



# River Currents



A PUBLICATION OF  
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 4  
WINTER 2017

## From the Radio Shack



Hello everyone! I have met so many Army and Navy over the many years since I have belonged to the MRFA, but for those who do not know me, let me introduce myself. As a former Navy Radioman and crew member of Monitor 131-1 (yep the big



**Harry Hahn**

bang 105 Howitzer), I was in Vietnam from March 1969 to March 1970. I served on M-1, plus as a Radioman for River Squadron 13 staff. I spent my last 2½ months on a CCB, on the Grand Canal, running blocking operations there. This CCB is exactly like the one at the VUMMF Memorial in Coronado. I am married to my wife Christine 45 years ago, and am a former executive in the communications industry, which I was in since returning from Nam.

As I told those who attended the reunion, I never thought 20 years ago that I would be where I am now, retired from my business, and your new President. Albert Moore has stepped down, and the Board of Directors have elected me to that position. The good news is that Albert remains your Editor of the *River Currents* and is also a Board Member Emeritus. We value Albert's wisdom and dedication to this organization that he founded.

In my brief address to the reunion, I also stated that we are all one, Army and Navy.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

## Veterans Day 2017 Washington, DC

Veterans of the Mobile Riverine Force and the 9th Infantry Division along with family members and friends gathered in Washington, DC, over several days to honor those we lost in Vietnam many years ago, those we lost since the war's end, and our Brother and Sister Veterans on Veterans Day 2017.

On a beautiful, but very cold, Veterans Day, approximately sixty MRFA—9th Infantry Division

Veterans, family members, and friends gathered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and proceeded to the Wall to lay our wreaths.

Our thanks to Chester Edwards, Mike Connelly, and Patrick Hughes for laying the MRFA wreath, to Rene Johnson (Donut Dolly), David Brevick, and Douglas Smith for laying the 47th Infantry Regiment wreath, and to Tony Dagostini and Ed Holst for laying the 9th Infantry Division wreath.

We were once again reminded that our Brothers and Sisters on the Wall are forever young.

"War drew us from our homeland in the sunlight springtime of our youth. Those that did not come home alive remain in perpetual springtime—forever young—and a part of them is with us always."

It was an honor for all present to participate in the MRFA—9th Infantry Division's annual honoring of our Brothers and Sisters on the Wall and our fellow Veterans.

Kind regards,  
**Bob Pries, Vice President★**



## Veterans Day 2017 San Diego, CA

San Diego had a big Veterans Day Parade and we were in the Duck Boat supplied by Old Town Trolley with our MRFA banners on it. The weather was perfect, as usual. There were more white hats than you could imagine and rightfully so. Harbor Drive was lined with a very enthusiastic and receptive crowd for a mile. The best part is the Iwo Jima reenactment.

**Tom Matyn, CCB-18 Restoration Coordinator★**



**The Officers and  
Board Members  
of the MRFA wish  
you all a Merry  
Christmas and a  
Happy New Year!  
Thanks for all of  
your support.**



## Christmas Message

by Gen Ewell, December 25, 1968

On this day, it is fitting for all of us in Vietnam to contemplate the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of the Prince of Peace.

His journey to achieve Peace, as ours is today, was not easy. It was fraught with self-sacrifice and personal risk.

We and many nations of the Free World have chosen to assist the people of Vietnam in their struggle for peace, for self-government, economic stability, and freedom from aggression. As we and our friends man the guns against the aggressors and help build the schools, homes and orphanages in countryside, we support the strong Vietnamese desire for peace and freedom, and in the process, our own. The significance of our contribution will not go unnoticed, for future generations of Vietnamese will give thanks for the peace and abundance that our joint efforts have made possible.

This is the time of year when families gather to lift their voices in prayer. This year our families will celebrate this joyous occasion without us, but our hearts and spirits will span the miles.

As we pause to acknowledge the ideals of the Prince of Peace, let us, too, remember those who have fallen in battle. Let us rededicate ourselves to this fight for peace against aggression and oppression and ensure the perpetuation of freedom. ★

### River Currents Staff

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Copy Editor Georginia Ardinger

Graphic Artist Robin Bartell

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



Bob Hope  
... Soldiers' Santa



Raquel Welch  
... she sings, too



Barbara McNair  
... 'I'm a Woman'



Les Brown  
... big band backing

## Bearcat, Birdlings, Boom— Targets of Comedian's Quips

By SP5 Joe Conley Staff Writer  
 Ninth Infantry Division The Old Reliable  
 January 3, 1968, Page 1

*Bearcat Christmas with Bob Hope 1968*

LONG THANH—Bob Hope, who has played Santa Claus to U.S. servicemen since 1941, brought his quips, golf club and a star-studded cast to 9th Division headquarters here for a glittering Christmas afternoon performance.

An estimated crowd of 10,000 flocked to the new Special Services stage area, although the exact show time was not announced until Christmas morning.

The hour and a half show, in typical Hope fashion had no dull moments, as the ski-nosed comedy star ad-libbed his way from Elaine Dunn to Miss World to Raquel Welch to Phil Crosby to Barbara McNair to Les Brown and his Band of Renown.

Miss Welch, a prominent cover girl of late, attracted attention in her brief knit mini dress and also surprised the audience with her singing and dancing talents.

After SP4 Joe Martin, a 9th Division radio correspondent from Atlanta, GA, welcomed the

troupe to Bearcat, Hope drew his first laughs by commenting:

"You know, this is a great camp as long as you don't want anything—because everything's either frozen, dehydrated or off limits."

Hope also observed that "the country's kind of strange, too. You know I didn't even bring my car and they're already trying to sell me a wash."

The comedian next expounded on South Vietnam's building boom. "First comes the boom and then the building," he joshed.

Miss Dune, decked out in a free-flowing yellow dress, sang and danced with Hope, as did Miss Welch. Both girls also performed solo numbers.

Miss World, Madeline Hartog Bel of Peru, performed a multi-lingual comedy skit with several members of the audience.

Barbara McNair, gliding across the stage in a slinky, floor length orange gown, drew low moans of approval from a crowd nearly hypnotized by her rendition of "I'm a Woman."

Supporting the Hope show, as he has for many years, was Les Brown and his orchestra.

