



# Thunder Run

Vol. 31 – NO. 4

“Together Then – Together Again”

4th Quarter, 2016

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

### 47 Years After Firefight

## Vet Gets His Buddy a Purple Heart

"See, he's Mexican and I'm black," Johnson said. "He was my brother over there. Back in those days there was so much prejudice. But we clicked.

By Robert Kahn

(CN) — War stories seldom have happy endings. But 47 years after Herman Johnson died in the arms of his best friend in a firefight in Vietnam, Fred found out that Herman is alive. And on Sunday, July 10, after a furious battle with the Army, Fred Rivera will see Herman get his long-delayed Purple Heart in a ceremony at The Wall.

"It was 1969, the 20th of August. We got in a firefight early that day, for hours. We were in a hot area. At about 10 minutes to 5 I heard rockets coming in, boom! I got hit. And I died. I believe I did. I really do. I still have the shrapnel in the back of my head," Johnson said in an interview with Courthouse News this week.

"I was 20 years old. I was nothing but a baby."

When Johnson woke up, "I had a tag on me. I didn't get medevaced or nothing. I guess I was still a breather. When I woke up, I looked up and I thought I was in heaven. And they put me right back on my gun."

Herman's best friend Fred had held Herman in his arms and watched him bleed through the head until the medics took Herman away. Herman and Fred



Best friends Fred Rivera (l) and Herman Johnson "together again" after 47 years.

never saw each other again.

"See, he's Mexican and I'm black," Johnson said. "He was my brother over there. Back in those days there was so much prejudice. But we clicked. For 47 years this man been worried about me, and I worried about him, cause I didn't know what happened."

Throughout those 47 years, Rivera said, "He's looked at my picture every day and I've looked at his picture every day."

When the battle ended, the black guys in the platoon braided Herman's leather bootlaces into a bracelet and gave it to Fred. Fred has worn that bracelet for 47 years.

Fred told the story in his book, "Raw Man," a lightly fictionalized novel about his days in Vietnam. "Everything in that book is true, man," Johnson said.

Rivera and Johnson came home from Vietnam separately in 1970, Herman to Detroit and Fred to Los Angeles. Fred overcame his demons — or held them off — by helping other Vietnam vets with post-traumatic stress, by holding down a job, raising a family, playing in a blues band — living his life.

Please turn to **BUDDY** on page 9

## San Antonio, 1,600, 'WOW'

By Steve Page, Reunion Chairman

Our 31st annual reunion was a resounding success. The 1,622 troopers and their guests had a great time. The city, hotel and local activities were well received. The River Walk was alive with Blackhorse shirts and hats and happy people. The trip to the US Army Medical Museum at Fort Sam Houston was well attended and all had a good time there. I must admit that this turnout really amazed me. It seems that each one gets better. I sure would like to see this number topped in Orlando. We have been in the Rosen Center before, another great hotel.

**Reunion 32, Rosen Centre, Orlando, Florida, September 6 thru September 10, 2017**

Orlando has so much to offer. The hotel is centrally located on International Drive. Shopping, dining and theme parks are all accessible from this location. Reservation information for The Rosen Center is in this Thunder Run. As always please make your hotel reservations early. Knowing how many we will have makes the planning go much smoother.

Starting with the Orlando reunion there will be a new policy in place for reunion registration cutoff. For Orlando the final date to register will be August 9th 2017. All registrations must be received by this date. Registrations received after this date will be returned. The policy is posted in this issue with the refund policy. You do not want to miss this reunion. Please register early.





Allen Hathaway  
President

# From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



Over 1,600 people attended the reunion this year in San Antonio, Texas. This was another awesome

reunion! Our thanks to all who attended and especially the volunteers who worked tirelessly to help make this another successful reunion.

People began arriving on Monday and Tuesday to take advantage of sightseeing in and around San Antonio. Registration officially opened on Wednesday afternoon. In addition to the names tags, meal tickets and reunion pin, each veterans was given a copy of the Army History magazine which contained the article "11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the Vietnam War, 1965-1966". After registration the next stop for many was the Quartermaster Store!

The "bunker" also opened on Wednesday and the crowd began to filter in to meet up with buddies. The bunker (hospitality room) was the size of the banquet room. Unit guidons are placed on tables throughout so folks can locate a particular unit. As the room began to fill troopers were seen with pictures, scrap books, newspaper articles and many other mementoes. Many old friends met for the first time since leaving Vietnam.

Thursday was the 25th annual Marty Ognibene Golf Tournament. This is always a fun event for troopers, wives and friends. More attendees continued to arrive throughout the day. Many took the opportunity to visit the nearby Alamo and dine in one of the many restaurants along the nearby Riverwalk.

On Friday morning we held our annual Veterans Seminar. This years topic was "Veterans Benefits". The information presented was very helpful and many questions were asked and answered. Also on Friday about 200 attendees boarded busses and toured the U. S. Army Medical Museum at nearby Fort Sam Houston. Many of those on the tour were medics who trained at Fort Sam Houston. More attendees arrived throughout the day. By that evening the large banquet room used

## The 2017 reunion will be held at the beautiful Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. This will be our second reunion at the Rosen Centre.

for the "bunker" was full and bustling with activity.

The silent auction was also held on Friday evening. An incredible 193 items were on display this year and available for bid. The volunteers did an excellent job of cataloging, sorting, setting up and monitoring the silent auction.

The Annual Business Meeting was held on Saturday morning where we reported on the state of the organization. Elections were held, the results of which are printed elsewhere in this issue. Grand Rapids, MI, was chosen as the 2018 reunion site.

Chaplain Larry Haworth conducted the memorial service on Saturday afternoon. The names of departed Blackhorse troopers who have passed away since the previous reunion were read. Members of the audience had the opportunity to speak about friends or loved ones lost this past year. There were many heartfelt tributes to our departed Blackhorse troopers. A very heartfelt tribute to the 11th Cavalry veterans was given by Van Marosek, a young Vietnamese woman we met at the 2015 reunion. She told an inspiring story of how her family of 18 was able to escape Vietnam in 1975 and begin a new life here in the United States. Her words of gratitude were powerful, moving and very emotional.

The Saturday evening banquet and program are the highlights of the reunion. Attendees were welcomed by a mariachi band as they arrived at the banquet room. The evening's program began with the National Anthem sung by Carrie Holton. The audience stood and without any encouragement began to sing along. It was one of the most moving moments of the evening.

During the banquet program, remarks were made as we observed the 50th anniversary of the regiment's deployment

to Vietnam. Mike "Doc" Rafferty also recalled what it was like to be a medic in Vietnam. The medics in the audience were asked to stand and be recognized for their service.

A special thanks to COL Joseph Clark, the regimental commander, for his remarks and an update on the activities of the regiment. A short video was shown featuring Blackhorse soldiers in action as they train America's Army at Fort Irwin. Also attending from Fort Irwin was CSM James Gandy. It's always good to see the Blackhorse patch worn by those young troopers.

Also during the program, each Vietnam veteran was given a special pin as a thank you for their service to our country. The pin is part of a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and to thank and honor veterans for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States. The program began in 2015 and will last through 2025. Over 750 veterans were "pinned" by members of their family. A special thank you to COL Elizabeth Vane, Army Nurse Corps Historian, Fort Sam Houston, for her explanation of the program and special pin.

We were also honored to have 21 gold star family members attend the reunion representing eight of our fallen Blackhorse troopers. Many were able to meet and talk with others who served with their loved one.

A total of 86 troopers attended their first reunion. We have a longstanding tradition to ask the "first timers" to stand and received a "welcome home" round of applause from the audience. Many of them commented afterward that they waited far too long to attend their first reunion.

The Saturday evening program was

Please turn to **PRESIDENT** on page 6



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

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

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

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# 12th ACVVC Annual Reunion XXXI





# Editor's Corner

C.E. "Bill" Gregory



Bill Gregory, Editor  
Thunder Run

Bill Gregory, who normally writes this column, is taking some time off to recover from surgery in September. We send our best wishes to Bill for a speedy recovery and look forward to having him behind the "editor's desk" for the next issue of *Thunder Run*.

## PRESIDENT from page 2

topped off by the Blackhorse Salute, an 18 minute video featuring photos of "everyday life" in your regiment in Vietnam. This is always a very powerful and sometimes emotional part of the program as we salute the service of the thousands of Blackhorse troopers who served in Vietnam with this great regiment.

The 2017 reunion will be held at the beautiful Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. This will be our second reunion at the Rosen Centre. There are many activities available in the Central Florida area. It promises to be another excellent destination. The Rosen Centre Hotel is ready to take your reservations. We expect another large turnout so start making your plans to attend the next reunion.

Please take a minute to read the Reunion Registration Deadline and Cancellation Policy printed in this issue. The policy was written to help in planning and executing a successful reunion. The 11th ACVVC must finalize plans, provide counts and make financial commitments based on registration counts received by the registration deadline. To better help in planning, all reunion registrations for Orlando must be received by August 9, 2017. You may cancel your reunion registration and receive a full refund if the Treasurer is notified at least five days prior to the beginning of the reunion. Please help us and yourself by planning ahead and registering early.

The 2017 calendar will be in mailboxes in late November. Members always look forward to receiving the calendar. The calendar fundraising project is the major source which supports our Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program is a completely separate, self sufficient account that depends solely on donations from you, our members. The cost of printing and mailing the calendar must be paid first then any remaining funds are used to award scholarships. We ask our members to continue their support by making a donation.

Approximately 22 percent of the over 7,300 members who receive a calendar make a donation. This year our goal is to increase that percentage. Help to achieve that goal by making a donation. Even the smallest donation helps!

