



Thunder Run

Vol 38-No. 4

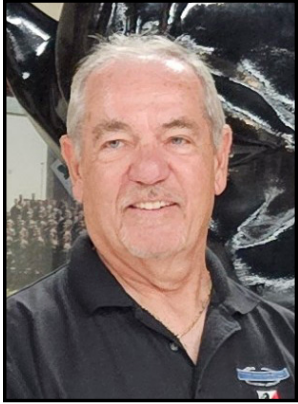
“Together Then - Together Again”

4th Quarter, 2024

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

President's Message

Frank Church



I will be covering several points from this year that need to be shared with you.

Another year passed and another great reunion in Omaha, we had 675 troopers and guests attend. Overall Omaha proved to be a good place to hold our 2024 reunion. As usual there were those that had complaints. We try to have a reunion that is free of glitches and missteps, but they inevitably happen. We can only adjust, move on, and learn from

them. However, I heard loud and clear from the members about two issues that will need to be addressed for next year and beyond.

The walk over the sky bridge from the hotel to the convention center was too much for our guys. This will not be the case in Tulsa, they have no skywalk and all meetings, the bunker and banquet will be in the hotel. We have used Convention Centers in the past because the hotels could not fit us into their in-house meeting space for the bunker and banquet. They have become very expensive and cumbersome in dealing with two entities for all our meeting room needs. Our reduced numbers will now allow us to fit into most hotels but could eliminate some otherwise acceptable sites.

Between the time we signed a contract in 2022 and the reunion in 2024 the Omaha Hilton went cashless for everything. We did not know about this until after the last Thunder Run was published before the reunion. This will not be the case for Tulsa. They still accept cash. However, you will need a credit card to hold a one-night room reservation but can pay the final bill upon checkout with cash. The credit card charge will drop off in 2-5 days depending on the bank you use. We have revised our requirements for future hotel searches to reflect these two items. Our bars in the bunker and banquet have long been cashless but it is now spreading to all other in-house venues. Our society is also moving to be cashless, progress they say, but a handicap for us. When making your reservations do not use a third party such as Expedia or Hotels.com. You will not get the reunion rate and the 11th ACVVC will not get the room nights credited to our account.

In response to a comment that we did not have a color guard or guest speaker from the Regiment for the Banquet ceremonies: I always invite the Regiment to attend with those two requests. We must remember that our current Regiment has an important job to do, and we were not their top priority. If it can be done, they will do it. This year it was not doable for them. They were in a training rotation and that is their only focus. I will continue to invite them to attend in any manner that fits into their mission.

During our membership meeting the well-worn subject of joining forces with the BHA and holding joint reunions was brought before the members again. There was a list of items presented on issues that must be overcome but no steps to do so other than form a committee. This was presented as being beneficial to both organizations. I agree it may be to the BHA but fail to see any notable benefit for the 11th ACVVC. It would be a tremendous amount of work for both with little to gain for us. The effort to make this happen is being promoted by a small minority of members. Please know, the 11th ACVVC and the BHA have ongoing communications and designated points of contact to coordinate our efforts when they are beneficial to both organizations and the Regiment. The 11th ACVVC welcomes any Blackhorse Trooper to join us at our reunions, no matter when or where they served. Our members are free to join them at theirs as well.

I thank all those members who supported me in my reelection to a second term as President. When I stated my qualifications, I purposely made clear where my opponent stood on our relationship with BHA and reunions and the direction that I and the current officers believe is the right path for us to follow. My opponent confirmed his position and his desire to hold reunions with the BHA. He claims that the wishes of the membership are not being heard. But the vote for me as President confirms the majority is being heard. This election was not only for the office of President but the future of the 11th ACVVC. The membership spoke, the greater majority is satisfied with our current relationship, they do not want to be part of the BHA or participate in joint reunions. They chose to be who we are now and who we will continue to be.

***“We were, we are, and always will be
Blackhorse Troopers.”***

Allons,
Frank





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

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

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Message from COL Timothy J. Ferguson,

70th Colonel of the Blackhorse



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

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

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

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

This past 24 months has without a doubt been the most professionally and personally rewarding of my career. One of my fondest memories will be my wife, Alex, and I being able

to attend the reunion in Grand Rapids and getting to interact with so many of you. The Regiment honored Glenn Snodgrass by dedicating the conference room in Starry Hall (the current Regimental HQ) to him and the RCSM, CSM Chris Shaiko, myself, and the NCO and Trooper of the Year, traveled to Bastrop, LA to honor the 49th RCO, John Sherman Crow, at his funeral service by presenting the Regimental colors there.

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

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

FIND THE BASTARDS AND PILE ON!

DEATH RIDES A BLACKHORSE!

Allons!

Sincerely,

COL Timothy J. Ferguson, 70th RCO

The Dream

LTC Steve Linthwaite [USA ret]

He was almost 80 now. If it weren’t for the lack of sleep, he would feel better, but the dream had returned. As a younger man he could close his mind and deny the dream its power to wake him. Think about the job, the family, money. Anything but the dream. Now it came almost every night. A few hours of deep dreamless sleep, then it began. Always the same.

The jungle was darkening quickly; a weakened sun was already gone. The rain had begun. Soft on the leaves, muffling their movement on the wetness. The squad of six men slipped silently from the edge of the trees out onto the trail. Several wore grimy rags for sweat bands over mud smeared faces or as a scarf. All were lean and dark. They wore shorts and dark long-sleeved shirts. They moved with practiced quickness, eyes darting up and down the trail looking for movement and listening tensely for noises that didn’t belong. They sniffed the wind for the pungent smell of cigarette smoke. Four of the men armed with assault rifles crouched low and took position watching up and down the trail.

The trail was a swath of newly broken trees, green bamboo and foot

tangle crushed two hours before by the passage of the enemy’s tanks. Several termite mounds each almost a meter high protruded from the middle of the swath. Two of the team were weighed down with dark green canvas packs, each holding two Soviet model 46 anti-tank mines. The two men slipped out of their harness and one, named Chien, unfolded his entrenching tool. He began hacking at the hard packed clay of the mound. The other man who they called Quan, moved a few meters into the jungle. Instead of digging holes, Quan simply laid one of his mines on top of the ground and covered it with leaves. He crossed quickly to the opposite side of the trail and repeated the process.

The top of the tallest mound had been ground down by the steel underbelly of armored vehicles passing over it. Chien selected that one. He and Quan were trained sappers, and this was a routine nights’ work. The hole in the mound was dug deep enough to conceal his work. The two men had to work quickly because they could hear engines in the distance laboring under heavy load and coming their way.

Finished with their work, Chien and Quan wordlessly signaled withdrawal to the security teams and slipped back into the jungle.

State of the Reunion

The work to prepare for Tulsa began in 2023 when we received proposals from hotels for 2025 and Tulsa was selected. The work was picked up again the day after I returned from Omaha. There is little time to rest when tasked to organize an event with the expectations we have for our reunions.

I stated in my Presidents message that the issues of getting to the bunker and banquet by way of a sky walk and the hotel being cashless has been addressed. The Hyatt has assured us that neither will be a concern, no skywalks and cash is still accepted.

The Hyatt regency is much like the Omaha Hilton in size and vicinity to restaurants and things to do. More detailed info will be made available in future editions of TR. Here is the info for 2025:

September 2, 2025-September 7, 2025 | Registration fee is \$130
Hyatt Regency Tulsa, 100 E. Second St. Tulsa, OK 74103
Reservations by phone: 918-560-2219 use code ACVV
On-line: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/TULRT/G-ACVV>
Scooter Rental: T-Town Mobility 918-600-2112 On-Line: stephanie@ttownmobility.com

All registrations must be received by August 21, 2025. All hotel reservations must be made by August 4, 2025. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer no later than August 21, 2025.

It is important for us to get together. We cannot always make our annual reunions but there are several “mini reunions” hosted by individuals. Those that I have contact info on are listed:

Arizona- hosted by Tom/ Terri Morrison, Glendale, Arizona | Contact Ron Krueger- ronkrue@hotmail.com
or 1-530-304-4249

Wisconsin/Minnesota- Hosted by Lee Nelson | Email- leenelson1926@gmail.com

Air Cav troop- contact Mike Denote- 270-351-1141

Texas- contact Jerry Beamon- jerrybea@aol.com or 903-805-0703

We continually work to have another successful reunion in Tulsa and are looking forward to seeing all of you again. More details to come.

Frank

THE LAST TIME

Why is it that for many of us Vietnam remains the strongest of memories in our entire adult lives? When was the last time you got through a whole day without some smell, some sound, some anything, that didn't immediately flash your memory right back in-country, even for just a second?

No matter where any us of came from; no matter what religion we grew up in, no matter what race we were, no matter what kind of economic background we came from, no matter how diverse our backgrounds were, no matter what we have done with our lives since DEROS, Vietnam left an indelible stamp on our lives. When is the last time anything in your life has had the kind of impact on you that Vietnam did?

When is the last time anyone even asked you about Vietnam? When is the last time you were able to really talk to anyone about your time in the 'Nam, and when was the last time anyone really acted like they wanted to listen? When is the last time you felt that you would be better off not even mentioning your Vietnam service? When is the last time you were deep into a troubling memory and no one bothered to notice, or to embrace or console you, and tell you that everything would be alright.....you're safe now, it's over, it can't hurt you anymore (although we know it still can...)? When is the last time you wondered whether it was all worth it; wondered whether your time in country (or the time any of us spent) was really worth it in the end?

When is the last time we will have to hear that we lost our war? When will the stigma of the Vietnam War ever disappear from our society, or from our military? When will be the last time a Vietnam era veteran will commit suicide because they just couldn't get the help they needed? When is the last time taps will be blown for the last Vietnam veteran to pass from this life, and will that be the last time Vietnam lies heavy on the conscience of this country?

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

REGISTRATION FORM



40th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion

September 2, 2025-September 7, 2025

Hyatt Regency Tulsa, 100 E. Second St. Tulsa, OK 74103

Reservations by phone: 918-560-2219 use code ACVV

On-line: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/TULRT/G-ACVV>

Scooter Rental: T-Town Mobility 918-600-2112

On -Line: stephanie@ttownmobility.com

Registration fee is \$130 per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday night bunker parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner.

All registrations must be received by August 21, 2025. All hotel reservations must be made by August 4, 2025. Any registration received after this date will be returned. Registration refunds will be paid in full to our members if cancellation is received by the Treasurer no later than August 21, 2025.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

(print clearly or use mailing label)

Name _____ Telephone No: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Unit Assignment _____ Dates in Country _____

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

KIA Relative? Yes, Name of KIA: _____

Relationship to KIA: _____ Unit: _____

ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

Total Registration Fee \$ _____

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

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

Visa MasterCard Please enter Security Code/CVC# here ___ ___

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

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

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

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donor Levels:

Platinum Level \$500+

Gold Level \$100-\$499

Silver Level \$50-\$99

Bronze Level \$1-\$49

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

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PLATINUM LEVEL

Wayne & Janece Mollhoff

Scholarship Fund

PLATINUM LEVEL

11th ACVVC Blackhorse

Women

919th Engineering
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

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

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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

SER NO RANK (during tour) _____ SSN NO _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

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

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

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

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

Signature _____

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



11th ACVVC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

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



In 2025, scholarship applicants will again be divided into two categories: applicants who plan to enroll or are enrolled in colleges and universities; and applicants who plan to enroll or are enrolled in a trade school or a community college vocational program. The same percentage of scholarships will be given to each group of students. Both groups of students use the same application which can be found in this issue of Thunder Run or on our website (www.11thcavnam.com). This application form should be used by all applicants applying for scholarships in 2025.