The show ended, all too soon, with Miss McNair leading the 9th Division infantrymen in "Silent Night." ★



**Rats and  
Raiders on the  
Move. M-111-  
2 and other  
boats going  
up the canal. I  
know you Boat  
Crews and River  
Raiders enjoyed  
these trips.**

### RADIO SHACK Continued from page 1

That inter-service rivalry has dissolved over the years and we are all blended as Brothers in a great organization!

Our reunion was nothing short of fantastic. Three full days of fun, meeting your old friends, making new friends and just having a blast!! Our Saturday Memorial Service included recognitions to Gunner Chet Stanley, Charlie "Boats" Ardinger, George Marthenze, and Roy Moseman. These four have served our organization for many years and

we owe them for their effortless devotion to the MRFA. Our Missing Man Ceremony was followed by a speech by Peggy Michel, sister of our beloved Emily Strange, who passed away last year! Rev. Larry Lyons, an ex-SEAL and boat guy, gave us some blessed words of wisdom.

Something everyone was excited to hear is that our next reunion will be in Nashville 2019 so start planning for 2019 and marking August 29, 30 and 31 on the calendar! The new venue should mix things up a bit and offer spouses, as well as members, many things to do. There

will be more to come as we plan the 2019 reunion at the Millennium Maxwell House.

There are many challenges facing us as we age, as well as our organization. Our intent is to keep this organization together, providing its members services and our reunions, as long as we are able! We want to preserve this union of Brothers that Albert helped found and function as it has, until our end days. Please contact me at SparksRivRon13@aol.com with any questions or information you may have. *Harry Hahn, President MRFA.* ★



Jose Ballentine Campos



David Land



*We Have Not Forgotten*

*DAVID LAND*

## Mining of T-151-5 and A-132-3

On January 14, 1969 T-151-5 was sunk by a possible U.S. 750 pound bomb that was converted to a command detonated mine on the Rach Cai Nhut river in Chuong Thien Province. SN David Land and FN Jose Campos were KIA along with a Vietnamese Marine.

FN Terry Thompson and EN3 Richard L Keller were killed in action when ASPB 132-3 was sunk by an enemy mine of unknown type that was detonated beneath its stern during an April 29, 1969 operation on the Cai Tu River, which is also in Chuong Thien Province. A second ASPB, 132-1 was damaged as a result of the explosion. (This incident is described in the SEA LORDS section under Operations in Enemy Base Area 480.) As you can see, there was a lot of damage. ★



The boat Terry and Rick were KIA on ASPB-132-3 (04/11/69)

## Reliables Overcoming Mekong Enemies

By Maj. R. E. Funderburk  
Information Officer  
Ninth Infantry Division  
The Old Reliable  
December 27, 1967,  
Page 3

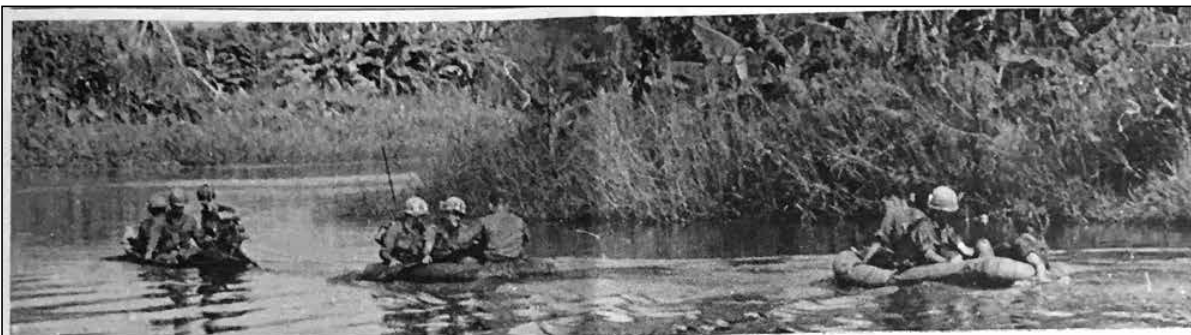
*New tactic, increased mobility*

Since December 1966, the 9th Division has faced two enemies—the Viet Cong and the terrain.

The Division came to Vietnam to fight in the Delta, but many problems of movement there had never been documented. Hence, the Old Reliables were forced to use their own ingenuity in conquering the Delta.

Movement by foot is a struggle. The VC place booby traps on the rice paddy dikes to discourage movement along the only high ground available, so troops stick to the mud.

Wheeled vehicles must stay on the few existing roads. Tracked vehicles, except the tanks and heavier retrievers, have found the Delta no real obstacle to travel. Armored Personnel Carriers (APC) have negotiated all types of terrain throughout the Delta. Occasionally, the banks of a stream are too steep to allow the APCs to cross. This problem has been solved many times by scraping the



Everything from rubber rafts to helicopters carries troops in Mekong

... Division has learned many ways to overcome Delta land and water obstacles

bank down or finding another crossing place.

The Army has yet to build a tank that will float, so armor is restricted in movement.

To facilitate movement in the watery Delta, U.S. military leaders formed the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) by teaming maneuver and artillery units of the 9th Division with Naval Task Force 117.

Using the hundreds of Mekong Delta waterways as highways, the combined MRF units have moved into the once isolated areas of Bien Hoa, Long An and Dinh Tuong Provinces.

With armored troop carriers (ATCs), ferrying 2d Brigade infantrymen into Viet Cong strongholds situated along the tree lined

ivers, the VC hideouts are no longer impenetrable.

By positioning gunboats to prevent enemy escape by sampans, and maneuvering land elements into driving and blocking positions, the once Viet Cong controlled waterways are now being used to force the enemy from the fertile Delta lowlands.

“...the 9th Division has gained greater flexibility than ever imagined. The ingenuity exhibited by Old Reliables in their fight against the terrain has contributed to continued success...”

Helicopters play an important role in Vietnam, mainly because they can deliver fresh troops to a

combat area. This is an exhausting effort.

Troops are lifted from base areas and flown to landing zones in close proximity to enemy positions. Landing zones are usually nothing more than rice paddies. Often the choppers will hover over the spongy earth while troops leap into the mire below.