We also ask that if you prefer to not receive a calendar in the future to please notify me or Pete Walter, or write a note and return the envelope enclosed with the calendar. This will help us reduce the printing and mailing costs of the calendar.

We have a great organization and I want to take this opportunity to thank our members for their continued support. It's good to be "Together Again".

## The 11th ACVVC Annual Awards

The following awards were presented at the 2016 annual reunion for service "Above and Beyond" to the 11th ACVVC and its membership.

### Trooper of the Year Award

Jerry W. Mitchell, I Troop, 3/11 ACR 1967-1968

### Womens Award

Renee Majors

### Outstanding Trooper Awards

Ronald L. Krueger, HHT, 1/11 1966-67

Paul M. Gissible, G Troop, 2/11 1968-69

Calvin Jay Reese, HHT, 3/11 1966-67

Robert A. Kickenweitz, HHT Regt 1966-67

Otis K. Carey, F Troop, 2/11 1971-72

### Quilter Award

Frank T. Church, G Troop, 1969-70

# 2016 11 ACVVC Raffle Winners

**1st Place Winner** (\$500)..... • Tom Murphy

**2nd Place Winner** (\$400)..... • Louis Gray

**3rd Place Winner** (\$300) ..... • Anonymous\*

**4th Place Winner** (\$200) ..... • Douglas Traylor

**5th – 15th Place Winners** (\$100) each:

..... • Roderick Chisholm

..... • Elli Schmitz

..... • Jessie Jeans

..... • Ramon Vega

..... • Lewis Klinn

..... • Pete Walter\*

..... • Ernie Keller

..... • Lonnie Burris

..... • Tom Colameco

..... • Ray Tarr

..... • Joe Ruiz

\*Donation to Scholarship fund

**Income: \$44,458.00**

**Costs: \$7,556.40**



# From the 67th Colonel of the Regiment

COL Joseph D. Clark



Greetings to the Troopers of the Best Damn Regiment. It has been a great quarter since taking over as Blackhorse 6; our Regiment continues in the enviable task of training (and defeating) U.S. Army Brigade Combat Teams here at the National Training Center.

Our Troopers continue to amaze me with every rotation. Their tenacity and desire to win is unmatched on the field of battle. During our most recent NTC rotation, 16-09, our troopers thoroughly dismantled the "Iron Brigade" from the 4th Infantry Division, from start to finish. But that's what we do, we train Army Soldiers to fight, and sometimes the process of learning those lessons is a difficult one for the Rotational Training Unit. But we are making the Army better, one BCT at a time.

We are now deep into preparation for rotation 17-01 against 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry

Division. Rest assured, we will provide the training to our brothers and sisters in arms to prepare them for any contingency operation they may face.

Our Regiment has also been recently recognized for our proficiency by sending a tank crew to compete in the Sullivan Cup at Fort Benning, Ga. A crew from Cold Steel Troop, 1st Squadron represented the Regiment well, earning them the opportunity to compete for the Cup in the final shootout. Although our tankers did not bring home the Cup, their 4th place finish was quite impressive, especially considering we were using M1A1s against the entire fleet of M1A2 variants fielded throughout the Army.

Some upcoming community relations events that the Blackhorse will be participating in are the Barstow Mardi Gras Parade, October 29, 2016 and the Veterans Memorial March "Long Walk," December 12, 2016. We welcome any former

Troopers to participate as we continue to build relationships with our neighbors in Barstow.

As we continue to evolve with the Army, the Blackhorse will always strive for greatness and remember the sacrifices of the Troopers that have come before us. Their sacrifice is, and always will be, the cornerstone of what our Cavalry is built on, and endeavors to achieve.

I thank each and every one of you for your continued support of the Best Damn Regiment there is. It is an honor to be a part of this organization.

For more information on the Blackhorse Regiment, please visit and like our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/11th-Armored-Cavalry-Regiment-Blackhorse-158715460811763/>

ALLONS!

## Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

- 1st Quarter .....Jan 15
- 2nd Quarter .....Mar 25
- 3rd Quarter .....Jun 25
- 4th Quarter .....Oct 1

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

## MOVING?

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WANTED

We are looking for a member with experience in direct mail marketing sales. If you have experience in this field please contact Allen Hathaway at: 703-791-6610 [11thcav1966@comcast.net](mailto:11thcav1966@comcast.net)

## 2016 Election Results

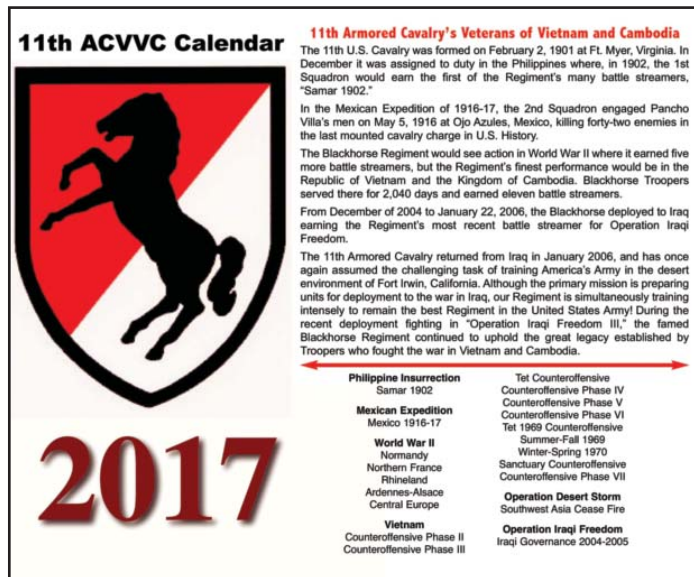
The results of the elections held at the Membership Meeting on August 27, 2016 at the San Antonio reunion are as follows:

- Elected for 2 year terms beginning January 1, 2017:
  - President-Allen Hathaway
  - Secretary-Greg Mason
- Elected for a 3 year term:
  - Director-Mike "Doc" Rafferty

# 2017 11th ACVVC Calendar Appeal

Pete Walter, 11th ACVVC Vice President

The first of our 2017 Scholarship fundraising efforts will be in your mailboxes in late November. The 2017 11th ACVVC Calendar will again feature 12 new photos submitted by you the members of the legendary Blackhorse Regiment! We thank all who have sent in photos for consideration. The calendar contains significant historical events of your regiment in Vietnam with the photographs documenting many of our daily activities. Based on your comments and incredible generosity it appears the 2016 calendar was well received by our members.



**11th ACVVC Calendar**

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

The 11th U.S. Cavalry was formed on February 2, 1901 at Ft. Myer, Virginia. In December it was assigned to duty in the Philippines where, in 1902, the 1st Squadron would earn the first of the Regiment's many battle streamers, "Samar 1902."

In the Mexican Expedition of 1916-17, the 2nd Squadron engaged Pancho Villa's men on May 5, 1916 at Ojo Azules, Mexico, killing forty-two enemies in the last mounted cavalry charge in U.S. History.

The Blackhorse Regiment would see action in World War II where it earned five more battle streamers, but the Regiment's finest performance would be in the Republic of Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia. Blackhorse Troopers served there for 2,040 days and earned eleven battle streamers.

From December of 2004 to January 22, 2006, the Blackhorse deployed to Iraq earning the Regiment's most recent battle streamer for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 11th Armored Cavalry returned from Iraq in January 2006, and has once again assumed the challenging task of training America's Army in the desert environment of Fort Irwin, California. Although the primary mission is preparing units for deployment to the war in Iraq, our Regiment is simultaneously training intensely to remain the best Regiment in the United States Army! During the recent deployment fighting in "Operation Iraqi Freedom III," the famed Blackhorse Regiment continued to uphold the great legacy established by Troopers who fought the war in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Philippine Insurrection Samar 1902	Tet Counteroffensive Counteroffensive Phase IV Counteroffensive Phase V Counteroffensive Phase VI Tet 1969 Counteroffensive Summer-Fall 1969
Mexican Expedition Mexico 1916-17	Winter-Spring 1970 Sanctuary Counteroffensive Counteroffensive Phase VII
World War II Normandy Northern France Rhine/land Ardennes-Alsace Central Europe	Operation Desert Storm Southwest Asia Cease Fire
Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase II Counteroffensive Phase III	Operation Iraqi Freedom Iraqi Governance 2004-2005

We once again appeal to your generosity as we ask for donations to support our Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Fund is a separate, self sufficient fund. That is, all scholarships awarded, as well as the printing and mailing costs associated with the calendar, are paid directly from donations made to the Scholarship Fund. Membership dues are not used to pay for the calendar. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the total donations made during that year. Without your support this program would not be viable.

The calendar you receive is yours to keep and use whether you donate or not. We do, however, ask for your support with the most generous tax-deductible donation that you can make to assist the children of 11th ACVVC members begin or continue their post-secondary education. The scholarships can be used for college, trade school, or any other educational training following high school.

Your donations to the 2016 calendar appeal generated over \$68,000 and the total amount of scholarship money awarded is now \$1,264,000!

For the 2017 calendar appeal I have one goal: increase the percentage of members making calendar donations. Historically we have 22% of our members donating to this annual appeal. Frankly, I am disappointed at this low number. Over 97% of our members have committed themselves to this organization as Life Members, so it is puzzling to me that only 2 out of 10 support the calendar. The Officers have discussed different options to improve the percentage of participation and we may implement some changes in the next year. If anyone

now receiving the calendar does not wish to receive it in the future, please notify me or Allen Hathaway. Printing and mailing costs continue to rise and we can reduce costs by not mailing the calendar to any member who does not wish to receive one. If any member has a suggestion as to how we can increase participation in this project, please contact me or Allen Hathaway.

