



# River Currents



A PUBLICATION OF  
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

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*When receiving articles or memories such as below we try not to make any changes or edit in any way. The below, like so many articles we receive, is from the heart and soul of those who served in Vietnam and gave it their all. They went to Vietnam and served their Country with honor, distinction, and pride. God bless all the Vietnam Veterans. Those we left in Vietnam, those we have lost since Vietnam, and those who are still with us today. It's indeed an honor and privilege to be associated with such honorable and proud men. Although our ranks are starting to thin with the passing of time, we still remain a brotherhood--The boys young and old of Vietnam?*

Albert

## Feelings

by Frank Begovich (2nd/47th 9thInfDiv)

I served as an Infantry Company Commander in the 2nd Battalion 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in Viet Nam from 1969 to 1970. As a young 24-year-old Captain, I had the responsibility of commanding a Mechanized Infantry Company in combat. I had experience as a Company Commander but this was a whole new ball game. I now had the responsibility of carrying out combat operations in a hostile country. Along with the responsibility to carry out all missions assigned to me I had a new responsibility, that of the lives of every man in my command. Each and every decision I had to make involved a chance of

getting soldiers killed.

As the Company Commander, I knew that with every man who was killed I shared the responsibility of having to notify some family member that their son or husband was killed in action, an action that I planned and was directly responsible for and I was the one man that put them in harm's way and was directly responsible for their death. I thought that it would be



easier to do this if I avoided any type of close personal relationship with any of the men in my command. I thought that as a Company Commander with 180 men in command, it should be easy not to get to know them on a personal basis and make my life a little easier if they were killed in combat. At 24 years of age, I knew that I did not have the strength to write an impersonal letter which said nothing more than your son was killed in combat and I am sorry for your loss and then move on to my next order of business.

As each day passed during my command and one operation led to another, my plan of not getting to know my men on a personal basis became harder and harder. I was at a point that I could go through a large crowd and pick out each and every man that belonged to Bravo Company. I did not know each of them by their first name or anything about them other than they were damn fine soldiers and writing that letter home was going to be a tough job, a job I was not sure that I could handle.

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## From the Galley

ALBERT MOORE, MRFA PRESIDENT

## MRFA 9th Infantry Division Reunion in Indianapolis September 2-6, 2009

The hotel will again make the shuttle service available for anyone who wants to go to downtown Indianapolis and visit some of the local sites. Times vary on when the shuttles leave and return to the hotel so you may want to check with the main desk for their schedule. Schedules will be posted in the main lobby as well.

Registration will be set up outside the main hospitality room "Hall of Champions" beginning at 9:30 a.m. on September 3.

Product sales will begin at 9:30 a.m. on September 3 in the Hall of Champions.

Hospitality room Hall of Champions will be open at 7:00 a.m. daily. Closing time varies. Beverages and snacks will be available in the Hall of Champions.

Speakers will be Friday evening. Speakers will be posted in a later issue of *River Currents*.

Due to a scheduling conflict, Dean Ayers will not be doing the Pig-Out this reunion. The association thanks Dean for the past Pig-

Outs--they were great and we hope to see him again in the future. THANK YOU PIG KING!

As of now, we have a barbeque buffet planned.

Memorial services will be held Saturday morning.

The Delta to DMZ dance will be held Saturday evening playing your favorites of the 60s and 70s. More detailed reunion information will be in upcoming issues of *River Currents*.

The dates are September 2 to checkout on Sunday, September 6. Cost per room per night is \$79. You can start making your reservations by September 1, 2008. To make reservations, call 317-248-2481 and be sure to mention you are making reservations under the Mobile Riverine Force Association and give the dates you plan on staying; you are not required to stay all three nights. If you live in the area and just want to drop in, you are more than welcome. For more information, feel free to contact Reunion Coordinator Michelle Jackson 317-381-6130 or e-mail [mxjackson@adamsmark.com](mailto:mxjackson@adamsmark.com).

com or Cynthia Busboom  
317-381-6160  
or by e-mail:  
[cbusboom@adamsmark.com](mailto:cbusboom@adamsmark.com).



For individual hospitality rooms, please contact Michelle Jackson. The cost for the individual hospitality rooms are \$125 a night.

The speedway and downtown bring all the excitement of the city right to your doorstep. Here you will find the warmth and charm of the grand hotels combined with the comfort and efficiency of the most modern accommodations. The staff will provide unrivaled service and attention to detail, taking care of all your needs. Experience Indianapolis' finest hotel and have a truly remarkable stay!

Located just one half mile from the Indianapolis International Airport and only 8 minutes to downtown, the Convention Center, RCA Dome, and Circle Centre Mall. Easy access to interstate highways makes the Adam's Mark a convenient destination from any part of the city, state, or country. Contact them at: 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana 46241, 317-248-2481. They provide free shuttle

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## 2nd Bi-Annual MRFA Golf Tournament

### "Taking Back the Bluff in 2009"

Join us at the MRFA and 9th Infantry Division Reunion September 4, 2009.

All members and their guests are invited to join us for 18 holes of golf. Ladies are welcome too!

**Where:** Bluff Creek Golf Course, 2710 S. Old 37, Greenwood Indiana 46143, 317-422-4736, Fax 317-422-5571, [www.bluffcreekgolf.com](http://www.bluffcreekgolf.com).

**When:** September 4 at 10 a.m. tee time. Format will be a shotgun start, scramble format, and foursomes, like last time. Players can put together their own foursome or join up with new members or guests. It is an 18-hole event with prizes planned on keyholes.

**Uniform of the Day:** Hawaiian shirts and Bermuda shorts. Cigars are optional. Let's look festive because it will be "5 o'clock somewhere" (Alan Jackson/Jimmy Buffet song).

Food, fun, and another good time is being planned for members and guests at our next full reunion in 2009. Break out those Hawaiian shirts and golf shoes and join up with the

rest of the crew heading to the golf outing.

**Registration:** Lee Daley and Dave McCann

will be working with the new management at the Bluff Creek Golf Course to provide a person at the registration desk, like last time, at noon September 2 and 3, Adam's Mark Hotel.

**Cost:** Cost will include 18 holes, cart, food, prizes, and beverages. Please watch our MRFA web site for final details and cost.

**Watch for Santa:** Santa will mark the spot out on the course where "Ground Support" will be located this time. In case the beverage cart is delayed getting to your team on those hot holes, all you need to do is locate Santa and find a cool drink. The cart will also be traveling around to refresh you. Santa will not be moving and he is 8 foot tall.

**Logo Golf Balls:** Back by popular demand,



9th Infantry Division and MRF logo golf balls are being ordered for the reunion and will be on sale there. We decided to double the order this time so there should be plenty of balls available for anyone wanting to collect them.

**Shuttle Service:** The shuttle service from the Adam's Mark Hotel and Bluff Creek Golf Course was a popular item at the 2007 reunion. We are happy to include that service again at the 2009 reunion. You will be able to register for the shuttle at the golf registration table at the hotel. It is a separate registration and someone from the hotel will be there to sign you up. We believe this next time the cost will be \$10 per person.

Contacts for the event are David G. McCann (USS Colleton and M-6) [bdalmcc@bresnan.net](mailto:bdalmcc@bresnan.net) and Orville "Lee" Daley (USS Askari) [leethebaker@gmail.com](mailto:leethebaker@gmail.com).



## Books Available

### MRF Volume II and 9th Infantry Division Limited Edition Books.

#### "Mobile Riverine Force History" Vol. I

Volume I was published in hardbound in 1997 and was followed up by the 9thInfDiv History book in 2000 and MRF Volume II. In 2005. All three books were well received.

Recently Turner Publishing, contacted the association and informed us they were no longer doing military publications. They did have some MRF Volume II and the 9thInfDiv Books left in stock and asked if we were willing to purchase what they had in stock. We informed them if they would reprint copies of the out of print MRF Volume I book, we would be willing to do so.

So a limited edition of Volume I has been reprinted. After these three books are sold out by the association there will be no more MRF or 9thInfDiv books available. We hope you will take advantage of the below offers.

All illustrations are from the Department of Defense files:

- The concept of a riverine force
- Mobile Riverine Force Command Structure
- Diagrams, Charts, Maps
- GLOSSARY Page 85
- SPECIAL STORIES Pages 86-112
- BIOGRAPHIES Pages 112 to 188
- INDEX 182 to 192
- 192 pages, 8 1/2" x 11" - Hardbound

This will be the last of these books, they are no longer in print; once these are gone there will be no more available.



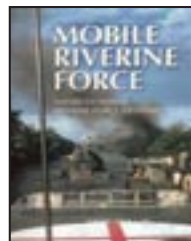
#### "Mobile Riverine Force" Vol. II

You played a role in documenting your history and the history of the Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force - Task Force 117 and Task Force 194. The photos and stories you have submitted are finally in place. Volume I was a huge success. Volume II is equal in quality.

Volume II continues where Volume I left off and details the ongoing function of the Riverine Forces leading up to the final boats being transferred to the South Vietnamese Navy in December 1970. In the interim period you will see how combat hardened sailors volunteered to be Advisors to the South Vietnamese Navy under the command of Task Force 194. Despite the outcome of the war, a legacy of honor, dedication, and heroism was left by a small band of unique young sailors and soldiers.

152 pages, 8 1/2" x 11" - Hardbound

This will be the last of these books, they are no longer in print; once these are gone there will be no more available.



#### 9th Infantry Division History Book

##### Limited Copies!

A history of the Division from formation to deactivation

- Personal experience stories
- Veterans biographies
- Dramatic photographs
- Statistics
- 130 Pages in B/W Hardbound Glossy Cover
- 8 1/2 x 11 inch hardbound edition
- Acid free, glossy paper for superior photo reproduction



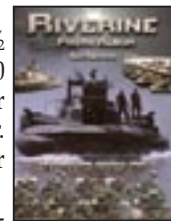
- Smythe sewn library quality binding

This will be the last of these books, they are no longer in print; once these are gone there will be no more available.

