned off at 9:15pm Friday evening. The bid form will have a place for you to leave a cell phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.
7. We will be able to accept cash, checks, Visa or MasterCard for payment.

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

Our reason for requiring items to be picked up and paid for the evening of the auction is because of the difficulties we have had in prior years getting all the items delivered and paid for. We appreciate your understanding. We look forward to seeing you in Omaha and thanks in advance to all the donors!

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 number of Donor: _____

Value of Item Donated \$ _____ I wish to remain Anonymous (Check here) _____

Mail Silent Auction Items After April 1 to:

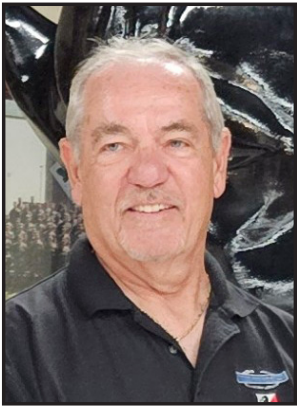
11th ACVVC

C/O Tom Doll

4412 Hickory Street

Omaha, NE 68105-2413

President's Message Frank Church



When we got to Vietnam none of us knew what unit we would be assigned to. The 11th ACR did not have any meaning at the time although it had already established a rich history. Deploying armor in the jungle and rice paddies did not seem to be a good idea and was met with raised eyebrows. Cavalry was

seen as the old western version of horseback charges with bugles calling, guidons waving, and swords held high. But we developed tactics and methods to deal with the jungle and just avoided rice paddies. We still had a few on-line charges with guidons flying but the horses were steel, the sound of bugles was replaced with the roar of engines and the swords became high powered guns. We redefined the vision of a cavalry charge.

Since our mission was to recon in force the tanks and ACAVs proved to be the right mounts. We had the power to just push over the jungle and the weapons to blow away anybody that decided to take us on. We pioneered the tactic of "Find the Bastards and then pile on." We were feared by the enemy and known to be relentless in our fighting. We were considered a "little crazy" but earned much respect from both sides. By the end of our tour, we knew we were part of a special unit, verging on elite.

I had the privilege and honor to attend the Change of Command of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Ft. Irwin in June of this year. Also in attendance were past Regimental Commanders and a retired Sergeant Major of the Army. The entire Regiment was assembled to welcome the incoming Regimental Commander

and say goodbye to the outgoing Commander, all proudly displaying our patch in full color and sporting gold and silver spurs. Each person I met included in their introduction "...and I'm a Blackhorse Trooper." The outgoing Commander's speech was emotional and full of pride with being part of the storied history of the 11th Cav. His final words were, "I am, and I always will be a Blackhorse Trooper." Such is the pride in being a Trooper in the 11th Armored Cavalry.

Being a Blackhorse Trooper has become part of our identity, crossed sabers our symbol. The Blackhorse patch is emblazoned on our clothing, our cars, and our homes. Everyone we know has become acquainted with what one friend of mine calls the "prancing pony." Oh, yeah, prancing with the agility and strength of a powerful steed. The creator of our patch got it right. A symbol of the power and pride of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in eye-catching color that is recognizable from across the room.

Our reunions give us the opportunity to relive those days when we rode our steel mounts into the jungle and now fully realize the impact we had not only on our history but that of military tactics used today, to show our pride in being Blackhorse Troopers, to remember those we lost in battle and those we have lost since. We were young men on an adventure creating a legacy that will last far beyond our time. A defining chapter in the history of our Regiment. Make plans now to attend our reunions, to relive and try to fully understand how that time in our lives made us who we are today.

"We were, we are, we always will be Blackhorse Troopers"

Allons,
Frank



Membership is Our Strength

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



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.

Your Contributions This Year

Donations from January through June

<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General	\$2,300.00
Scholarship	\$7,234.50
*Calendar	\$32,660.00
Total:	\$42,194.50

<u>Contributions</u>	<u># of Donors</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Class Limits</u>
Bronze	266	\$5,580.00	\$1-\$49
Silver	114	\$5,420.00	\$50-\$99
Gold	151	\$16,650.00	\$100-\$499
Platinum	9	\$5,010.00	\$500+
Total:	540	\$32,660.00	

* For Annual Start up in Nov – Dec 2023, add an additional \$ 48,979.00 for a total thus far of \$91,173.50

Ollie Pickral, Treasurer

General Fund

PLATINUM LEVEL

Frank Church
IMO Lt. Robert L. Lewis- KIA

GOLD LEVEL

Joseph Gehring
IMO Charles Locklin
Edward Skrabal

Scholarship Fund

PLATINUM LEVEL

Bonnie Schmidt

GOLD LEVEL

John Berry
Waverly Cartwright
Stephen Crider
Mason Epperly
Russell Henshaw
IMO SP/4 Paul Myers, Medic
Patrick Kelliher
Robert Marotta
Julie Ottoson
IHO Marty Silvernail
Clinton Waldroop

SILVER LEVEL

Hoye Carr
Henry Simon
Doris Woodruff
IMO Leon L. Woodruff

BRONZE LEVEL

Patrick Mullin
Roger & Shirley
Sonnenberg
IMO Marty Silvernail
Warren Werner

Calendar Fund

GOLD LEVEL

George Crocker
Walter Flick
Babe Halstead
Paul Kern
Steven Krieg
Albert Pollard
Jon Reilly
Dennis Schmidt
Charles Scott
Peter Semmelmeier
Larry Sharpe
Todd Starbuck

SILVER LEVEL

Dalton Gordon
Edward King
Thomas Matthews
John McCarthy
Jeffrey Voss

BRONZE LEVEL

Joseph Bohr
Ervin Brune
Thomas Connors
Robert Dickson
IMO SSG Wayne Sanders
Ron Emerson
Walter Femovich
Rick Hall
Ronald Kiehl
Donald Middleton
James Mollenkopf
Ronald Raper
Dennis Richards
Michael Starry
Mark Titschinger
R.M. Tumlin
James Van Matre
Warren Werner
John Yates

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS DONATIONS!

A Christmas Eve in Vietnam: Bob Hope, Mass, Floor for a Bed

By Dennis Murphy

“Murphy, Schumacher, distribute your C rations and ammo. A helicopter is inbound. You’re going to the Bob Hope show,” bellowed my platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Joshua Carney, a lean, second-tour veteran we all admired.

Thus began my Christmas Eve journey, December 1970.

I was serving as an infantryman in the Americal Division in the mountains of I Corps, just a short helicopter ride from the Laos border, with my brothers, a resilient group hailing from all walks of life and the four corners of the United States. Most of us were 19- to 20-year-olds, draftees and enlistees with low draft numbers like me. I just had completed four months in triple-canopy jungle, with all the benefits of sleeping on the ground in the rain, including putrid smells, mud, hunger, and, yes, the North Vietnamese army.

What we all had in common was that we wanted to be home for Christmas. But that would only be in our dreams.

As our helicopter lifted from the jungle floor, I could see my buddies looking up as we sped off to the rear area. I felt a bit guilty leaving them behind, but I knew they were happy that somebody was going to spend the most important eve of the year in what we substituted for comfort, the “rear.”

Upon landing at Hawk Hill base, I was given a new uniform, a hot shower (first one in a month), and good old Army hot chow. Then I was off to Da Nang with other GIs, all of us collected by helicopter, much like the Polar Express did for the children on their way to the North Pole.

We made it to the show and it was just as I had watched for years on TV, except I was right there with Bob Hope, Ursula Andress, and thousands of exuberant GIs and Marines.

After Hope ended with his signature song, “Thanks for the Memory,” we were back on our trucks speeding to base before nightfall. On arriving I asked if I could attend Christmas Eve Mass, a tradition in my Irish Catholic family. I served for years as an altar boy, dressed in my cassock and surplice with a starched collar and bow tie.

I was in luck again. A Vietnamese priest was saying Mass in a small chapel.

With 20 or so GIs cramped into the chapel and a sermon in a language I could not understand, it was not like being home for Christmas, but for an hour I was with my God. The war, the incessant anxiety, the physical exertion all melted away as we sang “Silent Night.”

As I walked out into the yard, I looked up and saw a shooting star race across the heavens. What a sight for a homesick grunt.

With no place to stay, a bunker that housed helicopter pilots answered our call for a place in the “Inn.” We slept on the wooden floor.

Dawn came too soon and we returned to the jungle and our unit. Our Christmas Eve journey was but a memory.

Within three months, Spec. Bob Schumacher and Staff Sgt. Carney were killed in action. I was on an Air Force Medevac plane back to the States and a six-month stay at Valley Forge Army Hospital.

Whenever I hear the first carol of the Christmas season, my mind goes back to Vietnam. I thank God for my blessed life and family and remember Carney, Schumacher, and the others who sacrificed all. I say a prayer for peace on Earth.

(Dennis Murphy lives in Wayne, Arizona with his wife, Anne, where they raised three children. He is retired after a 40-year career in higher education.)