A limited number of extra calendars will be available while they last. Instructions on how to order extra copies are included with your calendar. Watch for your calendar in the mail in late November or early December then use the convenient enclosed envelope to return your donation. Every donation helps, regardless of the amount.

I also ask our members to submit any photographs you have from Vietnam to be considered for publication. Preferred format is a color print, but negatives and slides are also accepted as are digital scans at 600 dpi of any of your images. Clear photos of interesting activities and/or group photos are the most suitable for quality reproduction. As always, "Thank you!" to those who have submitted photos in the past.

Our annual calendar is the major fund raising project benefitting our Scholarship Fund.

We thank you in advance for your generous support!

## Medical Museum Tour

On Friday, August 26th two hundred troopers and family members visited the U. S. Army Medical Department Museum located on Ft. Sam Houston. We were given a very informative tour through the museum by army historian Scott Woodard. He explained to us the evolution of military medicine from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War and World Wars, Vietnam War and the outstanding level of care that our soldiers who are currently serving now receive. The museum contains many interesting artifacts. We were also able to see photos and read about the heroic actions of all of the medical personnel who have received the Medal of Honor.

Outdoors, on the museum grounds, we were able to view ambulances and helicopters used in past conflicts as well as a hospital train.

I would like to give a special thank you to the personnel at the main visitor's gate who expedited our entrance through security and allowed to have more time to enjoy the museum.



"Doc" Gergen (left) and "Doc" Bland were among the 200 who visited the US Army Medical Museum

Mike "Doc" Rafferty



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## BUDDY from page 1

So the years passed.

In March this year, an Iraq war veteran went to The Wall to take a rubbing of Herman's name, as a gift for Fred to hang on his wall next to Herman's picture.

But Herman's name wasn't there.

So Sgt. John Marek enlisted other veterans to track him down. They found an address outside Detroit, but Herman wasn't home. So the veterans staked out his home. And they found him. And Sgt. Marek called Fred.

"I've never spoken with a man that happy in my life," Marek wrote in a May 12 letter submitted with Fred's request for the Army to give Herman his Purple Heart.

"This is simply a story of two best friends, forged in war, and separated by tragedy. Both men lived 47 years with their own demons from the Vietnam War, both believing that the other was dead. This is a great moment for the United States Army, and to me, something good that came out of such a tragic and senseless war."

Back in Vietnam, Herman had fired a .50-caliber machine-gun inches over Fred's head. They trusted each other.

"I can't even tell you about that," Johnson said. "That's between me and Fred."

Herman served 10 months and 18 days in Vietnam, "and then I got medevaced out cause I got hepatitis."

The Department of Veterans Affairs has classified both Herman and Fred as 100 percent disabled, from the same rocket that blew both of them out of their track that day.

"I got diabetes and that's part of Agent Orange," Herman said. "I lost some of my fingertips, and that's part of Agent Orange."

Herman learned that Fred was alive when he got a registered letter in March.

"I opened up the letter and I said, 'Oh, my God.' And I bawled. I saw a picture of me and Fred and the Doc and I bawled.' I talked to Fred this morning. Fred is a beautiful man. A genius. A bass player."

Fred and Herman have spoken on the

phone almost every day for three months, but still haven't seen one another since that long-ago day they both thought the other had died.

It's not easy to get the Army turned around for one man who was blown off his track in the Parrot's Beak in Vietnam. That's where this becomes equal parts rage and love story.

The last person to deny Fred's request for Herman's Purple Heart, a chief warrant officer in the Decorations Branch of the Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky, didn't have enough paperwork.

Cruel irony: Herman had been through Basic Training at Fort Knox, which stamped his papers for Vietnam, but wouldn't stamp the papers for his Purple Heart — though Herman still has shrapnel in his brain.

So Fred collected paper.

He sent the Army its own Aug. 20, 1969, Field Medical Card on Herman's head wound.

He tracked down his company's senior combat medic — now a doctor in New Mexico — who treated Herman for his head wound that day, and was awarded a Purple Heart himself.

Dr. Barry Beaven wrote a letter to the Army, stating: "I have every reason to believe that Mr. Johnson merits the award of the Purple Heart for his combat wound."

Fred called Herman's congressman, Sander Levin, D-Royal Oak, Mich., and told him the story. On May 19 Levin wrote to the Army and asked it to give Herman his Purple Heart.

Fred sent all these documents to the Army, and others, all of which show that Herman Johnson, 68 years old, still suffering from his combat wounds, deserves a Purple Heart.

But as of Thursday morning, June 30, the Army was still refusing.

On Wednesday this week, Congressmen Levin said in a statement: "While I am disappointed for Mr. Johnson, this does not take away from his service — which was with honor and

distinction. I am deeply honored to have the chance to serve as his representative, and our country owes him a debt of gratitude for his sacrifice. I will continue to seek official recognition for his service."

Herman said Wednesday: "What I don't understand is this one warrant officer. I don't understand her. I've got all the paperwork. You've seen it. I don't understand why she don't want to give me my Purple Heart. I don't understand that."

But Fred understood that it wasn't the chief warrant officer's fault. It wasn't her call. She was just doing her job, and she needed more paper.

As an Army veteran, Fred knew his last hope was to pull rank.

So he got in touch with a retired three-star general, through the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia — the Blackhorse. And late Thursday morning, the Army told Congressman Levin's office that it had approved and would expedite shipment of Herman Johnson's medal of the Purple Heart.

The man who pulled rank is Lt. Gen. Guy C. Swan III, Ret., who told Courthouse News he "would be honored to present him with his long-overdue award, wherever or whenever that may be."

Here's the kicker.

Herman doesn't know yet that he's getting a Purple Heart. He thinks he's getting a combat pin.

The last word from Johnson: "All I want to do is hold Fred in my arms and shed a few tears."

The last word from Rivera: "Don't tell Herman."

The secret will be out at 10 a.m. Sunday, July 10, when Fred will see his friend Herman get his Purple Heart, in recognition of that horrible day in Vietnam, 47 years ago.

Then Herman and his "brother from another mother" will hold each other again, and talk about that day 47 years ago — and all the days in between.

*Published in Courthouse News Service, July 1, 2016, by Robert Kahn*

# Meet Our 2016 Scholarship Winners

This issue contains brief statements from our 2016 Scholarship Winners.

## Rachel Blaisdell



When I first found out I was selected to be a recipient of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia Colonel Charles Schmidt Leadership scholarship the feeling was surreal. I called my parents right away because I couldn't wait to share the news with my biggest fans. Receiving this scholarship did not only take a huge weight off of my shoulders but it has also allowed me to go into

this college experience stress free. I couldn't believe at first that the same men and women who have served for our country gave back again to help me pay for college. After researching about Charles L. Schmidt, I discovered similarities between us. He was a family orientated man who was remembered by his L-1 company mates as a kind quiet person who was always willing to lend a hand. Although he passed away nine years ago his legacy is a great one and I hope by the end of my time I could be remembered as kindly as he was. Lastly, I would like to thank my father and everyone who made this scholarship possible for me, it was truly a blessing to have received this award.

Rachel Blaisdell is the daughter of John Blaisdell, HHT 3/11, 1970-71. Recipient of the 2016 Col. Charles Schmidt Leadership award.

## Brandy M. Archer



When I learned I was a recipient of the 2016 11ACVVC scholarship I was elated. I thought how much easier this money was going to make it for my family and me. I would not have to worry about how I was going to pay for the rest of my education. I would no longer have to feel guilty about using money my husband and I had set aside to support our family. It is not easy being an adult learner.

Your organization is one of the few that allows adults to apply. When I received that beautiful purple folder in the mail, containing my certificate and award letter, I was unprepared for the amount of emotion I felt. This is not some ordinary scholarship, this is an honor. Being chosen to represent The 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia is an overwhelming experience. But knowing this scholarship is dedicated to the memory of a fallen soldier humbles me. I am looking at my six month old son as I type this and I am almost paralyzed with tears. I am excepting this money not just for my family and myself, but for Kenneth E. Wedlow, someone else's son.

I want to thank my step- father, Wayne L. West, for telling me about this scholarship and finding me worthy enough to receive it. I want to thank the committee for choosing me among the many that applied. I will do my best to uphold the memory of the many soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Brandy M. Archer is the daughter of Wayne West, G Troop, 1969-70. KIA dedication in honor of: Kenneth E. Wedlow, L Troop, (KIA 3/10/70).

## Jennifer L. Bender



I would like to thank the members of the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia for helping support my education through your generous scholarship. I am currently in nursing school, and have paid for everything out of pocket while working part time. As the program progresses, we can expect to spend over 40 hours a week on studying, clinical preparation, and at clinical sites. This is in addition to nine hours a week in class and lab. Receiving this scholarship means I can concentrate on my studies, and not worry about paying for books, tuition, and lab equipment. It means I will be able to achieve my goal of becoming a registered nurse, the third generation in my family to do so. However, what makes this scholarship particularly meaningful to me is that I have this opportunity due to my Dad's military service. Larry Swartz has always provided unconditional love and support, as well as an example of integrity and service. Thanks to him, and the rest of 11th ACVVC's membership, I will have the opportunity to follow his example and care for my community as a registered nurse, while being a good role model for my own two sons.

Jennifer L. Bender daughter of Lawrence Swartz, F Troop, 1969-70. KIA dedication in honor of: Myllin G. Henrich, K Troop (KIA 06/23/70).