#### Riverine Photo Album By Ralph Christopher

During the Vietnam War, the United States Armed Forces began building riverine and coastal forces to combat the communist in the wetlands and coastal plains, and harbors of South Vietnam. This photo album is dedicated to all those that served in these forces and supporting units.

This is an excellent 8 1/2 x 11, 70 page book with 400 pictures printed in full color printed on acid free paper. With a glossy soft page cover printed in the United States.



Operation Market Time - Operation Game Warden - Mobile Riverine Force - 9th Infantry Division - Mine Sweeping Boats - IUWG - Seawolves Hal-3 - Harbor Clearance Unit (1) - Seabees - SEALs - Coast Guard - USO SHOW Bob Hope - Xmas party Dong Tam Orphanage - Red Cross - The Brass - STABS - Sea Float - Black Ponies - NSA. Assorted number of pictures of the different ships and bases of the forces. All-and-all this an excellent book with great pictures. Ralph did an outstanding job with the Riverine Photo Album; it will make a great keepsake or gift. -Albert Moore

**HOW TO ORDER:** The history books are \$55.00 each; Photo Album books only \$33.00 each and include shipping and handling. Make check or money order payable to MRFA for the total number of books ordered. Also indicate book title(s). Send to MRFA products chairman, Bob VanDruff 2906 SE Starlite Dr. Topeka, KS 66605; 785-267-1526; E-mail: [bvdmrfa@cox.net](mailto:bvdmrfa@cox.net)

## Almost a Grunt

by Larry Webb

Talked to Albert recently about being at the battle site where an artillery man by the name of Davis won the MOH. Couldn't remember the date when it happened but fairly recently was reading the awards write up for Sgt Davis and realized that this was the battle that I had been at.

To start with, I need to lay a little background concerning the battle that will relate to the situation.

I was with a Mobile Intelligence Team that was at the general location of our infantry units when we first started operating in 1967. Before the battle, I was in a small town called Can Giuoc SW of Saigon. Don't remember how it happened, but while training in the states I was trained as a clerk but like most clerks in HHC 2nd Bde I still carried a 11B MOS. Most of the time while I was on the team, I was an RTO who occasionally did other things like driving, etc.

Was in the field most of the time so wasn't aware that most of the clerks (or so I had heard) back in Dong Tam had received the CIB. Think this was some time in May so the being under fire part of qualifying for CIB wasn't a problem. Anyway, one day my boss a Capt by the name of Johnnie Corn came to my field location to advise me that I had been awarded a CIB, since most of the other clerks with 11Bs already had been awarded CIBs. I had mixed emotions about receiving the award, but went with my gut feeling and turned down the award.

Not long after this (maybe a week or so), I was back in Dong Tam and I got word that I was going to a field location where our infantry was operating somewhere near the Plain of Reeds near Hwy 4. Initially, I heard that I was going to ride a truck to our field location, but at the last moment it was changed to make me the driver for the assistant S2, a man by the name of Capt Robert Reaves. Don't remember too much about the convoy, except Capt Reaves was reminding me that I needed to keep my spacing pretty regular, gunships were our constant companions, and someone turned over their jeep along the way.

First location was in the small town called

of Billy Butler (I think). We rotated on using a pick to fill sandbags for about 14 hours. When we finally got to try to get some sleep, someone told us that we were supposed to get hit so we had to build a personal bunker before we went to sleep. Built a small lean-to bunker and used my air mattress and even my mosquito netting. Woke up around 2 a.m. with the air mattress flat and all sorts of spiders and ants crawling on me. Said good luck and went back to sleep. Tired.

Third location I remember a little more about. Was amazed that someone figured out

that a dozer could provide security quicker, which it did by cutting a berm around where our TOC was supposed to be. We even had tracks around us as I remember two that were sitting about 50 feet in front of me as I lay against the berm in the back of the TOC. Remember how fortunate I felt not to have to fill sand bags; felt very secure that someone was providing security for me and not the other way around.

About one or so Arty opened up firing at coordinates our ambush patrols were giving

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## Reunion 2009

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to and from Indianapolis International Airport, accessed by courtesy phones located in the baggage claim areas.

Indianapolis transportation and convenient Indianapolis hotel transportation services are available. Complimentary 24-hour shuttle service is available for the Indianapolis Airport.

Guest amenities include free parking, outdoor pool, health club, gift shop, same day dry cleaning and laundry, express checkout, safe deposit and security storage, shoe shine, room service, and wireless high-speed Internet in lobby area. The 407 deluxe guest rooms and suites feature large work desk, Herman Miller Ergonomic Desk Chair, complimentary high-speed Internet access, speed dial phone with message alert and modem access, remote control color TV, in-room movies, iron/ironing board, hair dryer, wake up and turn-down service. Non-smoking and handicapped accessible rooms available. Featuring award-winning cuisine and a full-service lounge.

### Adam's Mark Dining

The Premier Indianapolis Dining Headquarters. Be sure you wear your name tag when dining in the Restaurant and you will receive a 10% discount on your meals. Guests of the Adam's Mark enjoy a variety of Indianapolis dining pleasures that are served with a high level of service for every appetite and occasion. The finest chefs, maitre'ds and servers are dedicated to providing the most satisfying and rich dining experience.

The Marker Restaurant features award-winning American cuisine in an intimate atmosphere. The Marker Restaurant is an ideal setting for business lunches and dinners. Monday-Saturday, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and

### 2009 MRFA 9th INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION REGISTRATION FORM Indianapolis, Indiana - September 2-6, 2009

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

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates in Unit (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) wife & family/guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Be sure to enclose your check or money order with this form. Send to address below.

Registration Fee: (Member only, cost includes spouse or girlfriend) x \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Family Members, Children, Friends  
Total \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee (Non Members)\*  
Total \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Nonmember is defined as a person who is eligible to be a member of the MRFA by having served in the MRF TF117 or TFs115 or 116, the 9th Infantry Division or any Army/Navy supporting unit who has not joined the MRFA. The registration fee covers the member and/or guest, girlfriend, etc.; all other fees apply to friends and/or children. Please send your check or money order (payable to MRFA) with this form before August 22, 2009, to MRFA Reunion, 106 Bellevue Dr. NE, Conover, NC 28613. There will be a \$25 charge for all returned checks. Cancellations prior to the reunion will be charged a \$10 processing fee.

Sundays 6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Marker Lounge--Great for business or pleasure, enjoy your favorite refreshments and catch the news or your favorite sporting event on one of the seven TVs including a big screen TV. Monday-Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m.-midnight.



Cai Be and I don't remember where the TOC was set up here but I ended up having to dig my foxhole in a graveyard. Nothing happened here and then we moved on to the next location in the area a couple of days later.

Next location was in the same general area, except I got an up close and personal experience of how to build a large bunker for the TOC. Only guy I remember who was working with me was a big black guy by the name

## Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument is a 284-foot tall monument built from gray limestone and bronze in a neoclassical style in the center of Indianapolis, Indiana. The structure commemorates Hoosiers who were veterans of the Indiana War (1776 to 1865). The Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum is in the monument's lower level while a 30-foot statue of "Victory" tops the obelisk. The view of the surrounding area from the 250-foot high observation deck is simply spectacular.



## Feelings

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Some of the men in the company because of their job or responsibility had to work very close with me as the Company Commander. It was with these men that I now had to share not only a command responsibility with but now the personal thing jumped right in the picture. With every operation we conducted, these men were in a position that if they were to be killed I would be near or at their side when it happened and I would have to see a young life be snuffed out. That fact weighed very heavily on me and with every operation we conducted the fear of losing one of "my men" played games with my mind. It got to a point in my command where thoughts would cross my mind as to if and how I could conduct a mission and not put anyone in harm's way. I knew that was not possible and the knowledge that a mission had to be accomplished and there was a good chance that someone may die during that mission.

There was an occasion where one of the men who would in 1986 help me find myself and accept who I am and help my healing process. He was a young 20-year-old Senior Medic who had the responsibility or burden of spending all of his time with me as part of the Company Headquarters element. I got to know him and understand the concern and dedication he had for the lives of every man in the company. This young Medic without my knowledge was on a platoon operation when a firefight broke out and he happened to be wounded. As I happened to be flying over this firefight with the Battalion Commander, we went down to pick up this wounded man. When I found out who it was that was wounded, I jumped all over him for being out with that platoon--only I knew that was only my defense mechanism that kicked in because I had allowed myself to get close to him and I thought about that dreaded letter I could have had to write had he been killed in that action.

Fast forward to 1986, I am living in a Washington DC suburbs and living a quiet life. The Viet Nam Memorial had been in the news for several years and was now a real memorial that was drawing thousands of visitors on a daily basis. There were many occasions where I would drive down Constitution Ave. past the Wall but would never stop to see it. I had heard it referred to as a Black Gash in the ground that had no significance to Viet Nam or any memorial. I did not understand how that memorial could honor the men who gave their lives in Viet Nam and had no desire to see it. I also had no desire to spend any time during Memorial Day or Veterans Day there or at any other memorial. I chose to spend my time alone with my thoughts and had no desire to share them with my wife or family. I assumed that they would not understand what I went through and was afraid that if I shared these thoughts with them it would show me a weak man who could not stand up to his past.

My life was about to change on Veterans Day weekend in 1986 in a way that I never would have expected when I received a telephone call from a few men who served with me in Viet Nam. These same few men had started on a path that would not only bring closure and healing to me but through their dedication and efforts started a healing process that would reach hundreds of other Viet Nam veterans and their families. The gist of this phone call is best described by one of the men who made that call. And what prompted it.