The Wall That Heals

KIA (Killed In Action)

I was assigned as a driver on the FO (Forward Observer) track in A Troop. My first week in the bush we were moving in the dark when a big M48 tank ran over a landmine. The KIA was Victor Shaffer, the driver of the 48. The concussion killed him instantly.

Victor was the first of the Blackhorse troopers I looked for on the mobile wall that had come to my home town of El Cajon, California. The second, was James M. Nesselrotte, killed less than 5 minutes after Victor. Like me, James had only been in A Troop a short time. For years, I thought James had been killed by friendly fire when he jumped off his track to help the guys get Victor out of the 48.

Only recently did I learn that he had landed hard enough to set off another mine. Before my 15 months in country was over there would be 13 names of young men that I knew that would eventually be carved into that black granite. Young men, who 55 years later will never be forgotten, and thousands of others that will honor these men as they stand in silence before THE WALL THAT HEALS.

1/11th Blackhorse
Richard (Stickman) Moore

(Editors note: Spc 5 Victor Shaffer was 20 years old at the time of his death. His name is on Panel 22W, Line 93 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. PFC James Nesselrotte was 19 years old at the time of his death. His name is on Panel 22W, Line 92 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the CIB and the Purple Heart. Both Troopers lived on the banks of Lake Erie; Victor was from Toledo, Ohio, James was from Painesville, Ohio, 140 miles away. Neither man was old enough to vote or legally drink a beer.)

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 _____ Security Code/CVC _____

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.**

MY HOMECOMING

This piece isn't like a typical submission to Thunder Run, but I think it exemplifies the difficulty many of us had in adjusting to civilian life after Vietnam.

I'd been drafted after my first quarter as a graduate student in the fall of 1968. After basic training, Vietnamese language school, MI school, and a tour with Blackhorse I returned in the spring of 1971. I thought I could step right in where I'd left off 2+ years before, but it wasn't that easy. Another grad student called me a War Criminal my first day back (he survived the encounter). I spent the next month or so trying to relearn everything about biology that I'd forgotten during my time away.

One night, my next-door neighbor in the dorm I was living in asked if I wanted to go out for a beer or two. Great idea! We went to a popular neighborhood bar with two distinct sections. One, called the "University Room" catered to students. The adjoining section was called the "Woodlawn Tap" and was a blue-collar hangout.

Scott and I started out in the University Room. After a couple of beers, I noticed that at an adjoining table a pompous professor was lecturing some adoring students about the righteous cause of the Viet Cong and NVA and the wrongfulness of the U.S. war effort. I decided to walk over and do some educating of my own. I carefully explained that the VC and NVA were not Robin Hood and his merry band of outlaws. They were vicious killers who would stop at nothing to achieve their goals. About 10 minutes later the professor stormed out, followed by his students. He was reciting a list of books I should read, and I was shouting after him that I didn't need to read any books because I'd seen the war up close and personal.

Scott was shocked. "Don't you know who he is?" It turned out that the guy was a well-known law school professor who considered himself to be an expert on Vietnam. At that point we decided to move next door to the blue-collar section. We

ended up at a table next to a group of Korean War vets. Somehow or other, we started talking about the war and these guys got after me about how Vietnam vets must be wimps and losers to let themselves get beat by a bunch of lousy "gooks." I tried to explain that these so-called "gooks" were actually well-trained and disciplined soldiers who had time and South Vietnamese politics on their side. Since I was defending the honor of Blackhorse, discussion got heated. One of them started to pull a knife and I reached for a beer bottle. At that point the bartender intervened and threw us all out, through different doors.

The next day when I was sober, I realized that in the space of a couple of hours I'd been called a fascist and a communist by different groups of people for saying the exact same thing about the Vietnam war. I realized then that my only hope for survival was to cease talking about the war altogether and not even let people know I was a vet. That was my rule for the next 30 years, and the few times I broke it I regretted it.

Now, thankfully, all that has changed. I can now proudly wear my Blackhorse cap and T-shirt to the grocery store, and to the American Legion where I hang out with my veteran friends on Thursday nights.

All's well that ends well, right?

Larry Barnthouse
541st MID April-December 1970



Lt. Dan Band: Great Entertainment and Strong Support of Veterans! By Bryant Nelson (1/11 HOW FDC-69-70)

If you have the opportunity to attend a performance of Gary Sinese's Lt. Dan Band in your area, you won't be disappointed. His group of 15 band and vocal performers put together several cover songs for a charity event I attended in Temecula, California in 2013. The Gary Sinese Foundation provided funds for a mortgage-free specially adapted smart home for a severely wounded veteran located in the Temecula area.

You may recall Gary Sinese played the part of Lt. Dan Taylor in the 1994 movie, Forrest Gump. That role inspired Gary to pull together a band that began performing in 2003 and since that time it has given over 600 concerts all over the world at armed forces bases and hospitals. His goal is to honor veterans, active duty, first responders and VA hospitalized vets and their families by building over 90 smart homes, so far, for severely wounded heroes.

In 2011 Gary Sinese developed the Gary Sinese Foundation that has raised over \$400 million - 90% of these funds go directly to these causes.

On Memorial Day on the 50th anniversary of the return of US armed forces from Vietnam, Gary's Band and Foundation commemorated that milestone at a Washington D.C. program titled, "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans."

To obtain dates of upcoming Lt. Dan Band performances, google Lt. Dan Band or Gary Sinese Foundation. I believe you will be greatly entertained and proud of this true patriot.



Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

August-September 1966

From the 1st Squadron Annual Historical Report for 1966: "The seventeen day voyage [from the West Coast to Vietnam] was a busy one. Training was conducted six days a week and included first aid, platoon and troop tactics, lessons learned by other units, language training, civil affairs and weapons. In their spare time troopers enjoyed movies, games and reading. Physical training was stressed with two thirty minute sessions of calisthenics daily. Another aspect was the nightly seminar for Officers and senior NCO's conducted by Colonel Howell on 'Men Against Fire', 'Lucky Forward', 'Combat Lessons' and 'After action Reports of the 25th Division'."

6-7 September 1966

From the 6th Transportation Battalion (Truck) History: "The initial mission of the 6th Battalion was to move arriving personnel and equipment of major combat units from their debarkation points to the base camp areas ... The first unit the battalion transported was the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, which had arrived in country in September, a month after the 6th Battalion headquarters had arrived. The battalion transported the 3,539 personnel and 8,039 tons of equipment from the air head to its base camp at Bien Hoa."

27 September 1966

From the Regimental After Action Report for Operation Atlanta, 1967: "On 27 September 1966, II Field Force Vietnam directed the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment to secure a base camp area in the vicinity of YS4296 [Long Giao], to clear and secure highways and lines of communications in portions of Bien Hoa, Long Khanh and Phuoc Tuy provinces. Execution of the mission was initiated under the code name Operation ATLANTA. The operation commenced on 20 October 1966." Operation Atlanta resulted in Blackhorse Base Camp.

24 September 1967

From the 2nd Squadron Annual Historical Summary for 1967: "Little contact was made with enemy forces until Sunday, 24 September when F Troop, on a special area sweep, surprised a North Vietnamese Army reconnaissance company northwest of Hill 29 at a village called Quy My. The enemy, in their well entrenched positions, had no route of escape so they elected to fight to the last man from the hedgerows and stone houses which provided natural fortification for

the village. F Troop was joined by G Troop and with the support of Howitzer Battery the stage was set for the violence of an armored attack ... The Nation's second highest award for heroism was particularly appropriate for Specialist Four Joseph M. Thomas who, at the cost of his life, went to the aid of three wounded comrades. With bullets striking all around him, he remained in the open to treat the casualties and move them to safety. Upon receiving intense fire from an enemy bunker, Specialist Thomas stood up in the midst of the firefight and fearlessly assaulted the enemy bunker alone. Firing lethal bursts as he ran into the face of the enemy weapons, he reached the fortification and destroyed it with grenades and rifle fire, killing three enemy soldiers. It was this gallant action that merited Specialist Thomas the Distinguished Service Cross."

25 September 1967

The 46th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) was attached to the Blackhorse Regiment.

24 August 1968

On 24 August 1968, the Air Cavalry Troop changed its organization, including the establishment of the Aero Rifle Platoon (transitioned from the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Platoon). Aero Weapons pilots began the transition from Huey UH1-B/C gunships to AH1G Cobras.

August 1968

From the 2nd Squadron Annual Historical Report for 1968: "During this period [first half of August] the Squadron had very little contact with the enemy. In the second half of the month the Squadron encountered heavy enemy contact from elements of the 141st and 165th Regiments of the 7th North Vietnamese Army Division while conducting RIF [reconnaissance in force] in this area [west of An Loc]. In the latter part of the month the Squadron conducted RIF around and north of AP LOC THANH. During the fighting at LOC NINH approximately one out of every fourteen men involved in direct contact with the enemy was cited for a valor award. At the close of the month VC and NVA forces broke contact with the Squadron and a general lull prevailed."