The 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program has awarded **787 scholarships totaling \$2,479,500** to the children and grandchildren of our membership since its inception in 1996! Every scholarship dollar paid to these deserving scholarship winners was donated by YOU, the members of this great association of Blackhorse combat veterans! Our Scholarship Guide provides more information on the scholarship process and history of the program. You can find the Guide on our website. **If you have a child or grandchild who is planning on attending a college, community college or trade school fall semester, 2025, please encourage them to apply for a scholarship (application deadline 05/15/2025).**

Each recipient's Scholarship Award will be dedicated in honor of a specific 11th Cavalry "Blackhorse" Trooper who was Killed in Action (KIA) in Vietnam or Cambodia. The Blackhorse KIAs honored each year are selected on an impartial and random basis. An attractive certificate suitable for framing and containing information about the trooper in whose honor their scholarship is dedicated will be sent to each recipient. In addition, each year, one recipient is selected to receive a special Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship award in honor of former 11th ACVVC President Chuck Schmidt for his leadership and devotion to the 11th ACVVC.

A Scholarship applicant must fall into one of the following categories:

- **A child or grandchild of an 11th Armored Cavalry Trooper** who was Killed in Action (KIA) in Vietnam or Cambodia.
- **A child or grandchild of a deceased life member of the 11th ACVVC.**
- **A child or grandchild of a current life member of the 11th ACVVC in good standing.**
- **"Child"** is defined as a natural born, adopted or stepchild.
- **"Grandchild"** is defined as a natural born, adopted or step-grandchild.

Additional Criteria

1. The applicant who plans to attend or is attending a 4-year college degree program must have maintained a **minimum Unweighted Grade Point Average of 3.5** during the last two years of high school (or college if applicable).
2. The applicant who plans to attend or is attending a trade school or community college vocational program must have maintained a **3.0 minimum Unweighted Grade Point average** during the last two years of high school.
3. The applicant must be a high school graduate by fall semester 2025.
4. Graduate and doctoral level students **are not eligible**.

2025 scholarship winners will receive an award of \$3000. The Colonel Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Scholarship award winner will receive \$5000. All scholarship awards are sent directly to the school the recipient is attending. Please contact me if you have questions.

Meet Our 2024 Scholarship Winners

RECIPIENT	SPONSOR	UNIT	KIA DEDICATION	
VIOLET BABB	BERNARD BABB	G TROOP	JOHN BRUCE CORNWALL	919TH ENG
HANNAH BRUCE	THOMAS HELM	I TROOP	EMILE COLE	A TROOP
RACHEL CARTER	ELBERT CARTER	HHT 1/11	JOHN DANIEL MALCOLM	AIR CAV TRP
ABBY COX	DANIEL COX	HHT 1/11	STUART HAROLD THOMSON	B TROOP
DAVANE CRISP	JAMES CRISP	I TROOP	ERNEST LEROY THORSON	C TROOP
KAITLIN CYWINSKI	TIMOTHY KERNS	D CO.	GEORGE JOSEPH BODNER	D CO.
FAITH DAGGETT	RICHARD MESSIER	H CO.	WALTER WARD BECKER	E TROOP
JEREMIAH DAVIS	LESLIE DAVIS	37TH MED	JAMES GRADY CONLEY	F TROOP
TYLER DEYOUNG	EUGENE DRENTH	AIR CAV	ROY LOLLIS LIPSCOMB	G TROOP
SLYVIA FICK	WILLIAM PAULSON	G TROOP	RICHARD SAVAGE CUNNINGHAM	H CO.
ANNA FRANKLIN	JOHN MASTERS	I TROOP	BLAINE JOSEPH SHEPHERD	HHT 2/11

RECIPIENT	SPONSOR	UNIT	KIA DEDICATION	
BROOKE HENRY	JOHNNIE REYNOLDS	HOW 3/11	LOWELL ASTLEY WOLFRIES	HHT 3/11
WINTER HENRY	JOHNNIE REYNOLDS	HOW 3/11	RICHARD DOMENIC NICOLINI	I TROOP
JOANNA HERRERA	LEON HICKS JR.	L TROOP	JERRY LEE HOUSER	K TROOP
EMILEE HINRICHS	DENNIS SCHULZ	K TROOP	JODY MAC LANGLEY	L TROOP
JOHN HROM	JOHN HROM	HHT 2/11	JOHNNY LEE GALLARDO	M CO.
TUCKER JONES	LEE JONES	F TROOP	KENNETH WAYNE FAUL	A TROOP
FAITH JOSLIN	IRVING GALL	I TROOP	JOSEPH W. BLICKENSTAFF JR.	AIR CAV TRP
RYLI JOSLIN	GEORGE BOSTICK	HHT 2/11	OLLIS BREWSTER	B TROOP
ETHAN MARTINAGE	WILLIAM FREDERICK JR.	I TROOP	WAYNE DABNEY MCRAY	C TROOP
DANA MESSNER	GARY RIETH	HHT 1/11	JAMES HARVEY HINSON	E TROOP
LILLIAN MITCHELL	JERRY MITCHELL	I TROOP	EDGAR WILLIAM BLANKENSHIP	F TROOP
EVELYN MOTZ	NORMAN KULPA	B TROOP	DENNIS EARL NEWMAN	G TROOP
KAYLA O'HAGAN	KENNETH HENYAN	HHT 1/11	DENNIS LEE BERTSCHINGER	HHT 1/11
NICHOLAS ORNELAS	JULIO GARCIA	K TROOP	CHUCK SCHMIDT AWARD WINNER	
ABBEY PICKEL	DAVID PICKEL	E TROOP	WALTER BURNS	I TROOP
SOPHIA POMPONIO	CARL BROWN JR.	HOW 2/11	WILLIAM P. CENTERS JR.	K TROOP
CHLOE REYNOLDS	JOHNNIE REYNOLDS	HOW 3/11	WILLIAM JOSEPH WEIDINGER	L TROOP
KENNEDI REYNOLDS	JOHNNIE REYNOLDS	HOW 3/11	RICKY DAVID MAUNEY	919TH ENG
CALEB ROSENDAHL	MYRON ROSENDAHL	HHT 3/11	BRUCE ERVIN JOHNSON	A TROOP
NICHOLAS SAKOLE	MICHAEL SAKOLE III	HHT REGT	ROBERT EDMUND KOONCE	AIR CAV TRP
GAVIN SONNTAG	JAMES SUTHERLAND III	E TROOP	STEPHEN LESLIE GLORE	B TROOP
BAILEY STELLY	SANDRUS STELLY	HHT 2/11	VAL LYNDON LAFON	C TROOP
JAMES STOCK	RICHARD SWENSON	C TROOP	FRANKLIN STEVEN RUTBERG	E TROOP
SONYA TINSLEY	RONALD CALDWELL	D CO	ROBERT CLARENCE HOWARD	F TROOP
MILA WALKER	DENNIS GLUNN	HOW 1/11	ERRAL DALE SMALLWOOD	G TROOP
LILY WATERS	LARRY WATERS	C TROOP	DAVID JOE BREDEKAMP	HOW 2/11
INDRED WHITAKER	FLOYD GREEN	919TH ENG	JAMES GARFIELD LAWSON	I TROOP
KYLIE WOLF	JERALD SIMON	HHT 3/11	PETER BRUCE STADDON	K TROOP
QUINN WRIGHT	ROLAND BAIRD	L TROOP	CRAIG GORDON KLOTZ	L TROOP

Accept the gift, Lieutenant!

Ty Dodge, 3rd Platoon, I Troop, 1969 tdodge36@gmail.com

Having been given command of an armored cavalry platoon as a fresh-faced second lieutenant in Vietnam, I was quite certain I was not only supposed to know everything, but do everything, too. After all, I'd received the finest training the Army had to offer, and I'd just been handed the job of leading an elite fighting force.

A month into my new command I thought I was fulfilling my responsibilities pretty well... until the day my platoon sergeant (at left in photo) disappeared. I asked one of my troopers if he'd seen SGT Tomsinski. "Yes, sir. He's out in the woods. Been there a while."

We were a lone armored cavalry platoon in the middle of nowhere, and you didn't go "out in the woods" without the rest of the platoon unless you had a pretty good reason. I decided I'd better find him.

Find him, I did, sitting against a tree. "What's up, SGT Tom? What are you doing out here?" "Sir, you don't need me," he replied.

"What do you mean I don't need you?!? Of course I need you! This platoon wouldn't run without you! What's going on?" I demanded. "Sir, you do everything yourself. I try to help you out, take a load off your shoulders, but you just do it yourself. You don't need me."

With my ego swimming in denial, a little voice fairly shouted into my ear, "Accept the gift, Lieutenant! Accept the gift! SGT Tom's being a giver, and you're not accepting the gift!"



Please turn to **"Accept the gift"** on page 13



**11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia
Scholarship Application (effective September 19, 2024)**



Please review Scholarship Guide at www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html

Application Deadline May 15th, 2025

**IMPORTANT: A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED AN 11TH ACVVC SCHOLARSHIP IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY AGAIN.
Students working on advanced degrees (master's, doctoral) are not eligible to apply.**

Applicant's full name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Applicant's social security number: _____ E mail address: _____

Street address: _____ Apt./Unit # _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone #: _____

Applicant's Status: Child Grandchild of a current life member of the 11th ACVVC.
 Child Grandchild of a deceased life member of the 11th ACVVC.
 Child Grandchild of an 11th ACR veteran who was killed in action in Vietnam or
Cambodia.

Your Sponsor (11th Cav Veteran): Full name: _____ E mail: _____

Sponsor's 11th Cav unit in Vietnam: _____ Dates in Vietnam _____

Name and Address of College or Trade School you plan to attend: What is your major? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Schools and Colleges Attended (10th Grade to Present)

Name	City, State	Dates (From/To)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

You must attach a copy of your grade transcripts from your last 2 yrs. of High School or College.

Requirements: at least a 3.5 unweighted Grade Point Average for applicants pursuing a 4 yr. degree. At least a 3.0 unweighted Grade Point Average for trade or vocational school applicants.

Briefly tell us about your extra-curricular and volunteer activities and include your name and email address on a separate sheet of paper.

I, the undersigned verify the answers given above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I give my permission for a copy of my high school/college grade transcripts to be submitted with this application.

Signature of Applicant _____ Printed Name _____ Date _____

Signature of Sponsor Veteran or Guardian _____ Printed Name _____ Date _____

Please send your completed application and grade transcripts to:

Mike "Doc" Rafferty, 11th ACVVC Scholarship Chairman, PO Box 13188, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88013

Email: platoonmedic36@gmail.com

THE 2024 SILENT AUCTION

Thanks to all who participated in the Silent Auction and special thanks to all those who donated items. The auction is totally dependent on your support and those who participated came through once again. A total of 201 items were auctioned this year generating \$7,486 in gross receipts for the Scholarship Fund. This amount is equivalent to 2.5 full scholarships at \$3,000 each. Since 1996 the Silent Auctions have raised approximately \$161,000. Many of the items donated had a military or 11th Cavalry theme, which are always popular. We also had a number of hand-crafted items and to those who made these items a very special thanks as some of them were ones that had the highest bids. We hope you will continue to make and donate these items.

A special thanks to Paul and Teresa Gissible, Ron and Janet Krueger, Terry and Tom Morrison, Joe Gehring, Patrick Murphy and the family of Tom Doll and Fred Kenyon for help in collecting, organizing, tagging items, setting up and monitoring the Silent Auction. Thanks to Bob Moreno and his staff for receiving items in our absence. All of these folks helped make the auction a success.