Helicopters assist in many other ways to beat the problem of unstable terrain. Big Chinooks lift the guns into areas that towed artillery would never reach. In fast-moving actions, the big CH-47s zip the guns across the flooded fields to new firing positions and always keep the guns within supporting range of the infantry.

Normally, the artillery must have firm ground to deliver effective fire. Because the Delta terrain is so

unstable, two innovations have been developed to ensure the guns follow the troops.

The 2d Brigade units, operating as a part of the Mobile Riverine Force, have 105-mm howitzers mounted on barges that are towed along with the MRF. The second invention is a steel platform that can be carried by Chinook to a selected firing point and dropped into mud, water or a combination of both. The platform is leveled and the guns are flown in and placed on the elevated platforms.

With the ability to move by land, air and water, the 9th Division has gained greater flexibility than ever imagined. The ingenuity exhibited by Old Reliables in their fight against the terrain has contributed to continued success in the Mekong Delta. ★



## Officers receiving plaques for years of service to the MRFA



*Roy Moseman*



*Chet Gunner Stanley*



*Boats Charlie Arding*



*Rev Larry Lyons*



*President Harry Hahn*



*MC Don Blankenship*



*Church Call*

## Flag and Certificate presentation by Gunner Chet Stanley



*Cindy Arbogast for Bill Arbogast*



*Peggy Michel for Emily Strange*



*Rebecca Covey for Gary Covey*

# Missing Man Ceremony







*Sandy Weiss, Sue Walker, and Raffle Queen Mable "Thelma" Springer*



*Sue Timmerman, Linda Jones, Lyn Blankenship, Lynne Moseman, Georgia Ardinger, Madelynn Peat, Raffle Queen Mable "Thelma" Springer*

# 2017 REUNION

I want to thank all volunteers, officers and board members for their help at the 2017 Reunion in Indy.

It wouldn't have been as big a success without all of your help. We have had 10 great years in Indy, but now it is time to move on. We

will have our 2019 Reunion in Nashville, Tennessee on Labor Day weekend.

I also want to express my thanks to the Marriott East staff for their fantastic service and help. The last

three reunions have been the best reunions ever.

The hotel in Nashville will be at the Millennium Maxwell House ([www.millenniumhotels.com](http://www.millenniumhotels.com)).

Thanks again for all of the help. If anyone has any HELPFUL

suggestions for the 2019 Reunion, please send me an e-mail at [popsaroni@sbcglobal.net](mailto:popsaroni@sbcglobal.net)

*Frank Jones, MRFA Reunion Coordinator ★*



*Esther Lightwine and Jimmy Toney*



*Esther Lightwine and John Weiss*



*Esther Lightwine and Phillip Ziegler (donated money back)*



*Steve Ryan*

**Gun Winners:**  
*Sue Timmerman and Dwayne Ehrmann*



*Reunion Members & Guests*





**Aftermath of May 2, 1967, A Co. 3rd/47th in the Delta. Photo courtesy of Lester Rufenacht. (I took this picture back in early 1967 at Dong Tam May 2, 5 months after we arrived in-country from Fort Riley. I was in A Co. 3rd Plt. 3rd/47th 9th Inf. Many memories that never go away most of these KIAs were from 2nd Plt.)**

## 214 Viet Cong Die in Clash with 2nd Bde Units

**Ninth Infantry Division The Old Reliable May 6, 1967, Page 1**

DONG TAM—Units of the 2nd Bde clashed with a major Viet Cong force 10 miles northwest of here Tuesday in Binh Tuong Province killing 214 Body Count (BC) and capturing numerous VC weapons.

It was the largest battle to date fought in the Mekong Delta by Old Reliables based at Dong Tam.

Friendly losses were 15 killed and 27 wounded.

The battle erupted in the early afternoon when the 3rd

/47th Infantry and the 3rd/60th Infantry encountered an enemy force believed to be elements of the Viet Cong's 514th Provincial Mobile Battalion.

By mid-afternoon, elements of the 3rd/47th had established defensive blocking positions around the enemy while the 3rd/60th initiated a squeezing action.

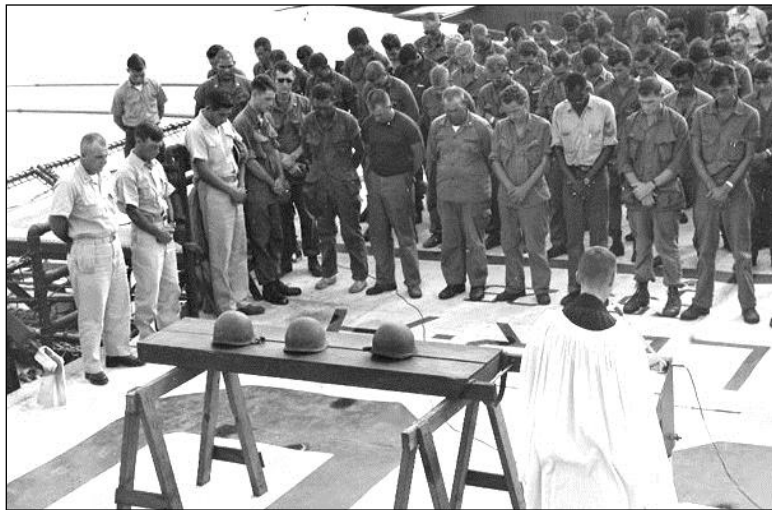
The surrounded enemy was pounded with six air strikes, constant artillery barrages from the 3rd/34th Artillery, and withering

fire from helicopter gunships.

Armored personal carriers from the 5th/60th Infantry were also called in to support the infantry troops.

A sweep of the battle area produced: a 30-caliber machine gun, an M-60 machine gun, four 60-mm mortars, one Browning automatic rifle, eight carbines, a 57-recoilless rifle, and one Thompson submachine gun.

Memorial service taken of the guys killed in my company, A Co.



**Memorial Services by Padre Ray Johnson on USS Benewah APB-35**

**09/15/67 William H. Little, EN2, Weymouth, MA, M-111-3 (Dinh Tuong)**

**09/15/67 Richard A. Cheek, SN, Oregon, IL, M-111-2 (Dinh Tuong)**

**09/15/67 William T. Diamond Jr., SN, Ottawa, IL, ATC-111-6 (Dinh Tuong)**

3rd/47th 9th Infantry Division, on May 2, 1967. They will never be forgotten and their sacrifice for our GREAT Country USA. Thanks to Steve Fetty for helping to find the names.