5 September 1968

Aero Rifle Platoon and I Troop, 3/11 supported a South Vietnamese "snatch" operation in Chanh Luu Village, picking up the Executive Officer of the K4 Viet Cong Battalion, Dong Nai Regiment, who said he wanted to defect. The Blackhorse Troopers then engaged then

engaged elements of the K-4 Battalion, resulting in 1 US Wounded in Action, 11 VC Killed in Action, and 3 VC captured. The Regimental Commander, Colonel George Patton, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for this action.

13-18 September 1968

From the 2nd Squadron Annual Historical Summary for 1968: "From 13 to 18 September, Troop E was involved in heavy fighting at LOC NINH while attached to the 1st Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division. More than 100 casualties were inflicted on the enemy by E Troop alone; all without the loss of a single American life."

14 September 1968

From the 919th Engineer Company Annual Historical Summary for 1968: "The platoon [1st] worked out of various fire support bases along Route Zinc and Phu Loi until 14 September when the platoon moved to Tan Son Nhut AFB [Air Force Base]. The platoon obtained a Combat Engineer Vehicle [CEV], as did the 3rd Platoon to replace their tank dozer."

July – September 1969

From the 3rd Squadron Annual Historical Report for 1969: "From 28 July to 6 September, the Squadron was relocated to central Long Khanh Province [Blackhorse Base Camp] and was placed OPCON [operational control] to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. During this period the Squadron received the M551 Sheridan vehicles and conducted training on this new equipment. Upon completion of the training, the Squadron rejoined the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment to participate in Operation Kentucky Cougar. During this same period, the 4.2" mortar sections were formed into a provisional mortar battery, which is now operating as a separate element within the 3rd Squadron."

3 September 1969

From the Hartford [CT] Courant newspaper: "Elsewhere helicopter gunship crews of the U.S. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment spotted an undetermined number of enemy troops Monday [1 September] camouflaging the entrance to a tunnel 12 miles northwest of An Loc and just two miles east of the Cambodian border. They attacked the enemy with machine gun and rocket fire and called in U.S. air strikes. Aerial observers later reported seeing 16 enemy dead in the area and 72 enemy bunkers destroyed. Field officers [from the Regiment] said the tunnel the enemy was trying to conceal contained an estimated 15 tons of rice. There were no U.S. casualties reported."

5 September 1969

From the U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) monthly summary for September 1969: "TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH LONG PROVINCE) -- At 1555 [hours] an element [C Troop] of the U.S. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment received heavy small arms and automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire from an unknown size North Vietnamese Army force two miles north of Loc Ninh (76 miles north of Saigon) and seven miles from the Cambodian border. The troopers fired back with unit weapons, including the heavy machineguns of their armored personnel carriers and their tank guns. At 1615 [hours] the enemy withdrew, leaving 12 dead NVA in the battle area. Two crew-served and three individual weapons were captured. U.S. casualties were two wounded, no fatalities. Damage to armored vehicles was light."

7 September 1969

2nd Squadron at Di An Base Camp OPCON (operational control) to 2nd Brigade, 1st (US) Infantry Division began receiving M551 Sheridans and conducted 8-day training course for each Recon Troop and prepared for Command Maintenance Management Inspection (CMMI). Yes, a CMMI in the middle of a war zone.

7 September 1969

Acting on intelligence from a North Vietnamese defector, I Troop engaged an NVA battalion headquarters element northwest of Fire Support Base Aspen II. Five India Troop were wounded in the action. Platoon Leader Ty Dodge said in an interview: "We'd taken quite a number of wounded. I looked across the clearing and there was a medevac ship coming down. He had a Red Cross painted on the front of it. I could see the pilot and co-pilot's faces. To my left the NVA soldier fired an RPG that hit the medevac ship, took it down and killed everybody on board."

14 September 1971

The Des Moines [IA] Register reported under a picture of a 2nd Squadron Trooper repairing an M551 Sheridan track at Firebase Warrior that heavy "monsoon-created mud causes breakdowns among armored vehicles that help provide security for the Saigon area."

THE LONG SHADOW OF VIETNAM

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

I want people to know I'm a Vietnam veteran. I routinely wear any one of a collection of ball hats that identify me as a veteran. In cooler weather I wear an army flight jacket that proudly displays my Blackhorse combat patch on the right shoulder, and USARV patch on my left shoulder (I transferred to the 525 MI Group/USARV-when the 11th ACR stood down in 1971). I wear my 11th ACR t-shirt on Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, and whenever I have scheduled visits at the VA Hospital. I seem to have misplaced my boonie hat, but I know I still have it. For many years I continued to wear it in public on dates significant to the war. When I find it among my many other war memorabilia I will start wearing it again. I don't want the people who see me to forget the Vietnam War. I don't want to forget the Vietnam War, or how it changed me, or how it dictated the course of the last 50+ years of my life. I don't care that Vietnam was an unpopular war. I want our country to hold us in the same high regard afforded to veterans of the war on terror. They need to be reminded that no matter their opinions about the war, we served honorably. They may have forgotten the 58,000+ killed, they may even believe we achieved "peace with honor" when the war ended, but they need to be constantly reminded of the thousands who were wounded, disfigured, maimed, and who continue to rely on the Veterans Administration and this country to help them recover, survive, and just plain live with what the war did to them.

It troubles me that it took so many years for our country to give us our memorial, finally welcome

us home, to believe that women actually served and died in Vietnam as heroic combat nurses (they witnessed/suffered their own share of PTSD inducing experiences), and to actually welcome home our long held POWs. The dedication of the wall and the Nurses Memorial in Washington, D.C. unfortunately seems to have cleared the conscience and the memories of those who had for so long opposed the war. It was a long time coming, and no matter how good it felt at the time, unfortunately the warm fuzzy it gave us didn't last.

They thought they had done their due diligence. The war was over, we finally had our welcome home, and it was time to move on to other things. But we all know that on any given day the war remains fresh in our memories. We live with it (some better than others), but we wish the memories of our war were not fading so quickly from the lexicon of our martial history.

Since Vietnam, in countless military operations in far flung parts of the world our military has constantly been engaged. It's no wonder the stories of our war and our veterans have been lost in the jumble of current events. Our war may be ancient history, but those of us who served continue to live in the shadow of the Vietnam War. Our veterans are aging out and dying in greater numbers every day, but as long as any of us survive, we have a duty to history, and to our fellow Vietnam veterans (men and women) to stand up for our place in our nation's history, and to continue to fight for the recognition and benefits we deserve.

Memories From the Past

© Clyde B. Canny

Who proudly served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment "Blackhorse" Vietnam 1968-1969

The guns spewed out their tracers
Light-in' up the night
The enemy drew closer
On the left and on the right

Hundreds in black pajamas
Sneak-in' up the hill
Don't look non to friendly
I think they're here to kill

Reinforcements aren't ready
Can't get here in the night
If we hold on till morning-in
Things should be alright

They'll bring food water ammo
Maybe some clothes warm and dry
And far too many body bags
Still makes me want to cry

Was it just a nightmare
Was it just a dream
Some-thin on the TV
Or in a movie that I seen

An unconfrosted ghost
A specter from the past
Or another continuation
Of memories from the past

Slope 30, South Vietnam

It all started around 2 AM June 19, 1967. I was the aircraft commander for the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, in command of a flight of two attack helicopters in Vietnam. We always had two attack helicopters ready to take off at a moment's notice to respond to any enemy activity that we were needed in. A siren would go off, and we were to be in the air in a minute or two, and on the radio to find out our destination and mission. That night the siren went off we were in the air and headed, approximately 10 miles south of our base camp to a location where the VC were attacking one of our own units. Due to artillery fire and mortar fire, we were assigned the north end of the combat area. We made numerous strafing runs on the area to silence the enemy, and we were told from the ground it was quite successful. We were out of ammunition, low on fuel, and I called for a back-up fire team to replace us on site. As we prepared to leave the combat area, we had a call from the ground commander that he had six very seriously wounded soldiers. He further informed us the area was too hot with gunfire to send in medevac helicopters. Could we help.

It was against the rules for gunships to perform medevac operations. This was a very special situation, and in as much as the troopers on the ground were our own guys, I made a decision to land at the site and pick up three troopers in each helicopter. We left anything in the helicopter that we didn't need to have the power to get out of the area and get them home to a hospital. By the time we returned to base, rearmed and got the troops to a hospital we were informed the action was over and we were no longer needed that night.

The next morning, my commanding officer found out about our medevac operation. He immediately grounded me for violation of his orders, in as much as I knew we were not supposed to perform medevac operations. With nothing better to do at that point I went down to the hospital to see how the six guys were doing.

Upon arriving at the hospital, I met a Lieutenant Colonel who had performed the operations on some of the guys and informed us that two of them would've bled out had we not acted as we did. I informed him of the discipline action my commander had taken by taking me off flight status for lack of following his orders. The Lieutenant Colonel commented that he was putting my flight team in for a medal for saving six American lives under heavy enemy fire. He then asked me who my commanding officer was that was disciplining my fire team for their actions. He asked his sergeant to have my commander come down and talk to him at that time.

