

THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

From the Galley: MRFA 2011 Reunion

Fellow members here we are and another 2 years has gone by and as we look around us, we ask, "Where did it go and why so fast." Folks, it seems as we get older that time does seem to go by faster. The past 2 years have been good and some not so good. We have picked up some new members and have lost some as well.

We always enjoy picking up new members, but hate to see Taps; we have lost a number of members and spouses over the last few years. Some of our members served with us in Vietnam on the boats, ships, Infantry, Mech Infantry, Artillery, Aviation, and on Army and Navy bases, etc. Some have been with us since our beginning and some only a few years, but no matter how long they are with us, it's always hard to post Taps in the newsletter. Let's always remember our brothers and sisters we have lost since Vietnam and especially those we lost in Vietnam.

As for the association, we are doing just fine; we still have the good name of one of the better Vietnam Veterans Association out there. Because of a few dedicated members, whom are knowledgeable in Veterans Affairs, we have been able to help a number of you, the members. Our web site receives rave review; our *River Currents* newsletter is probably one, if not, the best out there; but most of all we have you the



Wyndham Hotel, Indianapolis, IN

members who make the association flourish by given us your full support. We the officers and board members can only do so much; it's you the members whom make and have made the association the association it is today!

Although we are all getting a little older, a little grayer, and a little slower in our walk, don't sleep as well as we once did, or see or hear as well, we are still looking after our fellow brothers from Vietnam. I can remember years back when we were the younger veteran's generation; now we are the older generation as the WWII and Korean War veterans are passing on at a rapid pace.

We need to give thanks to all whom have gone on before us and those still with us today. As we get older, it seems we need to see and be around each other more before our memories fade away and one's past is just a fading memory. Some days it seems like Vietnam was only yesterday; then at other times, it seems like it never happened or was just a bad dream, or in some instances a good dream. We did have some good times, but that was mostly because of the men we served with.

SUMMER 2011

After Vietnam when we were all much vounger and active, we were all looking for a brighter future, a brighter tomorrow ahead for us. Some of us stayed in the military. Some went home got jobs and moved on with their lives. Some were more successful than others. Some had a harder life than others. Some have many health issues and some have not. Some have gotten thinner, some heavier. Some have gray hair, some don't. Some walk with limps, some don't. Some are in wheel chairs or use a walker or a cane, some don't. Some have hearing and vision impairments and some don't. I guess this happens to veterans of all wars, but what we all have in common with each other and it can never be counted or expressed in words is Brotherhood. We all served with honor, dignity, pride, and courage. We served our country when called upon. We fought for our country. Some died for our country, but most of all we fought for one another.

I was in DC recently for Vets Day and overheard a soldier being interviewed by a reporter. The reporter asked the soldier how he felt

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Admiral T. Joseph Lopez has worked in executive positions in the private sector following a distinguished 40-year Navy career, culminating in his service as Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe and Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe. He is one of two officers in Navy history to rise to the rank of four stars after direct commissioning from enlisted service. He has served in ship-and-shore



Admiral Thomas J. Lopez U.S. Navy (Ret) Commander of River Assault Division 153 (1969-70)

assignments in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and the Balkan conflicts. Admiral Lopez's naval career included tours as Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces, Southern Europe from 1996 to 1998. In 1996, he commanded all U.S. and Allied Bosnia Peace Keeping Forces; from 1994 to 1996, he served as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Resources, Warfare Requirements and Assessments; Commander of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in 1992-1993; and Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense from 1990 to 1992. Admiral Lopez served in Vietnam as a LT and was Commander of River Assault Division 153 (1969-70).

Dr. Baldwin was born in 1934 in New York City, attended public schools in Pelham, NY, and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1955. He studied at Cornell Medical School in NYC, where he received his MD degree in 1959, and then embarked upon an 8-year surgical training program at The New York Hospital, finishing in heart and chest surgery at UCSF in 1967. He was drafted and served as a Major in the Army Medical Corps at Fort Ord and as Chief of Surgery at the 24th Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh, Viet Nam, from 1968 to **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



John N. Baldwin, MD FACS Major, MC US Army (1967-69) Heart, Vascular, and General Surgery Chief of Surgery 24th Evac Hospital Long Binh, Vietnam, 1968-69 USS Colleton (APB-36) in Vietnam

Colleton's keel was laid on 9 June 1945. She was launched on 30 July 1945 and was completed in September 1945.



The concept of riverine warfare in the Mekong Delta renewed the need for the Colleton. Having a shallow draft and flat bottom, she was well suited for the riverine environment. After extensive conversion, she was commissioned at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on 28 January 1967 under the command of LCDR F. R. Banbury. The first order of business after the commissioning was an extensive preparation for the transit to Vietnam.

On 6 February 1967, Colleton got underway for Norfolk, VA, to complete her fitting out by taking advantage of the logistic and training of that area. On 8 March, she got underway for Vung Tau, Republic of Vietnam. The first leg of the trip from Norfolk to the Panama Canal was utilized trying to fashion her crew into a team and getting them used to working together.

Colleton arrived at the Panama Canal during the afternoon of the 15th and began a night transit of the Canal. After a brief stay of a few hours at the Naval Station at Rodman, She got underway to continue on her journey.

The second leg of her journey-Panama Canal to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii-began by "chopping" to the U.S. Pacific Fleet and was filled with drills and training. Oahu, Hawaii, finally came into sight on the morning of 4 April and Colleton entered Pearl Harbor. She got underway 8 April for the final portion of her transit to Vung Tau. Upon arrival in Vung Tau, She was "chopped" to Commander Naval Forces Vietnam and came under the operational control of Commander Riverine Flotilla One, embarked on the USS Benewah (APB-35). The Benewah and the Askari (ARL-30) had arrived earlier forming the nucleus of the growing Mobile

Riverine Force. After a complete paint job (green Army olive drab), several hundred square feet of bararmor was fabricated to cover the bridge and operations area. This had to be constructed entirely by the ship's company from angle iron and 1/2 inch steel bars. The month of May also saw the installation of 8 50 caliber and 12 7.62-mm machine guns to the armament of the ship. She also acquired three ammo pontoons to be used as a mooring place for the small boats of the River Assault Squadrons and as assembling points for troops about to be embarked in the Armored Troop Carriers (Tangos).

On 12 May, the first Army unit was embarked. The unit was the 4th/47th (riverine infantry) of the 2nd Brigade 9th Infantry Division. Five days later, River Assault Squadron 11 was also embarked. On 1 June, Colleton transported the embarked units up the Song Tien Giang to Dong Tam (30 miles southwest of Saigon). This was Colleton's first penetration of the Delta. Four days later, the 4th/47th and units of River Assault Squadron 11 departed Colleton for combat operations. Colleton had no difficulty keeping up with the Army's tempo of operations when on June 12 the Mobile Riverine Force was shifted to the vicinity of Nha Be (5 miles southeast of Saigon) on the Song Soi Rap. A week after beginning operations in this area, Colleton experienced the first anguish of war, when the 4th/47th's A Company suffered heavy casualties. A helicopter made a total of 19 landings, each time unloading an average of five casualties onto the flight deck.



USS Colleton anchored off Dong Tam 1967

On 27 July, Colleton returned to Dong Tam for a week of combat operations and then departed for Vung Tau. The main purpose in returning to Vung Tau was to concentrate the efforts of the Mobile Riverine Force in the Rung Sat Special Zone. After a week's



Heavy boats alongside USS Collecton (APB-36)

stay, She shifted to Song Soi Rap and Song Van Co. Ambushes from the heavily foliated banks were frequent and casualties to men and craft were common. Other operations took the ship deeper into the Delta, such as Sa Dec, Song Ham Long, and Song Co Chien. On 18 December, all embarked units left the ship as She prepared for the transit to Subic Bay, arriving 24 December. See below.

From February 1968 to October 1968, Colleton conducted operations in Vinh Long, Dong Tam, and all along the Mekong Delta, with another run in December, embarking Alfa and Bravo Companies of the 4th/47th Infantry. The Colleton remained in the Mekong Delta until 1969 supporting the Mobile Riverine Force TF-117 and the Riverine Infantry of the 9th Infantry Division. She returned to the states in 1969 and was decommissioned in December 1969. From what records we can find, the Colleton was only in commission once and this was for her service in Vietnam. The USS Colleton was sold to the American Ship Dismantler's, Inc. of Portland, OR, for the sum of \$172,226.62. She was a good ship and will always be remembered by all who served and lived on her in Vietnam, Navy and Army alike.

Additional Colleton History Courtesy of HMC

Norman Chatman USN (Ret)

In December of 1967, the Colleton proceeded to Subic Bay for modernization of her sick bay. The area under the flight deck was gutted and converted into a triage area for the wounded. A ramp was installed for transporting the wounded into the triage area for treatment and disposition. Another ramp was built outside the ship's port side for transporting the wounded directly into the medical department. Two more operating rooms plus recovery rooms were added while in Subic Bay.

The Colleton earned the following awards for service during the Vietnam War: Combat Action Ribbon; (2) Presidential Unit Citations; (2) Navy Unit Commendations; the RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm; RVN Civil Action Medal, First Class, with Palm; RVN Campaign Medal with 60s device; and the Vietnam Service Medal with (7) Battle Stars.

I was well into my '68/69 allexpenses-paid tour of Vietnam's Mekong Delta when my Green Bay Packers played the rival Chicago Bears for the 1968 National Football league championship. The Packers and Bears have the most storied rivalry in the NFL both with fanatic fans. The previous year I was unable to pass up an invitation with 50,000 other fans to the famous Ice Bowl, another championship game only that time with the Dallas Cowboys. I had graduated 11 weeks of Basic Training at Great Lakes in October and was getting well acclimated to a Midwest fall and winter, something enhanced by working construction in Madison, Wisconsin, while also drilling with my Naval Reserve Unit awaiting my call to active duty. Green Bay won that game 21 to 17. Records indicated the wind chill was -38 at Lambeau Field, Green Bay, that day. So a year later, I am sitting in the middle of the Song My Tho, Republic of Vietnam, with no wind chill factor. Oh, ya and betting on the game with others in my engineering crew, who had allegiance to the Bears. None of us had much money so we decided the losers would shave their heads. The Packers won 28 to 27 and I took some movies of the Bear fans getting their heads shaved. One person, Bowman, decided to have a large C for Chicago shaved on his head which he proudly exhibited, to all.