Allen, Terry James PFC Indio, CA 02 May 67 47th Infantry 3rd Bn A Co Dinh Tuong

Boone, James Arthur PFC Elgin, IL 02 May 67 47th Infantry 3rd Bn A Co Dinh Tuong

De Young, Abe Richard Sp4 Ada, MI 02 May 67

47th Infantry 3rd Bn A Co Dinh Tuong

Escobar, Edward Angiano Sp4 Coachella, CA 02 May 67 47th Infantry 3rd Bn A Co Dinh Tuong

Farrell, Gerald Martin Sp4 Black River, NY 02 May 67 47th Infantry 3rd Bn A Co Dinh Tuong

Fesken, William PFC Hoboken, NJ 02 May 67 47th Infantry 3rd Bn A Co Dinh Tuong

Frick, John Alan PFC Anaheim, CA 02 May 67 47th Infantry 3rd Bn A Co Dinh Tuong

Meyer, Otto Paul 3rd PFC Palm Desert, CA 02

May 67 47th Infantry 3rd Bn A Co Dinh Tuong

Mundy, Harold Eugene Cpl Indianapolis, IN 02 May 67 47th Infantry 3rd Bn A Co Dinh Tuong

Pitts, Robert Patrick Sp4 Seattle, WA 02 May 67 47th Infantry 3rd Bn A Co Dinh Tuong

Pugh, Michel Lee Sp4 Indianapolis, IN 02 May 67 47th Infantry 3rd Bn A Co Dinh Tuong

Visconti, Lawrence Guy PFC Danbury, CT 02 May 67 47th Infantry 3rd Bn A Co Dinh Tuong ★

## Oh That Creeping Feeling

**Ninth Infantry Division The Old Reliable August 7, 1968, Page 8**

BINH PHUOC—As most combat infantrymen can tell you, the weird and unusual events that take place on a mission or night patrol can rarely be matched.

Specialist Four Jimmy Johnson, 20, of Dallas, GA, had such an event occur while on a night ambush patrol with the 9th Division's 5th Mechanized Battalion, 60th Infantry. His squad set up their security and Johnson, along with the other men not on the first guard, went to sleep.

About 11 p.m. Johnson was aroused to a state of semi-consciousness by an unusual wiggling sensation on his leg. At first, he thought he was dreaming. A second quick jerky motion on his leg not only convinced him that he wasn't asleep, but sent him in a series of violent contortions. Squad members rushed over, thinking he was having some type of seizure.

What had taken place was that an 18-inch snake had crawled up his pant leg while he was asleep. Johnson quickly took hold of the snake from the outside of his pants and was trying to rip a hole in the seam when another squad member grabbed him and held him down thinking he was having a fit. Luckily Johnson was still able to rip a hole in the seam of his pants and throw the snake out.

"I guess he crawled in to get warm," Johnson said. "Whatever, it was one of the weirdest feelings in the world." ★

## 5th-60th Platoon Leader Proves He's A Swinger

**Ninth Infantry Division The Old Reliable December 6, 1967, Page 3**

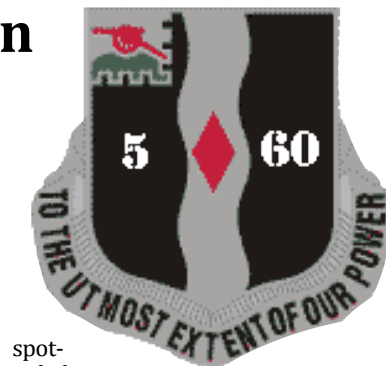
BINH PHUOC—"It's all over," said a 9th Infantry Division Lieutenant as he flew through the air, 60 feet above a river in Long An Province recently.

Second Lieutenant John R. Sweet, 23, a platoon leader of Company B, 5th Battalion (Mech) 60th Infantry was serenely riding on his APC on a road security mission when he suddenly went airborne.

As his platoon's lead track rumbled across a bridge, its antenna struck an overhanging 3 foot by 10 foot sign. Sweet, riding next to the driver in the second track, casually pushed the dangling sign aside as he passed.

What he didn't notice was that a hook on the end of the sign had attached itself firmly to the cuff of his fatigue pants.

The track continued on at 20 mph. Suddenly, the surprised platoon leader was gone. His startled driver quickly



spot-ter him swinging across the center of the bridge.

Hanging upside down, he gracefully sailed between two iron girders and out over the river 50 feet below. "I opened my eyes when I was swinging over the water," said Sweet, "and decided it's all over."

On his return trip, Sweet brushed the two girders with his hands and stopped in the center of the bridge where the next track removed him from the hook.

"I hate to think what would have happened if my cuff had ripped," said Sweet. "It was the most frightening experience of my life."

Sweet's men, however, now consider him a real swinger. ★



## U.S. Naval Support Activity Nha Be (1966–1972)

The U.S. naval establishment at Nha Be, 7 miles south of Saigon, was a major combat and logistic base during the Southeast Asian Conflict. As naval leaders concluded early, the site was strategically placed at the junction of the Long Tau and Soi Rap, the main rivers between the port of Saigon and the South China Sea.

In addition Nha Be lay astride waterways traversing the Viet Cong—infiltrated Rung Sat Special Zone and the eastern Mekong Delta region.

To support river patrol and minesweeping operations, Nha Be was ideally located; in addition, the Vietnamese Navy's River Assault Group compound there initially was suitable for a small American force.

In March 1966 a detachment of Mine Squadron 11, employing 57-foot minesweeping boats (MSBs) and converted landing craft, became the first U.S. naval unit to deploy at Nha Be. During the next 5 years, the U.S. minesweeping force patrolled the water approaches to Saigon, escorted commercial and military vessels, and worked to keep the ship channels free of enemy mines. While vessels were damaged or sunk, the absolutely vital water line of communication never was severed by Viet Cong action.