The following is the list of donors for our Silent Auction, many who donated more than one item. Start thinking of items that may be donated for next year's reunion!

Jerry Andrews (4 items)	Paul Gissible (9 items)	Mark Neukom (12 items)
Anonymous (37 items)	James Graham (11 items)	Michael Newton (2 items)
David & Linda Bailey (4 items)	Jennifer Harris (1 item)	David O'Connell (7 items)
Danny G Brown (2 items)	Cassandra Hendrix (2 items)	Bill Paulsen (3 items)
Edward Brown Jr. (1 item)	Jody Henry (1 item)	Thomas Peoples (2 items)
Lynn McAdams Busenbark (1 item)	Michael Henschel (2 items)	Bill Pion (4 items)
Douglas Campbell (1 item)	Roxine Hild (1 item)	Clyde Price (1 item)
Kenny Carlock (2 items)	Bill Karabinos (1 item)	William Puskarich (1 item)
Frank & Sherri Church (1 item)	Ed & Barbara King (3 items)	Jennifer Quinn (4 items)
Frank Church (3 items)	Ron Krueger (4 items)	Marla Reynolds (1 item)
John Corey (3 items)	Dale & Pat Leesmann (3 items)	Jami Ritter (1 item)
Phil Danese (1 item)	Wayne Mollhoff (11 items)	Kathleen Scherz (2 items)
Dave's Military Display (1 item)	Bob Moreno (4 items)	Roger Sonnenberg (3 items)
Sharon Dimberg (2 items)	Jackie Morrison (1 item)	Victor Underberg (2 items)
Richard Ditmar (2 items)	Charles and Terri Morrison (3 items)	Mark Van Atta (5 items)
Dennis Forehan (1 item)	Patrick Murphy (5 items)	David Vargo (1 item)
Ron Gerlach (1 item)	Mike Muscato (1 item)	Jay Villwock (1 item)
Teresa Gissible (1 item)	Tena Nelson (18 items)	Ed Wood (1 item)

A PROUD POEM FROM A TROOPER OF 11th CAVALRY

My son sent home this poem from Vietnam. One of the men wrote it and he would love to share it with all of the good people who read The Chronicle.

They take their place in history,
The men of the 11th cavalry.
First on horse, now A.P.C.'s.
Standing tall and mighty free,
The men are strong as the vehicles they ride,
and each one is filled with his own pride.
No matter the battle, No matter the need

The men of the 11th will be there indeed.
They fight the enemy where he may be,
To keep our country strong and free.
They call their camp the Mighty Black Horse,
And it will never be taken by force.
So if you want to live and learn history,
Don't tangle with the men of the 11th cavalry.

Sp.4. MOCONAL

Submitted by the mother of: Sp.4. Gene R. Franklin, A-TRP 1-11 A.C.R. 3rd Plt., A.P.O. San Francisco, California

11

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

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

Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

Blackhorse Troopers All!

Over the course of its 5 ½ years in Southeast Asia, the number of personnel assigned, attached, and under the operational control (OPCON) to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment varied greatly from year to year. The following are a few examples.

Organic Personnel. In early 1968, Colonel Roy Farley (35th Colonel of the Regiment), wrote in *Armor* magazine that changes in equipment – such as eliminating the M48 tanks and M114 recon vehicles from the recon platoons and replacing them with M113 Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles (ACAVs) – led to significant personnel changes. “Prior to deployment, major equipment changes were made to better suit the tactical units for operations in the jungles and rice paddies expected to characterize the area of operations ... Changes in the personnel area, generated by the aforementioned equipment changes as well as other additions deemed necessary to flesh out the regiment’s combat support activities, resulted in an increase in strength from 3040 officers and men in TOE [Table of Organization & Equipment] 17-51E to the currently authorized total of 3672. In addition, various companies and detachments were attached to the regiment bringing the total for the entire combat team up to 4112 officers and men.”

In addition to the personnel required to operate as a combat unit, the Regiment also had the burden of running a 568-acre base camp – Blackhorse Base Camp near Long Giao – with between 5,000 and 6,000 permanent and transitory residents. This was a huge burden not envisioned in the TO&E. The Regimental S-1 (RS-1) assumed many of the administrative types of such activities – for example, the complex task of reporting and tracking casualties of the combat operations side, and running the Post Exchange (PX) on the base camp side. In mid-1967, Blackhorse 6 told his boss that he had, on a daily basis, “a minimum requirement for 15 officers, 41 NCO, and 142 EM for strictly base camp operations.”

On first day of Operation Junction City in the spring of 1967, 96 Blackhorse Troopers were either killed or wounded. They were medevaced to 16 different hospitals throughout the Saigon area. The RS-1 two-man casualty reporting section was overwhelmed and had to be augmented to handle this task. Ten Troopers at one time staffed this section just to handle casualty reporting and tracking. It took another 15 people to run the PX. By mid-1967, there were 179 Troopers (officers, non-commissioned officers, and enlisted) to run all aspects of the RS-1 business (personnel, administrative, and related activities) – about three times the authorized strength.

The RS-1 was not alone in this regard. Even the RS-3 (operations & training) section – ‘rich’ in assets when compared to the RS-1 section’s TO&E – also was stretched to the limit. When 2nd Lieutenant (2LT) Scott Crissman reported in to the Regiment in the late summer of 1969, he was told that he was “excess”. But not to worry, they had a job for him; the RS-3 welcomed him and told him he was the new OIC (officer in charge) of the alternate regimental command post located at An Loc. This was a time of significant enemy activity, and An Loc was known to be a prime target for the expected North Vietnamese attack. The RS-3 section, already stretched thin with full-scale Tactical Operations Centers (TOCs) at Blackhorse Base Camp and Quan Loi, established a mini-

TOC at An Loc (collocated with the South Vietnamese Binh Long Province Chief’s TOC), as well as another at Bu Dop (collocated with the Special Forces detachment). The An Loc TOC was located approximately 30 feet underground in a concrete bunker built by Japanese troops during World War II. LT Crissman’s first combat command consisted of an NCOIC, six radio-telephone operators (RTOs), one ACAV, one ¾-ton truck, and several radios. Their mission, in addition to deconflicting Blackhorse and South Vietnamese Army operations and calls for fire, was to coordinate 11th Cav pile-on forces (air, ground, and artillery) in case An Loc came under attack. Which it did, in August 1969. “Excess” indeed!

Attached Personnel. At one point, there were 19 separate units attached or OPCON to the Regiment in Vietnam. The following are but two of these members of the Blackhorse Team.

1st Detachment, Company B, 720th Military Police Battalion.

The detachment of Military Police (MPs) that joined the Blackhorse Team was one of the first attachments after the 11th Cav came ashore at Vung Tau. Unlike the separate infantry brigades (like the 173rd Airborne Brigade, each of which had an organic MP platoon), there were no MPs in the TO&E of an Armored Cavalry Regiment. As a result, the 720th Military Police Battalion at Long Binh was directed to provide MP support to the Regiment, first at the Long Binh Staging Area and then at Blackhorse Base Camp. Bravo Company received that mission on 5 November 1967.

As far as the Regiment was concerned, the MP’s primary mission was convoy escort and traffic control for the daily logistics convoys that ran between Long Binh and Blackhorse Base Camp. This mission was called Operation Overseer by the MPs, and all companies from the 720th participated at one time or another. For the MPs, however, more traditional missions, including law and order patrols and Prisoner of War security at the base camp, as well as law and order patrols in Xuan Loc, were their primary focus. During field operations, the MP detachment was beefed up; for example, one officer and 23 EM were OPCON to the Regiment during Operation Manhattan in April 1967. During Operation Paddington with the Australians in July 1967, the MPs of Bravo Company were the first in Vietnam to use the V-100 armored car during tactical operations. At various times, A and C Companies of the 720th MP Battalion supplemented or relieved Bravo Company of the 11th Cav support mission. The convoy escort mission between Long Binh and Long Giao terminated in October 1969 when the Regiment departed Blackhorse Base Camp.

It wasn’t until late July 1969 that the MP-Cav arrangement was made ‘permanent’. Captain Robert Anderson was assigned as the first Blackhorse Provost Marshal, and the squad of MPs that had been in direct support for almost three years was assigned to the Regiment and expanded to a platoon. There were two major impacts resulting from this organizational change. First, the MPs now worked for Blackhorse 6, not an MP lieutenant colonel in Long Binh. Second, the MPs ripped off the 18th MP Brigade patch and replaced it with a Blackhorse patch. The mission of the military policemen also changed when they assumed responsibility for securing the regimental headquarters in garrison and in the field.

While the Blackhorse Troopers assigned to convoy security rode in armored vehicles, until mid-1967 the MPs rode in ¾-ton jeeps.

Sandbags on the floorboards and across the hood offered only limited protection against mines and small arms. In addition to the driver and OIC/NCOIC, a third MP rode in the back to man a pedestal-mounted M-60 machine gun – rat patrol style. The weapon sported no shield, so that MP's only protection was his helmet and flak jacket. Starting in July 1967, the MP escorts rode in a mix of V-100 armored cars and armored gun jeeps.

5th Field Team, Company B, 6th Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) Battalion.

Operation Atlanta (late 1966 to mid-1967), during which the 11th Cav moved into the Blackhorse Base Camp, witnessed the initial PSYOPs campaign conducted by the Regiment. The Regimental S-5 designed two separate leaflets, one for the 'friendly' people of Long Khanh Province, and one for the 'unfriendly' people. The 'friendly' leaflet showed the proposed regimental patch and informed the people that the Blackhorse Regiment was here to stay and to help them against the VC. The 'unfriendly' leaflet showed a tank running over some guerrillas and warned the VC that their time was up. A total of 500,000 friendly and unfriendly leaflets were dropped from circling aircraft. They were accompanied by broadcasts from speakers mounted in a Huey helicopter announcing the arrival of the Blackhorse Troopers.

For the next five years, the PSYOPs Troopers worked on the minds and morale of the enemy. When a Viet Cong (VC) or North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldier gave himself up – Chieu Hoi'd – he was interviewed by the RS-5. If he was willing, the PSYOPs field team printed a new leaflet, featuring the Chieu Hoi's picture and a personalized appeal for his comrades to follow his lead. A quick-reaction leaflet to exploit the Communist defector could be prepared in six hours. Within eight hours, the leaflet could be dropped on a suspected VC base camp. At the same time, the defector broadcast his message on the airborne 1,000-watt loudspeaker. The capture of a cache also led to a new leaflet, with a picture of the weapons, food, and medicine. The accompanying message told the enemy that we had his supplies now. Communist officers might convince their subordinates that the pictures and words were forgeries; the man's voice, however, couldn't be faked.

Most of the time, the PSYOPS warriors couldn't prove that their

broadcasts and leaflets were having the desired effect. But in mid-1969, they could draw a straight line from their operations to an enemy defection.

In July, a 27-year old VC Chieu Hoi'd to the South Vietnamese 9th Infantry Regiment. He told his interrogators that life in the jungle was hard and getting harder all the time. When he heard the Blackhorse helicopter fly overhead, he listened carefully to the message being broadcast. It was that message that convinced him to give up the fight and turn himself in. Ten more NVA did so as well in August and September, all stating that the aerial appeals had been the crucial element in their decision to surrender.

Defectors making live appeals to their former comrades via airborne loudspeakers was one of the most effective tools available to the 6th PSYOPers. However, there was one unexpected side effect of this approach. As one after-action report noted: "VC/NVA consistently become airsick after a short time in a helicopter." As a result, the former enemy soldier was asked to make a tape, which was then broadcast over the area from which he rallied.