They say that biological brothers and sisters are the closest anyone can be to another person. That may be true but the science that makes that statement has not taken into consideration the bonds that are formed by men who have never known each other form in combat. It is not often that you have to depend on a brother to put his life on the line for you, but in combat that is a daily occurrence and that makes that bond stronger than blood.

*Below are comments from Specialist Edward Johnson who spent 14 months with the 2nd platoon of Bravo Company walking point.*

Ed lives in Detroit, Michigan, and to me is a true hero and his dedication to his brothers and their service has no end. Ed was aware that there was a large number of Canadians that served in the US Army during the Viet Nam years and that their countrymen and Government did not recognize their sacrifice or service. He started a one-man campaign to recognize those brave men who served and those brave men who died. He wanted a Viet Nam Memorial built on Canadian soil to honor them. With no money, resources, or contacts, he set out to make that memorial a reality. His dedication and drive was such that he put a second mortgage on his home to get money to start a group that would bring his dream to fruition. After years of fund raising, establishing political support, his grassroots efforts finally saw a Viet Nam Memorial honoring the Canadians who died in Viet Nam become a reality. That my friend is true brotherhood and worthy of the title "True Hero."

### *Six, Well Here I Go (my call sign in Viet Nam and how I was referred to by the men).*

I think it was Doc, Smitty, George, Rak, and myself; Bob Locke might have been there too I'm not sure. Anyway, we were there on Veterans Day '86 and had spent most if not all our time at the "Wall" watching the crowd for any familiar faces talking to anyone with a 9th Div patch. We came back to the room to get a bite to eat and relax some before heading back down to the Wall which was our custom. You had been on our minds for a long time and in almost every conversation since we all started to get together back in the early seventies. We were just sitting there talking and once again your name came up and that's when Doc mentioned that he thought you lived somewhere in DC and asked if we should try

to get a hold of you. Well it was unanimous and that's when Doc got out the white pages and started to look up your name. He found a Frank Begovich and wondered if that was you and dialed the number. I will never forget the conversation to this day--it went something like this. (You) Hello. (Doc) Is this Frank Begovich? (You again) Yes it is. Who is this? (Doc) Did you serve in Viet Nam? (You) Yes I did. (Doc) Did you serve with the 9th Division? (You again) Yes I did. (Doc) With the 2/47? (You) Why yes I did, Who is this? (Doc) Well Sir, this is Bob Pries and I'm in a room with some of the troops you commanded and they would like to see you. (You) Where are you? (Doc) We're at the Iwo Jima motel room. (You) I'll be right there. Well, the room went crazy to say the least Six after all those years and we were going to see you again. The anxiety level was at an all time high and the stories about you were flying and what a good commander you were. We all watched the clock in anticipation of your arrival and couldn't wait. We put on our jungle shirts with all our campaign medals on and waited. We opened the door to the room and kept sneaking a look see every few minutes. I think it was Doc who was looking out when he saw you and jumped back into the room. We all got into formation waiting as the footsteps got louder. You could have heard a pin drop in that room. The footsteps got louder and as they got closer we all put our hands up into the salute waiting. You rounded the corner and once you appeared in the doorway someone shouted "Attention!" then came "Bravo Company Reporting Sir!" the look on your face and the tears in our eyes said it all. Time stood still for all us for just a second there we were at Attention saluting.

"Bravo Six" once more. I know for myself it was almost total disbelief seeing you again. Well the party was on. You brought old operation maps which we laid out on the bed and looked at. Operations came to life again and the old memory was kicking into overdrive. There were times that I couldn't keep my eyes off you Six I had so much respect for you in 'Nam and here I was with you again talking like it was only yesterday. We went back to your house one night and we sat in your Jacuzzi drinking beer and cooking steaks on the BBQ. The rest of the weekend as you can tell stuck with me. It was one of the most memorable times of my life thank you and I hope this helps. Doc can cover whatever I left out. I know his memory is a bit better than mine.

Edwardo

*Dennis Cherry served in Bravo Company during the initial deployment from Fort Riley, Kansas, to Viet Nam. Unlike many of the soldiers who joined the unit in Viet Nam and had the benefit of the experience provided by "old timers," guys who had been in-country for at least a year, he and his group had to learn firsthand with no combat experience what it was like to receive a baptism by fire.*

*Here are his comments on how he, after all the years faced his combat time and what he needed to start his healing process.*

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## What To Do If?

This is a column that we all wish never needed to exist. However, the reality is that since it last appeared, several more members have died, and their surviving families have to deal with the issues that result from their passing. With that in mind, this quarter's article will address, "What To Do If a Family Member Dies of a Service-Connected Disability."

There are a number of sources available to help you get through the morass of paperwork necessary in order to obtain your benefits. But more importantly, you must first identify all of the benefits for which you are eligible. I found that although the local VA (Veteran's Administration) reps can be very helpful, they are not always totally up-to-date on all available benefits, especially those specific to your individual State Government. Your regional DVA (Department of Veterans Affairs) can also be a great help in getting your paperwork through the system and processed in a timely manner. If you have access to the Internet, [http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/division\\_flash.asp?dnum=3](http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/division_flash.asp?dnum=3) will allow you to find the office of the Veterans Benefits Department office nearest you. If you do not have Internet access, call 1-800-827-1000, and they will help you to achieve that same goal. Make certain that you have a DD214 handy when you make the call. It will take a while to get through all the phone prompts, but eventually you can get to a real person. The VA told me that it could take up to 10 months to get the paperwork processed, but with the help of the Regional DVA Benefits Office, it went through in 4 weeks. That differ-

ence can mean a lot if you have bills and other expenses pending.

The DVA will help with all your Federal Survivor Benefits. Be aware, however, that not all individuals at the bureau are equally knowledgeable or helpful. So, if the first person you speak with is not helping you, hang up and call back until you get someone who

is answering your questions. Then, get that individual's name and phone number and ask for them each time you call. At this point in your life, you don't need the added stress of talking with people who either don't know the answers, or have a bad attitude.

If you choose not to use the DVA, you can work directly with the VA, but my own experience found that to be more frustrating than helpful, and much slower. Either of these two organizations will provide you with the forms you will need to fill out for your benefits, and tell you what information you will need to include with those forms (DD214s, death certificates, medical records, etc.) in order to receive each of your survivor benefits. Without all the documents attached to each form, the claim will be rejected. (Be prepared to cover your table with forms, documents, and piles of paperwork.) You can also get most of these forms off the Internet, if you have access. Start at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/dependents/index.htm>. Once you get to this page, click on Spouse, child or parent, whichever applies, and it will take you to a list of benefits and the requirements for each, as well as providing a link to the required forms.

As you go down the list, you can click to find out if you qualify for each of the benefits. For those who do not have Internet

access, these are benefits that you should ask about when you talk with the VA office, local VA representative, or DVA.

To find out about your specific State Veteran's Survivor benefits, go to <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory>. If you do not have computer access or even if you do, I would suggest that you call your State's Department of Veterans Services (phone numbers should be available in your local phone directory). I found them to be extremely helpful. You may find that there are existing, or even new benefits available to survivors, of which other sources may not be aware. For instance, in my State, if a veteran dies of a service-related disability (SRD), my real estate taxes are zero for 5 years, and reduced by \$2,500/year for the rest of my life (if I continue to live in this state). Also, there is a \$2,000/year state annuity for survivors whose spouse dies of a SRD. There are other benefits, as well, if the veteran resided in the state at the time of enlistment. So, while each State's benefits differ, it behooves you to check into what they are, and what the requirements for each may be.

Again, don't forget to check on your social security, private life insurance, medical, and other benefits.

While this time in your life is not a happy one, finding that you are eligible for finances to help you through these moments can ease the pain, or at least the worry of surviving in these difficult financial times. You have many resources available to help you through this process, use any and all of them, to assure that you "leave nothing on the table." Check and double-check to make certain that you receive all the benefits to which you are entitled. And if you are reading this column because it applies directly to you, remember not to give up. You will be talking with many individuals, some helpful, some knowledgeable, some not. If you are not comfortable with this process, have a family member or trusted friend help you.

If you have any questions on the process, you can contact me at: [thewrightthings@verizon.net](mailto:thewrightthings@verizon.net) and I will endeavor to at least steer you in the right direction.

**Paula Wright (Scott)**  
[thewrightthing@verizon.net](mailto:thewrightthing@verizon.net)

In most cases, if you are the surviving spouse of a member who dies of a Service-Related Disability, you will be entitled to

- DIC (Dependency Indemnity Compensation)--a monthly non-taxable check of approximately \$1,154 in 2009;
- Your medical coverage through either Tricare or CHAMPVA (you'll need to decide which applies to you);
- (DEA) Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance--an amount paid to you if you choose to obtain a degree, attend a certificate program, do an apprenticeship, or receive certain on-the-job training;
- Funeral and burial benefits;
- A burial flag and a Presidential citation;
- SGLI/VGLI Life insurance (if your deceased service member carried this coverage);
- Death pension (only if you are below a specified income/net worth limit); and
- Other benefits such as Bereavement Counseling, Financial Counseling for SGLI/VGLI beneficiaries, Home Loan Guaranty, Commissary and Exchange Privileges, and other possible benefits.

## Almost a Grunt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

them. Since I was an RTO I kept getting info on Charlie carrying bodies back across the creek nearby. Heard that Arty broke some kind of record by firing over 1-K rounds in only an hour.

Mentioned earlier that this most likely was the same battle that Sgt Davis received his MOH in. I was looking in the opposite direction that the artillery was firing. Noticed early on that there was someone firing at us from about 2-k yards away. Our S3 called a Spooky and he laid some pretty heavy fire on the location where the flashes were coming from.