Memories of Christmas 1967 Mobile Riverine Force

Reading through my winter 2010 "*River Currents*" brought back memories from my in-country Christmas of 1967 and a couple of Christmas spirit kindnesses that I remember very well. I thought I would share those kindnesses with you, but I will provide a little background first.

I had arrived in Vietnam towards the end of November 1967 and was still green as a gourd, as the saying goes. My B Co 3rd/47th Infantry was assigned to protect a 105-gun battery over Christmas. We arrived on the Tango boats and set up our perimeter. During the day, which was Christmas Eve, we watched the Chinooks bring in the big guns and ammo that were slung underneath the choppers. The Artillery guys proceeded to set up their guns while we also improved and prepared our positions for the stay.

My three-man position was located right next to the riverbank where the Navy boat guys had our back, which was a good feeling. Those Navy guys had our back many times during the 26 boat missions I participated in during the remainder of my tour of duty, and I came to remember all too well how the Navy boat guys suffered right along with us when we were ambushed on the boats.

Later in the day, the Artillery Commander decided to give us a firing demonstration with the 105s. As I recall, the demonstration was awesome, especially the head high burst demonstration, and thought at the time that I would pity any VC in a human-wave charge against those guns. The shrapnel maelstrom would have softened them up right good before us Infantry guys would have had to deal with the survivors.



John Bowen

We settled into our positions for the night, right along with the usual miseries that were simply part of an Infantry guy's normal life--C rations for dinner, a liberal application of bug juice to keep, at least, some of the critters away, and a 1 hour on watch and 2 hours of fitful sleep routine.

As darkness was starting to settle in, a Sailor came along the bank and asked if we would like some candy and some canned chocolate milk. Well, as any of you who lived the lives we did would know--we were overawed at getting something like that on Christmas Eve. I followed the Navy guy back to his landing craft where he proceeded to hand out the goodies for me to take back to my position. I will never forget the kindness that Sailor showed us that Christmas Eve and have often wondered about him.

There was only one bit of excitement that I remember that Christmas Eve and that was one heck of a commotion in one of the gun pits when a guy went into the pit and was faced with a cobra. We were told that he jumped back out of the pit, grabbed a shovel, and proceeded to do battle with the cobra until he killed it.

Christmas Dav dawned with, thankfully, no enemy contact, other than the cobra. He probably was an equal opportunity cobra though and would have bitten one of us or a VC, so I can't in good conscience label him as an enemy. We all had a good laugh about the cobra incident though and proceeded to have a fairly relaxing day. We were curious, however, when we saw a bubble chopper landing by the big guns and witnessed Santa climbing out of the chopper. Next thing we knew another chopper was coming in bringing the Artillery guys a hot Christmas dinner!

We had a career Sergeant of Hawaiian descent who was in, if I remember correctly, 3rd platoon and was loved by his guys. He took one look at all of our faces and lit out for the CP. Next thing we knew we also had a Christmas dinner-



December 15, 1968: Green Bay Packers 28 vs Chicago Bears 27. These guys lost the bet.

-boiled hot dogs, potatoes, and sauerkraut, if I remember correctly. It was heaven to me and was the second kindness witnessed by me in a brutal world on Christmas 1967.

The Infantry and small boat Sailors reading this have experienced the many combat horrors that 1968 dealt out to us and, like many of you, those horrors haunt me to this very day. Unfortunately, combat tragedies, were, sadly, part of our job as Infantry soldiers and Navy boat guys sent by our country to do a miserable job, but thought at the time, to be a just and necessary one. With the sadness of the death and maiming that occurred, it is very difficult to think of our country sending us into that if it wasn't necessary and hope that perhaps some day history will have proved it to be just.

I again, offer thanks for the kindness shown to us by that Sailor and another thanks to that Sergeant who was responsible for the Christmas dinner. Even in the face of everything, our people reach down into their hearts and show kindness to others. I believe that is one of the ingredients that make us a great people.

A belated Merry Christmas to you both. John K. Bowen B Co 3rd/47th

1967/1968



Mobile Riverine Force Association Membership Application Form

New Member Renewal Sponsor

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Postal Delivery Go Green with Email
Name
Street
City
State Zip Code
Phone
Cell
E-mail
Change of address above.
☐ Army Member Unit (Division, Brigade, Battalion, Company, Platoon, Battery)
Navy Member Unit (Ship, Boat Hull Numbers, Navy Activity/Detachment, etc.)
Dates Served in Unit (mm/yr - mm/yr) to
Associate Member
MEMBERSHIP RATES

1 Year \$20 3 Years \$50

To become a member, mail your check or money order (payable To MRFA) to Charlie Ardinger, MRFA Membership Chariman, 1857 County Road, A14, Decorah, IA 52101-7448.

COLLETON CONT'D FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

I have lived on the West Coast since the mid 1970s and have remained an avid Packer fan. I have returned to Lambeau Field several times, most recently for the 2007 NFC Championship Game against the Seattle Seahawks on January 12, 2008. The Packers won 42 to 20 in a blizzard that was dubbed the Snow Globe Bowl. During that week and the following Sunday during the Giants game, it was colder in Green Bay than the North Pole. I wore my ski clothes that I wear when skiing in the Cascade Mountain Range. Unlike the game some 40 years previous, I was toasty warm, much like when on the Song My Tho. Ok, maybe not that warm.

Bob Heiney NSA APL-30 9/68 - 6/69 NSA Nha Be 6/69 - 9/69

MRFA Summary Report: March 1967 -

Mobile Riverine Force Summary ComRivFlot One/ComRivSuppron - Seven **Command History March 1967**

1. Operations Planning. A series of connected operations conducted in the Rung Sat Special Zone were planned for March in joint planning between 2nd Brigade battalion commanders and RIVRON commanders. Plans for these operations were based on discussions held with Senior Advisor RSSZ and VVN Commander RSSZ in which AOs were assigned. SA RSSZ was kept informed of detailed plans through the NAVFORV Liaison Officer assigned to the operating battalion.

The planning of operations by the battalion commander and the RivRon commander has been effective and well coordinated. Cooperation between the assigned Army units and RivRon personnel has been excellent.

2. The following messages are the weekly operational summaries that cover the month of March 1967 and provide detailed and complete information on all ComRivFlot One (CTF-117) operations.

CTF-117 msg 060829Z Mar 1967

CTF-117 msg 120110Z Mar 1967

CTF-117 msg 192350Z Mar 1967

CTF-117 msg 271300Z Mar 1967

CTF-117 msg 031530Z Mar 1967

Copies of the foregoing messages will be provided to COMPHIBPAC via mail.

3. The following supplemental information is provided to complete the history for the month of March.

8 March - ATCs 91-1, 91-2, and 91-3 arrived

at Vung Tau aboard the SS Talkeetna and was outfitted by USS Askari (ARL-30). These boats completed all tests, including gunnery, and were placed in an operational status on 15 March.

12 March - Chief Staff Officer, ComRivFlot One and ComRivRon Nine attended a briefing for General Westmoreland at the 3rd/47th Fire Support Base in the Area of Operations (AO) in the Rung Sat Special Zone.

18 March - ATCs 91-1 and 91-2 participated in their first combat operation.

19 March - CTF-117 and staff briefed 4th/47th Infantry on Naval aspects of riverine warfare with particular emphasis on Rung Sat Special Zone. Joint Riverine Training Lectures were given for the 4th/47th on joint combat operations.

23 March - CTF-117 Staff and units of ComRivRon Nine moved from USS Henrico to the USS Montrose. Com-RivRon Eleven, Staff, and River Assault Division 111 with River Assault Division 91 ASPB crews arrived in-country and boarded the USS Montrose.

23-26 March - Four-day, in-country indoctrination/administrative period for all newly arrived personnel mentioned in the above paragraph. Arrangements completed for ASPB personnel to train with in-country PCF units as ASPBs will be late arriving in-country and due to similarity of power plants and other equipment in the PCFs and ASPBs.

25 March - A detachment of 4 officers, 6 enlisted personnel from the ComRivFlot One staff was ordered to co-locate with elements of the 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, at Dong Tam for the purpose of preparing the draft of the Joint CTF-117/2nd Brigade Operation Order for conduct of Riverine Warfare Combat Operations in the Delta.

30 March - ATCs 92-3, 92-4, 92-5, and 92-9 arrived at Vung Tau in SS Mayfield Victory. Off loaded and commenced outfitting along side the USS Askari.

31 March - ATCs 92-10, 92-11, 92-13, and 112-3 arrived at Vung Tau in SS Lyndonwood Victory, off loaded and commenced outfitting alongside USS Askari.

At approximately 1900, Commander River Division 111, LT Edward L. Therrien, fell overboard from the CCB during operations in the RSSZ. He was wearing complete combat clothing including tropical boots, flak jacket, helmet, and sidearm. LT Therrien was in the water for about 10 minutes due to lack of maneuverability of the CCB and conditions of darkness. Two Army personnel jumped in and helped rescue LT Therrien who was unconscious when brought aboard the CCB. MEDEVAC was requested and the helicopter was overhead as LT Therrien was brought aboard the CCB. The tide was out and there was a wide stretch of very shallow water and mud which prevented beaching the CCB to take LT Therrien to a suitable landing zone for the helicopter; therefore the helicopter was unable to complete its mission. The patient was evacuated by the CCB to the USS Garrett County miles away. Patient was given resuscitation aboard the CCB. Satisfactory recovery took several days because of pneumonia. This experience emphasizes the need for winch lift capability for MEDEVAC helicopters responding to requirements of the Riverine Assault Force.