In March 1970, the Regiment was operating near the Cambodian border north and west of Quan Loi. The mission was to interdict enemy supply and infiltration activities originating inside Cambodia and headed for main force units between Tay Ninh and An Loc. During this period, the automatic ambush was proving to be one of the most effective weapons against the small NVA patrols working the intricate trail network. The Blackhorse PSYOPS Troopers, along with the Regimental S-2 (Intelligence), decided to tweak the enemy's natural curiosity. During daylight hours, Troopers emplaced a Vietnamese-language banner just south of Highway 246, urging the enemy soldiers to rally to the South Vietnamese side. After darkness, 1st Squadron Troopers emplaced an automatic ambush near the banner. A mounted platoon from Charlie Troop waited in the dark just 25 meters away. Sure enough, at 0550 hours – less than an hour before dawn – the automatic ambush detonated. That was the signal the Troopers had been waiting for, and they peppered the area with Sheridan main gun, mortar, and 155mm rounds from 1st-HOW. A first-light sweep found two dead NVA soldiers, four packs, and a CHICOM radio. Human curiosity knows no nationality or cultural barriers.

Accept the gift, Lieutenant cont.

What a wake-up call that was. I needed him in the worst way! He was a twenty-year veteran with plenty of time in country. I was a green-as-a-gourd lieutenant who'd been there thirty days. What was I thinking?!?!?

Yet, accepting the gift came hard for me. Was my pride in the way? Did I feel I had to prove myself? That I had to be the tough-guy, macho leader who didn't have to rely on anyone for anything? Was I afraid that, in accepting the gift, I'd reveal my insecurity? Or was it just my natural temperament?

I can't answer those questions, but I do know this: as I began to accept the gifts SGT Tom so generously offered, my platoon began to run more smoothly and our results improved. When he left Vietnam at the end of his tour, I felt a deep appreciation for him and for the new partnership we enjoyed. I hope he felt the same for me.

How often do you run into the "Lieutenant Dodges" of the world? Those people who don't know how to accept a compliment, who refuse to let you open the door for them, who wouldn't dream of allowing you to pick up the check at the restaurant, who won't open their hearts to your love, who reject the smallest kindness... those people who, in their inability or unwillingness to accept the gift, ambush the very relationships so important to them.

Sadly, I'm still too often a "Lieutenant Dodge." I don't mean to be, but I know I am. I'm working on it.

Happily, there is one Gift I have accepted: The Gift of Jesus Christ. I'll have to admit, that was a toughie for me. Must have been that pride thing again. After all, why should I need the help of a Savior? My pride tells me I ought to be able to pull myself up by my own bootstraps. Get my own self into heaven. The good news is that I don't have to. And I couldn't do it on my own even if I wanted to: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

So, I've accepted The Gift. Have you?

F Troop Vets Honor One of Their Own

Contributors: Jim Foreman and Tom Stone Photos courtesy of Jen Quinn & Donna Stone

In 1968, Veterans Day was still called Armistice Day by many Americans even though Congress had changed the name in 1954. No matter; schools, banks, the Federal bureaucracy, all had the day off. In some communities, parades were commonplace. Even a few World War I vets were still around to celebrate the end - the armistice of the "Great War." In Vietnam, it was not so. Combat operations were still in place and the only parades featured armored cavalry units protecting convoys along yet, interdicted roadways. For F Troop of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment those parades were not "cheering" event: few had a happy ending.

On the 11th of November in 1968, two Blackhorse troopers lost their lives that day. Specialist 4 Lane Carston Johnson and Private First-Class Lanny J. Norman were killed that day shortly before they returned to the basecamp. The bodies of both young men were transported to the "states" to be buried near their homes; and both of those troopers' names are etched on Panel 39 W of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in their nation's capital.

On Friday morning, September 6, 2024 in Omaha, Nebraska, a half dozen surviving veterans of F Troop, who had served with KIA's Johnson and Norman, as well as another dozen 11th ACR veterans and family members, visited the grave site of Specialist Johnson, who is the only KIA from the Regiment buried in Omaha, to honor his memory and salute a fallen Blackhorse brother.

Lane Carston Johnson, was only 21 when he died in Vietnam, leaving a wife and a two-month-old daughter (that he hadn't seen) behind in Omaha. He is buried in Westlawn-Hillcrest Memorial Park in Omaha, and as the 39th Annual Reunion of the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia was being held in Omaha, a contingent of troopers went to find his grave, clean the headstone, offer prayers for our brother and salute a fellow Blackhorse Trooper. And to echo the words of President Lincoln at the Gettysburg cemetery - It was altogether fitting and proper that we do so.



Frank Church, President & Allen Hathaway, Past President, clean and restore the headstone of Lane C. Johnson, Omaha native, who died Nov 11, 1968.

The grave was difficult to locate in the large metropolitan cemetery, but the troopers were not to be denied, and it was found, overgrown with grass and weeds, under a hedgerow, halfway down a hillside. Allen Hathaway, Operation Embrace and KIA Issues Chairman, who had organized the visit together with the current President of the 11th ACVVC, Frank Church, cleaned the stone and cut away the weeds; trimming the grass and hedges back to highlight the grave site. The F Troop veterans of the 1968 combat action in Vietnam attending the Grave blessing and salute included: Ed Buening, Dave Chappell, Jim Foreman, Kenneth Heithoff, Eugene Lee, Leslie Sewell and Tom Stone.

Once the stone was cleaned and polished, Chaplain Bill Karabinos offered prayers and blessed the gravesite.

O God by whose Mercy the faithful departed find rest, bless this grave and send your holy angels to watch over it. Grant that our brother, Lane Johnson may sleep here in peace until you awaken him to glory, for you are the resurrection and life. Then he shall see you face-to-face and, in your light, will see light and know the splendor of God, for you live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Chaplain Bill requested that all present ...
"offer in prayer the words that Christ left us: Our Father, ..."



L -R: Tom Stone, Eugene Lee, Allen Hathaway, Frank Church, Bill Karabinos, (KIA Grave) Ken Heithoff, Ed Buening, Dave Chappell, Leslie Sewell, and Jim Foreman.

The Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Combat Huey from the Vietnam War. Part of display at the Nebraska State Vietnam Veterans Memorial in suburban Omaha, Nebraska (9/5/2024)



The name of 11th Cav, F Troop KIA, Lane Carlston Johnson of Omaha is listed on The Wall of the Nebraska State Veterans Memorial. That Wall only includes fallen Nebraska native sons.



Veteran Troopers of the Blackhorse Regiment at Nebraska State Vietnam Veterans Memorial, September 6, 2024



1970 obelisk. Nebraska State Vietnam Memorial. Note: Cambodian Incursion and Fire-base Illinworth; both major Blackhorse iconic operations.



Combat Huey from Vietnam, erected at the Nebraska State Vietnam Memorial Park in Pappillion, Nebraska. 11th Armored Cavalry veterans exploring the sight, September 6, 2024

Bill Karabinos and Paul Foley (HHT 2/11 - 71/72) September 5, 2024, Pappillion, Nebraska



Tom Stone and Jim Foreman (F Troop) at 1967 Obelisk, Nebraska State Vietnam Veterans Memorial. They remember participating in Operation Junction City.

2024 Summary of Motions

1. Motion 2024-0404A Secretary's Minutes | 2. Motion 2024-0404B Treasurer's Report | 3. Motion 2024-0520 2024 Scholarships
 | 4. Motion 2024-0716A Secretary's Minutes | 5. Motion 2024-0716B Treasurer's Minutes | 6. Motion 2024-0722 Reunion
 Reimbursement | 7. Motion 2024-0904 Secretary's Minutes | 8. Motion 2024-0907A Secretary's Minutes | 9. Motion 2024-0907B
 Oral History | 10. Motion 2024-0907C Thunder Run | 11. Motion 2024-0925 Reunion Assistance Fund

1. **The following motion was made by Frank Church and seconded by Mike Rafferty.**

Motion 2024-0404A Secretary's Minutes

Dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the Secretary's minutes of the Board meeting held December 11, 2023.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yea	Greg Mason	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	The motion passed.	

2. **The following motion was made by Frank Church and seconded by Bob Moreno.**

Motion 2024-0404B Treasurer's report

Accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yea	Greg Mason	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	The motion passed.	

3. **The following motion was made by Mike Rafferty and seconded by Pete Walter.**

Motion 2024-0520 2024 Scholarships

The 11th ACVVC will award 40 scholarships (39 \$3,000 and 1 \$5,000 scholarship) in 2024.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yea	Greg Mason	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	The motion passed.	

4. **The following motion was made by Frank Church and seconded by Bob Moreno.**

Motion 2024-0716A Secretary's Minutes

Dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the Secretary's minutes of the Board meeting held April 4, 2024.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yea	Greg Mason	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	The motion passed.	

5. **Frank Church made the following motion and seconded by Mike Rafferty.**

Motion 2024-0716B Treasurers Report

Accept the Treasurers report as presented.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yea	Greg Mason	
Yes Bob Moreno	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	The motion passed.	

6. **The following motion was made by Ollie Pickral and seconded by Frank Church.**

Motion 2024-0722 Officer and Director's Reunion Reimbursement

That the Officers, Directors and other members selected by the President of 11th ACVVC be reimbursed for expenses incurred while attending and working at our annual reunions. Reimbursements include air transportation and airport parking, gas, tolls and motel rooms. Also included is transportation from airport to hotel and return, hotel parking and hotel rooms including taxes and fees (less Friday and Saturday nights hotel stay and any hotel comp rooms received). This is an ongoing business expense, reimbursing after each reunion. Funds to be paid from the General Business Account.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yes	Mike Rafferty	No
Bob Moreno	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	Greg Mason	Yes	The motion passed	

7. **The following motion was made by Allen Hathaway and seconded by Pete Walter.**
Motion 2024-0904A Secretary's Minutes
Dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the Secretary's minutes of the Board meeting held July 16, 2024.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church	Yes	Allen Hathaway	Yes	Ollie Pickral	Yes	Mike Rafferty	Yes
Bob Moreno	Yes	Pete Walter	Yes	Greg Mason	Yes	The motion passed	

8. **The following motion was made and seconded.**
Motion 2024-0907A "2023 Membership Meeting Minutes"
Waive reading of 2023 Membership Meeting minutes and approve minutes" The motion passed.

9. **The following motion was made by Joe Gehring and seconded by Ron Krueger.**
Motion 2024-0907B Oral History
Do not approve permission to release our membership data. The motion passed.

10. **The following motion was made by Jim Fox and seconded by Dale Smith:**
Motion 2024-0907C Thunder Run
Reduce the number of issues to three per year. The motion passed.

11. **The following motion was made by Pete Walter and seconded by Greg Mason.**
Motion 2024-0925 Reunion Assistance Fund
"The funds in the 11th ACVVC Trooper Assistance Fund, which were donated for that specific purpose, cannot be reassigned to any other purpose without a notification to all members in Thunder Run and a subsequent motion passed by the Officers and approved by the members in attendance at the 2025 reunion in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The vote was as follows:

Frank Church-	Yes	Allen Hathaway-	No	Ollie Pickral-	No	Greg Mason-	Yes
Mike Rafferty-	No	Bob Moreno-	Yes	Pete Walter-	Yes	The Motion passed	

VICTOR THOMAS SHAFFER: 22W/LINE 093 | JAMES MICHAEL NESSELROTTE: 22W/LINE 092

Binh Duong Province | 19 June 1969. 322 days and a wake up.