Upon his arrival, he asked him his first name, and was writing it down as he already knew his last name from his shirt. Then he went on to start to write down his serial number, when my commander questioned the need for a serial number. His answer was I'm putting Morey in for a medal for heroism and saving lives and I just want to be sure I have the right guy in the commendation that disciplined him for doing so. My commander was not happy. The doctor then asked what my commander was going to do about it. My commander suggested, maybe putting me back on flight status would satisfy the situation, and the whole episode could be forgotten.

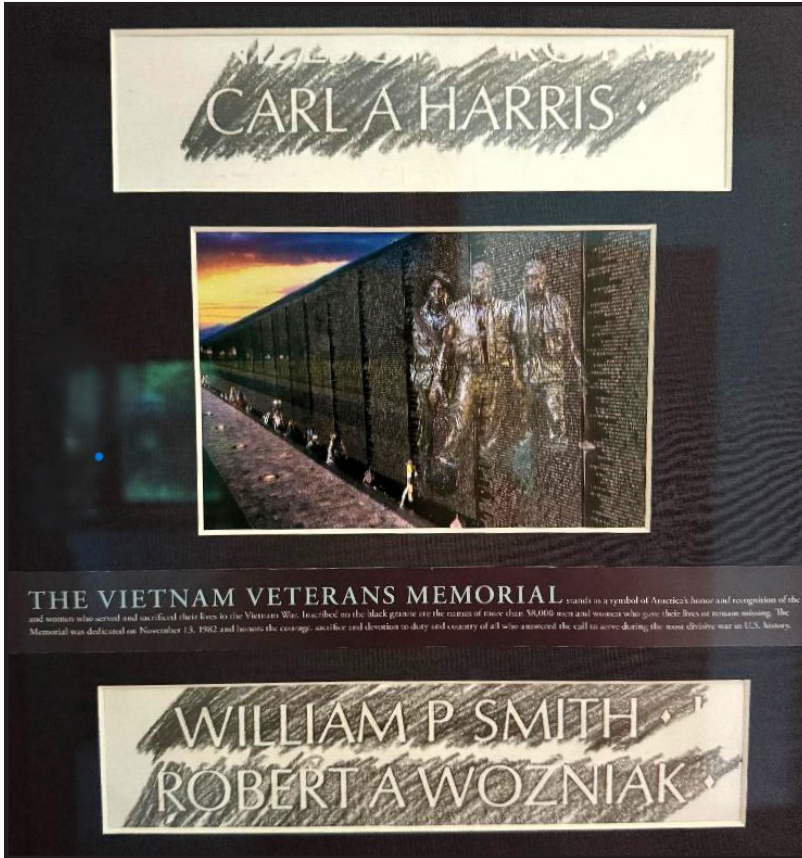
The Lieutenant Colonel, then went on to put me in for a medal for saving the six lives. Unbeknownst to me, a month or so later I received an Air Medal with "V" for valor, for the episode.

Our actions that night were just another typical day in Vietnam. We were not in combat on a daily basis; however, we were always ready in a moment's notice, ready to fly.

Bill Morey, CPT, 1966 – 1967
Air Cavalry Troop
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

Honor Flight and "The Wall" and TET

By Ward Abbett, Platoon Leader - L troop, 3/11 ACR, 1967 – 1968



I have been to The Wall in DC several times, with each trip being a somber experience. This October, I was chosen to go on the Honor Flight, a 2-day mission from Rochester, NY. 63 veterans experienced all the Memorials and were "Welcomed Home" in countless ways that weekend. When we arrived at The Wall, my guardian and I were met by a woman who had donated her time there for 14 years. She asked if she could help. I asked her to see: Carl Harris 34E:36, Robert Wozniak 34E:47, and William Smith 34E:32. They were with me when they were killed in action (KIA) in January 1968. The woman ran her hand to that area on the wall and looked straight at me. "Where were you then?" she asked? I answered that we were in Loc Ninh, fighting near the Cambodian border and Ho Chi Minh trail. She said, the next week then was the TET offensive when 246 Americans were KIA...that the NVA were bringing supplies and equipment from the North in preparation for TET. "Where did you go then" she asked. We did an all-night march with ACAV's to Bien Hoa to defend it. I'm not ashamed to say that at that point, I fell to my knees and cried, for the first time in 55 years. The helpful woman at The Wall made rubbings of Carl, Robert, and William, which are framed over my desk. If you have an opportunity to take an Honor Flight, please consider doing it.

STATE OF THE REUNION

continued from page 3

We have placed this responsibility in the hands of Danielle Sidock of Sidock Hospitality, a private company that specializes in event planning.

Danielle has proven to be very capable and will be doing all that leg work that has become too much for this old body to effectively manage. I will still be around just not everywhere at once.

We have received numerous requests for assistance in making room reservations at the Omaha Hilton. This is an ongoing issue for past reunions and probably will be so in the future. If you have problems making reservations by phone please try again, not all agents are willing to assist you or have the required knowledge. If possible, make reservations online.

Below is the info for registration.

39th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion
September 2, 2024-September 8, 2024
Hilton, Omaha 1001 Cass St.,
Omaha NE 68102

Reservations by phone: 1-888-943-2768
Use Code - Armor / 11th ACVVC

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

Scooter Rental: Mobility Omaha- 402-804-8668

On-Line: www.mobility.plus.com/omaha/

As a side note: We are all used to bellying up to the bar at the reunions, but we do not get credit for beverages purchased in hotel outlets on our food and beverage minimums. This is a key part of our concessions package, and we must meet that to avoid meeting room rental costs and bar tender fees. Keep this in mind and use the bunker bars as much as possible. Beer, soda, and water are paid for in your registration fee and the prices for mixed drinks are the same as in the hotel bars.

Safe travels, looking forward to seeing you in Omaha.

Frank



Blackhorse Women's News

Sheryl Myers, Women's Group 3rd Qtr 2024

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

Just a short message to bring you all up-to-date on our plans for the 39th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion to be held in Omaha, NE.

We are looking forward to seeing each of you. The following activities are planned with you in mind, as we all try to support our Troopers & families:

*1. **Volunteering at the BWG Fundraising Table.** We will have our "site-specific" lanyards (to hold your ID tag) and 2 other items that were specifically requested. Our proceeds are donated to the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer at the table, and we will contact you to set a time slot that is convenient for you.*

*2. **Veterans Seminar- Friday of Reunion Week** - This Veteran Administration presentation, will be especially meaningful to our ladies of the Blackhorse as it will cover VA spousal benefits and how to file a claim. There will be two sessions with a 2 hour break in between. Please check the Reunion Schedule page in your Thunder Run.*

*3. **Blackhorse Women's Group Meeting** - 9:30am Saturday morning- while our troopers are attending their Membership Meeting, all ladies and guests attending the reunion are welcome to attend our meeting. After covering a little business, our 11th ACVVC Historian, Don Snedeker, will be making a second visit to share another of his productions, titled:
"Women of the Blackhorse 1901 - 2024"*

We'll be updating you all on our different ongoing projects, while we are together. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to volunteer at the Fundraising Table or help in any other way.

Sheryl Myers 571-721-9189 sheryl.e.myers@gmail.com

Marguerite Austin 320-212-1068 mardale@charter.net



Back in the 1990's corporations, colleges, government agencies and even churches jumped on a cause de jour, and spent hours, days, months developing a "Mission Statement." A statement to define one's organization and quite self-servingly, set it apart. Some outfits brought in analysts and executives from across the continent for a week of meetings to define their corporate existence: to write a Mission Statement. Money was no object: everyone had to get on the bandwagon. Those of us, who worked on such task forces with that particular assignment wondered – "what have we been doing all these years." We laughed, but that was not acceptable. We had to be converted and march lockstep in the parade of that in vogue cause. A little side humor. My Chaplain School classmate and fellow Vietnam veteran, late Chaplain (Col.) Frank Simeone, once advised me: "Don't fall on your sword for a cause de jour, because you might not live to regret it." Now, 30 years later, I seldom hear about a Mission Statement.

But the 11th ACWC has one. It was developed long before the rush of bandwagon jumpers, and quite frankly, I don't remember anyone in our organization calling it such. You see it often on our letterheads; the front page of Thunder Run outlines it in bright red, and it is the title of this article, "Together Then - Together Again." It actually does define us. It does set us apart; it created a legend. I am not sure how it came about but have a feeling that it was the genius of one of our "Founding Fathers," Ollie Pickral ... but it is our driving force. The reason for our existence.

Those 4 words speak brotherly love, eternal hope, loyalty and fidelity. In Biblical terms: Faith, Hope and Love as the Jewish Roman citizen, Paul of Tarsus announced to the early Christians (1 Cor 13, 13): "... and the greatest of these is love."

This theme plays out in so many ways in our lives. Even in movies about wars, we see guys die for their brothers-in-arms: jumping on hand grenades, carrying back wounded, taking a bullet...sharing the last ration or canteen. That depicted devotion is not about the rightness or wrongness of the war, not about the evil of, or hatred for, the enemy, it was about love, brotherhood. They used to teach that in all schools, hopefully still do in churches. We were reared in the long shadow of Rough Rider, Teddy Roosevelt; the stalwart speeches of General Douglas MacArthur, the heroism of a John Basilone, the Four Chaplains, the men who volunteered to walk point: duty, courage, honor, God and country. Military service was honorable: "...our fathers had, and their fathers had before."