Veterans Day 2011 Washington. DC

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will be placing wreaths at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, on Veterans Day, Friday, November 11, 2011. We will be gathering at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at 8:30 a.m. on the 11th and proceed to The Wall at 9:00 a.m.

We have blocked 40 rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse Plaza in Arlington, Virginia, for November 8 to 11 (check out on 11/12). Room rates are \$119 (plus tax) per night. For reservations, call 1-703-528-4444 and refer to our group reservation code "MRFA". Reservations may also be made online at www. arlingtoncourthouse.gardeninn.com. Be sure to enter the online reservation code "MRFA" in the booking box labeled Group/Convention code. Reservations under these group codes must be made before the cut off date of October 18, 2011, so make your reservations soon.

The Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse Plaza is located at 1333 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will have a hospitality room available on November 9, 10, and 11.

Come join us as we honor our fallen Brothers on Veterans Day 2011.

We look forward to seeing you in DC. For more information, you may contact Board Member Bob (Doc) Pries Phone: 533-659-4974 E-mail: priesrl@att.net

About the 47th Infantry Regiment 2nd of the 47th Infantry | 3rd of the 47th Infantry | 4th of the 47th Infantry

Unit History

Shield: Consists of the shoulder insignia of the 4th Infantry (Ivy) Div., which the 47th served with in WW I. The four star-shaped objects at the ends of the green cross are ivy leaves and the principal field is white or silver. The upper-left canton displays a yellow or gold imperial Chinese five-toed dragon as seen from the front on a field of blue in honor of the 9th Infantry Regiment which had adopted that symbol after its service in China during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 and out of which the 47th was formed on June 1, 1917, at Svracuse, NY.

Crest: Consists of a blue water wheel encircling a gold fleur-de-lis above a wreath of the principal tinctures of the shield (white and green) and is to commemorate the battles of Sergy on the Ourcq River and Bazoches on the Vesle fought by the 47th in France during WW I.

Motto: Ex Virtute Honos (Honor comes from virtue)

47th Infantry Regiment Linage

• Constituted 15 May 1917 in the



Coat of Arms

Regular Army as the 47th Infantry

- Organized 1 June 1917 at Syracuse, New York
- Assigned 19 November 1917 to the 4th Division
- Inactivated 22 September 1921 at Camp Lewis, Washington
- Relieved 15 August 1927 from assignment to the 4th Division and assigned to the 7th Division
- Relieved 1 October 1933 from • assignment to the 7th Division
- Assigned 1 August 1940 to the 9th **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

A Boat Sailor's Memories: Mining of Westchester County

Our Division, Division 111, was tied up to the floating dock (Pontoon) alongside the USS Westchester County, the night of the explosion. All of us knew that we were heading back out on another operation early the next morning. I had just received a letter from home from my Mother who had just informed me that my Father was in intensive care after having a massive heart attack. Since I only had 3 days left in-country until my tour was up and with letter in hand, I approached my CO and asked him if there was anyway I could miss this last mission and head into Dong Tam to catch a convoy or a flight out to head home to be with my family. I was given permission to head home (AND) I was given a choice of either spending one last night with the boats, stand one of the three watches on the pontoon that night, and head into Dong Tam in the morning on the next Mail Boat (OR) leave within the next few hours and head into Dong Tam that day. Surviving a year on the rivers in the Delta, especially during the 1968 Tet Offensive and now getting orders to head home, not even knowing whether my Father would be alive when I got home, was an emotional roller coaster for me. It took me 5 minutes to pack. I can't even remember saying goodbye to anyone, even though I know I would have done so. I jumped on the Mail Boat and headed into Dong Tam, leaving the Division, the Boats, the Rivers, the next Mission behind me. I heard later that all they found of the sailor on the pontoon, the one standing the watch when the mines exploded, was his watch and part of his hand. Years later I reflect on how close I came to being that man.

When I stepped off of the Mail Boat in Dong Tam that afternoon, I can't even remember where I was billeted for the night. I do remember hearing the explosion that night and news of the mining sweeping the base that had just gone onto General Quarter's status. I spent the next 6 hours trying to reach the Army Hospital to confirm the names of the men that were killed or wounded. I remember going down to the river and seeing the confusion that followed. Somehow, the next morning, I was standing in line with others to jump on a truck convoy, headed to Bear Cat. I was handed a rifle that was crusted with mud, a clip

All I was wearing were my combat boots and greens. A stewardess walked up and bent over and handed me three little bottles of whiskey. She said, 'This is from the pilot. He said to tell you "Welcome Home!"

of ammo, a helmet, and flak vest and jumped into the back of a truck. The emotion of not knowing how many of your crew, your Division, the crew of the USS Westchester County were killed or wounded, comparing in my mind the difference between riding in a column of Attack Troop Carriers on a narrow river in the middle of a firefight and now riding in a convoy with a fraction of the fire power to protect yourself if ambushed, the exhilaration of knowing I was going home, the fear of not knowing how my Father was, was a mix of emotions and all a blur.

We arrived in Bear Cat. We were taken to the Air Field and we boarded a Caribou to fly to Saigon. I can remember the crewmember telling me to sit on my helmet during take off to avoid a lucky shot from the VC in the jungle nearby, whose favorite past time was taking pot shots at planes and aircraft taking off and landing. Upon arriving in Saigon, I can't remember if we were billeted for the night or spent the night at the Air Field to head for home the next day. I remember boarding a Civilian Airliner, loaded to capacity with soldiers. I think I was the only Navy guy on the plane. There was a somber mood on the plane until we were up in the air about 1,000 feet and then a ROAR swept through the plane. The jubilation, the excitement, the reality simply hit each of us that we had made it, that we were the lucky ones, we were going home. It wasn't until that moment in time that you actually knew that you were going to survive and make it home. All of us know that there was no safe place anywhere in the country.

It didn't take long until everyone was fast asleep, probably the first deep relaxing sleep that anyone of us have had in the last 365 days. I landed at Anderson Air Force Base, took a bus into downtown San Francisco in the middle of the night. My Brother-In-Law picked me up and I spent the night with him and my sister. Naturally, I had called home and confirmed that my Father was alive and out of intensive care. My Brother-In-Law took me down to Treasure Island the next morning where I would spend $2^{1}/_{2}$ days until being discharged. I boarded a plane in San Francisco to head home to Saint Louis, Missouri. All I was wearing were my combat boots and greens. A stewardess walked up and bent over and handed me three little bottles of whiskey. She said, "This is from the pilot. He said to tell you Welcome Home!" That was the only Welcome Home that anyone had said to me until I walked through the front door of my home.

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From the Membership

ATTN: LST Sailors

Hi guys, I was on the Monmouth County (LST-1032) in 1970 and have been a member of the MRFA for 6 or 7 years. And despite all of my best intentions, I have never been to a reunion or wreath-laying at The Wall. Probably part of that is because I was never really a part of the MRF, which of course had disbanded before I got there; therefore, I have never considered myself a River Rat--I think the MRF guys earned that title. That includes the LST'ers who supported the MRF.

BUT, you and I hung our asses out there as Large Slow Targets, and did business in many of the same free-fire zones and stupid restricted-fire zones as our brothers did. I loved my ship and crew, and am so proud to call myself a Brown Water Sailor.

MRFA is our umbrella group and has been so generous by including

us in their small band of brothers. My own feeling now is that I'm not getting any younger, maybe a few of you are in that same situation. I want to meet all of the Brown Water guys, and this upcoming reunion seems to be the best time to do it. So I am "turning in my papers today," and ordering three ball caps and really, truly, hope that you will do the same. Besides, this way I can finally meet Albert.

"

In Brotherhood, Randall Cook 830-997-1550 Kw662@aol.com

Note from Wes Spykes

My wife Lil sent me an e-mail this morning that she had received. I have to say that it was disturbingly moving, but well done. You know, I heard a brother's comment on that film that stated, "Most of those who make decisions to send troops into combat never served in the military, or wore a military uniform and that they probably were never even boy scouts!" I was a boy scout, and I have to say that being a scout helped me to discover who I was. I was an AMERICAN! I have to say that I'm very proud of that.

I once heard a marine say in a PTSD meeting that, "He was proud to be a Vietnam veteran," even before Vietnam veterans became popular.

My memories return to those days almost on a daily basis, as Lil and I work with vets suffering with PTSD and their spouses whose marriages are in conflict. Their stories are so sad, but I must say painfully, they are true. Those of us who remain must stand in the wake of this chapter in America's history and attempt to pick up the broken pieces of our dear brothers and try to put them back together again. Last year, Lil and I had the distinct honor of placing a wreath at "The Wall" in remembrance of those who served in the Mobile Riverine Force. Although my service was not in the same Corps location, "We were brothers-inarms of 'like stripe.' I am of course, saddened by the names that are inscribed on "The Wall" but what saddens me more is to see the heartbreak etched on the faces and to look into the eyes of those who still remember. "

To me, veterans are a special fraternity of American Patriots, born out of the blood and the determination of those who so desperately sought, fought for, and continue to hold freedom so dear. May God hold them close and bless them richly!!

Pastor Wes Spyke ATSB-LCPL Cau Viet 1969/70 rev.wspyke@comcast.net

Hope to see and meet some new folks at the reunion.

Your membership expiration date is printed on your River Currents just above your name and address.

2011 REUNION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and was he glad he had served his country in Vietnam. The soldier answered, "Yes I am glad and honored to have served and fought for my country." He also told the reporter, "But in war, you don't think much about God and country when you are in an ambush or pinned down you think about your buddy standing with you or laying beside you that comes first. God and country come after those you are in combat with."