On June 19 in '69, my 3rd Platoon tanks from Delta company were 'chopped' to A Troop; with Delta getting one of the recon platoons in exchange. Alpha Troop also picked up a company of 1st ID grunts which made us a potent little task force. The Squadron was based out of a well-established firebase called Thunder I along the major north-south highway QL-13. QL-13 was mostly an all-gravel road north of Ben Cat and paralleled by the twisted remains of a French era railroad destroyed by the communists' years before. The steel rails remained attached to their steel sleepers and long sections of track lay twisted on their sides like a bizarre fence. The approximate 70 kilometers of QL-13 from Thunder I and Lai Khe, north to the provincial capital of An Loc and beyond, was still 'Indian country' on any given day. Between Lai Khe and An Loc [An Loc was mostly destroyed in 1972] there were two more fire support bases named [logically] Thunder II and III. Another one, Thunder IV was only intermittently occupied. The firebases housed artillery batteries and engineer platoons, the latter of which job it was to sweep the road for mines every day. A mechanized infantry unit, usually not more than a company, was assigned to each firebase for local security. Armored reaction forces, usually a reinforced platoon, would rotate through for convoy protection.

Getting Dark...

It was easy for the VC to bury mines in the gravel roadbed or on the shoulders along QL-13, necessitating 1st Infantry Division engineers to sweep the entire road every day on foot augmented by security forces before military or civilian traffic could use it. It was a tedious but necessary task that took hours of manpower. Even then, it was not uncommon for impatient civilian busses to risk an early morning trip before the sweep, detonating a mine and killing dozens.

The Big Red One had been working the provinces east and west of QL-13 for years trying to keep the NVA out of Binh Duong province and neutralizing VC effectiveness. The proximity to Cambodia had made that very difficult and two years earlier the division had taken heavy losses by a meaningless stream crossing called Ong Thanh. One of the many KIA had been Lt Jim Blackwell [Panel 28 East Line 019], a friend of mine from Ft Knox. Typically, the NVA would slip over the border to conduct operations and escape back to sanctuary, leaving 'native' VC units to keep up the pressure. Laying anti-tank mines was the 'bread and butter' mission for those VC forces. They also were good at disrupting the local economy and putting fear into the populace. The VC didn't need to win big battles, only make the Saigon government look impotent. This set the backdrop to what happened the night Vic Shaffer died.

1st Squadron of the 11th had been put under operational control of the Big Red One in early June. General Talbot had responsibilities for the AO from Ben Cat north to Quan Loi and he made securing those stretches of QL-13 which lay within his AO to be a priority for road paving operations. The 1st Squadron got the mission to bust in and clear out any active NVA/VC operations. Conducting RIFs throughout the AO would be ugly work. The terrain, while generally flat and featureless, was thick with dense scrubby trees, marshy streams and large bamboo stands that ground down transmissions and engines. Practically every tree was infested with wasps, snakes, and fire ant nests.

Please turn to **Shaffer/Nesselrotte** on Page 19



Blackhorse Women's News

Sheryl Myers, Women's Group 4th Qtr 2024

Dear Ladies,

Thank You, Thank You, to those ladies who spent their Saturday morning with us at the Omaha Reunion. We try our best to make our time together not only informative, but entertaining as well and you let us know that we accomplished that goal. Marguerite, our Treasurer, explained our income and expenditures for the year.

Our "Woman of the Year" award was given to Linda Bailey, for her years of service to the Blackhorse Women's Group and the Prayer Shawl Project. Thank You to Don Snedeker, our 11th ACVVC Historian and guest speaker for another very entertaining podcast production on "Ladies of the Blackhorse - 1902-2024". We hope to see you all in Tulsa in 2025.

The purpose of our group is to support our Troopers, as well as our Ladies. The following projects help us do that - "Time Away" - That may be a bus tour destination; or just lunch out in the reunion city.

***Saturday Morning Gathering** - Ladies, family members and your reunion guests are welcome to attend our meeting, while our Troopers are in their business meeting.*

***Supporting the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund** with a donation from our Fundraising efforts.*

Thank You to all the Ladies and Trooper that volunteered at our Fundraising Table. And to those who supported us with a purchase or donation, Thank You! We were able to donate a generous amount this year to the Scholarship Fund.

***Wreaths Across America** - Each year the Women's Group purchases 21 Wreaths in honor of 21 11th ACR KIA's who are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Pam & Allen Hathaway represent us there.*

***Prayer Shawl Project** - Remembering one of our own, Trooper or spouse, at their passing, (if we are informed), by sending a prayer shawl or lap robe to a family member. If you knit or crochet, and would like to help us with this project, please contact Sheryl or Marguerite.*

***Remembering Our KIA's Scrapbook** - Allen Hathaway has helped us present our Scrapbook digitally. Please visit our Blackhorse Women's Group page on-line at 11thcavnam.com and visit our scrapbook of pictures of those KIA's who have been honored by a visit to their gravesite by one of our 11th ACVVC family. Please help us honor all 730. Please contact Sheryl for more information.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are suffering and in need, as a result of hurricane Helene.

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

Care Packages X3

My senior year in high school, a friend said to me, "I know a nice Christian young man, he's in boot camp, headed for Vietnam. Would you like to write him?" I said sure, I'll do my patriotic duty and write a soldier.

I tried to write often. Each letter sprayed with perfume. But I also wrote on every letter "YOUR FRIEND" in all caps and triple underlined. Because that is all it would ever be – a friendship. And that friendship still continues.

In those two years of letters, we actually encouraged and supported each other.

After 52 years of marriage, we still do.

But there was a time when I stopped writing to him. I was kinda living a wild child life and he was so sweet and precious. I felt he needed someone much better than I was. I was having a crisis of my own and trying to get my life back on track.

During this time, it was a dark time for Eddie. He missed me and kept writing. And prayed for me. He prayed: "Dear Lord, when I get out of this place and go home, I'm going to need a good wife. I think it is Barbara. But she has stopped writing to me. If you can get her to start writing again, I will know she is the one."

After a couple of months, I was getting my life back in order. My sister asked if I was still writing to him. So, I started writing again. And he knew I was the one. We both had different and stronger feelings toward each other in those letters. During those two years, I sent many Care packages. They were all packed with popcorn, fresh baked cookies, cheese, crackers, music tapes and other goodies.

Two years later, he came home in February (1972). We were together every chance we got. Between his month-long training and being stationed at Fort Sill, we had seen each other about 40 days. We were married in June. (I jokingly refer to myself as a mail order bride.) We still have that box containing two years of letters.

We had two children and needed extra money, so he joined the Army Reserves, thinking they don't ever get called up. But his unit was activated and got sent to Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Once again I got to send Care packages and perfumed letters, but this time things were different. It was me and two children in their early teens. We were well supported at home by family, friends and strangers.

I had a picture done of me at glamor shots. I shipped him a pillow with my picture on the pillow case so he could sleep with me. He asked a friend: "I wonder why she sent me this pillow with this pretty lady on it." The guy said: "Ed, that is your wife!" Eddie looked closer and recognized me. Yes, we still have that pillowcase.

Eddie's healing from Vietnam did not really start until he returned from Desert Storm. The welcome home was amazing. Strangers gave him gifts, and children were excited to meet him. He was asked to speak at some schools. He was finally being treated as the Hero he is. Sometime after that, he started watching the MASH series. It became background noise for him to talk about Vietnam and Desert Storm. He told me he had a desk job, but not until we started watching MASH did he tell me what all that involved.

Shortly after returning from Desert Storm, the 11th ACVVC found him. We made plans to go to our first reunion. On the drive from Oklahoma to

Indianapolis, he wanted to turn around and go back home many times. But we are so glad we attended. There was just one other couple from the 398th Transportation Detachment at that reunion – Clayton and Susan Scholz. They were also first timers. We have become good friends. We try not to miss Blackhorse reunions.

A few years later, our son Marc was married. Later, he joined the Army. That was a very hard day for Eddie. Marc was married with three children. One was just three days old when he was deployed to Iraqi Freedom. I believe our son's deployment was harder on Ed than it was going to war himself.

Once again, I got to send Care packages. This time, Eddie got to help me pack them. Along with the usual Care package items, I bought some medical ice packs (the ones you pop the little bubble and it turns to ice inside the bag). Some of his buddies wanted to buy some. They offered \$50 and more for them. He told them: "No way! My mother sent these to me." Marc said they really helped him survive the desert heat sitting inside his MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System). It is like sitting inside a tank.

Eddie and Marc are both 100% disabled Veterans. We love the yearly reunions, where there are no strangers and all can share their stories and their lives. And the women of the 11th ACVVC are wonderful support to the Troopers and each other. We have all become one big family.

Thank you for letting us share our story.

Barbara and Ed King
(398th Transportation Det, 1970-72)

Shaffer/Nesselrotte cont... Thursday the 19th was typically hot and humid with some overcast. We had had a day of fruitless beating the bush for contacts, Alpha Troop, the infantry platoon and my 3rd herd set up our NDP in a small opening in dense brush. My tanks and the ACAVs immediately set to enlarging the perimeter, pushing down trees out for 25 meters for a better margin of stand-off. My Platoon Sergeant, Roland Hightower and I, had just started going track to track to check on things when I got called over to the CP. Whether I was chosen for the mission because I was the red-headed stepchild amongst Captain West's own lieutenants or simply by fate, I never knew. I found Captain West's standing by the lower ramp of the command track. He gave me a simple ash and trash mission to lead a gaggle of [his] ACAVs back to Thunder I, all of which were having maintenance problems. I would be the only officer in the group. In retrospect his logic must have been that if one of the lame ducks died then my big tank could easily tow it over the clogged trails, and he wanted an officer to be in charge of the gaggle. Whatever the motivation, I briefed Sergeant Hightower who already had things well in hand and cranked up my tank....

Delta 31 was a new replacement tank, just over a month in the field. My previous one had been blown in place my 1st week as a platoon leader, after the hull was 'warped' by an AT mine but also plagued by a long list of inoperable major components like the hydraulic system. All our tanks ground down quickly with daily jungle busting at the head of a line of lighter ACAVs and Sheridans which was a mission they had not been designed for. The troop commanders viewed them as surrogate bulldozers. The Long Binh depots had hundreds of new tanks just sitting there, waiting to be called out for duty, but dozers weren't so plentiful. The average life span of the old [obsolete] M48 tank we used in Vietnam by 1969 was likely less than 3 or 4 months when it became more cost effective [manpower and time] to replace, instead of repair it, in the field.

Please turn to **Shaffer/Nesselrotte** on Page 20

Shaffer/Nesselrotte cont... Company maintenance sections were continually overwhelmed by battle damage repairs and routine component replacement of engines and transmissions. The Regiment spent almost no time in base camps and the tempo of operations was relentless.

D-31 was still in good shape thanks to Sp/5 Victor Shaffer the driver and PFC Garlin Jeris Henderson our loader. We usually fielded only a 3-man crew with no gunner, but the TC always did his part in the maintenance chores although having me as their L-T invariably put more work on them. Vic was 20 and from the Toledo area. He had a solid build and was co-captain and starting guard with his Woodward High School football team. He had a good attitude; serious, calm, steady and reliable with lots of friends in the company. Vic was drafted but could have gotten a deferment for college since he had already done one semester and was a good student. I had decided to make Vic a tank commander when we got an opening, although he was 'short'. If he didn't get a drop before his DEROS, he would be back on the block in 6 weeks. As the driver, Vic did the routine stuff with air filters, fluid levels and track maintenance, although we all shared the tedious chore of banging end connectors and tightening wedge bolts.