## Christy "Chris" Burch



Thank you, 11th ACVVC!! This scholarship makes it possible for me to continue my education at a faster pace. Without this help I would have to take fewer classes for the year. I can now take more classes, accomplishing my goal of graduating sooner. I feel extremely privileged to receive this scholarship and I am truly grateful to all who are involved. Thanks you so much for helping me to better myself, not just for me but for my family, too.

Christy "Chris" Burch is the daughter of Thomas Patton, Howitzer Battery 3/11, 1970-71. KIA dedication in honor of: Louie P. Pina, A Troop, (KIA 12/19/67)

## Ryan Chesemore



I would like to thank all the members of the 11th ACVVC for this scholarship. The scholarship means so much. It will let me focus on my education and being the best student I can be. I will be studying para-medicine and when I am done, I will be able to serve my community. This is showing my children that you can do anything with your life. You just have to work hard and never give up. Thank you for you scholarship. Thank you for you service.

Ryan Chesemore son of James Chesemore, E Troop, 1967-68. KIA dedication in honor of: Roger R. Pangan, K Troop, (KIA 7/21/69).

## Alivia Conn



Receiving this scholarship from the 11th Cav is an incredible honor. I am thankful to receive this scholarship on behalf of a fallen soldier, but also on behalf of all the men who served. Not many students my age have a father who served in Viet Nam, but my dad served with dignity and honor and I am so proud to be his daughter. I am also proud to be a part of the 11th Cav family. This scholarship will help me pay for college and it is my sincere hope to pay this gift forward once I begin my career in teaching. Thank you again, I am humbled and honored by the generosity of the 11th Cav.

Alivia Conn is the daughter of Ansel Conn Jr., 919th Engineer Company, 1968-69. KIA dedication in honor of: Larry C. Kyar, L Troop, (KIA 3/28/68).

## Calvin Koch



Thank you Thank you Thank you! What a wonderful pleasant surprise! It is an honor to accept this scholarship and will lessen the hard ship on my parents. I look forward to receiving the certificate of the soldier to frame, admire and remember his loss, as I will do my best to make him proud. God bless

Calvin Koch is the son of Paul Koch, HHT Regt., 1968-69. KIA dedication in honor of:

Allan B. Callaway, D Co., (KIA 02/28/69).

## Kersti Noetzel



Wow! I am so beyond honored to have received this scholarship. My father has always been so involved and proud of his service that I couldn't help but apply, knowing what that would mean to him. My sister, Shannon, also was honored enough to receive this award. Not only is my father proud of her, but I am as well. When we were younger we attended every reunion, every event, and listened to every story my father had to tell. I have every reason to believe that those memories shaped our childhood and now this scholarship will shape our futures. Thank you so much for this honor, it means more to myself and my family than even imaginable.

Kersti Noetzel is the daughter of Alfred Noetzel, F Troop, 1966-67. KIA dedication in honor of: Bruce A. Ugelstad, B Troop (KIA 10/28/69).

## Meredith Pletcher



As for what this scholarship means to me, let me just start off with: a lot. School's importance has always played a huge part in my life, from kindergarten when I was just learning how to read and write to high school where I faced some of my toughest classes. Yet I've always held a passion for it, something that my parents and family have always planned on.

Because of this, college has always been an assumption for my future, though I was also told from a young age that I would have to earn my degree and pay for the whole thing myself. Taking this to heart, I've always pushed myself to work more diligently, strive for good grades, but most importantly a deeper understanding of the subject.

If not for this scholarship and others like it, college could be only a dream, a faint glimmer in the distant horizon of my future. Thanks to the 11th ACVVC, I am able to reach out and grab that glimmer, nurture it, and eventually graduate with a degree that I can use to make the world a better place. This scholarship means that not only can I attend university, but that I can enter the workforce afterwards and make use of the freedom veterans like yourselves have gifted us. I can't impress upon the 11th ACVVC what a difference they've made in my life, not only with this scholarship but the service they provided to our country during a time when doing so wasn't very popular. Thank you so much for the opportunities you've offered me through this scholarship.

Meredith Pletcher is the daughter of Robert Pletcher, F Troop, 1970-71. KIA dedication in honor of: Henry D. McInnis, K Troop, (KIA 5/21/67).

## Patrick Rafferty



I am extremely thankful and honored to have been chosen as a recipient of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia scholarship in memory of Jimmy D. West. This scholarship provides an opportunity to continue my studies and further develop one of my passions. I also see this scholarship existence as one more example of the generosity of the amazing veterans that make up

the 11thACVVC organization. That generosity is something we could all learn from. I've been to at least seven reunions over the last 20+ years with my father, and know how much this organization means to its members, and have personally met so many amazing veterans. I have also seen with my own eyes what a difference it has made in my father's life. I thank the organization, its members for their service, and all of you who made this scholarship possible.

Patrick Rafferty is the son of Michael Rafferty, G Troop, 1969-70. KIA dedication in honor of: Jimmy D. West, G Troop, (KIA 07/04/69)

## Sara Sichi



I am so honored to be a recipient of an 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Scholarship. This scholarship will bring me one step closer to achieving my goal of obtaining my Master's Degree in Social Work. These funds will help me to complete my final two semesters of the graduate program, and I am so very grateful for this assistance. I would like to thank my father and all

other members of the 11th ACVVC for the opportunity to receive this scholarship. Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity.

Sara Sichi is the daughter of John Sichi, L Troop, 1970-71. KIA dedication in honor of: Robert S. Raines, F Troop, (KIA 12/2/69).

Please turn **WINNERS** on page 17



## Service

Did you ever wonder why they call it “the service?” Like, “He’s going in the service” or “My kid’s in the service” or “I went into the service?” When I was a kid during World War II, I clearly remember people talking about someone going into the service. I knew what they were talking about; they were talking about going into the Army or other military force. Or, think about this one: Why do you leave a tip when you’ve had a great meal at a nice restaurant? Naturally, it’s because you had good service which you appreciated. [Or you left no tip because the service was lousy or you’re just too tight - huh?]. So what does the Army have to do with eating out? Simply put, they were both a form of service.

“So what do you mean by service, you ask?” Thanks for asking. I respond that service is doing something for someone else that helps them or makes their life better - maybe a lot better or maybe just a little better, but better. I agree that military service, especially fighting and maybe dying for someone’s freedom, is a whole lot bigger than putting someone’s meal in front of them, but they’re both ways of giving service, of doing something that makes someone’s life better, even if it’s only a little bit better.

Since the sole (which means only) purpose of the Army (like the rest of the military) is to serve our country, it’s just called “The Service.” “Why?” you ask. “I don’t know,” I reply, “It just is.” I personally think it’s a good term. It fits. It’s what we do, being members of the Army. The same applies to the other services.

Now, here we are, veterans, ex-service members, unless you’re still young and on active duty, that is. (Cheer up - someday you’ll be a veteran too. Be patient). One thing where we have a huge advantage over a lot of our civilian friends is that we have a handle on what service means. We’ve been down

that road. Another thing plenty of veterans have a handle on is memories, whether great, good, neutral, bad or extreme. Some vets even have PTSD which means having a hard time adjusting to those hard times of serving which maybe took more out of you than you could handle then. Now you’re looking for a way to get rid of the ghosts and demons of those times. Some of you are looking for how to quit living in the past, come into the present and look to a hopeful future. Talking about PTSD usually brings Viet Nam vets to mind. Being a Nam vet myself, I clearly understand this. Our war didn’t create PTSD (it used to be called shell shock or combat fatigue) but it did make our whole civilization very aware of the problem. Now younger generations of war-fighters (Service members) are living with the same burden.

So what’s being done about it? I mean, what are people doing to help vets with this problem to get past it? Mostly, what are the vets with the problem doing about it for themselves? There are a lot of programs and people out there who help. There are plenty of vets who’ve gotten past their PTSD, their ghosts, their grief, and their guilt. There are VA Counseling Centers, Point Man Outposts, churches, vets organizations, psychologists, pastors and even military debriefing teams that truly help (I’m not including the ones who only talk and blather).

There’s something else I’ve seen from time to time that helps vets get past their life’s demons and ghosts. It’s something that they understand very well, indeed. It’s something that every vet can actually do which is healing and fulfilling. It’s worth committing to and it works. It’s called service. “Huh?” you say. “That’s right,” I say. “You just got through spouting off about service being something that people do for others. Now you’re saying that I’m supposed to serve others, just like I did in the military service? Hey (or hay)! I’m the one with the problem! What gives?”

you say. What gives is this. I believe what I’ve observed and experienced which is that the principle of “it’s better to give than to receive” is not just a pious platitude; it’s a life principle that works.

Let me tell you a true story. I’ve seen plenty of vets get into group therapy and share their story, which is hard to do. There’s no way to over state how important it is to talk it out. Too many carry their stories stuffed and untold for years, maybe decades. They’ve just sat there in the group, poisoned and festering. You know what I’m saying. These experiences and memories have to be unstuffed, shared with others who care and who might have walked that same road. As important as that is, once you deal with your story, then you need to move on. Too often vets keep going over the same ground time after time, week after week, and year after year. They’re stuck at the entry level of healing when there’s more living to be done. You have to move on! That’s where service comes in.

In the early eighties I was stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany. I’d served two tours in Viet Nam and was on my second tour along the East German border. In Schweinfurt I’d been talking with soldiers who were being hounded by their memories and their ghosts. I’d seen that it helped to get those infections lanced and the pus of grief and guilt expunged. I saw also that if they were to grow beyond the lancing stage, they had to move on. I observed that in proportion as the vet (some still on active duty) got involved outside himself by serving others he gained purpose, healing, and a brighter future. My observations were personal and gave me a renewed realization that even the most severely distressed vet can find hope and healing.