Army and Navy Rocks! Hope to see all of you who can make our 2011 reunion in Indianapolis. Start making your reunion reservations ASAP. Rooms are going fast.

Albert Moore National President (MRFA)

Hi Albert,

Name

E-mail

tag(s).

for your support.

We are ready for the troops to make their reservations. If they would prefer to book online, below

is the link that will go directly to the MRFA booking page. Either way, I have been informed that we are ready to go.

http://www.wvndham.com/ groupevents2010/indap_mrfa/ main.wnt

Reunion dates are from August 31 to September 4, 2011. Room rates are \$79 a night plus tax. This rate is good for 3 days prior to the reunion and 3 days following the reunion. Individual meeting or hospitality rooms are \$125. Folks can make their reservations now. The toll-free number is 1-877-361-4511 or local number is 317-381-6103. Be sure to wear your name tag at all times to receive a 10% discount on all meals eaten in the hotel's restaurant. There will be a shuttle service furnished by the hotel to and from downtown; although a free service we ask that you tip the driver a couple of dollars. Shuttle service to and from the airport is at no cost.

Mobile Riverine Force Association 2011 Reunion

Wyndham Hotel, Indianapolis, IN • August 31 to September 4, 2011

Reunion Registration Form

 Name

 Unit in Vietnam

Name(s) Wife, Family (Guest[s])

Street _____

 City______State____Zip____

 Phone_____or Cell_____

 Member or member and spouse/guest \$50
 \$ ______

 Total number of other guest(s) _____ x \$25 ea.

 Nonmember or late registration (\$75)

 Grand total enclosed
 \$

When filling out the form, please be as accurate and clear as possible, especially your unit and

the dates you were in-country. So this way there will be no misunderstandings when you check

Place a check mark by "Please send a copy of the registration form by e-mail to me" and we will

be happy to send a copy of your registration form for your paperwork prior to the reunion. Note:

You will still have to check in at the registration desk to receive your registration form and name

If you wait and pay your registration fee at the reunion, the cost of registration will be \$75.

When you check in at the registration desk, you will receive your registration form and name

At past reunions, folks have questioned us on their info sent and we showed them what they sent

As for name tags, some of you may have been in three or four different units, ships, RivDivs, or

Cos, etc. We can only put so much on a name tag so try and keep it to one or two units. Thanks

Please send a copy of the registration form by e-mail to me.

Please send this form with your check or money order (payable to MRFA or

Mobile Riverine Force Association) before August 25, 2011, to

MRFA Reunion, 106 Belleview Dr. NE, Conover, NC 28613.

tag(s). Again, please make sure you write the correct e-mail.

in for name tags and association purposes.

and they still want to make changes.

For Individual Hospitably Rooms ONLY, contact Michele "Action" Jackson by phone: 317-381-6130, fax: 317-248-0187, or e-mail: mjackson@wyndham.com.

So close to the airport, yet so far ahead of the pack.

Be first class. At the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel, you are never far from everything that makes travel a little more pleasant. The fact is we are the closest full-service hotel to the airport and just minutes from downtown Indianapolis. Step inside our newly renovated hotel and you will quickly realize you are sacrificing absolutely nothing for convenience. Our airy lobby is done in gorgeous earth tones with granite floors and is flooded with sunlight. Colorful abstract art by a painter whose work hangs in major museums adorn our walls. You will also find welcoming clusters of seating that are perfect for catching up with friends or for an impromptu meeting with colleagues.

10% Discount on Meals

A 10% discount will be given for all meals eaten in the hotel's restaurant. You must wear your name tag to receive the discount. Be sure to mention this to your server.

Dining

When you are ready for a meal, stop by our rustic Marker Restaurant. Mornings start with a tasteful buffet and full breakfast menu; lunch features a locally popular lunch buffet; and dinner boasts a wonderful collection of "comfort and creative" from our

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Plan of the Day for the 2011 Reunion

The dress code is to be comfortable and always wear a pair of comfortable shoes if you are planning to visit the local sites. The hotel is quite large and there will be some walking involved. Most of all just come and have a great time! Opening and closing of the individual hospitality rooms will be up to the different units. Hall of Champions Hospitality Room will be open 7 a.m. daily and is open to all hands. Beverages and snacks will be available. Closing time will vary.

Thursday, September 1

7:00 a.m. Hall of Champions Hospitality Room open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Vets Assistance Table (Tim Goins, brother Jeb

Goins, and Associate Member Paula Scott Wright) 9:30 a.m. Registration (setup outside the Hall of Champions)

9:30 a.m. Product sales

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. MRF and 9th Inf Division Museum Room (Bob Pries and Quentin Sommers)

Registration for golf (main hallway leading to Hall of Champions) Raffle tickets available

Friday, September 2

7:00 a.m. Hall of Champions Hospitality Room open

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Vets Assistance Table

Bob Nichols will render the playing of Taps.

Noon to 2:00 p.m. Product sales and Vets Assistance Table

9:30 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. Product sales

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. MRF and 9th Inf Division Museum Room 10:00 a.m. Tee time at Winding River golf course

Raffle tickets available until drawing before the dance

7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Delta to DMZ dance with a DJ playing your favorites of the '60s and '70s music. Board Member Frank Jones and wife Linda will be hosting the dance.

Saturday, September 3

7:00 a.m. Hall of Champions Hospitality Room open 10:00 a.m. Speakers (info on speakers on page 1) 11:00 a.m. Memorial services conducted by Chaplain LtCol Jim Johnson U.S. Army (Ret) 3rd/60th and Captain Richard MacCullagh U.S. Navy (Ret) ComRivFlot One Staff Missing Man Ceremony by Dave Schoenian C Co 4th/47th Flags and certificates will be presented to widows and sons

and daughters who attend the reunion of our fallen Brothers from Vietnam and those who have passed on since Vietnam. Gunner Chet Stanley assisted by Don Blankenship will do the honors.

If you have any questions, contact Albert at mrfa@bellsouth.net, Charlie Ardinger at mrfamembership@mabeltel.coop, or Gunner Stanley at gunnerstan@aol.com.

2011 REUNION CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

talented chefs. Fresh-cut meat, seafood specialties, and vegetarian entrees are highlighted by our extensive wine menu presented tableside by our in-house wine steward.

The Marker Lounge is open nightly with full menu or an icy cocktail, extensive sports viewing, comfortable leather social sitting areas, and a friendly staff.

Room service is available 24 hours a day for those who prefer not to go out. Naturally, complimentary Wi-Fi is accessible from almost anywhere in the hotel and poolside.

24-hour Room Service and a 24-hour Business Center

This is service on your terms. We understand that for most, banker's hours are a charming thing of the past. To get things done sometimes life needs to conform to your schedule. That's why any time of the day or night you can grab a workout in our 24-hour Fitness Center, order up a tasty snack from our Room Service, or even finish a report in our Business Center. Our dedicated Business Center Concierge can help you make copies, collate, or just give you directions. If your shoes need a last minute touch-up, we have you covered there, too. When you're finally ready to wind down, relax in one of our comfortable guestrooms or take a dip in our pool.

Lobby

With airport monitors in the lobby, you just know our service is on a higher plane. We think there's nothing more frustrating than being stuck in the airport waiting for a flight. That's just one reason why we have airport monitors showing departure information for all local flights right in our lobby. If your plane happens to be late, you can always print your boarding pass right in the hotel.

Hall of Champions Large Hospitality Room

This is where we have beverages, snacks, products, memorial services, speakers, and our dance. This area is also used as a gathering spot for all hands.

Registration will be handled by Gunner Stanley and his crew outside the Hall of Champions. Please bring a copy of your registration form with you when checking in.

Raffles Tickets Daily

We will only have the 50/50raffle at this reunion. We appreciate all of the things folks donated at the past reunions. A lot of hard work and effort was put into the donated items. Mable Springer our raffle Queen and her crew, who always goes all out with the raffles, to only sell four or five raffle tickets on some of those items was hard to swallow. Folks worked so hard on their donated items and we just could not see that happening again so we decided it would be best go just with the 50/50 raffle. I a sure Mable will make it interest ing! Albert

Vets Assistance Table

Tim Goins will have a table s up from 0800 to 1700 hours on t convention days and will be assis ed by his brother Jeb and associa member Paula Scott Wright, wide of past MRFA member Richa Scott. Tim, Carla, and Paula d a great job at the 2009 reunic Below are just a few things T and his staff can help you with. will have a computer to access a VA info sites. He will also have cell phone with direct access the VA Regional Offices (on we days), a VA Field Examiner (activ an ex-VA higher-up who loves pry benefits from the VA, and r own contacts at the Santa Fe V Center—or, for that matter, any V Center, Clinic, or VA hospital (aga only on week days, except for t ex-VA guy). We will have a print to print out forms. Some of the things that Tim can do:

1. Determine the status of VA claims or appeals and explain the status in understandable English.

 Evaluate the viability of a claim (i.e., PTSD have-to-haves to be successful).
 Explain the claims process

(medical and mental). 4. Explain the VA Loan System.

MRFA Officers Election at Reunion

There will be an election of MRFA officers at the reunion. The following positions are open: President, Vice President, Secretary, Executive Director, and Products Chairman.

If you would like to run for one of these positions, please contact MRFA Secretary Andy Brigante prior to August 15, 2011, at domsmema@hotmail.com. You have to attend the reunion to vote or run for these positions. These positions will be held until 2013. 5. Explain burial rights and funerals with FMHs.

6. Help dependents of veterans (both living and deceased) determine their benefits (if any).

7. Explain how 100% ers can apply for Voc. Rehab., what Voc. Rehab. is, or reapply.

8. Help obtain lost DD-214s, awards, citations, and medals.

9. Counsel VA-hostile veterans on how to approach that monolithic bureaucracy (many veterans believe that the place to start is their home VA Regional Office (the infamous VARO). NOT!