*Vic Shaffer.
Photo courtesy of
Warren Swinford D Co*



*Garlin Jeris Henderson.
Photo courtesy of the author.*

Garlin Jeris Henderson, age 19, was slim and thin [like most of us after a steady diet of peaches and pound cake in the heat]. Jeris had grown a black mustache shortly after getting to Delta and with curly black hair he looked Italian to me. He had a mother back in Rialto California. Jeris had somehow picked up the nickname of 'surfer dude' along the way although he insisted, he lived nowhere near the ocean. Sergeant Jim Zimmerman who tagged him with the moniker was from Kentucky. Jeris maintained that Zimmerman, as a hillbilly from Kentucky, knew squat about the geography of California. Jeris took care of the turret meaning everything inside, the breach/gun tube, coax, ammo, and batteries. The daily chore was keeping it clear of jungle detritus and muddy boots. I usually cleaned the 50 in the cupola while always being the 3rd guy banging on end connectors, loading ammo, or cleaning gun tubes. Being the tank commander, even as an officer, didn't relieve one from the upkeep and maintenance chores.

There were several hours of daylight remaining and there had been no enemy activity all day. I figured the run to Thunder I to be about 8k, an easy run there and back before it got dark. Captain West wanted me to collect some of his recently repaired ACAVs plus a Sheridan waiting at Thunder I and lead them back out to the NDP. I would have adequate firepower even with the underperforming ACAVs, as the VC rarely took on a fight with a heavy tank if it could be avoided, plus we had just swept the area a few hours earlier enroute to the NDP. Once there I was to check in with the 1st Squadron's CP co-located with the FSB to pick up an M113 loaded with hot food, mail and supplies for the NDP. While the trails we busted earlier were clogged with broken trees and brush, I figured we could still get there in an hour even allowing for those tracks nursing problems. Assuming everyone was ready for the return it shouldn't take more than 30 minutes to gather up the waiting convoy then make a quick return to the NDP arriving there before dark.

When we pulled through the berm at Thunder I it had taken longer than anticipated as the 113s were slowed by overheating engines and transmission issues. Once inside the fire base I immediately found the Alpha Troop's Sheridan and two ACAVs lined up at the gate ready to go, engines idling. The TCs, all young NCOs, had been alerted but the 113 carrying the promised food was missing and the Alpha crews knew nothing about it.

I found the senior mess NCO who told me that there wasn't any major screwup, the cooks were just running behind. It would be another 30 minutes or so before the marmites were loaded meaning a delayed start getting back to the NDP before dark. I planned to go back on one of the parallel trails the tanks had busted earlier on the RIF. Using the same trail entailed some risk but they were fresh, and it would be after dark before the local VC were likely to slip in and plant mines. There really was no good alternative since the most conservative way to avoid hitting a mine in dark or daylight, was to bust a new trail. That would take hours for a single tank to push through 5 miles of bamboo and trees. Most firebases had VC trail watchers reporting movement in and out so I wouldn't slip back unnoticed. Speed and getting to the NDP before dark was my best security. My radio comms back to the NDP using the tank antenna weren't good, so I walked over to the Squadron's S-3 operations track, an M577 to use their radios. At the flap of the 577's extension, I could see it was crowded with a briefing and one of the ops NCOs stepped out to meet me. After explaining the situation and delay I requested they contact Alpha CP about the delay and get Captain West's guidance. Did he want me to push on tonight or wait at the firebase till morning and break a new trail?

About ten minutes later, the Squadron operations officer, Major Snow came out to advise that he wanted me to head back as soon as possible. I wasn't sure if he was speaking for Captain West or as the S3 and I voiced my concern about the delay. Majors in important positions weren't required to explain themselves to newbie 2nd lieutenants, so the message was clear, move out when the M113 with chow was ready.

Shortly after this exchange, I rounded up the tardy M113 and put it in my little convoy. Vic and Jeris had already positioned our tank at the head. I put the Sheridan behind me, then an ACAV, the new M113 with supplies and then the second ACAV securing the rear. The TCs had all been briefed and everyone was on my platoon frequency. I had an AN VRC-12 that I kept on the Alpha troop push and a VRC-46 on platoon. Once we were closer, I expected to raise Alpha troop CP.

It was already getting towards sundown when we crossed QL-13 and picked up the rough trail going east back into the jungle. With the slight overcast and no moon, the bush had already darkened. Vic steered us off to one side of the trail without me needing to remind him, keeping our left track breaking a slightly wider trail and off-center from the old tracks. It would be a slower roll, but a compromise solution. The other tracks were snuggled up close behind, happy to let the big tank lead. I debated about turning on headlights as the gloom had quickly transitioned to darkness, but Vic insisted he could see well enough.

About halfway back, we hit a mine.

There was a massive flash-boom inside the turret accompanied by a blast wave that smacked us hard. My first thought was that something had exploded inside the turret, perhaps one of the 90mm rounds exposed in the ready rack or stored down by the driver's compartment. I was concussed. The turret was filled with smoke, and I had no understanding of what had happened. Then I knew it must have been an A-T mine. It had penetrated the underside of the hull somehow. My ears were ringing. I could still hear the steady firing of machine guns. The firing stopped and I understood

the little convoy had been shooting up the jungle in an SOP response to a mine detonation that might trigger an ambush. When nothing came back the firing stopped.

Amazingly, Jeris was climbing up out of the loader's hatch apparently unhurt. I couldn't tell much in the dark, but he was stunned like me. I keyed my intercom switch and called down to Vic for a status report. When there was no response, I knew he was hurt. I pulled myself out of the cupola and worked my way around the side of the turret to the front slope and peered down into the driver's compartment. Nothing. It was dark with lingering smoke and the familiar stink of explosives was strong. There was no sign of Vic, and I hoped that he had crawled out. I went back to the cupola to grab a flashlight and pointed it into the driver's compartment.

The damage to Vic's body had been catastrophic. Death had been instantaneous. There was a gaping hole in the bottom of the hull where the driver's escape hatch should have been. The hatch was gone along with the driver's seat that was normally positioned directly above it.

I climbed in the cupola to radio the convoy we'd hit a mine which was pointless of course, since the blast had been obvious. I wasn't thinking straight. Then came noise and movement beside me and I turned to see an ACAV pushing through the brush on my side of the turret, about 5 meters away. I remember a man on the ground beside the ACAV between us, close by. In the next moment came another blast and a vague mental image of a dark object flying through my field of vision.

The cupola had partially shielded me from this explosion but not my head. I recall yelling into the mike something like "NOBODY MOVE! Nobody dismount!"

The ACAV had decided to bypass my tank for a reason I never learned. They had dismounted a trooper. Whether the trooper stepped on a mine, or more likely the ACAV's left track had run over a 2nd AT mine next to him, I never learned. I think it was the latter. The details were moot anyway; James Nesselrotte age 19, had been killed by the blast.

Jeris Henderson was on the far side of the turret shielded from the second blast, but even he was concussed again. We were in a cluster of mines, and everyone needed to stay put until I could shake off my fuzziness. There was a radio call for a wounded or maybe it was to report a death. Nothing was registering. We needed to radio for a 'dust-off' if we had wounded. What was the frequency? It was a preset pushbutton on my VRC 12, but I couldn't remember which one. By then, I think one of the TCs must have made the call for a dust-off or maybe it had been me. I no longer remember.

There was no place to land a helicopter. We needed an LZ for a dust-off. The three remaining vehicles behind me reversed in their original tracks about 50 feet and two of them did a neutral steer to the right, heading straight out into the brush to make a small LZ. They may have done this on their own initiative or maybe I told them or maybe it had been Captain West. I remember flares and swaying shadows from illumination rounds, probably fired from Thunder I or maybe Alpha's mortar section.

The Alpha Troop CP was in my headset telling me there was a reaction force on the way. They would have to blaze a new trail to get there so it would take time. The rest of that night would be a series of mental fragments until the next day. I recall the image of an OH-6 helicopter using its landing lights to make a difficult stovepipe descent, rotor blades barely clearing the trees.

Sometime later there were ACAV engines roaring nearby. The Alpha reaction force was there. Then several medics were on the turret tending Geris and me. We were ferried back to the NDP in an APC.

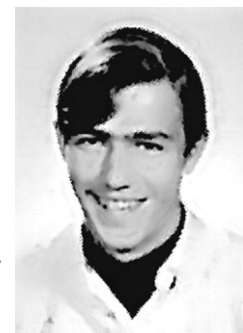
Sergeant Hightower departed at first light to tow D31 back to Thunder I where Victor Shaffer's remains were carefully removed. I rejoined them that afternoon. Daylight revealed that we had bellied into a large termite mound. The vulnerable escape hatch had apparently been the first part of the tank to hit the pressure detonator. If only a track had hit the mine, it would have been just another harmless jarring bump, a big boom with some roadwheels blown off. The VC had positioned the mine perfectly. I was told later that an ACAV in the reaction force subsequently hit a 3rd mine near my tank, fortunately with no serious injuries.

Vic went back to Ohio to be buried at Ottawa Hills Memorial Park outside his hometown of Toledo. Vic had been an only child. I obtained a copy of his obit years later. He had been a member of the National Honor Society. He carried a union card with Local 55 of the Ironworkers. His mother Ruth was listed as next of kin and other than grandparents and two uncles there was no other family to mourn him at the funeral, which would have been a closed coffin affair. In 2001 when Ruth passed, she would be buried next to her son. Victor Thomas Shaffer is inscribed on the Wall on Panel 22 West Line 093.

James Michael Nesselrotte from Painesville OH, like me, had been in Vietnam for only a month. He would have his name engraved on the same panel as Victor Shaffer. Names of servicemen who died even on the same date are memorialized in alphabetical order on a panel, which placed James Nesselrotte on 22W Line 092, seven names before Victor Shaffer. Neither man had known the other before the 19th of June. I figured out later that they must have grown up only a hundred miles apart. Nesselrotte's mother Frankie and father James placed him in a beautiful little cemetery on high ground near a fork of the Elk River just east of Webster Springs, West Virginia. Both are there with him now. His older brother Don died just recently.

I still have nightmares of that night. I had followed Major Snow's order against my better instincts, but that wasn't exculpatory.

I was responsible for the tactical movement. The deaths of both men were on me.



*James Nesselrotte
[high school yearbook]*

[Postscript: Jeris Henderson recovered from his concussion and was my loader on D31 until after I went back to be the company exec. We had formed a bond as co-equals fighting the same turret during many contacts over the following 6 months. Jeris didn't make his DEROS. He was killed the following March in Tay Ninh, fighting in a series of heavy contacts that resulted in the death of two other Delta troopers as well. I also look for Garlin Jeris Henderson Jr's name on Panel 13 West Line 118.]



We all have a story to tell about our coming home. Most of those stories are about abuse, insult and unappreciation. Burdened with hostile memories we are surprised when strangers smile and tell us: "Welcome Home."

My welcome home, on the other hand, was a delight, a joy. I landed at Travis Air Force Base in uniform and was saluted and embraced. When I reported to my first stateside duty station, I was the guest of honor at a Prayer Breakfast and sat with then Governor Jimmy Carter. A few days later, I was the grand Marshall in the Veterans Day Parade in Chattanooga. I never realized the resentment or anger that most Vietnam veteran faced.

In civilian life I worked in Washington, sat just three rows back when President Reagan dedicated the Statue of the Three Soldiers. I recall being a proud and pampered veteran celebrating the 1st President Bush's exhibits on the National Mall and the Parade down Constitution Avenue. Many times, on my way home from the heart of the city, I drove past The Wall and stopped often, not because I was melancholy, but because I was proud. Proud that I had walked or rode a mile or two with those great American lads whose names were etched on that Wall. I never understood the anguish of some of our veterans, the resentment they felt, the sorrow they carried.