Also in March 1966, the first units of the Navy's River Patrol Force tied up at Nha Be and soon afterward began operations against the Viet Cong waterborne logistic traffic in the Rung Sat and in the Mekong Delta. Eventually, the base was able to support 40 river patrol boats (PBRs) engaged in this operation, designated Game Warden. Other components of the force were Helicopter Support Squadron 1 and Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron 3, detachments of which flew from helicopter pads at nearby Cruikshank Airfield. Both the surface and air units of the River Patrol Force based at Nha Be took part in operation Giant Slingshot, which sought to interdict communist men and supplies infiltrating from Cambodia on the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers during 1969-71.

The support base at Nha Be developed into a major logistic complex. Initially, the river sailors had to rely on Army depots in Saigon for supply items common to both services and were quartered in tents at the Vietnamese installation. However once the Naval Support Activity Saigon Detachment Nha Be, was established, conditions



*Nha Be circa 1967*



*Nha Be 1968-69*

improved. A pier for the PBRs was fashioned with Army pontoons, and YRBM-16 a large converted lighter, was stationed at the site, making berthing, repair, spare parts, and supplies available. An Army crane was used for hull repair of the MSBs. These and other measures were taken to provide interim support.

Meanwhile 20 acres of nearby swampland were filled with dredged soil, and by December 1966 work was begun on permanent

base facilities, which included depot-level repair, administrative, communications, storage, maintenance, quartering, and messing buildings, four 1,000-barrel fuel storage tanks, and a boat pier. Although securing potable water and shoring up the landfill presented problems, Nha Be became a key naval support complex in the Saigon area.

By late 1968, 84 craft and the recently deployed headquarters of Naval Support Activity Saigon were based there. The facility continued to serve the Navy's needs until its turnover to Vietnamese Navy and the disestablishment of Naval Support Activity, Saigon, Detachment Nha Be, in April 1972.★



*Nha Be Burning 1974*

*The black smoke billows from the petroleum storage facility at Nha Be. That was sabotaged by the Communists in 1974. The loss of the fuel stock only added to South Vietnam's economic and military woes.*

## 2d Bde Kills 30 VC in Go Cong

**Ninth Infantry Division The Old Reliables July 19, 1967, Page 1**

ABOARD THE USS BENEWAH—Old Reliables of the 9th Division killed 31 Viet Cong in the northern Go Cong Province during a 3-day Riverine and air-mobile strike TAOR operation which ended Thursday.

The 2d Brigade troops detained 63 persons while combing the flat plains and lacework of rivers and canals of Go Cong.

The strike operation marked the first time Old Reliables have operated in the province.

After landing on beaches south of the Go Cong River in US Navy Armored Troop Carriers, the 3d and 4th Battalions of the 47th Infantry moved inland checking carefully for suspected enemy concentrations.

Many of the enemy killed died as they fought from spider holes along the waterways.

Seven other Hoi Chanh turned themselves into the infantry. Three Russian rifles and two US carbines were captured during the action.

At the conclusion of the operation, the Go Cong Province Chief presented the Mobile Riverine Force with a solid brass cannon given to his people by the Portuguese 250 years ago.★



*Note: No one remembers what happen to the Cannon It was on the Benewah if my memory is correct in 1967-68. It was on the deck where the staff held briefings. If anyone remembers what happen to it, please let us know. Albert mrfa35@outlook.com.*



# 330 VC Killed in 27 Days of Coronado V Operations

Ninth Infantry Division  
The Old Reliable  
October 25, 1967, Page 1  
By SP4 Ted Tindall  
Staff Writer

LONG THANH—The 9th Division's Operation CORONADO V, originating in the Cam Son Secret Zone of Dinh Tuong Province, moving into Kien Hoa Province and shifting to the Ban Long Secret Zone near Cam Son, accounted for 330 enemy killed.

The operation ended Oct. 8, following 27 days of combat and patrol missions in the watery lowlands of the Mekong Delta.

Soldiers of the Division's 2d Brigade, two battalions from the 3d Brigade, and units of the 7th Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) saw the sharpest fighting of the operation when they searched the marshy Cam Son area during mid-September.

Infantry units, elements of U.S. Navy's Task Force 117, supporting artillery, helicopter gunships, and Air Force fighter-bombers killed 213 enemy soldiers during a 6-day period ended Sept. 16.

Major battles erupted as the 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry; 3d Battalion, 60th Infantry; 5th Mechanized Battalion, 60th Infantry and the 2d Battalion, 60th Infantry clashed with the 263d Viet Cong Battalion along the Ba Rai River 50 miles southwest of Saigon.

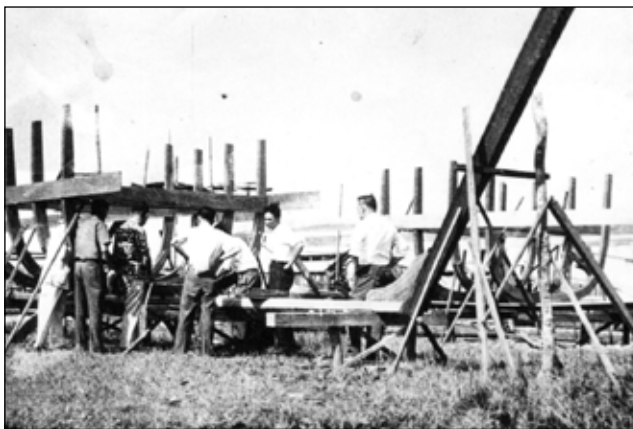
Action flared up again Oct. 6 and 7 when a total of 94 enemy were killed during search and destroy missions in Dinh Tuong Province near the site of the mid-September battles.

Totals for the operation, which began Sept. 12, show 11 individual weapons captured, one crew-served weapon seized, and 11,200 rounds of small arms ammunition taken from enemy supply caches.

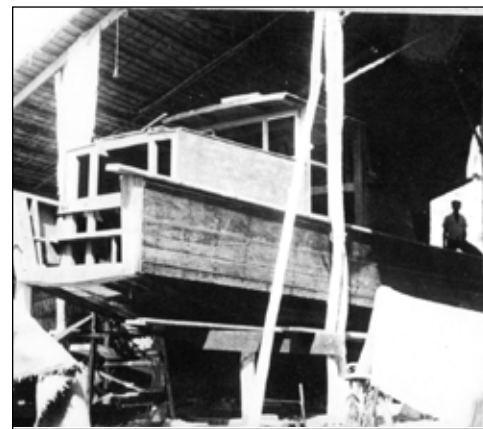
Demolitions teams destroyed 1,143 bunkers, 41 rounds of enemy mortar ammunition, 13 mines and 11 punji pits during the operation.