Only problem was Charlie started firing back once he stopped (for a little while).

Was so engrossed on watching the Spooky that I wasn't paying attention to a sniper shooting at me between the tracks (finally got down). Seems like I remember a dustoff coming in about this time to pick up the wounded. Only saw one tube firing at us but there probably was more.

Next morning all was normal, Charlie had policed his bodies and the same kids who had been playing in front of their hootch about 150 yards in front of the tracks were playing again.

## A Sailor's Prayer

"The Lord is my pilot, I shall not go adrift; He lighteth my passage across dark channels; He steereth me through the deep waters, He keepeth my log.

He guideth me by the evening star for my safety's sake. Yea, though I sail mid the thunders and tempests of life, I shall fear no peril for Thou art with me. The vastness of thy sea upholds me.

Surely fair winds and safe harbors shall be found all the days of my life; And I shall moor, fast, and secure, forever .

Amen.

# Feelings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The reunions have changed my life. Before I found out about them less than 4 years ago, I had tried to forget about serving in the Army. It was true that when we came home people really did treat us like garbage, and I had tried to put it behind me for all those years, but as you know, it is always there. My wife had to talk me into going to the first one in 2005. After the first one for the first time in all those years, I was proud to have served in Vietnam and have discovered that I have a family of people that are closer than brothers that I never knew existed. After the first reunion, I have spent hundreds of hours looking for our lost brothers, just to let them know about the reunions so they too can experience that indescribable feeling that is our reunions. I have brought dozens of brothers together again and it is the best feeling in the world to see them together.

I guess what it is is that we went and did what was asked of us, in our youth. Came home and went on with our lives, raised families, and tried to pick up where we left off dealing with life's problems. But as much as we tried to forget about it, it never really went away. The thing is, we never really realized how close we had become to the people we served with, probably closer than our own brothers. As Bob Pries told me in his answer to the email I sent asking him about the first reunion, "The feeling there is indescribable," and now I understand, but I also cannot describe it, you have to be there to understand the feeling of, Love, Brotherhood, and Pride that is our reunion.

"Doc" Peterson was the medic assigned to the 1st Platoon of Bravo Company. Although he was not officially part of the company and only assigned to it, he like all the other medics formed a relationship with the men he was responsible to save, like all other medics that bond formed and every man that was wounded or killed left a permanent memory in his mind. He too had to face a life that was full of memories and needed a path to heal. Here are his words on how and where that path took him.

## From Harold "Doc" Peterson

I went to my first reunion in 1999 not knowing how I would be received. Almost backed out of going because of that, plus I only knew of two or three people I had once known so long ago who were considering going.

Imagine my surprise at arriving a day early and finding there were two guys already there, and I had not heard of either of them coming. And both of them were guys who had been wounded (minor wounds thankfully) and treated by me. It was great to see them again. Over the next 2 days, more of my guys showed up, each a bigger surprise than the last until there were 29 guys from the 1st platoon Bravo Co whom I served in the field with, another 11 or so from B Co that I knew,

plus 7 Medics from the Battalion Aid Station that I had served with. And to think I almost didn't go because I didn't think anyone was coming!! As for being worried about how they thought of me, well, I guess I was the only one who had doubts about how I had performed my duties back then. The kind words never stopped flowing, nor did the food or drink, my wallet wasn't allowed to leave my pants the entire 5 days I was with those guys. Even unit members who hadn't served with me themselves got into the act, one guy told me he heard all about me when he got to B Co, and was finally happy to meet me in person. I asked him if what he had heard was good or bad, he looked puzzled at first, then replied "Good" and I looked him in the eye and said "Then they lied," smiled, and walked away.

Just before I went to this reunion, word came by e-mail that my former B Co. Commander had been grievously ill, and then rumors arrived that he had in fact died. This man and I had not gotten along at all, in fact during one heated exchange over an open radio, I had threatened to shoot him. He was a career Officer going by the book, I was a young draftee willing to serve my Country, but as a Medic I wasn't going to allow ANYONE to interfere with my taking care of the troops under my care, or endanger their well being by doing stupid shit (in my military opinion such as it was). Imagine my shock when early Friday morning, I'm chatting with some early risers when one says "There's Lanier" and I turned to see the man I had hated so long ago. I wasn't sure how to react at first, a lot of bad memories flooded my brain, but then I decided that was a long time ago, and whether I agreed with his actions or not, he had been doing the best he knew how, just as I had. He was standing near the doorway, looking for a familiar face and obviously not finding one. Sucking up what courage and self control I could, I walked towards him and said "Hello Captain, good to see you again." and stuck out my hand. His gaze turned to my voice, his eyes lit up in recognition, and he took three steps back before he stood firm, looking at my outstretched hand. He still hesitated as I closed the three-step gap he had created, then reached out and took my hand. We both shook hands with a good firm grip for several seconds, then he suddenly pulled me close to him, grabbed my elbow, and said "I came home one night, and my wife greeted me at the door with a envelope in her hand," and said "Another one of your boys from Vietnam wrote you a letter." I took the envelope, looked at the return address, and just stared at it, not believing what I was seeing. Seeing the look on my face, my wife asked "Jim, What's wrong, is everything alright?" I said "Do you remember me telling you about the crazy medic who threatened to shoot me?" She said, "Yes," I said "Well, this is from him!" My wife looked at me for a minute and then quietly asked, "Does this mean we are going to be moving again?"

Then he added "By the way, it's Major Lani-

er now. I looked him in the eyes and said I was sorry if I had caused his wife any concerns, and that was a long time ago, and I thought I had become wiser and more understanding over the years. And then I took him to meet some of those unfamiliar faces that he did in fact know back then.

Since then at all the reunions we've both attended, I've made it a point to take MAJOR James Lanier to Sunday breakfast on me. We talk a bit, share thoughts, and a few memories, and then we part ways, and never knowing if that will be the last time we meet. I hope not.

Respectfully submitted

Harold "Doc" Peterson

1st Plt. B Co (Sept 14, 1968-March 4, 1969)

B Co Senior Aidman (March 4-7, 1969)

2/47th Bn. Aid Station (March 7-Oct 17, 1969)

*Ray Scott came to Bravo Company as a young 2LT with no command experience and was immediately assigned as the 1st Platoon Leader by me. He was replacing one of the two previous Platoon Leaders I had relieved and shipped out of the Company. When he arrived he had two strikes against him simply because he was new to any type of command let alone command in combat. By the time Ray had less than a month in command, I had total confidence in him and his ability. Not only did he exhibit great leadership skills, he had the ability to induce total confidence to his Platoon. Had Ray made a career of the Army, I am 100% positive he would be wearing several stars when he retired.*

After a terrible greeting while refueling in Hawaii on the way home in 1970 being referred to as "baby killer" and "war monger," I buried my experience for decades. It wasn't until September 2002 that I was approached by an ex Nam vet to ask if I was interested in reading names at the rededication of The Wall. That was the being of my rebirth with all of you.

While waiting my turn to speak, I sat and watched. It became clear there was life after Nam. There were groups of men who laughed and joked but when at The Wall totally focused on their mission. While walking across the lawn, I noticed a group of four men talking. As I walked by, one of them moved toward me. Stopping, one of them said to me "Do I know you?" Offering my hand, I said, "Hi, I'm Ray Scott." The reply, "Nam, 69-70?" My answer "Yeah!" Another question, "Bravo Company?" Again the answer "Yeah!" Then to my dismay, this question "Bravo 1-6?" To which my response was "Who the F\*\*\* are you?" It was Ken Hudson. Within minutes, I was on a cell phone with my old CO Frank Begovich, Doc Pries, Smitty, Bobby Locke, and others.

It was like 30 years of shame, fear, and guilt all disappeared in a flash. It has been more revealing ever since. I attended my first reunion that following April. I had shepherded my platoon through the thick of it for over 9 months with only one friendly wounded. I loved those guys and wanted to bring them home. I was moved out of the field and assigned to Battalion S3. We moved into Cambodia. The very next day the platoon I have

shepherded was almost completely lost during a ground attack and RPGs. That is woe and guilt I carried for years.

While sitting next to Doc Pries during the Regimental Dinner that April 2003, I lamented to him how distraught I was about such devastating losses to my old platoon. Doc looked at me and said, "Ray, you have it wrong. It was the 2nd Platoon that got hit, not the 1st." I began to cry realizing that my guys were OK and that for 30 years I had been carrying that loss around with me. Never have I felt more relief.

While the hole in my soul is not completely closed, I can say with conviction that it has been getting progressively smaller with each interaction, either at a reunion or during the festivities in DC for Veterans Day.

My life is whole again and I thank all who attend and attempt to keep the communication going. Without you, I would still be a lost soul.

Your Brother,

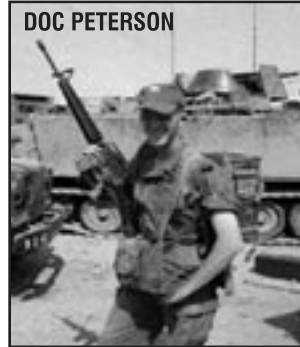
Ray Scott, Bravo 1-6 (July 1969-July 1970)

*Through the effort and dedication of a few brave men organizations like the MRFA have spawned smaller groups that have once again given us the opportunity to join together in brotherhood.*

Frank Begovich

*B Company 2 BN 47th Infantry Mech.  
9th Infantry Division (1969/70)*

## Bob Pries--Sept 16, 1969--Not a good day! *The source of Bob's bad day--Doc Peterson, a caring Medic!*



me decided to set me down in a rice paddy along side a nasty looking wood line.

As we moved along the wood line, I noticed a trail that looked like it had been recently traveled. In fact, it looked like someone had dragged something down the trail fairly recently. As I was pointing this out to Walt Rakaczewski, the 2nd Platoon Sgt., the point element started receiving fire as they were entering the wood line.