In recent years, in the sad decline of respect for our Constitutional ideas, a history of military service is a mark against a man, especially in popular and social media. Quite frankly, in my recent travel through the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama, that is not true among the people I met on the streets, in churches, at National Cemeteries, in gas stations and local eateries. Just the opposite. Dozens

thanked me for my service, strangers paid for my meal – that Blackhorse hat instantly brought me their "love." But that's not depicted in the media, they would rather defend protestors who destroy, deface, vilify and scorn our traditional values. Their inversion, their support of civic perversions, their adoration of selfish careerism and duplicity, considers the soldier - the veteran - as a mark against a man. "You did what? You must be messed up. What a waste ... your wars went terribly wrong." Maybe even and still: "baby-killers." No longer do they see the warrior as a defender of the Common Good, the public, our Country: now he is considered dull and dim-witted.

But we know instead that we are among the few, the precious few who still know how to love, sacrifice – who stand up with honor and gather with those we were willing to live with in squalor, to love, to put our lives on the line for.

Ask yourself why. Why do we attend our reunions, why do we visit the graves of our KIA's and recently fallen brothers? Why do we look at the Fiddler's Green page in Thunder Run first? Why do we feel so good when we see or greet or meet another Blackhorse brother? Why is our mission statement: Together Then - Together Again.

Why? Because we love our brothers – not ashamed to say it. Maybe not all then and maybe not all now. We are still willing to go that extra mile, to have their backs, to pray at their headstones, to wish them "Welcome Home." We sacrifice our time to travel across the country, our vacation (or grocery) money, our convenience by driving long distances or enduring miserably crowded airports. We do all this or any of it for guys whose last names we didn't know and maybe still don't. We make a lot of sacrifices.

Love requires sacrifice. The more one loves, the more one is willing to sacrifice. But love has its awards as well. The more we love, the more we sacrifice the happier we become, and we make the environment all around us happier. We know that we are especially blessed because we love so much. That love generates hope and hope springs eternal – we honor our brothers at funerals or in cemeteries, we pray for their eternal life – or another beer on Fiddler's Green. Our fidelity, our faith in them leads us to believe that faith in God and in mankind grow equally.

Yes, we are now among the precious few. That small band of brothers; really a precious few. In Vietnam, a Blackhorse Trooper was rare, among the few. During the peak of our involvement, the 11th ACR represented 1% of the Army troops on the ground, yet we left our mark as ... Legend. Now over 55 years later, 11th Cav surviving veterans of Vietnam make up less than seven tenths of one percent of veterans. Indeed, among the precious few. Still legendary, still coming together again, still loving our brother as God loves us.

Chaplain Bill.

The 32nd Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Outing
Thursday, September 5, 2024 Miracle Hill Golf Club
1401 N 120th Street, Omaha, NE 68154
402-498-0220

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

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

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

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

Name _____ Average Score _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

E-mail _____

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

Chattanooga to Host Prestigious Medal of Honor Celebration in 2025



In an exciting announcement for our community, Chattanooga has been chosen to host the 2025 Medal of Honor Celebration. This event, which brings together all living recipients of America's highest military honor, will take place from September 30 to October 4, 2025. It's a fitting tribute to our city's rich military history and its status as the Birthplace of the Medal of Honor.

The Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center will serve as the primary host for this prestigious gathering, with Textile Rubber & Chemical Company as the presenting sponsor. This generous sponsorship underscores the strong community support for honoring our military heroes.

Colonel Frank Hughes, chairman of the Heritage Center's Board of Trustees, expressed his enthusiasm: "This week-long

event will provide our community with a unique opportunity to immerse Recipients in the history of Chattanooga and its historical connections to the Medal of Honor."

What does this mean for our community?

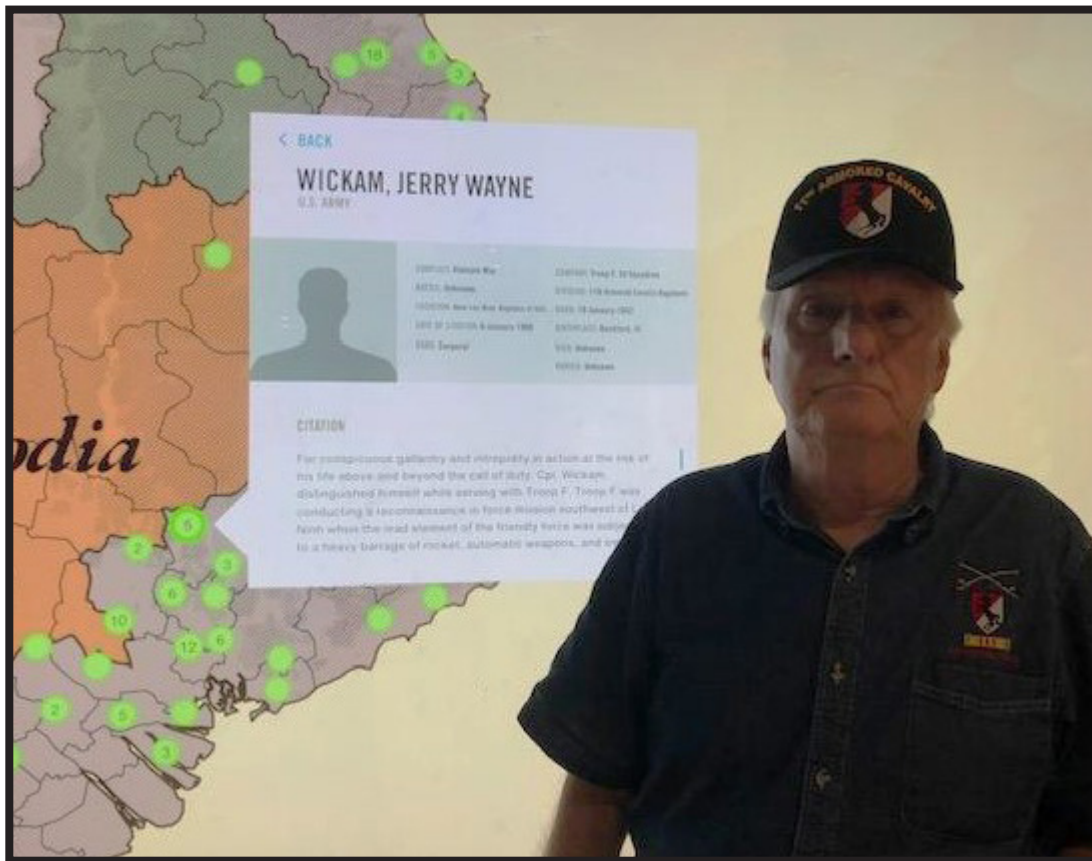
1. A chance to meet heroes: Local students, veterans, and community members will have the opportunity to hear firsthand stories of courage and sacrifice from Medal of Honor recipients.
2. Educational impact: The event aligns with the Heritage Center's mission to promote the six core values embodied by the Medal of Honor: Patriotism, Citizenship, Courage, Integrity, Sacrifice, and Commitment.
3. Community involvement: Various public events are being planned, allowing wide participation from our community.
4. Economic boost: The celebration is expected to draw national attention and visitors to Chattanooga, showcasing our city's hospitality and patriotic spirit. Local leaders, including State Representative Patsy Hazlewood, Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp, Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly, Chairman of the Heritage

Center's National Advisory Board General BB Bell, US Army (retired), and Chairman of the Chattanooga Tourism Company Hugh Morrow all expressed their support and excitement for the event. They emphasized Chattanooga's strong military tradition and its special connection to the Medal of Honor.

As we prepare to welcome these American heroes, it's a moment for our community to reflect on the values the Medal of Honor represents; Patriotism, Citizenship, Courage, Integrity, Sacrifice, and Commitment. The Medal of Honor, awarded to only 3,519 service members out of millions who have served since the Civil War, represents the highest ideals of military valor. In the coming months, we'll share more details about how you can get involved and participate in this once-in-a-lifetime event. Whether you're a history buff, a proud patriot, or simply curious to learn more, the 2025 Medal of Honor Celebration promises to be an inspiring and unforgettable experience for all of Chattanooga. The support of Textile Rubber & Chemical Company as the presenting sponsor, along with other community partners, will help ensure that this celebration honors our Medal of Honor recipients in a manner befitting their extraordinary service and sacrifice.

Stay tuned for updates and information on how you can be part of this historic celebration!

Visit : www.mohhc.org



Jim Foreman, (SSGT, TC of F-13, F Troop, 1967-1968, and friend of Jerry Wickam) at the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center.



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. 114 of the applicants are grandchildren and 2 are children of our members. There are 76 female applicants and 40 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 40 scholarships for a total of \$122,000 this year. Since the establishment of our scholarship program in 1996, we have awarded 787 scholarships totaling \$2,479,500 by the date of our reunion in Omaha! 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.