Five enemy rifles and two crew-served weapons were destroyed by artillery fire and air strikes that pounded enemy fortifications in support of Allied ground forces.

Thirty-five Americans, including six men serving with Naval Task Force 117, were killed during Operation CORONADO V. ★



*Junk Force Junks under construction Rach Gia (Kien-Giang) 9 January 1962. Photo courtesy by Commander "Jerry" Hynes.*



*Possible southern "Command Junk" type. 15 meters 150,000 \$ VN Rach Gia (Kien-Giang). Photo courtesy by Commander "Jerry" Hynes.*

## Commander 'Jerry' Hynes was the Father of the Southern Junk Force

Commander "Jerry" Hynes, a graduate of the US Naval Academy, was an Advisor for the SVN Navy's newly organized Operation Junk Force. The Coastal Junk Force patrolled the coast from Phu Quoc Island to the DMZ. Jerry told me they wanted him to stand on the bow of his two diesel junk in tropical whites. His brother Jim showed me his DD 214 after his death and he was wounded while patrolling the 1½ mile area between Phu Quoc Island and Cambodia. It ended his naval career. Despite his DD 214, Jerry was wounded at two different times. Retired, he loved to party with his biker friends who visited him at his home. May the Commander rest in peace.

Commander "Jerry" Hynes was the father of the Southern Junk Force.

Our own GMGCM (MDV) Ret Chet "Gunner" Stanley was also a member of the Early Junk Force.

### *A Brief History Of Junk Force (Excerpt from Vietnam River Warfare 1945-1975, by Lt Col Victor Croizat)*

When the South Vietnamese Navy took on the task of patrolling the coast in 1956, it soon realizes that it had neither the personnel nor the material resources to perform satisfactorily. Accordingly, it proposed to the U.S. mission in Saigon the organization of a force of junks to conduct inshore patrols in sensitive areas. The idea was that junks manned by

locally recruited civilians, trained by the Navy and working in coordination with the national police could easily mingle with local boat traffic to observe and report on maritime activity in designated key locations. This proposal was eventually adopted in 1960 and by 1961 there were 80 sailing junks operating off the coast of the I Corps area below the 17th parallel.

In 1962 the U.S. mission proposed an expansion of the Junk Force to include 84 command junks, 100 motor-sail junks, 140 motor junks, and 320 sail junks. Plans were also made to establish five coastal repair facilities and assign responsibility for the defense of force bases to the Regional Forces. The plans were implemented in 1963. Then, in 1964, when relative ineffectiveness of the sail junk had been demonstrated, the U.S.—Japanese designed Yabuta was introduced as a replacement.

At the time the Americans organized their coastal surveillance for 'Market Time,' the Junk Force was integrated into the Vietnamese Navy as the Coastal Force. When on July 1, 1965, this new designation became effective, the Coastal Force numbered 4,000 personnel and had 389 motor junks and 95 sail junk organized into 28 groups based at 22 locations. While the force was to grow to include over 600 junks, it remained plagued by shortages of personnel and supplies. The Vietnamese Navy supply organization was centered in Saigon

and was ill-equipped to support an organization as widely dispersed as the Coastal Force. This dispersion, moreover, made the bases particularly vulnerable to the Viet Cong attack. The problem of base defense was yet another difficulty that was never satisfactorily resolved.

Typical coastal groups of the 1965-66 period operating in the north generally consisted of three command junks and 16 sail junks (gradually replaced by Yabutas). In the south, the typical group had three command junks six motor-sail junks. This organization varied from group to group and changed as additional boats entered the inventory. Such variation also found in various types of junks used. These other than for the Yabutas, were locally manufactured and varied accordingly. In general, the five types of junks used by Vietnamese Navy Coastal Force had characteristics as follows:

- Command Junk length 17 m, beam 5 m; armament: one each .30 and .50 caliber machine-guns, plus crew weapon.
- Motor-Sail Junk length 13 m, beam 3.7 m; armament: crew weapon only.
- Motor Junk length 11.5 m, beam 2.6 m; armament: crew weapon only.
- Sail Junk length 9.7 m, beam 2 m; armament: crew weapon only.
- Yabuta Junk length 16.9 m, beam 3.4 m; armament: one each .30 and .50 caliber machine-guns and one 60-mm mortar plus crew weapon. ★



*South Vietnamese Command Junk*



*Early Navy Advisors to the Junk Force*



*Sail Junk*



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## From the Membership

### New Products and Product Manager Harry Hahn

Chet "Gunner" Stanley has been our Product Manager for several years now. He has done an outstanding job for us, organizing and presenting the products for the MRFA. Gunner has resigned from that position and as your new President no one has stepped forward to replace him. So I am now also your Products Chairman!! I have been receiving and shipping Gear Locker orders since September.

There have been several changes and additions to the Gear Locker. Go to our Gear Locker pages for the full catalog on the [www.mrfa.org](http://www.mrfa.org) web site. However, you will notice the following changes:

(1) Jumbo patches are two for \$15—a special sale. **SALE!!!!**

(2) There are discontinued shirts and hats available for only \$8 each!!!! A real bargain. **SALE!!!!**

(3) The new Reunion Shirt R017 "I Grew Up in A Rough Neighborhood, Vietnam" is now listed.

(4) There is a \$5.00 shipping charge on all orders under \$50.00. Frankly, the shipping charges on small orders were killing us!! (A \$20.00 hat was sometimes costing us \$5.00 to ship.)

(5) The address and contact info has changed, so send your orders to MRFA, PO Box 271, Lake Villa, IL 60046. **Make sure all checks are made out to**

**MRFA and add the shipping charge of \$5.00 for all orders under \$50.00.**

In the Brotherhood  
\*\*\*\*\*

### MRFA Officers for 2017-2019

Officers posted only In River Currents

For full listings, including Board Members, go to [www.mrfa.org](http://www.mrfa.org).