Given that I was young and foolish enough to really believe it was my responsibility to save the world (translated as everyone in Bravo Co.), I proceeded from the rear of the platoon to the front to check on my troops.

People weren't sure of the status of everyone in the point element, so I crashed the party and joined them in the wood line. At this time, there was myself and three others in the point element: Rupnick, Dave Lull, and Be, a Tiger Scout. We could see a couple VC crawling away so we threw a few frags at them and started moving towards them, Lull and Be to the right, Rupnick and me to the left.

As Rup and I moved forward, a VC popped up on our left rear and let loose with a magazine of AK rounds. Thankfully, he was scared and a terrible shot because he was only 6 feet away and only hit me, and then only once. I was knocked to the ground by the force of the bullet and landed in a nest of red ants. They were my primary concern! Hurt worst than the damn bullet. I was covered with them... even in my mouth and nose!!! Dave Lull and Rupnick thankfully removed most of the red ants.

Well to make a long story short, a few frags were thrown at the unfortunate VC who shot me and he joined his ancestors on an eternal journey.

I was hauled out of the wood line by Rup and Dave only to be greeted by Frank Begovich, Bravo Six, in a nice Huey. Frank was in the air in a C&C Bird when I was wounded. Disregarding his personal safety, he had the pilot land that bird in a hot LZ to pick up his man. Frank was pissed when he realized it was me who was wounded. He wanted to know what the hell I was doing with the 2nd Platoon in



the point element "in that damned wood line." I didn't answer him only because any answer I gave would have been BS and I knew him too well for me to try that. The VC may have hit my left thigh....but the "Six Man" had my butt!! I was willing to take my chances with the VC again rather than be on the wrong side of Six. I respected him too much to try BS'g him. However, as always, Frank put the welfare of his men first, and flew my sorry butt to Binh Phuoc. (Note: Six--you are still my hero for getting my sorry a--out of there as fast as you did. I didn't even have to call in my own dust-off!)

At Phuoc, I was warmly greeted by my good friends Harold Peterson and Earl Cour-san, two very caring medics, who for some strange reason couldn't stop laughing once they saw me. They were laughing so hard that they dropped the stretcher I was on three times when attempting to load me into the ambulance. I finally took the litter, put it into the ambulance and climbed in. Harold was so blinded by tears from laughter that he hit the gatepost driving through the rear gate. They dropped me again while unloading me at the aid station. I think they did more damage to me than the damn VC!

We laugh about these events today and I am very pleased to be able to laugh about it. I will always be very thankful I had the opportunity to serve with such great people who would risk their butts to save mine. Even Harold and Earl who found my "situation" so funny at the time.

Bravo 6 Track and Others--Last Operation of Bravo 2/47th in Vietnam October 1970.



### MRFA

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# Tourane Hilton NSA Saigon Det APL-30

Submitted By Captain Stephen Dexter (SC)  
US Navy Ret.

**K**ris Kringle THREE THREE this is Spike THREE ZERO. Request you talcum\* my starboard bow? It is the mid-watch on the first night of the APL-30s first day with the Mobile Riverine Force. What are we doing here? How did we get here? What is a non self-propelled barge doing as an operational unit in one of the Navy's most combat-oriented forces in Vietnam?

[\*talcum : river lingo for drop a concussion grenade near my location to rattle the brains of those below the waterline including Mr. Charles who might be in the water nearby.]

The simple answer was that self-propelled berthing ships (APBs) were not in sufficient numbers, there was a need for more capability and APL-30 was available. Besides, barracks craft had been supporting overseas basing efforts for the Navy since the middle of WWII. With a little combat green and some propulsion, KALISPELL YTB 784 and WIN-NEMUCCA YTB 785 provided the screws and steering for both APLs 26 and 30—a barge can do a great deal.

APL-30, one of a series of barracks craft of the APL-17 class, was built in 1944 by the Everett Pacific Shipyard and Dry Dock Co. of Everett, WA. Little is still known of her early service, but she was towed from Kwajalein to Pearl Harbor by USS ENOREE (AO-69) in September 1946. The "Orphans of the Pacific" write of being onboard in 1951, perhaps in Korea. She is known to have been in Sasebo, Japan, supporting MSB ONE during the Korean War; from 1952 to 1956 MINDIV 111 personnel were embarked and she likely was in reserve in Guam. In December 1965, she arrived as the second of three APLs supporting cargo "hatch" teams at the Naval Support Activity, Da Nang. She became known as the "Tourane Hilton" as Tourane was the French name for Da Nang. By December of 1967, that mission had been contracted out to commercial stevedores and the APLs were declared available for other service.

In need of an overhaul, APL-30 was towed with her crew still onboard to SRF Yokosuka where she remained until May 1968. When requirements were levied to modify her for supporting riverine units, she was towed to SRF Guam. There, now an asset of NSA Saigon, a tactical operations center, comm. Center, and flight deck were fitted on her O-2 level and she was painted olive drab. In August, LT Robert L. Dickey, USN reported as OIC and 2 days later APL-30 was towed to Cat Lo via the San Bernardino Straits.

At Cat Lo, it was made clear that APL-30 would be the temporary flagship for CTG 117.2 (Capt J. G. Now, USN), part of the expansion of the MRF from two river assault squadrons to four. There she was modified by USS Indra (ARL-37) to accommodate the new commander and his chief staff officer. Also officer berthing and messing facilities were ex-

panded to accommodate the increase in embarked officers from 5 to more than 30.

In early October, APL-30 and several AMMI pontoons (for troop embarkation) were towed by commercial tug across the South China Sea then up the Song My Tho arriving at the MRF anchorage after dark. Almost immediately, CTG 117.2 and staff and River Assault Division 91 arrived for support. Within days, she was fitted with Erdalators, a 55-gallon drum river water reverse osmosis filtration system to replace the now ineffective seawater evaporation system. By late October, CTG 117.2 re-embarked in USS Mercer (APB -39) and RAD 91 was replaced by COMRAS 9 (CDR J. R. Froid, USN) and his staff, RAD 92, UDT 11 Det 2 and C and D Companies of the 3rd/60th INF BN, 2nd Brigade of the Army's 9th ID. APL-30 now had approximately 750 personnel onboard, give or take whoever was or was not there for meals. Depending on comparative menus, drop-ins from other ships and units were common.

The mission of APL-30 was broad: serve as headquarters for the Navy staffs with a TOC and communications center and provide berthing and messing support, barber, laundry, tailor, ship's store, medical sick call, and postal services to embarked personnel. In addition, it coordinated the requirements, ordering, delivery, and billing for all fresh fruits and vegetables and milk for the entire flotilla. Given an irregular operational schedule, this sometimes proved awkward and, on one occasion, 5,000 gallons of milk arrived at Dong Tam for a flotilla that was not present. The Song My Tho flowed white that day.

The operational schedule for APL-30 mirrored that of the rest of the MRF--3 to 5 days each off My Tho, Dong Tam, Ben Tre, and the mouth of the Song Ham Luong with side trips off Vinh Long. The "liberty port" was Dong Tam with its repair facilities, airfield, and clubs. The APLs 26 and 30 joined what was called the "slow force" as it took two YTBs to move one APL and there were only two YTBs.

While primitive by traditional Navy standards, APL-30 quickly gained a reputation for flexibility and as a "feeder." Under the direction of CSC Frank L. Perate, USN and his able crew of 12 Navy and 5 Army cooks complete meals were provided to units prior to and upon returning from operations in the AO (Big Blue). Due to the superb quality of this support as well as feedback from its customers, APL-30 was awarded an honorable mention from afloat units in the 1969 NSA Saigon In-Country Ney Award competition--the only one so recognized.

In addition to Chief Perate were other heroes of the APL-30: SHC James Kent who took charge as ships CMAA and improved the quality of life in troop berthing compartments; ENC Kenneth Alexander who led the engineer department in keeping electrical and other hotel services on line; and finally DC3 Evans and FN Lydell who responded to



APL-30 Nha Be 1972

a burning Romeo boat, receiving the Bronze Star for their performance and courage.

Following the break up of the MRF in June 1969, APL-30 spent several weeks at Dong Tam and then was towed to Nha Be. In April 1972, she was towed to Subic Bay with serious deficiencies in her overworked diesel generators, boilers, evaporators, and boat davits. On February 1, 1975, she was sold for scrap by the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service. It was a sad end for a craft that had provided such sustained service over several decades.

During her 31 years of service, APL-30 received the following awards: PUC, NUC (3), American Campaign Medal, Asia-Pacific Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal (10), RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm, RVN Civic Action Medal with Palm, and RVN Campaign Medal with 1960 device.

Folks who helped with this article: LT(jg) Sam Platts, APL-30; CPT Mike Klein, 3/60th INF; LT(jg) Dick Feinstein, RAS NINE; EN2 Bob Heiney, APL-30; ENS Marion Follin, APL-30; and LT(jg) Steve Dexter, APL-30.



APL-30 Tourane Hilton--NSA Saigon Det

## SEEKING...

*How members reach out to assist others. It's all a brotherhood not to be broken.*

**Boats Paul Kershner** is seeking GMG2 Jerry L. Brooks who served on Tango-112-12 with Paul. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Jerry L. Brooks, please contact Paul at 1120 Gregg Ave., Reading, PA 19607, 610-777-2414, atch10@yahoo.com.

**Brad Braastad** is seeking BM1 Jerry L. Jones who was Boat Captain on ASPB-3-112 (1967). You may contact Brad at 520-270-3011 or river-rat@theriver.com.

**PLEASE NOTE:** YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE IS NOW PRINTED ON THE FRONT OF YOUR ISSUE OF RIVER CURRENTS.