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.

Scholarship Raffle Program 2024

Note important change in prize amounts

By: Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Board Member and Scholarship Committee Chairman

The proceeds from this year's raffle will go towards providing scholarships for our children and grandchildren. From 1996 through 2023, the 11th ACVVC's Scholarship Program has awarded 747 scholarships totaling \$2,357,500 to children and grandchildren of our members! This year we will award 40 more scholarships totaling \$122,000. This is an incredible accomplishment, due solely to the generosity of our membership.

You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in the 2024 raffle. The drawing will be held on Saturday, September 7th, during the 39th annual reunion in Omaha, Nebraska. 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:

FIVE \$500 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.



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

Stanley E. Acklie, K Troop, 3/11 (1971-1971) passed away on April 11, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Norfolk, NE. He was laid to rest in Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery, Norfolk, NE.

Henry William Alfieri, I Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on December 2, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rice Lake, WI. He was laid to rest in Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne, MA.

Raymond J. Allen, C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on May 21, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Starke, FL. He was laid to rest in Crosby Lake Cemetery, Starke, FL.

Arthur Thomas Andersen, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 23, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lindenhurst, NY. He was laid to rest in Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY.

William Alan Austin, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on June 3, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Barnesville, MN. He was laid to rest in Elkton Cemetery, Elkton Township, MN.

Orville Gary Arterberry, I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 24, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Indianapolis, IN.

Gordon Michael Averill, C Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 25, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Muskegon, MI. He was laid to rest in Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI.

Charles Randolph Barnes, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on April 4, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Upper Marlboro, MD. He was laid to rest in Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD.

Edward Douglas Barnes, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1969) passed away on April 11, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC

and resided in Wilson, NC. He was laid to rest in Evergreen Memorial Park, Wilson, NC.

Roger D. Bauer, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on February 14, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Evansville, IL. He was laid to rest in Saint Boniface Cemetery, Evansville, IL.

Eugene Billips, E Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on April 16, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lake Arthur, NM. He was laid to rest in Twin Oaks Memorial Park, Artesia, NM.

Larry Blanding, Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1971) passed away on May 15, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pinewood, SC.

John David Browning, B Troop, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on February 8, 2024. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fouke, AR. He was laid to rest in Rondo Memorial Park Cemetery, Texarkana, AR.

Larry Joe Bushman, K Troop, 3/11 (1970-1970) passed away on June 19, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sterling, IL.

John Charles Campbell, K Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 11, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oklahoma City, OK. He was laid to rest in Oaklawn Memorial Gardens, Spencer, OK.

Maynard Houston Coffey, H Company, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on November 9, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Roanoke, VA.

Earnest Shade Cotton, L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on July 4, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tucson, AZ. He was laid to rest in Evergreen Memorial Park, Tucson, AZ.

John Wayne Cox, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 30, 2023. He

was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Copperas Cove, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.

Anthony Randolph Cozier, 919th Engineer Company (1970-1971) passed away on March 8, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Orange Park, FL. He was laid to rest in Jacksonville National Cemetery, Jacksonville, FL.

L. C. Culpepper, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 17, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Thomasville, AL. He was laid to rest in Mcfadden Memorial Gardens, Thomasville, AL.

Robert Warren Demont, HHT, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on February 4, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Holly Springs, NC. He was laid to rest in Hillside Cemetery, Paris, ME.

Dennis K. Driessen, Air Cavalry Troop (1968-1969) passed away on September 8, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Santa Fe, NM.

Donald W. Eastman, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1968) passed away on March 28, 2023. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mcarthur, CA. He was laid to rest in Pine Grove Cemetery, Mcarthur, CA.

Robert Thomas Ericson, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1969) passed away on November 16, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Corpus Christi, TX. He was laid to rest in Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery, Corpus Christi, TX.

James Edward Flora, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 17, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bowling Green, KY. He was laid to rest in Bowling Green Gardens Cemetery, Bowling Green, KY.

Robert Larry Forsythe, HHT, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 19, 2024. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and

resided in Loveland, CO.

Howard F. Gates, 27th Engineer Battalion (1966-1967) passed away on January 30, 2024. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sabina, OH. He was laid to rest in Sabina Cemetery, Sabina, OH.

James E. Greene, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 16, 2024. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New York, NY. He was laid to rest in Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY.

Kenneth Doyle Gregg, F Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 11, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Charleston, TN.

Thomas W. Harris, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967) passed away on April 7, 2022. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in The Netherlands.

William Otto Heintz, HHT REGT (1966-1967) passed away on May 21, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Peotone, IL. He was laid to rest in Peotone Cemetery, Peotone, IL.

Donald John Hellowell, 919th Engineer Company (1968-1968) passed away on January 16, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Keansburg, NJ.

Ira James Hill, 37th Medical Company (1971-1972) passed away on September 27, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ocala, FL. He was laid to rest in Tallahassee National Cemetery, Tallahassee, FL.

Don John Hoff, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1970) passed away on June 8, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Greeley, CO.

Ernest Hopkins, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 10, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sumter, SC. He was laid to rest in Cavalry Baptist Church Cemetery, Pinewood, SC.

William Lewis Houser, B Troop, 1/11 (1970-1970) passed away on May 11, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pottsville, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.

Sidney J. Hughes, HHT, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on April 27, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Odenville, AL. He was laid to

rest in Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, AL.

Gerald R. Jacobsen, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on December 2, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Southern Pines, NC.

Cecil Edward James, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1970) passed away on March 25, 2020. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Eastover, SC. He was laid to rest in Ft. Jackson National Cemetery, Columbia, SC.

David Allen Jarrett, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 19, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Moreno Valley, CA.

Bobby Joe Jumper, D Company, 1/11 (1969-1969) passed away on February 7, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Red Banks, MS. He was laid to rest in Byhalia Cemetery, Byhalia, MS.

Dexter Frank Kaytis, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1967) passed away on June 19, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in El Segundo, CA.

Edward August Legnon, HHT, 3/11 (1965-1967) passed away on January 29, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pearl River, LA. He was laid to rest in Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, Slidell, LA.

Daryl Zane Lehew, D Company, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 22, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Harrisburg, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.

Robert Eugene Linberg, F Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on March 10, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in El Paso, TX. He was laid to rest in Ft. Bliss National Cemetery, Fort Bliss, TX.

William H. Lister, A Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on May 21, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Summerville, SC.

Richard Ralph Lowe, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 25, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Monon, IN. He was laid to rest in Bedford Cemetery, Monon, IN.

George Mark Madison, Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1971) passed away on April 3, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brambleton, VA.

Loren J. Marcusen, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967) passed away on February 12, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wausaukee, WI. He was laid to rest in Wausaukee Evergreen Cemetery, Wausaukee, WI.

Carl Cyril Maruzzella, I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 8, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Greensboro, NC.

Jerry Donald Mathis, M Company, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 11, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Onalaska, TX. He was laid to rest in Magnolia Cemetery, Onalaska, TX.

Walter Thompson McDonald, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on January 29, 2018. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cortez, CO. He was laid to rest in Grand View Cemetery, Montrose, CO.

William Edward Morrow, 7th Army Postal Unit (1969-1970) passed away on October 4, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Romeoville, IL. He was laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

Eddie Lee Phillips, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 15, 2019. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Toledo, OH.

Fredrick Phillip Potter, 188TH MAINT (1966-1967) passed away on June 23, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Richboro, PA.

Bill J. Randolph, 919th Engineer Company (1967-1968) passed away on May 14, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Maryville, IL. He was laid to rest in Sunset Hill Cemetery, Glen Carbon, IL.

Beau Richards, H Company, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on April 16, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Decatur, TX.

Thomas Alfred Shank, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on November 22, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Acworth, GA. He was laid to rest in Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA.

Raymond Kent Shebelut, D Company, 1/11 (1968-1968) passed away on January 27, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Galt, CA.

A Faraway Land

Once upon a time in a faraway land, there was a war. That land was called the NAM. This land enjoyed freedom, democracy, and a way of life that was pleasant and friendly.

There was another land called the NORTH, with two large tribes that had invaded and attacked the villages and cities of the NAM. They were vicious and cruel. They murdered many of the inhabitants, men, women, and even children. These two tribes were called the VC and the NVA. Their overall mission was to destroy and overturn the NAM and take over the NAM to make it part of the NORTH.

The NAM fought against these two tribes. The folks of the NAM tried to resist these tribes but without help, they were not strong enough to do so. They obtained assistance from a large number of allies, who joined with the folks of the NAM to help fight their enemies. The most powerful of these allies came from the land of the FREE and the BRAVE. From this land came many strong, dangerous, and dedicated Clans who fought valiantly against the tribes of the NORTH. Within those, the mightiest, most powerful, and greatly feared, was the Clan called the "BLACKHORSE."

The warriors of the Clan "BLACKHORSE" were ferocious in their response to any actions by the enemy tribes in skirmishes, ambushes, and battles. In this Clan, their motto was, "Find the Bastards and Pile On". They did this with great enthusiasm and success. No matter how many of these contacts were with enemy tribes, the BLACKHORSE was always victorious and dominant.