President: Harry Hahn, PO Box 271 Lake Villa, IL 60046, 847-722-2509 [SparksRivRon13@aol.com](mailto:SparksRivRon13@aol.com), River Assault Squadron 13 (M-131-1)

Vice President: Bob "Doc" Pries, 993 Meadowlark Lane Medina, OH 44256, 513-659-4974 [pries247@gmail.com](mailto:pries247@gmail.com), B Co. 2nd/47th (Mech) Inf.

Secretary/Email List Coordinator: Don Blankenship, 24256 Compadre Way Ramona, CA 92065, 858-705-2199 [db13@rivervet.com](mailto:db13@rivervet.com), River Assault Squadrons 11 & 15, (A-111-3 and A-152-21)

Treasurer/Membership: Charlie Ardinger, 1857 County Rd A14 Decorah, IA 52101-7448, 563-735-5924 [mrfamembership@mabeltel.coop](mailto:mrfamembership@mabeltel.coop), River Assault Squadron 15 (T-151-11)

\*\*\*\*\*

### MRFA Mobile Memorial/Museum Notes

**Bruce Graff USS Passumpsic (AO-107) Mobile Trailer/Curator**

To all my fellow members: We didn't have a very busy year for traveling with the MRFA Memorial/

Museum trailer. We went to Cherokee, IA, in June for a Veterans Day celebration that lasted for a couple days. On Saturday we had quite a few walk-ins but overall it was a little slow. In August we were a little busier. The first weekend we went to Lanesboro, MN, for Buffalo Days and we stayed a couple of days. We had a good turnout from the public with a lot of interest and good comments. Two weeks later, we went to Stillwater, MN, for a money raiser for a MOH memorial they are going to build by the state capitol. Again we had a nice turnout and MOH Tom Kelley was there to help. Next you saw us in Indianapolis for our reunion that I thought went real well. Overall we picked up some new members and sadly we lost some. We put some new tires, etc., on the pickup but now seems to be running good and is put away for the winter unless someone from a warm spot calls in January wanting me to come on out. Thanks again to Charlie and Georgie Ardinger for their help.

Take care and be careful out there.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Seeking

Robert Thacker, Braselton GA ([rgthack@gmail.com](mailto:rgthack@gmail.com)) is looking for SSM Edward I. Hackney. Robert found a zippo lighter with the date Sept 6 69 SP4 Gore. ★

## 2d-60th Empties Enemy Arsenal

**Ninth Infantry  
Division The Old  
Reliable July 19,  
1967, Page 1**

**By SP4 John  
Collins Assistant  
Writer**

AN NHUT TAN—An enemy arsenal of carefully oiled rifles, automatic weapons, ammunition, mines and even a mortar was uncovered near here last week by a 19-man brush-clearing detail of 9th Division soldiers.

The well-constructed underground metal bin also yielded an obsolete combat radio and a badly damaged M-16 rifle.

The detail, from Company A in the 3d Brigade's 2d Battalion, 60th Infantry stumbled upon the arsenal not more than 150 yards from the perimeter that protects this Mekong Delta village.

Staff Sergeant Edwin D. Kirk of Utica, KY, had led the soldiers into an area just

north of the village proper shortly after noon chow. They had been chopping away at the dense foliage along Vam Co Dong River for less than an hour when the discovery was made.

Kirk was checking progress when he noticed the corner of a plank in the grass and palm fronds his men had cut down to clear a field of fire.

"At first I thought it was part of an old grave or something," he recounted.

"But when I moved one of the planks aside, I saw a heavy-gauge metal sheet about 10 feet long and 5 or so feet wide. There was a rectangular hole cut in the center," he said.

The metal was the top of a well-constructed bin set 2½ feet into the ground.

"We started pulling up the weapons," continued Kirk.

The bin yielded 22 rifles, including US and foreign-made carbines and semi-automatic weapons;

seven submachine guns of various types, a machine gun of East German manufacture, ten 20-pound shape charge "turtle" mines complete with the electrically detonated blasting caps, a 60 millimeter mortar, a PRC-10 combat radio of the type formerly used by American ground troops, and a large quantity of ammunition.

"The weapons were well-lubricated and oily rags had been stuffed into their barrels," Kirk said.

The M-16 rifle had been struck by a bullet destroying its firing mechanism, according to Kirk.

The weapons were placed upon ammunition boxes to prevent damage from water that had collected in the bottom of the metal bin.

"We hauled up two 5-gallon oil buckets filled with .50 caliber ammo," said Kirk,

"and seven boxes full of small arms ammo."

"The mortar was complete except for the sighting device," he said. "But it could have been aimed without the sight," he added.

The radio lacked only its headset, battery and calibrating knob.

Both the mortar tube and the German machine gun were wrapped in portions of a poncho for further protection.

Troops of rotating companies of the battalion have several times swept the area where the arsenal was uncovered, but had turned up only grenade-type booby traps.

The village, on the banks of the Vam Co Dong River, about 20 miles southwest of Saigon in Long An Province has been occupied by elements of the 2d/60th since March.

Before then, it had been a long-time Viet Cong stronghold. ★

## TAPS



**Jackson**

Member **Kenneth E. Jackson** passed away August 25, 2017. Ken served in B Co. 3rd/47th Inf (01/68-01/69). You may contact the family c/o Mary Jackson, 447 N Russell St., West Baden Springs, IN 47469-9657, 812-936-9766, [kenandmary@bluemarble.net](mailto:kenandmary@bluemarble.net).

may contact the family c/o Carol Ann Sprague West, 1308 SW Orchard Ave, Gresham, OR 97080-9645, 503-667-3498. Anyone that knew him, please contact Jerry Kawecky B Co. 3rd/47th Inf, 503-667-7903, [kawecky0277@comcast.net](mailto:kawecky0277@comcast.net).



**Withrow**

**Sharon "Sherry" Withrow** passed away July 10, 2016. Sherry is the wife of member Robert Marburger, who served in C Co. 2nd/60th Inf. (11/68-11/69). You may contact Robert at 7323 Sabre Ave, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-1834, [charliescar11@aol.com](mailto:charliescar11@aol.com).