# Veterans Day 2008 Washington, DC

Thanks to Bob Doc Pries and all others who made the wreath-laying ceremonies possible and a great success. Bravo Zulu ALL HANDS.



## Soldier's Prayer

Hearts are heavy now, dear Lord  
For WAR is looming there.  
Our prayers are calling out to you,  
Our thoughts too much to bear.  
Be with our loved ones--THEY NEED YOU.

Guide them, lead them, see them through.

Bless our leader, for we know,  
He asks Your blessings, and needs them so.

Protect the innocent, shield their lives,  
As bombs and missiles streak the skies.  
Open our hearts and fill us with grace,  
Guard our loved ones in that place.

This I say, in earnest prayer,  
THANK YOU LORD

I know YOU'RE there.

So brief, but God knows our hearts  
and feels the pain for all of us.

Our military, our president, we who  
wait at home and those innocents whose  
lives are in harm's way too.

I can barely watch the news,  
but am drawn to it all the same.

This prayer is on my lips and in my  
heart,

almost every minute.  
GOD BLESS AMERICA,  
and all of your children,  
wherever they are.

# Veterans Day 2008

Fort Snelling National Cemetery at the 9th Infantry Div. and MRFA Monuments



Thanks to Charlie and Georgie Ardinger for putting together the Vets Day ceremony and for the hospitality room in Bloomington, Minnesota. Although the numbers were small (around 20 people), a great time was had by all hands. A special thanks to Mike Clark and the VVA Chapter 470 Honor Guard. As always a great job and appreciated.



## MRFA Catalog Products



**T-Shirts** All shirts \$22.50 (includes S/H)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY	SZ
<b>SCREEN PRINTED LOGOS</b>		
River Rat Vietnam <b>NEW!</b> (Rat Five Colors on White)		
Vietnam Combatant Craft Crew (VCCC) (Silver Insignia on White) <b>NEW!</b>		
<b>FULLY EMBROIDERED LOGOS</b>		
2nd/47th (Mech) Infantry (Ash)		
9th Infantry Div. Logo (Dark Blue)		
Brown Water Navy Vietnam (Brown Logo; Dark Blue)		
Combat Action Ribbon (Tan)		
Combat Infantry Badge (Ash)		
MRFA Army and Navy (Ash)		
River Assault Force TF 117 (Ash)		
<b>BOATS (Ash Color)</b>		
ASPB		
Monitor		
Tango		
<b>TOTAL T-SHIRTS x \$22.50 EACH</b>	<b>TOTAL \$</b>	

**Embroidered Patches** \$5.00 (includes S/H)

ITEM	QTY	ITEM	QTY
9th Infantry Div.		Brown Wtr Navy	
IJWG		MRFA	
MRFA Mekong Delta		River Raiders	
River Rat		TF 117	
RivRon 9		RivDiv 91	
RivDiv92		RivDiv 111	
RivDiv 112		RivRon 13	
<b>RivDiv 131</b>		<b>RivDiv 132</b>	
RivRon 15		RivDiv 152	
RivDiv 153		ASPB Div 595	
47th Inf. <b>NEW!</b>		39th Inf. <b>NEW!</b>	
60th Inf. <b>NEW!</b>		VCCC Brown Water	
VCCC Patch In Five Colors <b>NEW!</b>			
VCCC MRF Silver <b>NEW!</b>			
Other:			
(See our website <a href="http://www.mrfa.org">www.mrfa.org</a> for complete listing!)			
<b>TOTAL PATCHES x 5.00 EACH</b>	<b>TOTAL \$</b>		

**NEW! Jumbo 9"**

**Embroidered Patches** \$23.50 (includes S/H)

ITEM	QTY
MRFA (Full color, 9")	
MRF (Full color, 9")	
9th Infantry Division (Full color, 9")	
<b>TOTAL PATCHES x 23.50 EACH</b>	<b>TOTAL \$</b>

**Hat Pins** \$5.00 (includes S/H)

ITEM	QTY	ITEM	QTY
3rd/60th Riverine		39th Inf Crest	
47th Inf Crest		60th Inf Crest	
9th Inf Div		Brown Water Navy	
IJWG-1		MRFA	
RivAssault Sqd 15		RivDiv-91	
RivDiv-92		RivDiv-111	
RivDiv-112		RivDiv-131	
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# TAPS

*May our brothers rest in peace. On the passing of a brother, little can be said as to what man would do for his brother. Rest peaceful and Godspeed my brothers and sisters...*

## Gen. William Knowlton; Led West Point

By Patricia Sullivan, Washington Post Staff Writer

**William A. Knowlton, 88**, a retired four-star general who during four decades of military duty was superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, died August 10 [2008] at Virginia Hospital Center of intracranial bleeding as a result of a fall. He had Parkinson's disease.

Gen. Knowlton, a graduate of West Point in January 1943, was the 49th superintendent of the academy, a post he held from 1970 to 1974. At the time, he was the longest-serving superintendent since World War II.

His tenure there reflected the uproar of the culture as the Vietnam War was coming to a close. A cadet was discharged for lying about his marital status, and Gen. Knowlton's attempts to tighten discipline and enforce rules were met with the filing of several lawsuits.

He described his job there as "the commander of a stockade surrounded by attacking Indians," in Rick Atkinson's 1989 "The Long Gray Line," a history of West Point. In 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court supported the school's ability to set and enforce high standards.

Gen. Knowlton admitted the first South Vietnamese person to the cadet ranks at West Point. Although the academy had graduated more than 100 foreign cadets since 1889, most were Latin American or Filipino. After Congress created four all-expenses-paid slots for Asians, South Koreans, and a Thai took the first three.

"Everybody kind of forgot about the Vietnamese," Gen. Knowlton told journalist Christopher Scanlan in 1992. Tam Minh Pham won the slot; he later spent 6 years as a prisoner of war in his own country.

By the time he retired in 1980, Gen. Knowlton was the Army's second-highest-ranking four-star general, the New York Times noted then.

The Weston, Mass., native began his career as a second lieutenant in the Armored Cavalry and fought in four campaigns during World War II, beginning in Normandy. In the last weeks of the war, he was awarded a Silver Star for leading a reconnaissance mission deep behind German lines to make one of the first contacts with the Soviet forces north of Berlin.

His later commands included battalion and brigade armored cavalry and armor units, the 9th Infantry Division's multi-brigade force in South Vietnam and the Allied Land Forces Southeastern Europe in Izmir, Turkey.

He also served on the staffs of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Gen. Omar Bradley at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the early 1950s.

He was on the staff of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, from 1966 to 1968, where he oversaw civil operations on Gen. William Westmoreland's staff and served as assistant division commander in the 9th Infantry Division. His work in Southeast Asia resulted in the award of a Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, and 10 Air Medals. He also received two more Silver Stars, one for gallantry at a fire support base that came under sudden attack and the other in a battle on the Plain of Reeds.

He was on the general staff of the secretary of Army for the next 2 years until he went to West Point, where his daughter Hollister met and married Lt. David Petraeus, now a four-star general and commander of the multinational forces in Iraq.

A soldier-scholar, Gen. Knowlton also taught social sciences at West Point while working on a master's degree in political science at Columbia University, which he received in 1957. He also graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Na-



tional War College.

After West Point, Gen. Knowlton became chief of staff of the European Command and for his last three years of active duty was the U.S. representative to NATO's military committee in Brussels, the highest military authority in the NATO alliance.

After his retirement, he was a senior fellow at a defense studies institute at the National Defense University at Fort McNair for 15 years. He also served as an adviser for the Defense Nuclear Agency and was a member of the Defense Intelligence Agency Science and Technology Advisory Board.

In the private sector, he became a director of the Chubb Corp. and served as a trustee for Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia. He had been a resident of Arlington County [Virginia] and Alexandria [Virginia] since 1980.

In 2004, the Association of Graduates of the United States Military Academy gave him its Distinguished Graduate Award, calling him "a living embodiment of the values enshrined in the Academy's motto: Duty, Honor, Country."

Gen. Knowlton's military honors also included a Defense Distinguished Service Medal, two awards of the Legion of Merit and two awards of the Army Commendation Medal.

You may contact the family at Marijore D Knowlton, 4800 Fillmore Ave. #452, Alexandria, VA 22311, 703-988-3098.

*May our General rest in peace. He was really a good man and truly a Officer and Gentleman like no other. I had met him on a few occasions and he was always respectful and dignified in his quiet way. It was a high honor to have met him and to have known him even while in declining health he would always managed to e-mail and ask how the troops were doing. He was one of the best this Country has ever produced.*

Albert Moore

President Mobile Riverine Force Association

**William Batson, Jr.** passed away December 19, 2007, due to lung cancer and a brain tumor at the age of 59. William served in HHC 4th/47th 9th Inf Div Inf. (12/68-8/69). You may contact the family at Marie Batson 12 Union Square, Randolph MA 02368-4852, 781-961-9005. May our brother rest in peace.

**BMCS Donald Bruce Groce**, age 69, of Baird, Texas, passed away Tuesday, November 4, 2008, due to cancer Agent-Orange related. Don served in the U.S. Navy for 22 years, retiring in 1989 as a highly decorated Senior Chief Boatswain Mate. He served several tours of duty during the Vietnam Conflict. Honors awarded for his dedicated service included the Navy Cross, 5 Purple Hearts, 3 Bronze Stars with Combat Valor, 2 Navy Commendations Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medals, Presidential Unit Citations, Brigade Level Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and Regiment Level Vietnam Gallantry Cross. Don served as a Boat Captain on Tango 92-5 and as the Advisor to Vietnamese Navy ZIPPO Boat (HG-6533 Zippo 5). You may contact the family at Bess Groce 504 Arch St. Baird, TX 79504. May Senior Chief Groce rest in peace. Citation for the Navy Cross below.