That is until one day, in 1994.

I usually ventured outside for lunch each day: two half-smokes (mustard and kraut), a soda and bag of chips from a street vendor for \$2.50. I had been noticing a homeless guy for a number of weeks, waking up and down the streets near the Air and Space Museum. He dressed in a red flannel shirt, a bonnie hat, jungle boots and bloused trousers. He looked dirtier than troopers who had walked through a flooded rice paddy and seemed rather young, yet he claimed to be a vet: 1st Cav door gunner in Vietnam. He was setting on a bench close by so I brought him a similar lunch – without the kraut. We sat and talked for a while, but he didn't want to recall his Brigade, Battalion or Company. He told me he was "messed up on drugs" but assured me wasn't an alcoholic – "that stuff will kill you." He wasn't dumb, but had memory and relationship problems.

Over time, we became friends of a sort, so one day I asked him how he survived on the streets. He assured me he didn't need any help: that he doubled his money every day. Wow! How? He told me he sold quarters and made 50 cents on every 2 quarters he sold.

In that part of DC, every street parking spot had meters, park twenty minutes for every quarter. And as one car left, two or three were waiting for the slot. Tourists were always short of pocket change and needed quarters. So, my bud, "Jungle Jim" just happened to walk by and offer them quarters: two for a dollar. With Meter Maids visibly present, he made a sale 3 out of 4 times. As he said, he doubled his money every day. Come November, Jim went to Florida and worked the parking meters in Miami.

One afternoon, I convinced him to walk to The Wall. He had not been there, but once we got there, he was reluctant to walk down the vortex. We talked about the VA, but he didn't want "uncle" messing with his life. He didn't think much of the benefit programs. He had only heard bad things and Vietnam vets were not in favor during the Clinton era. We

walked to Panel 2W and I pointed out some of the lads I had served with. After hearing their stories, he went to the directory and sure enough found a name. I had to go back to work and he stayed and I left Jim at The Wall ... never to see him again.

I'm sorry I didn't do more for him, as I kind of missed his company. I still think of him and pray for him ... though I don't know why. He had assured me, "he doubled his money, every day."

But you all recall that for a long time, no one liked us. This rag tag bunch who melded together in a distant land far across the sea. We came from many different places, we brought along our baggage. But somehow, we got along. Our food was different: boys from Chicago or Cleveland had never eaten grits. Guys from California or Washington state had never tasted kielbasa or pierogies. Nebraska men expected corn at every meal, while potatoes were common fare for New Englanders. Italian lads traded pasta for Ramen noodles.

Staten Islanders had never double clutched a truck while Kentucky boys thought it a sin to drive a Firebird or Trans AM. Yankees wore khaki pants: Rock and Roll and the Beatles and a guy named Lennon provided their music from Ladysmith, Virginia to the Canadian border ... where some of their classmates now lived.

Rebels wore dungarees. Patsy Cline and Nashville, Memphis and Dixieland Jazz were the fare for the boys south of the Grit Line. Yet with all this dichotomy, somehow, they all got along. We kept our different preferences, but we still are Blackhorse brothers. Each of us holding on to those values we brought with us and to the valuable friendships we now have.

Some of these comparisons may or may not be true, but they are worth smiling and laughing about and maybe even singing.

There is an old movie called: "**Secondhand Lions**" Robert Duvall, steals the scene as he rocks on the front porch and pontificates with the following monolog:

"Sometimes the things that may or may not be true are the things that a man needs to believe in the most. That people are basically good. That honor, courage and virtue mean everything.

That power and money, money and power mean nothing; that Good always triumphs over Evil; and I want you to remember this; that love, true love never dies.

Doesn't matter if any of this is true or not. You see, a man should believe in these things because these are the things worth believing in."

So, we may not have liked each other at times in days gone by; but we do love you all now: you, the Troopers of the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment.

It is my hope that you'll remember and pray with me for our brothers who have gone to their rest and for those of us, yet standing, that we may all merrily meet in heaven – or on Fiddlers Green.

Chaplain Bill.



Fiddler's Green

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names.

Over 500 U.S. newspapers are checked daily for the keywords "11th Cavalry" or "11th Armored Cavalry". Information is then posted on our website to allow us to post notices. Please check the "Funeral Honor Guard check daily" at www.11thcavnam.com

Michael R. Bartlett, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 31, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lansing, MI.

Richard C. Benner, C Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 25, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Philadelphia, PA. He was laid to rest in Washington Crossing National Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA.

Keith Clinton Craig, Air Cavalry Troop (1971-1972) passed away on June 20, 2024. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Honey Creek, IA.

Lee Roland DeNault, Air Cavalry Troop (1967-1968) passed away on June 12, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVZC and resided in Ontario, CA. He was laid to rest in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

Thomas Albert Doll, HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on August 10, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Omaha, NE. He was laid to rest in Omaha National Cemetery, Omaha, NE.

John S. Dunn, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 7, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Camp Hill, PA. He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.

Jose A. Fernandez, 541st Military Intelligence Detachment (1966-1967) passed away on June 16, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Juan, PR.

Donald C. Frank, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 10, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pittsburgh, PA. He was laid to rest in Saint Martin Cemetery, Pittsburgh, PA.

Joseph Albert Garbacz, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 25, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC

and resided in Saint Peters, MO. He was laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery And Mausoleums, Calumet City, IL.

Melvin Gene Harper, B Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on April 9, 2020. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Astatula, FL. He was laid to rest in Astutula Cemetery, Astatula, FL.

Philip Horton Hasselvander, Air Cavalry Troop (1967-1968) passed away on May 12, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Danville, VA. He was laid to rest in Sunrise Burial Park, Fairlawn, VA.

Douglas A. Haywood, Air Cavalry Troop - ARP (1970-1971) passed away on October 3, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tonawanda, NY. He was laid to rest in Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, NY.

Reinhold Hans Hinz, HHT REGT (1967-1968) passed away on December 20, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mckinney, TX. He was laid to rest in Dallas - Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX.

Kendall Lewis Hunter, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on July 24, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Detroit Lakes, MN. He was laid to rest in Riverview Memorial Gardens, Lancaster, MN.

Joe Barney Jenkinson, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1970) passed away on July 16, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Guthrie, OK.

Michael Sean Kearney, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on April 14, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbia, MD.

Claude Earl Lindsey, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1968-1968) passed away on August 19, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Edmond, OK. He was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery,

Little Rock, AR.

Bernard Michael McGowan, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 26, 2023. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Basehor, KS.

Donald Craig Michaud, E Troop, 2/11 (1969-1969) passed away on August 24, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ellensburg, WA.

Richard B. Organ, I Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on August 9, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Amarillo, TX.

George Daniel Powers, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on July 29, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dante, VA. He was laid to rest in Powers Family Cemetery, Dickenson Cunty, VA.

Herman Roest, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 17, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Boise, ID. He was laid to rest in Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, Boise, ID.

Larry Dean Soliday, Air Cavalry Troop (1969-1971) passed away on February 19, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Urbana, IL. He was laid to rest in Danville National Cemetery, Danville, IL.

Nicola Spezzacatena, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on July 17, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Palm Coast, FL. He was laid to rest in Holy Name Cemetery, Jersey City, NJ.

Phillip Daniel Stephens, M Company, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on September 1, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Reidsville, NC.

Louis Donald Thompson, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 18, 2021. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY. He was laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

Ronald Raymond Vaughan, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 17, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pensacola, FL. He was laid to rest in Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, FL.

Emilio Siller Villarreal, M Company, 3/11 (1969-1969) passed away on July 24, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in San Antonio, TX. He was laid to rest in Moore Catholic Cemetery, Moore, TX.

Robert Daniel Villaverde, K Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 2, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in North Las Vegas, NV.

Rufus Allen Waugh, I Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on August 28, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Williamsburg, OH. He was laid to rest in Williamsburg Cemetery, Williamsburg, OH.

Melvin Lewis Willsey, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on August 20, 2024. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Richmond Heights, MO. He was laid to rest in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

The Morning “Thank-You for Your Service” Soared to “Gratitude for Your Service” By: Joe Willey

This most recent Memorial Day I met other 11th ACR Vets at the statue of the Three Soldiers just above the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial. I was greeted by hugs, handshakes, and nods from friends and familiar faces. The group of us exchanged family and personal updates and swapped a few memories, maybe even a lie or two.

When it was time, Father Bill had us gather in a big oval and asked us to introduce ourselves and identify a Blackhorse soldier who either paid the ultimate price, forged an unforgettable memory in our mind, or merited recognition for their achievement and contribution to the regiment in Vietnam and afterwards. Each of us made a meaningful contribution ranging from Battle Buddies KIA or WIA, to those who returned home changed persons many of whom remained haunted by the war throughout their lives, to the officer who designed our regimental patch, to the group present that day who have stuck together thick and thin.

There was one notable group that went unrecognized and that was the group comprised of families of our KIAs and our own families who have stood by our sides and supported us through these many years. This group, more so than returning Vets, deserve an immense amount of recognition. The loss of a son, brother, or father is everlasting and unfathomable. The long-term support of a loved one suffering from PTSD or Agent Orange diseases requires a lot of love and patience.

After we had finished introducing ourselves, Father Bill offered a prayer and designated the men to carry our Regimental wreath down to the apex of the Memorial. Without doubt, each of were touched by the two young Asian boys who shook each of our hands and personally thanked each of us for our service.

After our short service at the foot of the Memorial ended, we all shook hands and began leaving the Memorial, many in different

directions. I walked the length of the Memorial leading towards Constitution Ave where I had parked.

As I approached the end of the Memorial, I encountered a Vietnamese woman wearing a white line dress, so familiar to us who served in Vietnam. Behind me I heard a young voice call out to her. It was one of the two young boys who had greeted and thanked us for our service. I stopped and told the young mother how special her children were for thanking us for our service. I was wearing an 11th ACVVC polo shirt with the Regiment patch and Vietnam Service Ribbon. She reached up to my chest and touched our patch, looked at me and said, “If it wasn’t for your service those boys wouldn’t be here today.” Her statement sucked the air out of me and brought me to tears. I couldn’t bear to talk with her and continued to my car and my friend’s house. I cried all the way.

I think many of us have begun to think being told “Thank You for Your Service” has become somewhat of a spontaneous complement. But on the morning of Monday, May 27, 2024, being told by a young mother, unquestionably a granddaughter of someone who escaped the communist takeover of South Vietnam, that her lineage is because of my and others’ service in Vietnam was an unsolicited, sincere, and touching statement of heartfelt gratitude. A statement that erased the stigma of spit, nasty statements, and gestures made to me and my fellow Vietnam veterans. A statement that made me feel proud and grateful for my service in Vietnam. A statement of gratitude!

Allons My Brothers!
Joe Willey
Americal Division/196th LIB 68-69
HHT Regt 11th ACR, Apr-Dec1969
HHT, 1st Squadron, 11th ACR Jan-Apr 1970



Membership is Our Strength

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



39th ACVVC Annual Reunion

Omaha, Nebraska



39th ACVVC Annual Reunion

Omaha, Nebraska



39th ACVVC Annual Reunion

Omaha, Nebraska

Women of the Blackhorse – 1913



"The boldest riding regiment in the service ..."

Women of the Blackhorse – 1901-1904

"The rainy season has commenced. It rains most every day and most every night which makes it very unpleasant on guard and other duties. I have a fine pair of rubber boots and slicker so don't mind it very much ... The cakes Mother sent were fine of course they were all a bit stale except the fruit cake but I can tell you they were relished every crumb ... The Cholera here is about over but they still keep us from entering a native house."