There’s a place in the Bible that makes the point. It’s in I Peter 4:7-10 in the New Testament where it says “Be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other

deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." This is good advice. It applies to you just as much as it does to me. Uh oh. I can hear the excuses coming even as I speak. I can't reply to everyone, so I'll just point out that you can be clear minded, you can think and

reason rationally, you can pray and you can serve. I know for a fact that you can love deeply because some of the deepest love I've ever witnessed was on the battlefield. You were there so you know.

So now, I trust that you'll consider just where you are in all this. Are you still stuck in the past? Please get unstuck, talk to someone, visit a memorial, go to a reunion, and break through the barrier. Then take the steps you

need to move into the present, to accept healing and to find your purpose and the joy of living. Big steps come through serving - serving God your Maker and serving others around you. I've observed this and I know it works. It works for me and it will work for you. Do it. Service is an answer. God bless you.

God loves you. So do I.

*Chaplain Larry  
LEHaworth@aol.com*

## 11th Cav Troopers Welcomed at Fort Sam Houston Golf Course

Once again our 11th ACVVC golfers were made to feel at home; this time "home" was at a military facility in Vietnam-like heat conditions. Additionally, lunch consisted of the best Southern fried chicken most of these Troopers have ever tasted, and all supplied by Fort Sam Houston Golf Club! We always get the warmest (literally) welcomes at military bases.

Thirty-four players teed up in this year's Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament, the 25th anniversary of the event. The outing was originated in 1992 by Pete Walter (3rd HOW, 70) on behalf of his friend Marty Ognibene (A Trp & Air Cav Trp, 68-70). Marty loved

his family, golf and the 11th ACR. He lost his battle to Agent Orange related cancer in 1991.

**Joe Arzate** (MAJ, Air Cav Trp), a native Texan from San Angelo, was this year's overall champion. Every player carried away multiple prizes and mementos from this year's tourney due to the extreme generosity of several participants: **Beau Mann** (F Trp, 69-70), **Tom Doll** (3rd HHT, 66-67), **John Sorich** (A Trp, 69-70), **Waldo Hagen** (B Trp, 68-69), **Harry Simpson** (C Trp, 66-67), **Vince Simmers** (409th RRD, 69-70), **Ken Miller** (2nd HOW, 69-70), **Ed & Cindy Buening** (F Trp, 69), **Paul Greany** (B Trp, 67-68), **John &**

**Jennifer Quinn** (B Trp, 66-67), **Terry Alton** (I Trp, 66-67) and **Pete Walter** (3rd HOW, 70) – all gave generously of their personal time and money to make this 25th anniversary golf event a memorable one. Special thanks – as always – to **Joe Coopet!**

Next year's outing will be held at the spectacular Rosen Shingle Creek Golf Club in Orlando, Florida on Thursday, Sep. 7th. It will be a repeat event at our 2012 site which was a fabulous outing! We hope to see all our Blackhorse golfers there! "FORE!"

*The Golf Committee*

## Reunion Registration Follow-up

Reunion 2016 in San Antonio is now just a memory for those of us who joined together once again. It was one of the largest reunions we have done and was also one of the greatest with over 1,600 folks in attendance.

Everything at the registration desk seemed to run quite smoothly this year, thanks to those of you who volunteered a few hours of your time to help out. I'm sure those who did help will agree that it is one of the best places to help as you get to see and welcome everyone. I hope that you (plus more of you) will help out again next year.

I would also like to thank ALL of you who sent in their registrations early, used the mailing address labels we all get in the mail each year, and

most importantly, used the on-line option. Using the on-line form means that I receive your registration almost 2 weeks earlier than if you were to mail them to Ollie. I know not everyone has a computer, but if you do or have access to one (library, neighbor or even your office or your kids) please give this some thought when the time comes next year. I would hate to see anyone miss out on attending due to missing a cut-off date.

Speaking of cut off dates please be sure to note them carefully next year as they may be earlier than usual. More about that at a later time. Remember, if you are not sure that you will definitely be able to attend, you should go ahead and register. If it turns out that you will not be able to make it after all, then as

long as you notify us by the cancellation cut off date you will receive your money back. Just like many other hotels be sure to make your reservation as early as possible. There too, if you need to, you will be able to cancel per the hotel policy.

Well, once again I want to say thank you to everyone for all the help Barb, Raleigh and I receive each year. Barb would like to also say a big thank you to those of you who helped her when she fell.

Until next time,

Allons

Bob Moreno

G Troop/Registration Director



## More fun, less business next year

What a fantastic 31st reunion we had at San Antonio! If you weren't able to make it, we look forward to seeing you next year when we gather at Orlando, Florida!

A huge thank you to those who attended the San Antonio Fiesta Luncheon at the Rio Rio Cantina! One thing we learned at the luncheon is that next year we'll have a portable microphone on hand! But all in all, the comments about the luncheon were all great, so thank you again for coming!

Another thank you to those who were able to attend the Women's Meeting that brought record attendance of 128 women! It was a busy morning filled with business, a wonderful speaker in Chaplain Larry Haworth, and a round of ideas for future meetings. I'll begin with one big change for next year:

**Less Business, More Fun:** I placed this subject at the top of the article with good reason. As you may recall, when we began reorganizing the Women's Group three years ago we asked you to bear with us through trial and error. And you have!

When reorganizing anything, it takes a couple rounds to get things tweaked right. All we can do is listen and tweak in effort to give you what you want. You have been great as we work on our transition and we thank you!

As a board we do listen to you, our members, and to each other as a board. This said, the next step we have come to after getting everything else in order is to streamline the business portion of our annual women's meeting.

In other words, next year we will be shortening the business portion of the meeting. We'll get the business you need to know out quickly and then it will be on to interesting – when we have a speaker – and some fun.

By streamlining the business portion we'll have time for other things: 1.) Give us more time to get to know one another better; 2.) Give us time for a needed break; 3.) Have a fun activity; and 4.) From time to time end our meeting a little earlier. We hope you're onboard with us to see what the future will bring!

**Speaking Of:** As decided by YOU at our San Antonio meeting, we already have a fun activity planned for our Saturday morning Orlando meeting! Cherry Platt, one of our board members, has volunteered to teach us how to make red, black and silver beaded Blackhorse bracelets she loves to make!

Cherry said these classy bracelets are easy to make, taking about a half-hour or so. Of course, if you have fumble fingers like me when it comes to crafty things, it might take a little longer. However, we'll have the time and we'll be working on these together and help one another out! Cherry has already been busy finding the needed supplies on sale. More details to come!

On that note, a special thank you also goes out to Cherry and Jan Beamon for the wonderful door prizes they donated for our meeting and also for the luncheon! Wow, how great were those! I wish we had more for everyone but we were grateful to have those donated to us! But that's one reason we are going to create those wonderful

bracelets at next year's meeting so good came from having just a few!

**Also Next Year:** If you liked the San Antonio Fiesta Luncheon, you'll like the ideas we are working on for next year. We want to continue the fun when possible and hopefully next year at Orlando for the Women's Group.

Several ideas were presented by those in attendance, including some from members who live in the Orlando area. With the reunion so close to Disney World, it was mentioned that going out of the reunion hotel might be too costly for a fun event.

However, great ideas came from the women in attendance, including members who live in the Orlando area. Ideas that we can do right there at the hotel! We will be following up on those. Stay tuned to the next Thunder Run to see what's developed along those lines.

**Thanks Chaplain Haworth:** A special thanks go out to the 11th ACVVC chaplain, Larry Haworth. Chaplain Haworth was our guest speaker at the Women's Meeting this year, speaking on his two tours in Vietnam ministering to the troops. We appreciated his stories, his words, and his humor as he shared.

Chaplain Haworth also deserves a great thank you for his special gift to every woman who attended the meeting – his book, "Tales of Thunder Run: The convoys, the Noise, the Ambushes." What a special gesture and blessing he extended to us!

**Women's Award:** Congratulations to Renee Majors, the recipient of the 11th Armored Cavalry 2016 Women's Award, given for Exceptional Service to the 11th ACVVC.

Renee has been attending the Women's Meetings since 1986 when the meetings were simply a gathering of a few wives who often went shopping together or watched their young children play. Renee has been a volunteer at our fundraising table since we began that endeavor in 2006.

Thanks Renee for being part of the Blackhorse 11th ACVVC Women's Group and for helping us become a success! Renee hails from Indiana and is the wife of Bruce Majors, C Troop.

**Volunteers:** We've come a long way since that first gathering of Blackhorse Women, evolving into a group that fundraises for a couple of very worthy causes: prayer shawls and Wreaths Across America. Volunteers are important to a group like ours.

In fact, at this time we're looking for a volunteer who knows how to publish newsletters. We would like to make a short newsletter that can be emailed a couple times a year in between *Thunder Run* publications. If you have experience in this area and would be interested in helping us create this newsletter, please contact me at the information at the end of this article.

In addition, if you would like to be placed on our volunteer list to be called upon from time to time for a variety of tasks, again, please contact me at the information below.

**Prayer Shawl Project:** Project Chairperson Cherry Platt reported that the need for this project continues. Sadly, the number of prayer shawls has already increased since the San Antonio reunion.

This project sees that a prayer shawl is sent to the family of 11th ACVVC troopers who have passed on to Fiddlers Green “if” we are made aware of the loss. As our numbers of loss continues to grow, so does the need for prayer shawls. Special thanks to Allen Hathaway for being Cherry’s contact for this information.

Cherry has said that more women have joined this worthy cause, joining those who knit or croquet at home, but more volunteers are needed all the time. Anyone would like to join the prayer shawl project can contact Cherry by email at [fredplatt@att.net](mailto:fredplatt@att.net) and she will get back to you.