During this time of the war, the tribes of the NORTH secretly joined together in major attacks throughout the NAM. These attacks occurred on a national winter holiday called TET. After some small successes, these tribes were soundly defeated with many bases, campgrounds, and weapons destroyed and captured. During what has become known as the "Tet Offensive", the BLACKHORSE Clan was sent to protect and defend the Capital City of NAM and all of the surrounding cities and villages in the area. The BLACKHORSE Clan made an extraordinary night-time road march and arrived in this area to stop any further incursions, destruction, and attacks that had occurred there. The Clan of the BLACKHORSE did exceedingly well in performing their task defeating the enemy tribes and defending the folks of NAM.

When the BLACKHORSE Clan was in the NAM, their troopers excelled in every mission, duty, and task. This was achieved because every individual in the BLACKHORSE Clan went above and beyond the call of duty, and MORE!

Allons

Paul Greany
B Troop, 1967-1968

Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for
Thunder Run

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

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

Phillip Wayne Shelnut, A Troop, 1/11 (1968-1968) passed away on December 26, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cusseta, AL.

Robert C. Shivers, I Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on May 21, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Edinburg, TX.

Mathew W. Silva, 398TH TRANS (1970-1971) passed away on April 11, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in East Falmouth, MA. He was laid to rest in Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne, MA.

Russell Clayton Smith, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1971) passed away on May 9, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Virginia Beach, VA. He was laid to rest in Eastern Shore Chapel Cemetery, Virginia Beach, VA.

James W. Somervell, M Company, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 19, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hardin, KY.

Harold J. St Clair, H Company, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on March 20, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Shelton, WA.

Ronald Kitchener Stribley, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 8, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Vero Beach, FL.

James Franklin Wait, D Company, 1/11 (1968) passed away on January 15, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pueblo, CO.

Michael Fay Whiteman, HHT, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 14, 2022. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Cedar Falls, IA.

Allen S. Wilder, HHT REGT (1966-1967) passed away on April 25, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brookfield, VT. He was laid to rest in Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Montpelier, VT.

Jerry Dee Wiley, M Company, 3/11 (1970-1970) passed away on April 1, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Burlington, IA. He was laid to rest in Burlington Memorial Park, Burlington, IA.

Kenneth Duane Wollschlaeger, HHT, 1/11 (1970) passed away on May 18, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fargo, ND. He was laid to rest in Fargo National Cemetery, Harwood, ND.

Richard Allen Worley, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 2, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Konawa, OK. He was laid to rest in Vista Cemetery, Asher, OK.

Jerome J. Yankowy, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 15, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Northampton, PA. He was laid to rest in Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery, Northampton, PA.

Editor's Corner, 3rd qtr 2024

Fellow Blackhorse Troopers, I wish you all well and hope you enjoy this edition of Thunder Run! It has been a 'Nam-type summer here in the northeast; either scorching heat and high humidity or monsoon type rains. This weather takes quite a toll on a body that once dealt with that climate on a daily basis, but that was more than 50 years and 50 pounds ago! Let's get to the appropriate topics:

THUNDER RUN - As always, please submit your stories about your experience to me for possible inclusion in Thunder Run. We have a difficult time filling Thunder Run with 32 pages of informative material, and yet I sometimes hear criticism wondering why we print things that may appear to be redundant. You can help me and our fellow members by sending in stories about your military service, especially while in Vietnam and/or Cambodia. Photos that accompany your stories are always welcome, eye-catching and often worth the proverbial "thousand words". Photos should be clear and with good contrast - black and white or color will both work well for Thunder Run.

Without sufficient input to fill 32 pages (our preference for Thunder Run), we may be forced to reduce the issues to 28 pages and may have to consider reducing the frequency from every three months (four issues annually) to every four months (three issues annually). You need not be William Shakespeare or Ernest Hemingway to write an interesting story. I will do my best to correct typos and grammar without changing the thrust or character of your stories. So please consider sharing your thoughts with others. It will make my job easier and faster if you submit articles in MS Word. A hand-written or typed article has to be re-transcribed by me into Word to submit it to the printer. This is tedious and slow (think of a 75 y/o poor typist with arthritis and fat fingers, that'd be me!).

CALENDAR – The 11 th ACVC 2024 Calendar has been another success thanks to your generosity donations and submissions of high-quality photos. To continue to produce this wonderful keepsake, it is imperative that you the members of the 11 th ACVC search through your old picture albums and submit the best quality photos you can find to be considered for inclusion in future issues. We transitioned to the full-color version years ago and to continue to publish it we need a large pool of high-quality color photographs. The best photos for reproduction are high quality 35mm prints or slides showing groups of Troopers performing every-day combat missions and chores along with images of the landscape, hamlets and indigenous Vietnamese. If you have the capability of electronically scanning photos at a resolution of 300 dpi, you can send them to me as jpg images attached to an e-mail. This is the easiest, cheapest, safest and quickest way to submit photos. If you choose to mail your images, please send copies and retain your original. Information describing the subject matter, identity of Troopers, date, location, etc., is appreciated. This calendar shows your service, your history...please help me continue to make it a great production that we can all be proud of! There was a typo on the dates for the end of June and many of you were kind and gracious in pointing out that error to me! I am thankful for your keen eyes catching this, otherwise many of you would continue to think I'm perfect (insert guffaw here). I have long maintained that we learn more from our mistakes and critics than we do from success and support...ergo, I continue to learn!

FUNERAL HONOR GUARD & WEBSITE OBITUARIES – This is the saddest part of my job with the 11 th ACVC but remains a great honor to be involved in remembering our deceased brothers. Thanks to the great efforts of our members, we can usually get a fellow Blackhorse Trooper to attend the services of our fallen brothers. Please check the website daily at:

<https://www.11thcavnam.com/honorguard/index.php>

As always, my thanks go out to Allen Hathaway for all the work he does helping me with this effort and to Chaplain Bill for the wonderful condolence letters he writes to the families.

If you have complaints or suggestions as to how we can improve any of these important projects, please call or email me. I hope to see you in Omaha! **"ALLONS!"**

Pete Walter



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

Tuesday, Sept. 3, 3:00 PM

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

Storage - Herdon

Wednesday, Sept 4

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

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

Hill
Cozzens
South Ballroom - CHI Center
Washington City
Cozzens

Thursday, Sept. 5

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

32nd Annual Marty Ognibene Golf Outing
Quartermaster Store Open
Registration
Bunker Open
Silent Auction Items Accepted

Miracle Hill Golf Club
Hill
Cozzens
South Ballroom - CHI Center
Cozzens

Friday, Sept. 6

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
10:00am - 11:00am
1:00pm - 2:00pm
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm
2:00 pm - 12:00 am
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
8:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Quartermaster Store Open
Veterans Seminar-Benefit Claims-1
Veterans Seminar-Benefit Claims-2
Silent Auction Items Accepted
Registration Open
Bunker Open
Silent Auction Sell Off
Silent Auction Pay/Pick Up

Hill
Blackstone A
Blackstone A
Cozzens
Cozzens
South Ballroom - CHI center
St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas

Saturday, Sept. 7

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

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

Grand Central Ballroom
Blackstone A
Grand Central Ballroom
Hill
Cozzens
South Ballroom Foyer - CHI Center

South Ballroom - CHI Center
South Ballroom Foyer - CHI Center

Sunday, Sept. 8

10:00 am - 11:00 am
All Day

Worship Service
Farewell and Safe Travels

Blackstone A
No space Required

Pyrrhic Victory

Ross Glatzer, E-6, 919th Combat Engineers, 11th Armored Cavalry

Sometimes in life when you journey back in time seeking to touch those places that you visited many decades ago, you experience stories that stick with you for the rest of your life. Such was the case in 1995 when the company I worked for gave me an almost 2-week trip back to Nam as a going away present. So, I took a buddy of mine who was in the Navy during our time in Nam (69-70) and off we went to experience a long overdue part of my life.

But not everything was as simple as you might expect. My wife was on my case asking me what I was going to do if we ran into trouble while in Vietnam. It was 1995 and we had no embassy and normalization of relations had not begun between the two countries. And to keep peace at home, I called the Vietnam Veterans of America and asked if they had anyone in place that I could touch base with, if needed.

Luckily for me they pointed me to Chuck Searcy who ran a prosthetics outreach program for people in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia who were still encountering the mines planted over the decades of war. And Chuck was familiar with the political landscape.

So, I called Searcy when we were flying out of Saigon and into Hanoi. I tell him where we were staying in Hanoi, and he comes bopping over on his Moped to meet us. When he arrived at our hotel, I happened to be wearing a University of Georgia ball cap. He takes one look at the cap and says, "Did you go to UGA?" I said "Yes". He says, "So did I". He asked me when I graduated and lo and behold, we were in the same graduating class. So here were two UGA boys in Hanoi twenty years after the war laughing about what a small world it was.

Then he asks me if I know of a guy named John McCain. I told him I did, POW, Senator etc. He tells me that President Clinton had tapped McCain (and John Kerry) to lead the normalization of relations between the two countries. And McCain was coming over the very next day to begin the normalization process by meeting with the North Vietnamese leaders. And Searcy is going to participate in the program by introducing McCain to the man who saved his life.