*Chief Boatswain's Mate, U.S. Navy  
Advisor, Vietnamese Navy River Assault Forces,  
Vietnamese Navy*

*Date of Action: September 4, 1970*  
**Citation**  
*The Navy Cross is awarded to Chief Boatswain's Mate Donald B. Groce, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism while serving as the Advisor to Vietnamese Navy ZIPPO Boat (HG-6533) when that vessel was ambushed by enemy forces in the Republic of*



Vietnam on 4 September 1970. During the initial moments of the ambush, enemy rockets, recoilless rifle, and automatic weapons fire inflicted heavy casualties upon crew members of the ZIPPO boat. The first rocket round wounded Chief Petty Officer Groce in the arms and legs and knocked him out of the coxswain's flat and into the main deck gunwhale. Despite his serious wounds, he made his way back to his battle station and had resumed his duty of advising and assisting the Vietnamese Boat Captain in the counterattack when shrapnel from another enemy rocket again wounded him, causing a deep hip wound, and a compound fracture of his right thumb. Disregarding his grievous injuries, Chief Petty Officer Groce managed to crawl forward on the open deck to the flame mounts which were not firing. While exposed to the full force of the enemy fire, he calmly aligned the flame system and shouted encouragement to the other crew members. Subsequently, he personally operated one flame mount and supervised the employment of the flame throwers against the enemy's positions until the enemy fire was effectively suppressed. Chief Petty Officer Groce's exemplary professionalism, bravery under fire, and courageous devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

I'm writing to you to let you know of the unexpected passing of **EMCS Fred Kofmehl USN (Ret.)**, Wed., October 1. He died in his sleep. He had no known illness and was in good health, having just celebrated his 77th birthday. Fred served on the USS Guide MSO-447 ('59-61) out of Long Beach, CA. Fred served on a number of MSOs in operation Market Time TF-115 during the Vietnam War. Fred was a great friend and an excellent shipmate he will be missed by all. Send your condolences to his daughter Jocelyn Vilter at 4605 Glen Arden, Covina, CA 91724, 626-915-7707.

--Brenda Miller, San Clemente, CA, 949-489-1944

Member **John O. Hefner** passed away Tuesday morning, September 9, 2008, from a stroke. John was Boat Captain on Alpha ASPB-112-1 (1968). You may contact the family at Pat Hefner 894 Lake Circle Rd. Buchanan, GA 30113, 770-646-5000, hef12000@yahoo.com. May our brother rest in peace.

Member **Jim All** passed away August 12, 2008, after a long battle with various illnesses service connected. He was a proud Vietnam Veteran and flew his American flag and POW flag every day. Jim served on YRBM-17 at Dong Tam. If you ever served in Dong Tam, you saw her she was on the right side of the basin as you pulled into Dong Tam Harbor. You may contact Doug Lindsey for more information on the passing of Jim (vermin250@aol.com). Doug and Jim served together on YRBM-17 (1/67-1/68). May our brother rest in peace.

L-R Doug Lindsey and Jim All Dong Tam 1967

I am writing you to inform you of my Father's passing. **Frank A. Acuna (USN)** died at 4:01 a.m. central time on September 28, 2008. He had just turned 86 on September 16. Dad was very proud of the MSO 447 and all of his comrades. Frank served on the USS Guide MSO-447 (1958-61) as a RM1. Frank was one of the last of the Three War Veterans we have in the association, having served in World War II, Korean War, and the Vietnam War.



I want to thank you all for staying connected and maintaining your Web site. Frankly, without it, I wouldn't have known whom, if anyone, to contact. Dad spoke highly of you and always enjoyed the fact that he was



able to reconnect with you and all of his shipmates. Please pass along the information to all who knew my dad.

Francine Acuna-Moyer



**BMC William L. "Boats" Fischer USN (Ret.)** passed away in his sleep, September 4, 2008. Boats had been in declining health for a few years. Boats Fischer was a great person; you would not have found a nicer shipmate and friend. He enjoyed being a MRFA member and the camaraderie that he shared with all the Army and Navy members he met. He could take a joke and give back as good as he received. He will be missed by all hands Army and Navy alike. Boats served as a Boat Captain on PBR-97 River Section 532 (7/66-7/67) out of My Tho. Boats ashes will be buried at sea by the US Navy. You may contact the family at Margaret Fischer 87-165 St Johns Rd. Wai-anae, HI 96792-3258, 808-668-7494. May our brother rest in peace and find peace.

Albert Moore



Member **John L. Gilmartin** passed away early Tuesday morning, October 22, 2008, after a long and hard battle with cancer Agent-Orange related. John served on CCB-151-2 (8/68-6/69). John was a proud Vietnam veteran and proud to have served on the Brown Waters of Vietnam. He was a good man and will be missed by all.

You may contact the family at Sandra Gilmartin, 131 W Crystal Lake Dr., Haverhill, MA 01832 978-376-5012. May our brother rest in peace.

From Boat crew member, "I'm sad to say that John died early this morning. His wife Sandy called me this morning to tell me he passed away around 4 a.m. in his sleep. There will be a 3-hour viewing and then he will be cremated. May God bless our brother." Angel Mercado CCB-151-2

It is with deep regret that I report the death of **Richard L. "Dick" Eastham**. Dick passed away on October 22, 2008, after a 5-year battle with cancer. Dick served in RivDiv 573 (8/68 to 8/69) on "Hotel" patrol on 732 boat. Dick was a proud member of PBR-FVA.

Dear Sir, My name is James F. Gershman I would like to inform you of the passing of my brother Dennis A. Gershman. Dennis served on the USS Harnett City LST-821 (1967-68) in Vietnam while attached to Task Force 116. Dennis passed away in September 2004 due to exposure to Agent Orange and other related illnesses. Dennis was very proud of his Navy service especially his time on the Harnett City and his time in

the Brown Water Navy. He was proud and honored to have served his Country. Dennis had been a member of your association that's how I found your e-mail address through a copy of a past newsletter. If anyone would like to contact me please do so at James Geshman, 230 Ringneck Ave., Indiana, PA 15701, 724-463-8812, sycamoreinn@webtv.net.

**Audie McGrogan**, wife of member Don McGrogan BMCS USN (Ret.), passed away October 25, 2008, after a long illness. Audie attended a few of our reunions in the '90s till her health became an issue. She and Don would have a booth set up where Don made his patches available to the membership. She was a nice lady and always had a smile on her face. She will be missed by all whom knew her. You may contact Don at 9110 Chateaux Dr., Hayden, ID 83835, 208-762-4481, macpatch@mcgrogans.com.

Member **Eugene C. Shea**, 79, a resident of West Palm Beach, Fla., formerly of Dracut and Lawrence, Ma. died unexpectedly Friday, Nov. 14, 2008 at his home. Mr. Shea retired from the United States Navy at the rank of Chief Store Keeper after 30 years of service to his country.

Chief Shea served on the USS Colleton APB-36 (10/66-12-67) as the lead SK. Gene was an excellent Sailor and shipmate. At the time of Gene's passing, he was living at 1383 Summit Pines Blvd #1213, West Palm Beach, FL 33415; 561-689-3523

Those who wish may make donations in his name to the Salvation Army, 150 Appleton St., Lowell, MA 01852. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Dracut Funeral Home, 2159 Lakeview Ave., Dracut. For online condolences visit dracutfuneralhome.com.

*I knew Gene Shea before Vietnam and after Vietnam. He was really a nice guy. I'll miss him as I do all departed members. As our ranks grow thinner with the passing of time we need to hold on to all the friendships we made in Vietnam and those after. We really don't know how much a friendship means to us before it's too late.*

Albert



**Nelson Makinson** (2nd Platoon, C/4/47 9thInfDiv passed away November 12, 2008. After another bout of pneumonia. Nelson served in Charlie Company, 4th/47th, 9th Infantry Division, part of Jack Benedict's 2nd Platoon. You may contact the family at Maggie Makinson PO Box 43 Coinjock, North Carolina 27923.

*The MRFA board of directors would like to extend it's most heartfelt condolences to all the families.*

## Get Well Wishes

Hi Al,

This is Linda. Bob is recouping from a quadruple bypass surgery. What a surprise! He did not have a heart attack so we were very lucky. His surgery was on the 12th. At 4:40 p.m. the next day, he walked from ICU to the other side of the hospital to his regular room! Other than having to have 2,200 cc of fluid draw from around his left lung on October 2, he is doing very well. Folks Bob Pawlicki served on Tango-111-11 (66-67). You may contact Bob and Linda at 3906 Military St., Port Huron, MI 48060, 810-364-8604, tango1111@aol.com.

Brothers,

Please see the message below from Gramps Fillingham. Gary Roberts has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

I am sure Gary would love to hear from his Vietnam Brothers. This message asks that each of you take a few minutes to send Gary an email, a card, or a call letting

him know that you're thinking of him and wishing him the best. Gary was an infantryman with 1st platoon B Co 2nd/47th when I joined them mid-September 1968, when the 9th Inf Div put out a call for Sniper Trainees, SGT Quin Sommers recommended Gary to go. Now Gary is much bigger than they prefer snipers to be, about 6 feet 4 inches give or take, but his marksmanship skills and hunting skills from civilian life impressed the instructors enough to give him a try, good choice as he is regarded as one of, if not, one of THE best snipers the 9th fielded in Vietnam. He worked with a lot of units in Nam, but he liked being with B Co 2/47 the best he told me. I saw his work several times, impressive. You can contact Gary Roberts at 1404 County Road, Blue Springs, MS 38828, 662-534-3949, gdr4448@bellsouth.net.

As we did in Nam, let's take care of our own. If not us and his family, who will? Thank you in advance for letting our Panther Brother, Gary Roberts, know you care.