**Recognizing Blackhorse Women Losses:** The Blackhorse Women’s Group received sad news last January when we were told of the passing of a faithful volunteer, Sarah Belcher.

This brought to our attention that we need to recognize the loss of Blackhorse Women. To rectify this, beginning at the Orlando reunion, we will take a few moments at our meeting for a prayer and read the names of those women who have passed beginning with January 2015 forward. (Sorry, it would be too difficult to go back further than 2015.)

We ask that you notify us if you hear of such a loss. Please contact Prayer Chairperson Jan Beamon with information of a loss. She will need name, husband’s name and troop, date of death, and address. All losses need to be verified so if you have a link to an obituary (or one that can be emailed) that would also be appreciated. Contact Jan by email at [janwowwe@gmail.com](mailto:janwowwe@gmail.com) or by email at 903-780-5621. Or you can contact me or any other Women’s Group Board member.

Contact information for Women’s Board Members can be found on the men’s website at <http://www.11thcavnam.com> and then go to the area marked “Messages” in the middle of the home page. Click on “Messages.” That will take you to the next page where you can click on Blackhorse Women’s News, then click on Women’s Board Members for contact information.

You can also contact me. Kathy anytime at 701-870-6868, leave a message if no answer, or by email at [kathyz.tandberg@yahoo.com](mailto:kathyz.tandberg@yahoo.com).

Until next time!

## “Find an Old Friend”

Many of you troopers believe that when you registered with the 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia and placed on our “Master Roster” that you were automatically placed in “Find an Old Friend,” NOT TRUE. A lot of you when filling out the registration form did not enter an e-mail address. Why, because at that time you didn’t have one, and you cannot be entered in “Find an Old Friend” without an e-mail address. The whole file is based on your buddy finding your name on the file and sending you an e-mail. So if you still don’t have an e-mail address, send us your wife’s e-mail address, or one of your kid’s e-mails address. Go to our web site: [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com) then go down the page till you see the matrix and look for “Find an Old Friend” in the left hand column and click it. Then again in the left hand column look for “Find an Old Friend Update” and click it. Fill in the data and click Submit Comments.

For those of you who did enter an e-mail address, IS IT UP TO DATE? Have you moved or changed provider, then you should also go to our web site: [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com) then go down the page till you see the matrix and look for “Find an Old Friend” in the left hand column and click it. Then again in the left hand column look for “Find an Old Friend Update” and click it. Fill in the data and click Submit Comments. REMEMBER IF YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IS INCORRECT, HOW ARE YOUR BUDDIES GOING TO FIND YOU?

Allons,

Bob Kickenweitz  
Website Manager

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

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49
<b>Scholarship Fund</b>	Locke, Larry Martz, Stanley McCarthy, Lora Walter, Pete	Rieth, Gary Roberts, Bruce Shumaker, Barry Villwock, Jay Wardrope, Scotte	Arredondo, Nieves Bartosik, Harry Boyett, Morris Brooks, Edward Cox, Daryl Flick, Walter Glunn, Dennis Goff, Robert Gove, Stanley Johnson, Gerald Luke, Graig Neary, Sheldon Seivittella, Dennis Seymour, David Van Horn, David Wellman, Harry White, R.E.	<b>Memorial Fund</b> <b>Silver Level</b> Dunde, Larry In Memory of, Charles Dunde <b>General Fund</b> <b>Silver Level</b> Bradshaw, Anthony <b>Calendar Fund</b> <b>Gold Level</b> Maragos, Andrew McGuire, John Quinn, John
<b>Platinum Level</b>				<b>Silver Level</b> Cox, Gary Godfrey, Thomas Hall, Charles Puckett, Larry Williams, Jeffrey Young, James
Gulley, Gerald	<b>Silver Level</b> Barsz, Richard Gossett, Nancy High School, Liberty Hinshaw, L.H. Lambert, Judy Lions Club, Liberty York, Ritchie & Judy In Memory of Anthony McMasters	<b>Bronze Level</b> Cromer, Cara, Samantha, Leah Denning, Everette & Peggy Fogleman, Charlotte Hill, Rodney & Susan Moore, Gloria Robertson, Ron & Sandra Sanford, Betty In Memory of, Anthony McMasters		<b>Bronze Level</b> Barnes, Douglas Davis, Henry Hobbie, William Insley, Philip Morgan, Roy Taylor, Craig Tighe, Michael
<b>Gold Level</b> Cartwright, Wavely Cline, Lewis Duncan, Tom Ellington, Tom & Brenda Miller, Richard In Memory of Anthony McMasters Brewer, James Burwick, Larry Cox, John				



# Fiddler's Green

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names. Funeral Honor Guard, please check daily at [www.11acr.com/hg.htm](http://www.11acr.com/hg.htm). We check over 500 U.S. Newspapers. The daily obituary keyword is 11th Cavalry. Information is then posted on our website to allow us to attend the funerals.

**Bruce L. Baker**, H Company, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 2, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Walnut Grove, MN. He was laid to rest in Walnut Grove Cemetery, Walnut Grove, MN.

**Carl L. Bennett**, HHT Regiment, (1967-1968) passed away on September 23, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New Palestine, IN. He was laid to rest in Memorial Park Cemetery, Indianapolis, IN.

**Daniel P. Biho**, E Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 25, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Caldwell, ID.

**James M. Braun**, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 4, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Largo, FL. He was laid to rest in Bay Pines National Cemetery, Bay Pines, FL.

**Harlie F. Clearwater**, HHT, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on July 24, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fort Pierce, FL. He was laid to rest in South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth, FL.

**Samuel D. Cofty**, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 16, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Kirbyville, TX. He was laid to rest in Davis Cemetery, Fawil, TX.

**Richard A. Corradini**, 919TH Engineer Company (1969) passed away on July 12, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Belleville, IL. He was laid to rest in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

**Vermont A. Curtis**, B Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on August 28, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Indianapolis, IN. He was laid to rest in Washington Park East Cemetery, Indianapolis, IN.

**Owen T. Ditchfield**, 17TH Public Information Detachment (1966-1967) passed away on June 8, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbus, GA.

**Arthur T. Franzen**, F Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 30, 2014. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Macomb, MI.

**Joseph P. Gallagher**, HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on August 1, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Radcliff, KY. He was laid to rest in

North Hardin Memorial Gardens, Radcliff, KY.

**Stephen W. Govan**, H Company, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on July 12, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Elk Grove, CA. He was laid to rest in Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery, Dixon, CA.

**John M. Graham**, 919TH Engineer Company (1969) passed away on February 8, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wichita, KS. He was laid to rest in Resurrection Cemetery, Wichita, KS.

**Terry V. Harbst**, 409TH Radio Research Detachment (1966-1967) passed away on May 25, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Libby, MT.

**Johnnie M. Hunter**, E Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) and I Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on July 4, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Preston, GA. He was laid to rest in Andersonville National Cemetery, Andersonville, GA.

**Stephen B. Jones**, 919TH Engineer Company (1969-1970) passed away on April 29, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Greensboro, VT. He was laid to rest in Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Montpelier, VT.

**Donovan L. Kohler**, B Troop, 1/11 (1968) passed away on June 28, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Idaho Falls, ID. He was laid to rest in New Sweden Cemetery, Idaho Falls, ID.

**Herbert E. Larson**, G Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 4, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Germantown, MD. He will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**James H. Owen**, HHT Regiment (1967-1968) and M Company, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 20, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.

**Carl C. Markowicz**, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 4, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marcy, NY.

**Rodger E. Mcconnell**, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1967) passed away on July 21, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Great Falls, MT.

**Michael D. McLane**, I Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on July 5, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in El Cajon, CA. He was laid to rest in Miramar National Cemetery, San Diego, CA.

**James M. Mervin**, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on June 29, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Muscle Shoals, AL.

**Omer E. Pigeon**, HHT Regiment (1970-1971) passed away on October 1, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Eastland, TX. He was laid to rest in Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Abilene, TX.

**Lewis H. Pollard**, HHT, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on June 29, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gold Canyon, AZ.

**George E. Prior**, HHT Regiment (1969-1970) passed away on March 20, 2016. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Orlando, FL.

**Edward Shegogue**, A Troop, 1/11 (1964-1967) passed away on June 14, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Millsboro, DE. He was laid to rest in Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Dear, DE.

**Anthony Velez**, 551ST Maintenance Company (1966-1967) and 188TH Maintenance Detachment (1966-1967) passed away on July 6, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Norwalk, CT.

**Billy W. Wheeler**, G Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on June 22, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Repton, AL. He was laid to rest in Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, Repton, AL.



# 32nd ANNUAL 11th ACVVC REUNION

SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2017

**The Rosen Centre Hotel**  
9840 International Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32819



RESERVATIONS: 800-204-7234  
ROOM RATE: \$99.00 SINGLE - DOUBLE  
\$20.00 each additional person

- Rooms are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Rates are good three days prior to and three days after event based on availability.
- Complementary self parking.
- Complementary guest room internet.
- Complementary scheduled shuttles to Universal, Wet n Wild and Sea World Parks.
- Please make hotel reservations early.

Register online using the link on our website: [www.11thcavnam.com/](http://www.11thcavnam.com/)

**Hotel Reservations Must Be Made No Later Than August 27, 2017**



## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Director and Scholarship Chairman



Mike 'Doc' Rafferty

### Our 2016 Scholarship Winners

Since the inception of the 11th ACVVC scholarship program in 1996, our organization has awarded 390 college scholarships totaling \$1,264,000! These scholarships include the fifteen scholarships totaling \$62,000 we were able to award this year. Our 2016 scholarship winners submitted outstanding applications and are well-deserving of their awards. You can view some of the winners' photos and their feelings about receiving a scholarship in this issue of Thunder Run.