10. Explain the eligibility of veterans for VA health care (means testing, etc.) and lots of stuff I can't think of right offhand.

Tim served in E Co 3rd/60th (Recon) 1968-69 **Seeking a Few Good People** We are seeking a few volunteers that are familiar with computers to help at our registration desk. This will speed up the process of your getting registered quickly and on your way. We always have to make changes to some of the name tags. Some of the Ladies in the past have mentioned they would like to get involved. We can always use folks at the products table and help setting up for the dance, etc. If you would like to get involved in some way, contact Georgie at mrfamembership@mabeltel.coop or Albert at mrfa@bellsouth.net. If you would like to help setting up for the dance, contact Frank and Linda Jones at frank@raffertylighting.com.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

to am st-	2011 Reunion Golf Outing Registration <i>Winding River Golf Club, 8015 Mann Road, Indianapolis, IN</i> www.windingrivergc.com • www.indygolf.com/course/winding-river-golf-club_14 <i>Friday, September 2 • Tee Time: 1000 hours</i>
set the st- ate ow ard did on.	 Your \$45 golf outing registration fee includes Golf, including shared cart Box lunch (sandwich, chips, apple, cookie [or similar]) Beverages (beer, soft drinks, PowerAde, water) from beverage carts Driving range Maybe a prize or two, but having FUN is the order of the day
im He	Please check one: □ Army □ Navy □ Guest Unit
ny his	Name
to ek	CityStateZip
re),	PhoneE-mail
to my Vet	If you request a foursome with specific golfers, please list their names below. Remem- ber they need to list you on their registration forms too!
Vet ain	Name
the	City
ter	Name
1	

INGILLE	
City	
Name	
City	
Name	
City	

Please check one:

 \Box Yes \Box No I will (will not) need around-trip shuttle service from the hotel to the golf course and back. Fee will be paid directly to hotel.



Grassy Bank Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46237-5053. E-mail: gprii@msn.com. A registration table will be set up for those who register at the reunion. It will be located in the main hallway leading to the Hall of Champions. Help us by registering prior to the reunion.

47TH INFANTRY REGIMENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Division (later redesignated as the 9th Infantry Division)

- Activated 10 August 1940 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina
- Inactivated 31 December 1946 in Germany
- Activated 15 July 1947 at Fort Dix, New Jersey
- Relieved 1 December 1957 from assignment to the 9th Infantry Division and reorganized as a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System
- Withdrawn 16 June 1986 from the Combat Arms Regimental System and reorganized under the United States Army Regimental System
- Transferred 15 April 1996 to the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command
- **Campaign Participation Credit** World War I
 - Aisne-Marne
 - St. Mihiel
 - Meuse-Argonne
 - Champagne 1918
 - Lorraine 1918

World War II

- Algeria-French Morocco (with arrowhead)
- Tunisia
- Sicily
- Normandy
- Northern France
- Rhineland
- Ardennes-Alsace
- Central Europe

Vietnam

- Counteroffensive, Phase II
- Counteroffensive, Phase III
- Tet Counteroffensive
- Counteroffensive, Phase IV
- Counteroffensive, Phase V
- Counteroffensive, Phase VI
- Tet 69/Counteroffensive
- Summer-Fall 1969
- Winter-Spring 1970

- Sanctuary Counteroffensive
- Counteroffensive, Phase VII
- Decorations
- Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered CHERBOURG
- Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered HAGUE PENINSULA
- Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered ROETGEN, GERMANY
- Presidential Unit Citation (Army), StreamerembroideredNOTHBERG, GERMANY
- Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered FREUZENBERG CASTLE
- Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered REMAGEN, GERMANY
- Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered OBERKIRCHEN, GERMANY
- Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered MEKONG DELTA
- Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered LONG BINH - BIEN HOA
- Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered SAIGON
- Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered FISH HOOK
- Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1968
- French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War II, Streamer embroidered CHERBOURG
- Belgian Fourageré 1940
- Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action at the MEUSE RIVER
- Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in the ARDENNES

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

BOAT SAILOR'S MEMORIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

We were ambushed on December 4, 1968, our first mission in-country. All were wounded and two were killed on our crew. We lost (Adrian Howell) and (Robert Morris). We survived the 1968 TET Offensive, 25+ operations, and countless nights of uncertainly. The USS Westchester County ended my tour in Vietnam. I do remember talking to one of the Chiefs late at night that was a crew-member of the Westchester County. We were sitting on the deck with our feet dangling over the side, talking about the Navy, about 'Nam, about Home, about Family. I know that a lot of the Chiefs were billeted in the bow of the Ship and that the explosion had blown the bow to pieces, smashing the compartments they slept in up and onto each other. I wonder if he ever made it home?

John L. Green Jr. GMG 3 USN Attack Troop Carrier (ATC-111-8) Division 111 Vietnam (11/67-11/68) 916-202-9934 | johngreen3222@yahoo.com

2011 REUNION CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Posting a Personal Article or E-mail

Some of you have asked about posting a personal article about your time in Vietnam in the *River Currents*. Some of you have sent me articles, but unfortunately we could not use them because of their size and we only have so much space. Also some have sent me clippings out of newsletters, etc. Because of vision problems, this would be difficult to retype. So if you send anything to me have it typed out in MS Word and your pictures enclosed.

To the person who sent me an e-mail wanting to know where Pee Wee was and that you met him at the EM club in Dong Tam or, in some instances, do we have Big Red or Little Mike on our roster? I know it's been a long time for all of us and we all wonder at times about folks we knew or just met for a few minutes or an hour, but folks, we cannot help you with that kind of request. We need much more info than that.

So if you send something for the *River Currents* or have an e-mail request, please follow the above request.

Albert

mrfa@bellsouth.net

SPEAKERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

1969. He received the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal as well as the Legion of Merit from the Republic of Viet Nam. Returning to Monterey, he began what became the premier vascular surgical office on the Central Coast. He is past president of the UCSF Surgical Society, the Sierra Medical Society, a diplomat of the American College of Surgeons and the American College of Cardiac surgery. He was chief consultant to the Seventh Infantry Division at Fort Ord for 20 years and for 12 years was the American College of Surgeons Consultant to the White House. He remains active in teaching as an Assoc. Professor of Surgery at USUHS, Washington, DC, and is active in Chapter 391, Sonora Viet Nam Veterans of America, largest in California and 8th largest in America. His wife, Jeannie, was a 1st Lt in the Army Nurse Corps and an Operating Room Nurse at the 24th Evac and shares his love for VVA, all of our veterans, and his pride in our country.

Retiring in 1992, he returns to Walter Reed yearly to work in the OR with the surgeons and casualties from Iraq/Afghanistan.

Book to be written on LSTs that served in Vietnam

All LST sailors encouraged to attend Also included are all the Green ships (APBs, ARLs, APLs, etc.) of the Great Green Fleet.

Albert,

I will attend this year's reunion. John Burns and I are working on a book about the LSTs that served in Vietnam. Also included will be the APBs, ARLs, APLs, etc., of the great Green Fleet. The book is about the unique history and characteristics of the Ts, the logistics, and combat roles the Ts performed in the war, and the men who served on them. We want to use the stories of these men to show where they came from in American life, their life aboard the Ts, and what happened to them when they returned home. Contact Jim Giles jim.giles@coastalnet.com.

Jim Giles Luzerne County Page County Stone County

Robin Bartell is our new graphic artist. She has been in the newspaper industry for 13 years; freelancing for the past 10 years (including design and layout, logos, signage and web design); and owner and sole proprietor of Robin Bartell Designs in Spring Grove, Minnesota, for 2 years. She is married and has two children.

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TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One



Craig Bronish

It is with a heavy heart that I must tell you that I have lost my beloved husband, Craig Bronish. He passed away on Saturday, February 19, 2011. The only consolation is that he is finally at peace after a long journey through Lewy body dementia. He truly loved the MRFA and (when he was well) would look forward to the newsletters and the reunions. I am so grateful we were able to attend so many of them and meet so many nice, new friends as well as his old shipmates. Craig served on the USS Benewah APB-36 (1967-68) as a MR2 Repairman). (Machinist Thank you for all you do for these brave men who gave so much of their lives to our country. God bless you. You may contact the family c/o Phyllis Bronish, 314 Dutch Neck Rd., East Windsor, NJ 08520; 609-731-7280; pbronish@gmail.com. May our shipmate Rest in Peace.



BMCM Richard E. Twigg Member BMCM **Richard E. Twigg** passed away February 25, 2011. Rick was Boat Captain on Tango-131-1 (03/68-03/69). Rick was in training class 14-R. You may contact the family c/o Anne Twigg, 1618 Cedar Ave, Moncks Corner, SC 29461-9232; 843-482-0157; rick@uxo.net.

It is with great sadness that I report that my best buddy from Viet Nam Jerry **Paul Keay** died last

Wednesday, March 2, 2011, from leukemia. He had fought a courageous battle for the last several years. Jerry was able to make it to the reunion last year. It was his first and last. He had looked forward to attending this year. Jerry served with B Co. 4th/47th (1968/69). You may contact the family c/o Kathy Keay, 501 Odell Ave., Bismarck, MO 63624-9022; 573-734-6120. May he Rest in Peace. Doc Dale Jones B Co 4th/47th



James A. Stone

Member James A. Stone passed away suddenly while home alone on March 12,2011. He had been ailing for many years, but he never seemed to complain. While in Vietnam, Jim served with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from February 1968 to February 1969. He was the consummate "go to guy" when it came to 9th Infantry Division history. If he didn't know the answer, he would seek it out. Jim assisted many of our MRFA veterans with his volunteerism. He was a great soldier and a wonderful advocate. May our Brother Rest in Peace...