In Brotherhood, Doc

## In Memory Of

*This section is for the members who wish to sponsor the MRFA by placing a notice in memory of one their fallen comrades. In some cases, 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 4 issues.*

G. Edward Arledge for LCDR Loren Cobb, USN Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of USS Indra ARL-37  
Jerry Bogart for Jack Bogart USS Tom Green City LST 1159 12/22/06

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Brothers of the 2nd/47th Inf for all Army and Navy KIA's  
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Timothy Shelton 4th/39th KIA 06/25/69, Steven Murray 4th/39th KIA 05/26/69, Harvey Crabtree 2nd/4th Arty KIA 06/19/69, Dennis Mattox 1st/501st 101st Abn KIA 08/23/69

Gene Cooper for Steve Brichford FT2 68/69 and Jerry Roleofs 67-68 USS White River LSMR-536

Janice Dahlke for son Randy Mueller D Co. 2nd/47th KIA

03/03/69

Ted Fetting B Co 2nd/60th Inf. 10/67-2/68 for all from B Co. 2nd/60th and KIA 2/2/68 Fred Jansonivs (ND), Eloy "Stevie" Le Blanc (CA), and Roy Phillips (IL)

Nan Fulton for LT/Gen Bill Fulton Cdr 2nd Bde Asst Div Cdr 9th Inf Div (1966-68)

Ray Funderburk for LTC John B. Tower CO 2nd/47th Inf

David Hammond for Lt Willie Kitchen C Co 3rd/47th

(1967/69) killed in an automobile accident 1992

Jeffie Hanks for Seaman John E. Hollis died 11/11/70 Kien Phong

David Lynn for Howard Burns (QM2), Robert Bouchet (SM2), and Herman Miller (GM3) 08/11/68 IUWG-1-3 Qui Nhon

Richard MacCullagh for John Phillips HMC and Rene Petit, LT, Chaplain

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

Adam Metts for Donald L. Bruckart T-111-2 KIA 03/31/69

VP Roy Moseman for Oscar Santiago C-2 4th/47th (10/67-10/68)

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Tom Sanborn for Spec4 Thomas H. Williams A Co 4th/47th Inf KIA 08/24/68 near Kia Lay, Spec4 David Thorton A Co 4th/47th Inf KIA 11/07/68 on Toi Son (VC) Island, and Ist Lt James L. Tarte A Co 4th/47th Inf KIA 8/24/68 near Kai Lay

Robert Sutton for LT James Frost Vin Te Canal Chau Duc KIA 11/69

Robert Thacker for Earl T. Pelhan Jr. SSG KIA 15th Combat Engineers

Sgt. Okey Toothman for Sgt Sam Saavedra 3rd/47th and Sgt Booker T. Myles 3rd/47th

Steven Totcoff for brother CPL Dennis S. Totcoff B Co 3rd/47th KIA 5/2/68

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Tommy Walker USS Haverfield DER 393 (12/63-07/67)

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Edward J. Graff A Co. 2nd/47th Infantry (04/68-04/69)  
James (Jim) Grooms NSA Danang (1966-68)  
Max F. Gruenberg Jr. USS Whitfield Cty (8/65-5/67)  
Frank Gubala A Co. 3rd/47th Inf (02/68-07/68)  
Gerald G. Hahn 3rd/60th Inf (01/68-01/69)  
1stSgt Paul T. Hall USA (Ret.) USS Kemper Cty (02/67-06/67)  
Roger Hamilton Jr. USS Mark AKL-12 (08/68-08/69)  
Hazel Hanks Associate Member  
SFC Michael Hamner RivRon 13 and 153 (07/69-02/71)  
John Harrison C Co. 3rd/47th Inf  
Kent Hawley YRBM-20 (10/60-10/70)  
Joe Hiliard T-44-48 (1969-70)  
Robert Hotz Jr. IUWG Units 1-4 Nha Tran (1969/70)  
Maj/Gen Ira A. Hunt Jr. HHQ 9th Inf Div  
Alan G. Hyde 9th Signal (1966-68)  
Truman Irving USS Mark AKL-12 (08/68-08/69)  
David V. Jarczewski C Co 4th/47th Inf (5/66-5/68)  
Ron Jett T-92-8 (1/67-1/68)  
Gerald Johnston USS Nye County LST-1067 (01/66-01/67)  
Everett Jones BMCS Ret, RivRon 15 (04/69-04/70)  
Frank B. Jones RivRon 15 T-48  
Dane K. Keller RivDiv 532 PBR-121 (5/69-5/70)  
Jay Morgan Kellers T-111-4 (01/68-12/68)

General William A Knowlton ADC 9th Inf Div (1/68-6/68)  
John LeBorgne A Co. 3rd/39th Inf (05/66-12/67)  
Bob Lennon USS White River (1966-68)  
Walter F. Lineberger III XO RivDiv 91 (1968-69)  
Ken Locke USS White River LSMR-536  
James Long Sr. ComRivFlot-One Staff (11/67-11/68)  
Richard Lorman T-152-6 (6/68-6/69)  
James and Debby Lowe APL-26 (05/68-05/69)  
Michael Marquez A Co 3rd Plt 3rd/60th Inf (07/68-07/69)  
Bob Marburger C Co 2nd/60th Inf (11/68-11/69)  
James Masters USS Askari (09/69-08/70)  
Thomas L. "Mac" McLemore T-112-7 (12/66-12/67)  
Big Jim Meehan IUWG-1 Nha Trang  
Adam Metts T-111-2 (8/69-10/69)  
Alan Metzger LCUs NSA Danang  
Cdr David Miller USN (Ret.) CO RivDiv 112 (11/67-12/68)  
Nicholas P. Miller COS RAS Div 152 (7/68-6/69)  
Paul Moody USS Pivot MSO-463 (1966/67)  
Bobby G. Moore USS St. Clair Cty (8/65-7/66)  
Albert & Sara Moore USS Benewah APB-35  
J. Russell & Alice Moore RivRon 9 A-91-5 (11/68-06/69)  
Frank Moran B-3 4th/47th Inf (12/67-10/68)  
Roy & Lynn Moseman 4th/47th Inf  
Co Van My TF-115.3.7 Cat Lo  
Paul Nace USS Colleton (09/68-11/69)  
Lynden R. Noe USS Benewah (04/69-12/69)  
Jasper Northcutt B Co 2nd/47th Mech Inf (11/66-5/67)  
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 I (01/68-12/68)  
Luis Peraza Casanova D Co. 3rd/60th Infantry (11/68-08/69)  
John Perry T-132-11 (6/68 6/69)  
Col Pete Peterson USA (Ret.) Cdr 3rd/60th Inf  
LTC Nathan Plotkin USA (Ret.) HQ 2nd Bde  
BM1 W. R. Posey YTB-785 (1967-68)  
LCDR Leonard Previto CTF-117 (08/67-08/68)  
Robert Proper B Co. 4th/47th Inf (02/67-02/68)

Grey (Doc) Rather HMCM (DV/PF) USN (Ret.) RivDivs 112 and 132 (1969-70)  
GMCM Kenneth S. Ray USS Vernon Cty. LST-1161 (6/65-9/69)  
Paul A. Ray M-151-5 (6/69-7/70)  
CAPT William J. Renton USNR (Ret.) USS Askari (10/68-9/69)  
Donald & Marijo Robbins USS Benewah APB-35  
Joseph K. Rosner RivRon 15 M-6  
Bonni Rosner Associate Member  
Tom Sanborn A Co 4th/47th Infantry (06/68-06/69)  
LT David Sanders USN (Ret.) YTB-785 (4/69-7/70)  
Norman Saunders B Co 3rd/39th Inf (1/69-8/69)  
Harry David Schoenian C Co 4th/47th Inf (7/68-7/69)  
Jerry (Doc) Schuebel B Co. 3rd/60th Inf  
Col Sam L. Schutte USA (Ret.) B Co 4th/47th Inf (VN)  
Jerry J. Shearer C Co 2nd Plt 3rd/60th Inf  
Joseph Shedlock A-152-4 (10/68-07/69)  
Tom Slater USS Hampshire Cty LST-819  
Terry Sloat RivAstSqd 11 (12/68-4/69)  
Br/Gen Douglas Smith USA (Ret.) Cdr 2nd/47th (Mech) Inf  
Timothy R. Smith D-5 3rd/39th Inf. (01/69-06/69)  
Marc Spielberg 4th/47th (1968-69)  
Chet "Gunner" Stanley C-111-1 (1966-68)  
John F. Stone USS Harnett Cty LST-821 (08/68-05/70)  
Alan Strickland A Co. 2nd/47th Mech Inf  
John P. Sturgill USS Colleton APB-36  
Robert Sutton RivRon 9 M-92-2, Z-92-11, and R-92-1 (11/68-05/69)  
William Tamboer T-151-9 (05/68-06/69)  
Harley G. Timmerman T-132-10 (06/68-06/69)  
Hai Tran South Vietnamese Navy (2007)  
LCDR Lewis Turner CO USS Nueces (06/68-06/69)  
Erol Tuzcu A Co. 3rd/60th Inf (1968-69)  
USS Terrell Cty LST-1157  
Ernest Valdez B-4 3rd/39th Inf (11/67-11/68)  
Bob & Nancy VanDruff T-91-5 and T-92-4  
Stephen G. Wieting USS Benewah APB-35 (11/66-2/68)  
George Wilfong USA (Ret.) A Co. 4th/39th Inf  
Bob Witmer USS Krishna ARL-38 (10/66-09/67)  
Robert Zimmer XO USS Mercer APB-39 (1968-69)

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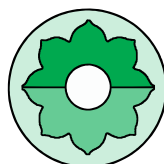
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