Each year one applicant is selected to receive the Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship Award. This year's winner is Rachel M. Blaisdell daughter of John Blaisdell (HHT 3/11, 70-71). She was selected for this award by Bonnie Schmidt, Colonel Schmidt's widow. Congratulations Rachel on this well-deserved honor!

As we have done for the past few years, each scholarship is dedicated to one of our Blackhorse brothers who was killed in action in Vietnam or Cambodia. Each recipient received a certificate suitable for framing honoring the KIA name assigned to their scholarship. Duplicate certificates were sent to next of kin whenever possible. We received a number of thank you notes from next of kin who were very appreciative their loved one was honored and remembered in this manner.

The fact we have been able to help so many children of our members attain their educational goals over the past twenty years is a tribute to your generosity. Your support of the calendar, raffle and silent auction have provided the bulk of the monies given to these deserving students. As you read their thank you notes in this issue, you can see they truly appreciate your generosity.

### WINNERS from page 11

#### Emily Vollbrecht



Thank you very much for the generous financial assistance to continue pursuing my dream of becoming a physician! I am honored to accept the 11th Armored Cavalry's Scholarship in memory of Frank Asp. This award will allow me to continue my studies in medicine, with the eventual goal of becoming an Emergency Department physician.

Emily Vollbrecht is the daughter of Kenneth Vollbrecht, HHT Regt., 1970-71. KIA dedication in honor of: Frank W. Asp, B Troop, (KIA 01/29/68).

# Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

• **First Casualty.** From the Third Squadron Combat Operations After Action Report for Operation Hickory (7-15 October 1966): "9 October: There was one major enemy encounter during the day's operation which occurred at the resupply point. Located near the supply point (vicinity of BEN CAM) was the Provisional Mortar Battery consisting of Tm I and Tm L's mortars [India and Lima Troops' 4.2" mortars mounted in M106A1 Mortar Carriers]. While vehicles were refueling in the area, the VC apparently were laying an ambush. At 155 hours PFC PIERCE [Private First Class John Pierce] from I Troop moved toward an OP [Observation Post] located outside the perimeter. This may have caused the VC to believe they were about to be detected, so they opened fire. PFC PIERCE was shot in the chest and later died of his wounds [first Blackhorse Trooper killed in Vietnam]. The tanks attached to I Troop immediately returned the fire with canister volleys. In the meantime, M Co [Mike Company] who was enroute to refuel, arrived in the area and also took the VC under heavy canister fire. Tm M had an Armored Cavalry Platoon (3rd Platoon, K Troop) attached to it and committed it here to make a dismounted sweep of BEN CAM [village]. At the same time, Provisional Mortar Battery, as an armored force, moved to block from the East. The canister fire from the tanks and the dismounted element accounted for 5 VC KIA (BC) [killed in action, body count] and one house destroyed with secondary explosions. These were the first VC KIA's by the Regiment.

• **More Firepower.** During January 1967, the Howitzer Batteries from the three Squadrons turned in their 105mm M108 howitzers and were issued new 155mm M109 howitzers. Twelve artillerymen from each battery were sent to the 54th Artillery Group located at Xuan Loc (already equipped with the M109) for on-the-job training on the new equipment. While the M108's maximum range was only 11.5 kilometers, the more powerful 155mm cannon of the M109 could reach out and touch the VC at ranges out to 18 kilometers.

• **Silver Star.** On 27 April 1967, the last elements of Second Squadron arrived in Chu Lai for a six-month tour of duty under the operational control of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade in the I Tactical Corps Zone. As part of Task Force Oregon, Battle Squadron helped to blunt the North Vietnamese Army's attempt to overwhelm the US Marines, Republic of Korea (ROK) Marines, and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers defending the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between North and South Vietnam. Less than a month after arriving, 2/11 was operating with the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade when Echo Troop ran into a well-entrenched enemy in a village. The Second Squadron Annual Historical Summary for 1967 tells that story: "About midday on 20 May, E Troop was approaching a small village when it began receiving heavy automatic weapons fire and rifle grenades. It was during this action that Private First Class Joseph P. Tamboia first experienced the taste of combat. Private First Class Tamboia was a medic assigned to E Troop when the initial burst of enemy fire wounded several men in his platoon. With complete disregard for his own safety Private Tamboia left the safety of his armored vehicle and ran to the aid of his stricken com-

rades. He repeatedly exposed himself to intense enemy fire as he moved to treat the wounded. As the enemy fire increased in volume, Private Tamboia noticed that the machine gunner, who had been providing suppressive fire for the friendly forces, was wounded. Without hesitation, Private First Class Tamboia grabbed the machine gun and fired at the insurgent position from which the accurate enemy fire came until it was silenced. Troop E, crushing the enemy resistance, continued on its mission and later in the day it again received heavy fire from another enemy emplacement. Another cavalryman was wounded and Private First Class Tamboia again moved unfalteringly through the hail of bullets to render aid. Private First Class Tamboia was awarded the Silver Star for his gallant actions.

• **Blackhorse Cowboy.** Even Rowdy Yates (Ramrod on the TV Series Rawhide) would have been proud. From 8 to 10 August 1968, India Troop was engaged in the cordon and search of the village of Chanh Luu. On the last day of the operation, there was a report of a Viet Cong attempting to escape from the village in a novel manner. Private First Class Thomas Wilson earned an Army Commendation Medal for Valor by bringing the outlaw to justice. "Private Wilson received a report that a heavily-armed enemy soldier was attempting to evade the American forces by hiding in the midst of a herd of water buffalo. Private Wilson dismounted his vehicle observing the herd moving toward his position and ran to the suspected vicinity of the enemy. Completely disregarding the possible presence of additional enemy, Private Wilson courageously ran through the dense grass and attacked the hostile soldier. After disarming him, he brought him to the troop commander's assault vehicle, where he yielded vital intelligence information." Head 'em up, move 'em out cowboy!

• **Apathetic Civilians.** The 11th ACR report for the period May to July 1969 reported the following evaluation by the Blackhorse psychological operations team of the local Vietnamese population's loyalties: "The general attitude of the population in our AO [area of operation] continues to be mostly apathetic. Except in isolated instances, villagers remain unconcerned about the outcome of the war. US forces alternately gratify and infuriate the people; one week they provide MEDCAP's [Medical Civic Action Program], the next week maneuvers cause crop damage. Because of family ties to VC in the area, almost all villagers provide some support, moral or physical, to the enemy. However, there have been numerous instances where villagers aided Allied Forces by providing intelligence and assistance.

• **Nighthawk.** From the January 1970 edition of the Blackhorse newspaper: "A lone helicopter flying over the Vietnam jungle at night is probably no particular concern to the enemy troops hiding below. But one Blackhorse chopper has a unique feature which can bring unpleasant surprises to the confident enemy. The Nighthawk is an ordinary Huey with two miniguns, a starlight scope and a large beacon [searchlight]. When a crewman manning the \$6,000 starlight scope spots enemy troops on the ground, the beacon comes on and the miniguns open up with 4,000 rounds per minute. That's

when the light begins to dawn on Charlie. Warrant Officer Joseph D. Clark of Pittsburgh, Pa., has been project officer of the unique ship since its introduction in the Air Cavalry Troop last November [1969]. Clark said the early missions were hampered by the need to get firing clearance. 'To be a success you have to be able to fire as soon as you see something,' he said. 'That's also why you have to have a good crew. You have to be able to tell at first look just what's on the ground and once that light comes on the gunners have to open up instantly.' The Nighthawk now works 'free fire' boxes in which the gunners may fire at anything that moves. This makes navigation extremely important. And since the ship flies an irregular pattern at very low altitude, a Cobra is assigned to escort the ship and keep it from leaving the box. The Cobra gunship also provides welcome firepower in the event of a contact. The flight pattern of the Nighthawk looks like an unplanned wandering through the sky, but in reality it isn't. 'You come over the area at about 2,000 feet and then drop down to about 300 to check the open areas,' said Clark. 'We like to keep the speed down to about 50 knots because it keeps the vibration at a minimum and makes it easier for the man on the starlight.' No data is available on how effective the flights have been, at least in regard to enemy killed. The terrain makes it almost impossible to confirm kills from the air at night. The Nighthawk has made contact with the enemy, however, and everyone involved seems to agree that the idea of such flights is a good one.

## Reunion Registration Deadline and Cancellation Policy

The purpose of this policy is to document and standardize the 11th ACVVC reunion registration cutoff dates.

Effective with the 2017 reunion, and all future reunions, the cutoff date for registration will be twenty-eight (28) days prior of the first Wednesday of the reunion.

The cutoff date for Orlando will be August 9, 2017. All registrations must be received by this date. Any registration received after this date will be returned to sender. This policy will be published in all Thunder Run issues that have reunion information in them. Postings will also be made on the web site and Facebook.