"Jim's death is a huge loss to us all. His research and knowledge of our part in the Vietnam War is something that can never be replaced. I

Since I had never heard of Lewy body dementia I looked it up.... Albert

Definition Lewy body dementia

Lewy body dementia (LBD) is a neurodegenerative disorder that can occur in persons older than 65 years of age, which typically causes symptoms of cognitive (thinking) impairment and abnormal behavioral changes.

The condition was first described by Frederick Lewy in 1941 when he described Lewy bodies, which are abnormal inclusions in the cytoplasm (components of a cell outside the nucleus) of cells found in patients who had Parkinson's disease (PD). There is some controversy

only hope that he had a hard copy of what he knew. He and I had occasion to communicate privately about several things. He and I set each other straight on a couple of occasions about various operations. He was a gentleman and a true scholar. We will all miss him a lot." Jim Hubbard

"Jim Stone was a brother in combat... he was a go-to type of individual, the type that you want watching your back. He has crossed to the other side and will be holding point until we see him again... See you on the other side brother, you stand relieved." Scott MacDonald

Member William Foddrill passed away April 16, 2010. William served on A-112-8 (07/67-08/68). You may contact the family c/o Sharon Foddrill, 6224 Brett Asley Pl, Johnston IA 50131-2980; safoddrill@ msn.com.

Member John A. Carter passed away July 3, 2010. He was with B Co. 3rd/60th Infantry (01/69-06/69). You may contact the family at 4010 Westwood Dr., Wonder Lake, IL 60097; 815-653-9980.

Member **Leroy Vegotsky** passed away November 16, 2010. He was in A Btry 3rd/34th Arty (Vietnam). You may contact the family c/o Marie Vegotsky, 308 Gardner Ave, Trenton, NJ 08618-2516; 609-396-2783.

Member **Robert "Tink" Lawing Jr.** passed away from myocardial infraction commonly known as a heart attack on February 11, 2011. Robert served on the USS Montrose APA-212 (1967-69). You may contact the family c/o Linda S. Lawing, 14 Monroe Ct., Piedmont, SC 29673; 864-419-0434; tinklawing@bellsouth.net.

Hi, I don't know if you are still doing the page or not, but wanted to let you know **Eugene Coker** BMC (1968/69) passed away November 15, 2009. He is my father. Boats Coker served on the USS Benewah (APB-35). He retired as a BMC. Thanks, Marcy Coker cinnamontear@yahoo.com

GMGC Bobby G. Rider U.S. Navy (Ret) passed away April 13, 2010. Gunner Rider served as Boat Captain in RivDiv 111 on M-111-3 (01/68-01/69) Bobby was a plank owner of the MRFA. Gunner and his wife Elisabeth made all our reunions until he started having health issues. You may contact the family c/o Elisabeth Rider, 303 N Vancouver Ave. Russellville. AR 72801. Phone or email N/A. Gunner was a truly good friend and shipmate...

Associate Member **Richard C. Zeller** passed away March 10, 2010. You may contact the family c/o Betty Zeller, PO Box 156, Schnecksville, PA 18078-0156; 610-357-6173.

Member **Joe H. Luallen** passed away April 8, 2011. Joe served as a NITC instructor at Mare Island (1967-70). You may contact the family c/o Beverly Luallen, 9500 Harritt Rd Spc 9, Lakeside CA 92040-6009; 619-390-1160.

Dear Terry: My name is Nancy Denning and I am the

concerning the relationship between Lewy body dementia and Parkinson's disease. When cognitive impairment and behavioral disturbance are early and prominent symptoms, then LBD is the likely diagnosis. When motor symptoms, are the predominant and early symptoms, then Parkinson's disease is likely to be the diagnosis. Typically, on autopsy examination of the brain, both PD and LBD would probably demonstrate Lewy bodies. Autopsy examination is the only method available for a definitive diagnosis.

The signs and symptoms of LBD stem from a multi-factorial cause of disrupted bidirectional (two-way) information flow widow of **Gary Denning** I wanted to thank you for the invitation to the reunion coming up in August. Gary very much would have enjoyed participating. Unfortunately, he passed away December 8, 1998. Gary served on Monitor-132-2 (08/68-06/69).

He had kidney failure in 1990 and received a kidney transplant in July of 1990 at UC San Francisco hospital. He had ongoing good and bad times for years; in and out of the hospital with complications.

I wanted to make sure that you knew that your invitation was not overlooked and was much appreciated. I wish you a successful reunion and enjoy every moment with memories to savor for a lifetime.

You may contact the family c/o Nancy Denning, 905 Palo Verde Dr, Carson City, NV 89701-4337.

Member Chief **Dean Allen** passed away from lung cancer Agent-Orange related on March 24, 2011. Chief served on the USS Mercer APB-39 (05/68-03/69).

Thank you for this sad notice. CPO Allen was my lead petty officer in the communications division of the Mercer. He was an affable and capable leader whose enthusiasm and good humor were cathartic for all of us in difficult times. I am saddened by his passing. May God grant CPO Allen peace and his family fond memories. I know from personal experience that this will be a difficult passage for Richard Allen and the rest of CPO

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

in neurons, especially those located in the frontal lobe; that is, there are abnormalities in the chemicals that regulate and pass on message signals between neurons in the brain. Alterations in neurotransmitter chemicals can also impair nerve cell circuitry, causing abnormalities in bidirectional information flow.

Most patients with LBD also have brain evidence of Alzheimer's disease pathology. Additionally, most patients with LBD possess amyloid plaques in their cerebral cortex. Lewy bodies can also occur in a genetically transmitted form of Alzheimer's disease, Pick's disease, and Down syndrome.

CONT'D FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Allen's family that time will numb but not heal. Shipmate Richard Gallagher.

You may contact the family c/o Richard Allen, 39576 Diego Dr. Temecula, CA 92591-7256; rallen62@verizon.net.

Member Tom "Cookie" Bityk passed away Tuesday, April 26, 2011, another casualty of Agent Orange. Tom served at Cat Lo, VC Hill, and Ha Tien (1968-69). Tom fought a long hard courageous and standing battle with prostate cancer. Tom gave it his all and fought to the end. Through all his ups and downs, Tom always was upbeat even knowing he was fighting a losing battle. He was a brave man and a great shipmate. We all have not only lost a shipmate and brother, but a great guy. The world will be a lonelier place without Tom "Cookie" Bityk. You may contact Deb Bityk,

3121 Kallin Ave, Long Beach, CA 90808; 562-425-3742; tbityk@charter.net.



Ralph Tresser III Member Ralph "Cookie" Tresser III passed away suddenly at his home on April 25, 2011. Ralph served on the USS Benewah APB-35 (1966-67) as a deck seaman and a 3rd class cook. Ralph was an excellent worker, shipmate, but most of all a great person. He always had a big smile for everyone and was known for his love of racing and oh those Hawaiian shirts

he would wear to the reunion. I'll miss my old friend; he was a good man. You may contact the family c/o Janet C. Tresser, 11851 Riverside Dr. SPC-20, Lakeside, CA 92040; 619-726-3620; rtresser111@cox.net.

Member Col Bruce F. Williams passed away March 14, 2011. Col Bruce served as CO 3rd/47th Inf 9th Inf Div (03/69-07/69). You may contact the family c/o Diane Williams, 76 Donahey Rd, Coupeville WA 98239-9633; 360-678-3204.

Diane wrote...It is my sad duty to inform you that one of your members, Col Bruce F. Williams, passed away on 14 March 2011. He carried a list of all the men lost in Vietnam until the day he died... the list was well-worn after these 40-some years. Sincerely, Diane Williams, Paul, daughter, and family.

Brenda J. Needs passed away Friday, March 4, 2011, from a brain aneurysm. Brenda was the backbone of the *River Currents*. She started out as our graphic artist in 1996 while working for Brown Printing. She was an outstanding artist, but most of all she was a great person who did so much more for the association than just the newsletter. When anything was asked of her, she did it with her outstanding work ethic. She took great pride in her work for the association as well as her regular job with Instant Signs.

In all honesty, I have never seen anyone that was more dedicated to their job. As a single mom, she was a great mother to her children Elaine and Aaron who were the light of her life. Her passing has and will leave a deep hole within the association as well as with all her family and friends. I am not

What a shock, and what a shame. Brenda just sort of floated into the MRFA nearly at the beginning, working for Doug Brown as an employee of Brown Printing,

Brenda J. Needs Editor and Chief, Graphic Artist, **River Currents**

May God give you For every storm, a rainbow, For every tear, a smile, For every care, a promise, and a blessing in each trial. For every problem life sends, A faithful friend to share, For every sigh, a sweet song, and an answer for each prayer.

"Friendship isn't about whom you have known the longest, it's about those who came and never left your side "

who did the newsletters back then. When she left Brown *Printing. she took our newsletter with her. The newsletter* just seemed to get better with every issue. She was a fixture at every reunion and gathering we had for the MRFA, always trying to find ways to help and always with her never ending sense of humor.

And now it seems the same gentle breezes that brought her to us has lifted her up and floated her beyond our reach, and beyond our meager ability to even say goodbye. Perhaps God will do that for us.

George Marthenze

sure that those of us who knew Brenda will ever forget her charm and wit. She was always happy and outgoing and she was such a large part of the association. She didn't shy away from anything, she would speak out and defend her rights and pity anyone who said something against the Army and Navy team of the MRFA. Her dedication to the association was unparallel to anyone who's ever been a part of the association. We all will be a better person for

having known Brenda. She will be missed by all hands Army and Navy alike. God looked down on her and has taken her by his side. He has one hell of graphic artist and most of all a wonderful person.

Rest in Peace Miss B.

Albert (CKM-1)... I am shocked and deeply saddened to hear about Brenda...I was just corresponding with her last

week about some pictures I had found of Ha Tien...I can't believe it, such a terrible thing... it's just not fair...it's not fair that she is taken from us when I can think of many others that could have take her place...damn it all to hell! May she Rest in Peace. Tom Bityk

In Memory Of

This section is for members who wish to sponsor the MRFA by placing a notice in memory of one of their fallen Brothers. In some instances, the name of the sponsor will precede the name of the person who was KIA, or has passed on since Vietnam. It's \$25 for four issues.