Letter to his sister from San Fernando, Philippine Islands, 13 August 1902

"I received the box about two weeks ago and it would be useless to tell you that it was greatly enjoyed. The plum duff we had on Feb. 22 with a nice whiskey sauce. The raisins we had today in a cornstarch pudding. The cheese was the only thing that was spoil ... As stale call will go soon I will have to close."

Letter to his sister from Camp Wallace, Philippine Islands, 18 February 1903

Women of the Blackhorse – 1901-1904

"I have four hundred horses that have never seen a soldier, four hundred recruits that have never seen a horse, and four second lieutenants that have never seen either a soldier or a horse."

*Major (later Brigadier General) James Hickey
Commanding Officer
1st Squadron, 11th Cavalry Regiment
Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, 1901*

Blackhorse Trooper 1901

"They drilled the hell out of us [at Fort Myer] ... All around the city [Washington, DC] were signs saying 'Dogs and Soldiers Not Allowed.'"

*Private Tom Spear
I Troop, 1901-04*

Women of the Blackhorse – 1907-1909

11th Cavalry Troopers improving civil-military relations in Cuba

"I do not mind these young fellows marrying if they can support a wife, but I do object to the homely girls some of them marry. In the future I want to see the girl before I approve the application."

*Colonel James Parker
3rd Colonel of the Regiment*

Women of the Blackhorse – 1930

11th Cavalry wives pose with Ronald Reagan during the filming of "Sergeant Murphy"

In 1930, Lieutenant Ronald Reagan (US Cavalry, Reserve) starred in "Sergeant Murphy" filmed at the Presidio of Monterey

Women of the Blackhorse – 1941

TROOP A, ELEVENTH CAVALRY

"There! I've finished with that package. I wrapped it good, all quite neat. Now I'll add a few extra postals. At the P. O. down the street."

*Wife and mother, sister, sweet-heart
Left behind to carry on
On their 9th by sending sweet-grams
To the dear one who is gone.*

*There's just three because of me:
Breathing in that ball of heat
They have gone because of "duty"
Gone because their hearts are right.*

*Burning sunlight, choking dust
Fog of heat and stomp of hooves
Comes the night, will heat they feel
Then at dawn they "hit the grit."*

*Don't know much about the army
Don't know "A-90-100" from "Left-Right"
But it made my heart all wobbly
When the Eleventh comes in sight.*

*10 August 1941
Missoula, Montana*

*Don't know much about the army
But it makes my heart all wobbly
When the Eleventh comes in sight."*

*10 August 1941
Missoula, Montana*

*And when "Time" is in
"Action"
When there's service work,
There you'll see the troop formation
Of the Eleventh in the lead.*

*So I'm glad that I'm a nurse
Who is proud as she can be
Of a hospital, where her brother
In Troop A, the Cavalry.*

Sentry Lark: JESSIE L. PERRO.

MAIL-CALL 15 April 1945

*Why do I go and stand each day
In the sunset or moonlight?
The nothing ever comes any way,
With nothing to do at all.
Back home I'd own a little bit
And know each day for maintenance
What work is there waiting for me.
It seems there must be written
With little else to do.
Why can't they send some letters
To a guy whose absence lasts?
Our chaplain would be more than
Willing
To send you the names of some guys
Who stand each day for maintenance
With work in their waiting eyes.
We're not any worse or better
Than most of the boys out here.
And a letter would bolster our courage.
As our Indian apt. holders, by chance
I'd have really change someone
standing at each mail-call
And have the others get letters
And you get nothing at all.
To make it just every thing
Of whether there's any work
And some one there and some
"I'm just giving up the game,
Some day you think out words talk-
ing.
To some poor guy like me
With the name from heaven.
It means a letter, you see
Don't think that I'm just complain-
ing.
But I don't—can't you understand
That a guy who may soon be dying
Likes the mail of a family member?
Sentry Lark: JESSIE L. PERRO.*

Women of the Blackhorse – 1943-1945

"He was a 'Good Time Charlie' in every respect - lost stripes on at least one occasion as a result! He loved to dance, had a pleasing singing voice and enjoyed fishing and hunting. I doubt that he would have been drafted given his occupation [he worked in a defense factory], age [born in 1904] and having two children, but he enlisted out of patriotism and his sense of adventure. He was well liked by his fellow soldiers in spite of the age difference and was referred to as 'Pop.'"

Jean Frinks age 16

Jean Frinks, daughter

PVT Charles O. (Charlie) Frinks

On 12 April 1945 Private Charles Frinks was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries received on the ICP. He mailed the medal to his wife Faye and enclosed a note dated 16 April which read: "Hi One and Only! Just a word or two to say I'm OK and still love you. Just a little remembrance or souvenir for my Honey. Please excuse the scribble. Love to all, COE. PS - Will meet you again at the spring." He was killed the next day. The war ended less than a month later. Charles Frinks was buried in the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten.

Women of the Blackhorse – 1966-1972

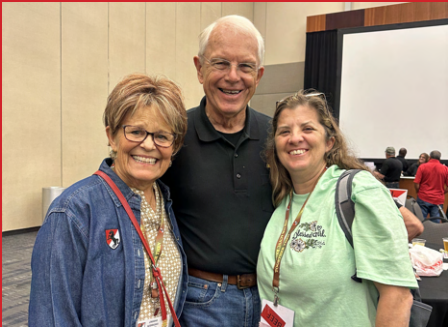
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39th ACVVC Annual Reunion

Omaha, Nebraska



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

QM Store



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



#16 Eddie Bauer
Hooded Soft Shell
Jacket \$94.00



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



#3 Bumper Sticker \$3.00



#4 Window
Sticker \$3.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#30 Value
Computer Case
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#43 Outdoor Wide
Brim Hat \$25.00



#31 Messenger
Brief Case
\$24.00



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



#47 11th Cavalry
Cap \$18.50



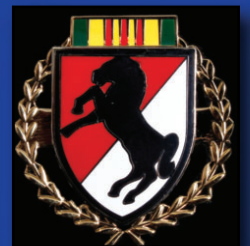
#32 Large Active
Duffel
\$34.00



#34 Camouflage Sport
Duffel
\$40.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin
\$5.00



#20 Vietnam
Blackhorse Pin,
Wreath \$5.00



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



#33 Heavy Blend
hooded sweatshirt
\$28.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$9.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch
Colored \$5.00



#18 11th ACR
Regimental Crest
\$7.00



#48 Sportsman Hat
\$18.00

#10 Small Blackhorse Magnet
\$6.00

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



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



#37 Gray Cotton
T-Shirt \$20.00

#35 Circuit
Backpack
\$20.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$6.50



#36 Allons
Decal \$3.00



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



#5 Hoodie Sweat Shirt \$30.00



#55 4" Vietnam Cambodia Patch \$5.00



#57 4" Stadium Blanket (Gray or Red) \$22.00



#49 Dry Zone Grid Polo \$30.00



#27 Eddie Bauer Polo \$32.00



#21 Port Authority Soft Shell Jacket \$52.00



#53 Woodland Shirt Jacket \$52.00



#56 Leatherette Koozie (Black or Red) \$7.00



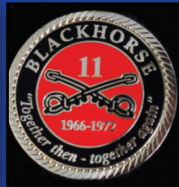
#50 Ladies Jersey Knit Cardigan \$40.00



#24 Blackhorse Fleece Vest \$29.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#52 Blackhorse Pendant \$12.00



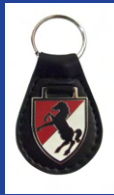
#28 Blackhorse Logo Sticker 2" X 2.5" with adhesive on back" \$2.00



#54 Flag Pin \$6.50



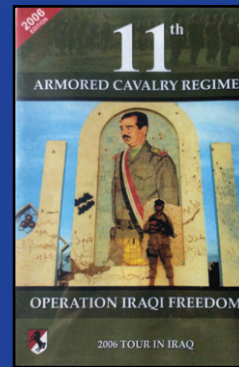
#6 Knit Cap \$18.00



#8 Metal Crest on Leather Key Tag \$8.00



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



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



#46 Blackhorse Saber \$89.00



#58 Distressed Military Cap \$18.50



#15 Leatherette Coaster 4" Rawhide Coaster \$4.00



#38a



#38b



#38d

#38 Poplin Hats \$18.00

#23 White 11th ACR Vietnam cap \$18.00



#51 Lightweight Wind Jacket \$34.00



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





Quartermaster

ORDER FORM | 4th Qtr 2024

ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Allons Patch	5.00			
2.	11th Armored Cavalry Patch	5.00			
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With the Blackhorse" w/ full color BH insignia	3.00			
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	3.00			
5.	Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt	30.00			
6.	Knit Cap - Black and Grey	18.00			
7.	Full Color Shoulder Patch	5.00			
8.	Metal Crest on Leather Key Tag	8.00			
9.	CIB car magnet, 3"x4"	6.00			
10.	Small Blackhorse Magnet	6.00			
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00			
12.	"The Beast" Blackhorse Knife	22.00			
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	9.00			
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	5.00			
15.	Leatherette Coaster - 4"	4.00			
16.	Eddie Bauer Hooded Soft Shell Jacket	94.00			
17.	Blackhorse Pin	5.00			
18.	Allons Unit Crest	7.00			
19.	Blackhorse Regimental Pin - 11 over cross sabers	6.50			
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin - With Vietnam Wreath	5.00			
21.	Port Authority Soft Shell Jacket	52.00			
22.	DVD 11th ACR in OIF III	15.00			
23.	White 11th ACR Vietnam Cap	18.00			
24.	Blackhorse Fleece Vest	29.00			
25.	Blackhorse Coin	15.00			
26.	Large Blackhorse Magnet (7" x 8.5")	12.00			
27.	Eddie Bauer Polo	32.00			
28.	Blackhorse Logo Sticker - 2" X 2.5" with adhesive on back	2.00			
30.	Value Computer Case	20.00			
31.	Messenger Briefcase	24.00			
32.	Lg. Active Duffel	34.00			
33.	Heavy Blend Hooded Sweatshirt	28.00			
34.	Camouflage Sport Duffel	40.00			
35.	Circuit Backpack	20.00			
36.	Allons Decal	3.00			
37.	Grey Cotton T-shirt	20.00			
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> 38a <input type="checkbox"/> 38b <input type="checkbox"/> 38d	18.00			
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. GREEN	20.00			
40.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. GRAY	20.00			
41.	Dark denim shirt - men's short sleeve	35.00			
42.	Dark denim shirt - men's long sleeve	35.00			
43.	Outdoor Wide Brim Hat <input type="checkbox"/> S/M <input type="checkbox"/> L/XL	25.00			
46.	Blackhorse Saber	89.00			
47.	11th Calvary Cap	18.50			
48.	Sportsman Hat (S/M or L/XL)	18.00			
49.	Dry Zone Grid Polo	30.00			
50.	Ladies Jersey Knit Cardigan	40.00			
51.	Lightweight Wind Jacket	34.00			
52.	Blackhorse Pendant	12.00			
53.	Woodland Shirt Jacket	53.00			
54.	Flag pin	6.50			
55.	4" Vietnam Cambodia Patch	5.00			
56.	Leatherette Koozie (Black or Red)	7.00			
57.	Stadium Blanket (Grey or Red)	22.00			
58.	Distressed Military Cap	18.50			

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

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Total

Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple items)

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

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Signature _____

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Check if address change

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

*** Required info to process your order**



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