**Cancellations and Refunds:** Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer at least five (5) days prior to the first Wednesday of the reunion.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

TYPE MEMBERSHIP:  NEW  RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL (\$15)  LIFE (\$100)

LIFE Plan (\$25 enclosed, plus 3 payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)

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

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

(Sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

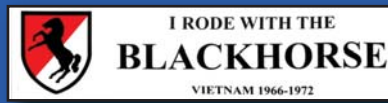
# The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



#2 Key Ring \$4.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



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



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#21 Small Magnetic Patch (5"x4 3/4") \$5.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



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



#9 Cavalry Hat \$225.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$20.00



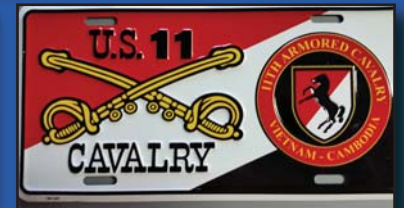
#15 Attache Case \$30.00



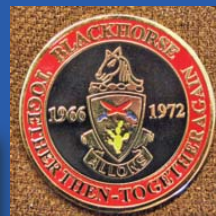
#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$12.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$8.00



#12 30th Reunion Challenge Coin \$15.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



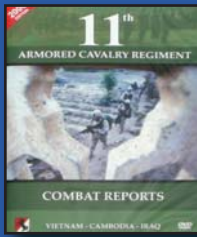
#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



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



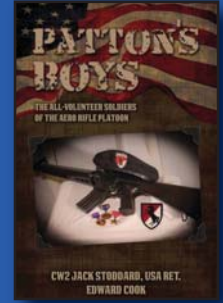
#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



#23 Leather Gear Bag \$45.00



#32 Book: Diary of a Draftee \$22.00



#33 Book: Patton's Boys \$20.00



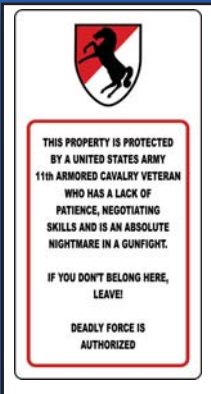
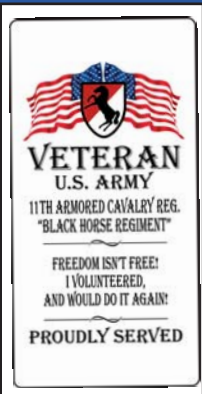
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$45.00



#8 Mouse Pad \$12.00

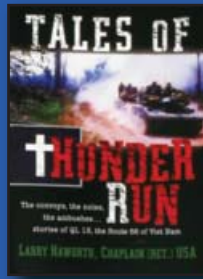


#36. Henley Sport Shirt w/ BH patch and RVN ribbon red in color, \$28.00

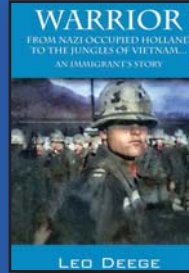


#34b

#34 Signs \$25.00



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



#35 Book, "Warrior" \$15.00



#40 Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia. Specify color: Red, White or Gray \$32.00



#38a



#38b



#38c

#38 Poplin Hats \$15.00



#38d



#39 a/b T-Shirt, Dark Gray & Sand \$18.00

#30 Car Flag \$25.00



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



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



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00



#29 Ladies Necklace \$25.00



# From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello to all our Blackhorse friends.

Jan & I hope everybody who was able to attend the reunion in San Antonio had a wonderful time. It was great to see so many troopers and their families renewing old friendships and making many new ones.

Steve Page did a great job in planning this great reunion. So many volunteers were there to help out, at registration, silent auction and of course quartermaster store. I would like to take this time to "Thank" all our helpers in the Quartermaster Store, Jim Young, Carrie Holton & Emmett, Pat Smothermon, Concetta Cioffi, Nancy Patterson, Dave & Phyllis Ballard, and our favorite TROOPER Of The YEAR, Jerry Mitchell and his wife Pat. Our congratulation to Jerry & Pat Mitchell on this award, they are well deserving of it.

PLEASE, PLEASE, ALL Troopers, when sending in your order

please fill out the bottom of the order form. Many of you take for granted that we know your return address. WE DON'T. We have no way to get in touch with you. A lot of you miss, add, or leave off a size of a shirt. This makes us bypass your order until we hear from you to make it right. Again please help us out. We need your phone number.

Just a reminder to watch for price increases on certain items as our suppliers are passing on a price increase at this time. We have tried to keep our cost down so price increase are few and far between. So, again, please DO NOT use an older order form without current prices.

So with the close of another great reunion, plans are going forward for next year in ORLANDO, FL. Make your plans now and make your reservations ahead of time. We will see you there. ALLONS



## Welcome Aboard!

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

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
<b>HHT REGIMENT</b>		<b>409th RADIO RESEARCH DET</b>		<b>B TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>E TROOP, 2/11</b>	
Dohm, David J	67-68	Boster, Dennis D	69-69	Harris, Robert O III	68-69	Hagenbucher, Edward	66-67
<b>AIR CAVALRY TROOP</b>		<b>595th ENGINEER COMPANY</b>		Henne, Charles A II	70-71	Petersen, Robert L	69-70
Dohm, David J	68-68	Horras, David O	67-68	<b>C TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>	
<b>7th ARMY POSTAL UNIT</b>		<b>HHT, 1/11</b>		Robins, Milton	68-69	Peters, Gordon G	66-67
Miller, Bruce	67-67	Brown, William C	70-70	<b>D COMPANY, 1/11</b>		<b>G TROOP, 2/11</b>	
<b>37th MEDICAL COMPANY</b>		Harris, Robert O III	68-69	Jaros, Lawrence A	69-69	Roberts, Kenneth C	67-68
Haley, Jackie L	69-69	Musick, Kenneth E	68-69	<b>HHT, 2/11</b>		<b>HHT, 3/11</b>	
<b>188th MAINTENANCE</b>		<b>A TROOP, 1/11</b>		Lovering, Joel H	71-72	Haley, Jackie L	68-69
Pilon, Terry	66-67	Musick, Kenneth E	68-69	Walker, Glen L	70-71		

## Reunion Kudos

THANKS to the many volunteers who helped make the 2016 reunion in San Antonio, Texas, a success:

**Reunion Chairman:** Steve Page

**The Board:** Pete Walter, Ollie Pickral, Greg Mason, Bob Moreno, Steve Page, and Mike Rafferty

**Speakers:** COL Joseph D. Clark, COL Elizabeth Vane, CSM James T. Gandy

**Registration:** Bob, Barb and Raleigh Moreno, Terry and Janet Sowinski, Vincent Sinervo, Jeanne Boyce, Walker Ivey

**Chaplains:** Larry Haworth, Charles Barber

**Historian:** Don Snedeker

**Quartermaster:** Jerry and Jan Beamon, Jerry and Pat Mitchell, James Young, Pat Smothermon, Carrie and Emmett Holton, Concetta Cioffi, Dave & Phyllis Ballard, Nancy Patterson

**US Army Medical Museum Tour:** Mike and Elaine Rafferty, Scott Woodard

**Thunder Run Editor:** Bill Gregory

**Silent Auction:** Greg and Joanne Mason, Ron and Janet Krueger, Paul and Teresa Gissible, Ed Brown Jr, Joe and Yolanda Gehring, Fred Sheetz and Kathy Phillips, Tom and Terri Morrison, Bob Moreno, Vincent Sinervo, Harry and Russell Nelson

**Golf Tournament:** Joe and Jaci Coopet

**Veterans Seminar:** Veterans Affairs; Tina Cates and J. Robert Barrett

**Reunion Photos:** Jennifer Quinn

**Internet Coordinator:** Otis Carey, Bob Kickenweitz, Paul Gruber

**Public Affairs:** Eric Newton

**Women's Group Coordinators:** Kathy Tandburg

Many thanks to the scores of people who stepped up and volunteered a few hours of their time to help with this reunion. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 4th QTR 2016

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white, ceramic (glass) 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	15.00			
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Embroidery square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	4.00			
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	2.00			
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	2.00			
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00			
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00			
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	4.00			
8.	Mouse Pads	12.00			
9.	Cavalry Hat (Brown in color, rope and pin included in price--round or oval head shape)	225.00			
10.	Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle	20.00			
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00			
12.	30th Reunion Challenge Coin	15.00			
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	8.00			
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	12.00			
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	30.00			
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	20.00			
17.	Blackhorse Pin	5.00			
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	5.00			
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	5.00			
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	5.00			
21.	Small Magnetic Patch "Blackhorse" (5" x 4 3/4")	5.00			
22.	Gear Bag, camouflage wwith color BH insignia	45.00			
23.	Leather Gear Bag w/Blackhorse Insignia and pull handle	45.00			
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29.	Ladies Necklace	25.00			
30.	Car Flag	25.00			
32.	Diary of a Draftee, by: James M. Yunker	22.00			
33.	Patton's Boys, by: Jack Stoddard and Edward Cook	20.00			
34.	Signs <input type="checkbox"/> 34a, <input type="checkbox"/> 34b	25.00			
35.	Book, "Warrior" by Leo Deege	16.00			
36.	Henley Sport Shirt w/ BH patch & RVN ribbon red in color. Size: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL	28.00			
37.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Chaplain Larry Haworth	11.00			
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a, <input type="checkbox"/> 38b, <input type="checkbox"/> 38c, <input type="checkbox"/> 38d	15.00			
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Sand	18.00			
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray <input type="checkbox"/> White	32.00			
41.	Denim shirt (men's)	32.00			
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left	95.00			
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	35.00			
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# Honoring the Fallen

## Veterans Day Wreath at the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial

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

**When:** 9:45 AM, Friday, November 11, 2016

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

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

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

## Wreaths Across America

**When:** 7:00 AM, Saturday, December 17, 2016

**Where:** Arlington National Cemetery

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

**What:** Honor the fallen by placing wreaths on veterans gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states.

## Wreath Laying - Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

All Blackhorse Troopers, family and friends are invited to attend the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

**When:** 11:00 AM, Tuesday, February 2, 2017

**Where:** Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA

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

**What:** A wreath will be laid at the Tomb in observance of the anniversary of the activation of the 11th Cavalry on February 2, 1901 at Fort Myer, Virginia

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