MajGeneral Lucien Bolduc, Jr. USA (Ret) for Guy Tutwiler Bill Brennan for Tom Swanick GMG3 USS White River LSMR-536 Brothers of the 2nd/47th Inf for all Army and Navy KIAs Frank Buck for son Frank H. Buck ENFM USN T-92-10 KIA 12/28/67 Elizabeth Deal for Walter C. Deal RivRon 15 (05/68-04/69) Col Monte G. Euler for Cecil R. Hobbs, Jr. A Co 4th/47th Inf KIA 04/04/68 Nan Fulton for LtGen Bill Fulton Cdr 2nd Bde Asst Div Cdr 9th Inf Div (1966-68)

- Ted Fetting for Roy Phillips, Fred Jansonius, and Eloy "Stevie" LeBlanc B Co. 2nd/60th and KIA 02/02/68
- Tony Garvey for Billy Olsen, Wes Sade, and SSgt James Williams C Co. 4th/47th 9th Inf
- Regina Gooden for Sqt Lloyd Earl Valetine B Co 3rd/47th KIA 09/05/68 James Henke, Tony Spradling, Dave Nelson, and the Band of Brothers for Sqt Gerald Thurman A Co 4th/47th 9th Inf (1967-68)
- Joe Hilliard for Joe Benack from Florida and Donald Hartzell from Pennsylvania
- John and Barbara lannucci for Mitchell Perdue B Co. 3rd/60th (01/68-09/68)
- Alexander Kaufbusch for John B. Titus and Steve Mirick A Co. 3/60 Inf Harry Kawamura for CPL Terry T. Kawamura MOH 173rd Airborne Bde KIA 03/19/69
- David Lynn for Howard Burns (QM2), Robert Bouchet (SM2), and Herman Miller (GM3) IUWG 1-3 Qui NIon KIA 08/11/68
- Men of C Co 4th/47th 1967 for our Brothers KIA 03/19/67 Benito Alaniz; MIA 04/09/67 Ronald P. Schworer; KIA 04/13/67 Charles "Duffy" Black; KIA 05/15/67 Donald M. Peterson; KIA 06/19/67 Robert J. Cara, Robert J. Jindra, Timothy A. Johnson, Forrest L. Ramos, Cameron A. Rice, David A. Robin, Sheldon B. Schulman, Hubert J. Fink, Kenneth D. Frakes, William M. Geier, John L. Winters; KIA 07/11/67 Marion "Butch" Eakins, Elmer F. Kenney, Harold W. King, Philip A. Ferro, George E. Smith; KIA 07/29/67 Cecil B. Bridges; KIA 09/29/67 James M. Sunday; KIA 10/06/67 Gale A. Alldridge, Danny D. Burkhead, Charles W. Davis; KIA 11/10/67 Charles W. Grizzle; and KIA 05/06/68 John T. Hoskins
- Richard MacCullagh for John Phillips HMC and Rene Petit, LT, Chaplain Kenneth R. Marple for brother SSGT Reece L. Marple B Co. 3rd/60th KIA 05/11/68
- Adam Metts for Donald L. Bruckart T-111-2 KIA 03/31/69
- A R "Monti" Montillo for William "Bulldog" McLaughlin B Co 3rd/60th KIA 10/03/68 and Barry "Butch" Copp B Co 3rd/60th KIA 10/28/68 Albert Moore for Ralph Tresser CS3 USS Benewah APB-35 (1966-67) Albert Moore for Tom Bityk CS3 IUWG-1 VC-Hill/Ha Tien (1969-70) Weaz and Linda Morgan for Lt George Stefencavage CO River Section
- 532 VP Roy Moseman for Oscar Santiago C-2 4th/47th (10/67-10/68)
- Jasper Northcutt for SSGT Henry T. Aragon B-2 2nd/47th KIA 08/23/67, SGT James E. Boorman B-2 2nd/47th KIA 08/27/67, SP4 James
- D. Bronakoski B-2 2nd/47th KIA 04/27/67, SP4 Michael G. Hartnett B-2 2nd/47th KIA 04/27/67, SGT William D. Mize B-2 2nd/47th and 5th/60th KIA 10/28/67, CPL Harold K. Southwick B-2 2nd/47th Inf KIA 03/02/67 (first KIA in B Co. 2nd/47th in Vietnam), and PFC Robert C. Voltz B-1 2nd/47th Inf (Mech) KIA 03/11/67 (first KIA1st Platoon B Co. 2nd/47th in Vietnam)
- Dave Remore for Paco 3rd/60th Inf KIA 05/02/67 and Bandido Charlie 5th/60th Inf KIA 07/30/67
- Dennis Sawlsville for brother Richard Falda A-112-6, passed away 10/29/10. "Lucky" may you have peaches and pound cake for eternity.
- Chet "Gunner" Stanley for all the USN and USA KIAs of the MRFA (1967-70)
- Ken Sundberg for Michael David Sheahan 5th/60th KIA 02/25/68, Robert L. Conley 5th/60th KIA 02/01/68, and Glenn Dean Taylor 5th/60th KIA 02/01/68
- Robert Sutton for LT James F. Rost Jr. Vin Te Canal Chau Duc KIA 11/69 Robert Thacker for SFC Earl T. Pelhan Jr. 15th Eng, 9th Inf Div, KIA in Delta I o
- USS Guide MSO-447 for Shipmate and Brother Harold Foster
- Grant Wieler for LTC Mercer (Monk) Doty, Battalion Commander, 3rd/60th Inf 1967 and SSG Lowell Holden A Co 3rd/60th Inf KIA 09/15/67
- Tom White for my brother Mackroy White T-151-4 and A-152-4 (04/68-01/70)
- Gary Williams for Dale Winkel C Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf (01/68-01/69) CPT Steve Williams in memory of 2LT David George Williams Co A 4th/47th KIA 09/21/67



Dallas Abbott A Co. 3rd/60th Inf (06/67-06/68) Anthony Aiken Point Caution WPB-82301 (04/68-05/69) LT H. M. "Murk" Alexander ComRivDiv 132 (06/68-06/69) Limmie J. Apel A Co. 4tty/47th and 6tty/31st (1969-70) Charlie and Georginia Ardinger T-151-11 Walter A. Ardisson, Jr. A-153-48 and A-153-49 (1969-70) John Armstrong HHC 3rd/47th Inf (04/66-01/68) Carl Ayres A-91-6 (02/68-02/69) Christian Bachofer ComRivDiv 92 (07/68-06/69) Robert T. Bak Z-132-2 (04/69-04/70) Col Paul Barnes HHC and B Co. 3rd39th Inf (12/66-11/67) William Befort B Co. 1st Plt 4th/47th (02/66-09/67) Jack Benedick C Co. 4th/47th Inf Bill Bevington USS St. Francis River LSMR-525 and USS Iwo Jima LPH-2 (1965-69)

Richard Bittle USS Nueces (06/68-04/69) Tom Bittyk IUWG-1 Vung Tau/Ha Tein (05/69-05/70) Capt Peveril Blundell USN (Ret.) ComRivRon 13 (1968-69) Thomas Bogner A and C Cos. 2nd/39th Inf (02/68-01/69) MajGen Blackie Bolduc USA (Ret.) Cdr 3rd/47th Inf Tom Brady B Co 3rd/47th (11/67-01/69) Brothers of the 2nd/47th (Mech) Inf Capt Kenneth Brown A Co. 3rd/60th Inf

C. Vic Brumley USS White River LSMR-535 (1965-67) transferred to Naval Advisory Group in Nha Trang (1967-68 and 1970-71)

MGen Walter Bryde, Jr. HQ 3rd/34th Artillery (07/68-08/69) Ralph Burnette A Co. 4th/47th (06/67-05/68) James Byrnes LCM-P7718 (08/61-10/62) John and Pamela Carlin in honor of Erol Tuzcu RADM William Carlson CO USS White River LSMR-536

(10/65-03/68) Gary Chapman USS Colleton APB-36 (08/68-08/69) John and Doris Chrzanowski A Co 4th/47th and B Co. 6th/31st (03/69-03/70)

bitly 1st (u3/94-u3/r0) Pasquale "Chick" Cicarelli YRBM-16 (09/67-09/68) Michael H. Clark A Co 4th/39th Inf (04/66-09/67) Jack Collier C Co. 47th Inf/Reg WWII (1944) Randall Cook USS Monmouth County (1970) Joe Cortinaz B Co. 5th/60th Inf (10/67-03/68) LTC Richard Crotty HHC 3rd Bde. 9th Inf (07/67-07/68) William Currier HSB 3rd/34th Arty (11/68-08/69) William Dabel C Co. 3rd/39th (01/69-10/69) Orville Daley USS Askari ARL-30 (1967-68) Buddy Deuell, III T-132-8 (05/68-05/69) Dan Dodd PHC (Ret) ComRivFlot-One David DuHon USS Windham County LST-1170 (1968-70) Bruce Dunlap USS Mark AKL-12 (07/70-07/71)

Robert B. Durrett T-112-7 (01/67-12/67) Virgie Eblen Associate Member Leon Edmiston B Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf (06/68-05/69) Christopher Emerson CWO USA (Ret) A-112-4 (04/68-04/69)

Edith Ethridge Associate Member Larry Gunner Ethridge USS Askari ARL-30 Col Monte G. Euler A Co. 4th/47th Inf (01/68-12/68) Cdr Kirk Ferguson USN (Ret.) ComStabRon-20 (11/69-11/70) Stephen Ferragamo B Co. 2nd/47th Inf (02/69-03/70) Terrance Fetters HHQ 3rd/47th Inf (04/69-07/69) Ted Fetting B Co. 2nd/60th Inf (10/67-02/68) Denny Frank D Co. 3rd/60th Inf (07/68-07/69) Dean Fritz and Carol Campbell