I asked him how so? He tells me the story related to him by the villager who claimed to save McCain. It seems that while McCain was part of a bombing mission over Hanoi in 1968, his plane was hit by a SAM missile. He parachutes out of the burning plane and lands in the lake in the middle of Hanoi. The villager sees that the pilot is wounded (shoulders I believe) and was struggling with the parachute. So, he gets in his boat and brings the pilot back to shore.

At which time, the bombing had abated, and the surrounding villagers come out to kill the American pilot that had been bombing their city. However the North Vietnamese military tracked the shootdown and sent soldiers in trucks to take control of the pilot, which they did.

At this point, Searcy says to me "If you can stay an extra day here, I will introduce you to John McCain and the villager who claimed to have saved his life". Because the villager was a Buddhist who believed that what goes around, comes around. And he was so look-

ing forward to meeting the pilot that he had saved and who now was leading the effort to normalize relations between the two countries. I told Searcy unfortunately we could not, but I wished him the best.

When I got home, I said to my wife, if our paths ever cross with John McCain I want to hear the rest of the story. I then bought McCain's book *Faith of our Fathers*. It did not have much of a mention about how he was captured. Which just added to my intrigue.

So in 2004, we moved to Sun City Hilton Head a senior active adult community for 55 years and over. And it had a very active Veterans Association.

Then in 2008 guess who is running for President on the Republican ticket? Yep, John McCain. So, McCain comes to Sun City Hilton Head as part of his campaigning during the Presidential election. He comes to speak at our assembly hall, hundreds of seniors enthusiastically welcome him. Before he got up to speak, I happened to see a security person in the back of the room. I asked him about speaking to the Senator. He tells me to sit near a particular door and they will bring him out that way.

So now I am thinking, after 13 years I am going to finally hear the rest of the story.

After his speech. McCain is now walking down the aisle shaking hands and speaking with people. Finally, he gets up to me, but his back is turned to me as he is speaking to the person in the other line of people waiting to speak with him. And then the door opens to the room and one of his staffers says to him, Senator we have to go. We are late for our next event. I am thinking, I have waited 13 years to ask him two simple questions because I wanted 'to hear the rest of the story' as Paul Harvey used to say. So, I lean forward and say loud and clear... "*Vietnam*". He immediately turns around.

I introduce myself. Tell him I went back to Nam 13 years ago and I have two questions from that visit that I have been waiting to ask him. I say, "*Do you know a guy named Chuck Searcy? And did Searcy introduce you to the man who claimed to have saved your life?*"

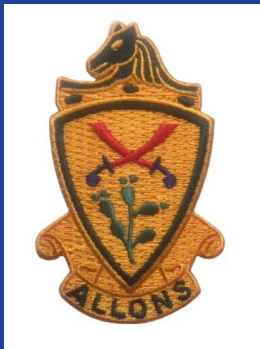
You could have knocked him over with a feather. He certainly did not expect those questions. He looks at me and says, "I have good news and bad news for you". He says, "*I know Chuck Searcy. He does a hell of a job with his prosthetics program. Helps lots of people*". And yes, at the meeting (in 1995) he did indeed introduce me to the man who claimed to save my life? So, I am mentally doing check marks in my mind on the two questions. Questions asked. Questions answered. So I ask him, "*What is the bad news?*"

Then he smiles and says, "*There were 3,000 others who made the same claim.*"

I got my answer. So now you know the rest of the story. And I learned the meaning of what a *pyrrhic victory* is.

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

QM Store



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



#16 Eddie Bauer
Hooded Soft Shell
Jacket \$94.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#4 Window
Sticker \$3.00



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



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



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



29. 11th ACR Vietnam
cap white with black bill
\$18.00



#32 Large
Active Duffel
\$34.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin
\$5.00



#20 Vietnam
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Wreath \$5.00



#47 11th Cavalry
Cap \$18.50



#14 License Plate Frame, Black
w/white letters \$5.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch
Colored \$5.00



#18 11th ACR
Regimental Crest
\$7.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$6.50



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



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

The Quartermaster Store is now on line at: 11thcavnam.com



#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



#49 Dry Zone Grid Polo \$30.00



#27 Eddie Bauer Polo \$32.00



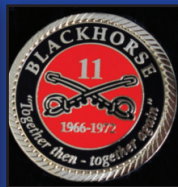
#50 Ladies Jersey Knit Cardigan \$40.00



#24 Blackhorse Fleece Vest \$29.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#21 Port Authority Soft Shell Jacket \$52.00

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



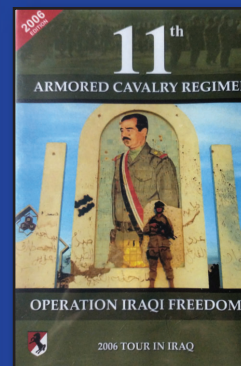
#6 Knit Cap \$18.00



#8 Metal Crest on Leather Key Tag \$8.00



#41 & 42 Dark Denim Shirt Available in Long and Short Sleeve



#22 DVD 11th ACR in OIF III \$15.00



#46 Blackhorse Saber \$89.00



#15 Leatherette Coaster 4" Rawhide Coaster \$4.00



#38a



#38b



#38d

#23 White 11th ACR Vietnam cap \$18.00



#51 Lightweight Wind Jacket \$34.00



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





Quartermaster

ORDER FORM | 3rd Qtr 2024

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Allons Patch	5.00			
2.	11th Armored Cavalry Patch	5.00			
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With the Blackhorse" w/ full color BH insignia	3.00			
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	3.00			
5.	Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt	30.00			
6.	Knit Cap - Black and Grey	18.00			
7.	Full Color Shoulder Patch	5.00			
8.	Metal Crest on Leather Key Tag	8.00			
9.	CIB car magnet, 3"x4"	6.00			
10.	Small Blackhorse Magnet	6.00			
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00			
12.	"The Beast" Blackhorse Knife.....	22.00			
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11.....	9.00			
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	5.00			
15.	Leatherette Coaster - 4"	4.00			
16.	Eddie Bauer Hooded Soft Shell Jacket	94.00			
17.	Blackhorse Pin.....	5.00			
18.	Allons Unit Crest	7.00			
19.	Blackhorse Regimental Pin - 11 over cross sabers.....	6.50			
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin - With Vietnam Wreath	5.00			
21.	Port Authority Soft Shell Jacket	52.00			
22.	DVD 11th ACR in OIF III	15.00			
23.	White 11th ACR Vietnam Cap	18.00			
24.	Blackhorse Fleece Vest.....	29.00			
25.	Blackhorse Coin	15.00			
26.	Large Blackhorse Magnet (7" x 8.5")	12.00			
27.	Eddie Bauer Polo	32.00			
28.	Blackhorse Logo Sticker - 2" X 2.5" with adhesive on back	2.00			
29.	11th ACR Vietnam cap white with black bill	18.00			
30.	Value Computer Case	20.00			
31.	Messenger Briefcase	24.00			
32.	Lg. Active Duffel	34.00			
33.	Heavy Blend Hooded Sweatshirt	28.00			
34.	Camouflage Sport Duffel	40.00			
35.	Circuit Back Pack	20.00			
36.	Allons Decal	3.00			
37.	Grey Cotton T-shirt.....	20.00			
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a <input type="checkbox"/> 38b <input type="checkbox"/> 38d	18.00			
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. GREEN.....	20.00			
40.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. GRAY.....	20.00			
41.	Dark denim shirt - men's short sleeve.....	35.00			
42.	Dark denim shirt- men's long sleeve.....	35.00			
43.	Outdoor Wide Brim Hat	25.00			
46.	Blackhorse Saber.....	89.00			
47.	11th Calvary Cap	18.50			
48.	Sportsman Hat.....	18.00			
49.	Dry Zone Grid Polo	30.00			
50.	Ladies Jersey Knit Cardigan	40.00			
51.	Lightweight Wind Jacket	34.00			

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

Shipping and Handling
Total

Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple items)

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

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVC Code _____

Signature _____

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

*Name _____ Phone _____

*Address _____ Email _____

*City/State/Zip _____

Check if address change

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

*** Required info to process your order**

Show Your Blackhorse Pride!



Stephanie Reynolds is the granddaughter of the late Johnnie R. (“Farmer”) Reynolds (dec. Apr. 11, 2011). Johnnie was the gunner on the Base Piece in the 3rd Squadron Howitzer Battery and served with the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam 1969-1971. Steph started racing hobby stock on dirt tracks five years ago. This year she and her dad Steve Reynolds rebuilt his IMCA “A” modified race car to run as a sports mod for her. One of her biggest fans was Scott Whitcomb, a Blackhorse Veteran. He always told her she needed a Blackhorse patch on her car. Unfortunately, we lost Scott on January 31, this year.

Steph continues the tradition of “Riding With the Blackhorse”!

Steph’s grandmother is Marla Reynolds, a regular at our reunions.

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