Nan Fulton Associate Member Gamewardens of Vietnam Mid-Atlantic Chapter Tony Garvey C Co. 4th/47th Inf (1968) Jeffie Hanks USS Benewah APB-35 (01/70-01/71) CSM (Ret.), Homer M. Garza 126 C Btry 3rd/34th Artillery (01/68-01/69)

Regina Gooden Associate Member

Ron Gorman T-91-10 (01/68-12/68) James (Jim) Grooms NSA Danang (1966-68) Pat Haggerty River Div 111 and USS Westchester County

(12/66-08/69) Daniel B. Hall, Jr. Staff ComRivFlot One (12/68-07/69) Roger Hamilton, Jr. USS Mark AKL-12 (08/68-08/69) BMCM (Ret) Wayne Hapgood RivRon 15 T-52 John Harrison C Co. 3rd/47th Inf Robert Hammond HQ 3rd/34th Artillery (10/68-08/69)

Richard Hause U.S. Army WWII and Korea Kent Hawley YRBM-20 (10/69-10/70)

Leo Haynes RivDiv 594 PBR-8120 (04/69-02/70)

Jerry Hensley T-92-13 (02/67-11/67) Joe Hilliard T-48 (09/69-03/70) and T-44 (03/70-07/70)

RMC Jerry Howard USN (Ret) USS Askari ARL-30 (11/68-10/69)

James Hoyer 1097th TC (MB) (08/68-07/69) MajGen Ira A. Hunt Jr. HHQ 9th Inf Div Alan G. Hyde 9th Signal (1966-68) RM2 Bill Isetts USS Askari (07/66-08/67) David V. Jarczewski C Co 4th/47th Inf (05/66-05/68)

Ron Jett T-92-8 (01/67-01/68) Gerald Johnston USS Nye County LST-1067 (01/66-01/67) David Jones Z-111-7 (10/68-10/69)

Everett Jones CCB-151-4 and CCB-152-5 (04/69-04/70) Frank B. Jones RivRon 15 T-48 Mackey Joyner USS Krishna ARL-38 (1946-49)

Jerry "Hollywood" Kawecki B Co. 3rd/47th 9th Inf (1968) Dane Keller RivDiv 532 PBR-121 (05/69-05/70)

Tim Kelly C Co. 2nd/47th (Mech) (1968-69) General William A Knowlton ADC 9th Inf Div (01/68-06/68) George Link USS Tutuila ARG-4 (01/70-01/71)

Ken Locke Sr. USS White River LSMR-536 (06/66-01/68) Richard Lorman T-152-6 (06/68-06/69) James and Debby Lowe APL26 (05/68-05/69) Raymond L. Mans B Co. 4th/47th 9th Inf Div (09/68-09/69) Anthony Lee Martin USS Chesterfield County (1966-67) Sgt E-5 Ken McLean B Co. 4th/47th Inf 2nd Bde USS Colleton (11/68-01/69)

Thomas L. "Mac" McLemore T-112-7 (12/66-12/67) Kenneth R. Marple A Fellow Vet Michael Marquez A Co 3rd Plt 3rd/60th Inf (07/68-07/69) Bill McMullen C Co. 6th/31st 9th Inf (04/68-04/69) Big Jim Meehan IUWG-1 Nha Trang Adam Metts T-111-2 (08/68-10/69) Adam Metzger LCUs NSA Danang Cdr David Miller USN (Ret.) CO RivDiv 112 (11/67-12/68) Nicholas P. Miller COS RAS Div 152 (07/68-06/69) Paul Moody USS Pivot MSO-463 (1966-67) Albert and Sarah Moore USS Benewah (APP-35) J. Russell and Alice Moore A-91-5 (11/68-06/69) Roy and Lynn Moseman 4th/47th Inf Co Van My TF-115.3.7 Cat Lo CSM Joseph M. Natividad B Co 3rd/60th (1967) CWO James T. Natividad HHC 3rd/60th (1966-67) MAJ Joe Nichols III CO C Co 3rd/60th Inf (1967) Jasper Northcutt B Co 2nd/47th Mech Inf (11/66-05/67) George R. O'Connell USS Terrell Cty LST-1157 Christopher Olsen T-131-8 (05/68-05/69) John Oxley E Co. 3rd/47th Inf (01/65-11/67) Capt Jerry L. Pape USN (Ret.) COMRIVFLOT ONE (01/68-12/68)

Dwayne Parsons M-111-1 (Zippo 1) (11/67-11/68) Robert Pawlicki T-111-11 (03/67-12/67) Luis F. Peraza D Co. 3rd/60th Inf (11/68-08/69) John Perry T-132-11 (06/68-06/69) Col Pete Peterson USÀ (Ret.) Cdr 3rd/60th Inf (11/68-08/69) LTC Nathan Plotkin USA (Ret.) HQ 2nd Bde W. R. Posey Craft Master YTB 785 (1967-68) George Queen USS Benewah (04/67-11/67) Paul Ray M-151-5 (06/69-07/70) Capt W. J. (Mick) Riedmann CO USS Tom Green County LST-1159 (1968-70) Donald and Marijo Robbins USS Benewah (APB-35) Gerald C. Robinson USS Hampshire County LST-819

(01/66-09/67) Joseph K. Rosner RivRon 15 M-6 Bonni Rosner Associate Member Durwood Rosser M-91-1 (09/67-06/68) J. Robert Roth USS Benewah (08/68-08/69) Steve Ryan M-112-2 (05/68-06/69) James Saboe C Co. 3rd/47th Inf (02/69-07/69) Donald Sack C Co. 3rd/60th Inf (10/67-10/68)

Billie Sanders RivRon 11 RAD 112 T-112-1 & CCB-112-1 (Vietnam 1967)

Mobile Riverine Force Association

Norman Saunders B Co 3rd/39th Inf (01/69-08/69) Duane Schinn Z-111-7 and M-111-2 (12/67-06/68) Dave Schell RivRon 15 Tango 49 (07/69-07/70) Harry David Schoenian C Co 4th/47th Inf (07/68-07/69) Jerry (Doc) Schuebel B Co. 3rd/60th Inf Col Sam L. Schutte USA (Ret.) B Co 4th/47th Inf (VN) Mark Seymour YW-118 NSA Danang (01/70-09/70) Jerry Shearer C Co 3rd/60th 9th Inf (04/67-04/68) Edward Sicilia 9th MP Co (12/67-12/68) Jim Silva D Co. 3rd Platoon 4th/39th Inf (Vietnam) Richard Simpson C Co. 3rd/47th Inf 9th Div (05/67-06/68) William Sinclair CDR USS White River (04/65-02/68) Terry Sloat River Assault Squadron 11 (12/68-04/69) BrGen Douglas Smith USA (Ret.) Cdr 2nd/47th (Mech) Inf Thomas Smith 9th S and T Battalion (03/67-06/68) Chet "Gunner" Stanley C-111-1 and M-111-3 (1966-68) John Stone USS Harnett County LST-821 (08/68-05/70) Norman Stone, Jr. HQ 4th/47th Inf (01/66-08/68) Art Streeper Boat Captain T-91-2 (01/68-02/69) Alan Strickland A Co. 2nd/47th (Mech) Inf John P. Sturgil USS Colleton (APB-36) Robert Sutton RivRon 9 M-92-2, Z-92-11, and R-92-1

(11/68-05/69) John Swart T-132-1 (04/68-04/69) Bryan Swisher B Co. 3rd/47th Inf (10/68-06/69) William Tamboer T-151-9 (05/68-06/69) Jack Terry USS Colleton APB-36 (08/66-02/68) Charles Thompson 9th Admin Co (02/66-11/67) Milton W. Turnage BMCM (Ret.) Boat Captain M-151-1 (07/68-06/69) LCDR Lewis Turner CO USS Nueces (06/68-06/69) Wayne Turney USS Guide MSO-447 (04/62-06/66) Erol Tuzco A Co. 3rd/60th Inf (1968-69) USS Terrell Cty LST-1157 Bob and Nancy VanDruff T-91-5 and T-92-4 Henry Velez MD B Co. 2nd/39th Inf (07/68-07/69) GMG1 Ricky Vice T-131-7 (1968/69) Terry Volz USS Luzerne County LST-902 (03/69-03/70) Henry Washburn USS Colleton APB-36 (01/67-09/68) Connie and Jack Watson 3rd/60th 9th Inf (12/68-09/69)

Bill Weidman T-111-12 (02/67-02/68) Gary Weisz A-91-4 (10/67-07/68) David H. White USN (Ret) USS Satyr ARL-23 (08/69-08/70) Trentwell White USS Whitfield County (LST-1169) Edward Whitmarsh A Co. 2nd/60th Inf (03/68-03/69) Stephen G. Wieting USS Benewah APB-35 (11/66-02/68) Norm Wilkinson B. Co. 4th/47th Inf (03/67-03/68) Col Bruce Williams CO 3rd/47th (1969-70) Jeffrey L. Withers RivRon 11 A-112-8 and M-112-12 (06/68-06/69)

William Ziebarth 9th Signal Batt/39th Ant (1966-1967) Robert Zimmer XO USS Mercer APB-39 (1968-69) Admiral Elmo Zumwalt ComNavForV

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Charlie Ardinger, 1857 County Road A14, Decorah of (ATRM of the fight of all of the state of the fight of all of of all your \$25 (payable to the second of the fight of all of the second of t year, with your name and information appearing in River Currents. Sponsorship lasts for a period of one in the MRFA helps to defray the cost of producing didatoshored iATAM ant roshors of Asiw onw asort as a sponsor, so we continue to seek and welcome AREA sponsors! It's never too late to get onboard Our expressed thanks to those who have become become the product of the part of all the part o