**West**

Member **Larry Dean West** passed away August 11, 2017. Larry served in the 2nd/60th Inf. (01/68-12/68). You

Member Lt. **David P. Justin** passed away July 30, 2017. David served in A Co. 3rd/60th Inf. (12/66-11/67). Dave



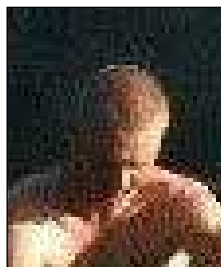
## TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One

was known to his friends as "P. Diddy" or "Prospector Dave." At the time of his passing, he resided in Chicago, IL.



**Stucka**

Member **BMCM (SW) Robert Stucka**, USN (Ret.) passed away August 3, 2017. Robert served on M-91-2 and A-91-5 (11/67-10/68). At the time of his passing, he resided in Clearwater, FL.



**Hewitt**



**Hewitt**

Member **BMC William "Bill" Hewitt** USN (Ret.) passed away in hospice care September 8, 2017. Bill was Boat Captain on Tango 91-5 (1967-68) and a Sailors' Sailor. You may contact the family c/o Sandy Hewitt, 15334 Whitehead Rd, Branchville, VA 23828-2318 sandybillhewitt@hotmail.com.

Member **Lee David Gavet** passed away June 30, 2016. Lee served in A Co.

4th/47th Inf. (03/69-07/69). You may contact the family c/o Jean Gavet, 125 Norfolk Ct, Souderton, PA 18964-2229, 215-699-8308.



**Matheis**

Member **Gerald Jerry Matheis** passed away September 11, 2017. Jerry served in B Co. 4th/47th Inf. (05/66-08/67). You may contact the family c/o Carol Matheis, 10164 640th Ave, Adams, MN 55909-9717, 507-582-3443.



**Bell**

Member **Corwin Allan Bell** passed away August 22, 2017. Corwin served with the River Assault and Interdiction Division 72 (03/69-03/70). You may contact the family c/o Marla Bell, 7633 Hazard Center Dr, San Diego, CA 92108-4502 619-293-0010.



**Nace**

Member **Paul Nace** passed away March 16, 2017. Paul served on the USS

Colleton APB-36 (09/68-11/69). You may contact the family c/o Sally Jackson, 30 Old Nugent Farm Rd, Gloucester, MA 01930-3167, jackson@jackson-co.com.



**Martin**

Lt. **Cecil Harvey Martin** USN (Ret.) passed away September 18, 2017. Cecil earned the Navy Cross Medal while serving with PBR RivDiv 531. *May our Brother rest in peace.*



**Petersen**

Member **Colonel (Dr.) Peter Petersen** USA (Ret.) passed away October 18, 2017. Pete served as CO of the 3rd/60th Inf. River Raiders (11/68-08/69). You may contact the family c/o Janet Petersen, 925 Wood Haven Ln SW, Vero Beach, FL 32962-6970, 772-562-4890, janet-petersen8@yahoo.com. *He loved the troops and how much he thought of their courage and would do anything for them. He'll be sorely missed by his family.*

Member **Richard A. Sherley** LCDR (MDV) passed away December 11, 2015. Richard served in RivRon 13 T-131-12 (03/68-08/68). You may contact the family c/o Nina

Sherley, PO Box 1977, Granbury, TX 76048-8977, 806-534-2610.



**White**

Member **David A. White** passed away September 9, 2017. David served in Task Force 116 Gamewardens River Division 593 (06/68-04/69). You may contact the family c/o Deborah White, 122 Briarwood Dr, Killen, AL 35645-6265, dawwhite5348@bell-south.net.



**Northcutt**



**Northcutt**

Member **Jasper Northcutt** passed away November 12, 2017. Jasper served as a platoon leader in B Co 2nd/47th (Mech) (11/66-01/68). You may contact the family c/o Avis N. Huizar, 393 RS County Rd 1274, Emory, TX 75440-6965, avishuizar@yahoo.com. *Jasper enjoyed the reunions and the trips to DC and the friendship and brotherhood that everyone shared.*

## 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 comrades. 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.

Wendell Afford for Buddha Ed Thomas, Boat Captain Tango 112-11 (02/68-02/69)  
William Blausier for Thomas Gaudet, David Land, and Jose Campos our 151 Division brothers that were KIAs  
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Bravo Charlie A 10 (04/69-04/70) for Terry Mason and Gil Reyna (Class NIOTC 2-69)  
Donald P. Brosnan for Col George E. Bland, CO 2nd Bde (06/68-01/69), WIA January 1969, Evacuated to Convs, Died 12/20/03

Brothers of the 2nd/47th Inf for all Army and Navy KIAs  
Bill Buffie in memory of Lyle Parin USS Floyd County LST-762 (Vietnam)  
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John and Doris Chrzanowski in memory of SP/4 Humberto Ruiz Santiago Jr. Grenadier A Co. 4th Bn 47th Inf. Rgt 9th Inf. Div. Died of wounds 06/27/69, Kien Hoa, South Vietnam (DC Wall Panel 21W Ln 025)  
Mike Clark in memory of Larry Welk and Lydes Gardner 4th/39th 9th Inf Div (1967)  
Janice Dahike for son Cpl. Randy R. Mueller D Co. 2nd/47th KIA 03/03/69  
Fran Divilbiss for Cdr. Dave Divilbiss, Supply Officer on Staff COMRVFLOT ONE, USS Benewah APB-35 (1966-68)

Ron Easterday for Marco Serrano Jr. HHC 2nd/47th Inf and LTC William Cronin HQ 2nd/47th Inf (Mech) KIA 04/27/67

Dennis Erlandson in memory of Fran Convery C & D Cos. 3rd/47th (1968)  
Ted Fetting for Eloy "Stevie" LeBlanc, Roy Phillips, and Fred Jansson B Co. 2nd/60th KIA 02/02/68  
Sgt Robert Flaige for SP4 Robert "Bob" Jenks E Co. 3rd/60th KIA 03/03/68  
From your Brothers B Co. 2nd 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in memory of Monte Marten B Co. 2nd/39th (04/68-04/69)  
From your Brothers B Co. 2nd 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in memory of John Nielsen B Co. 2nd/39th (04/68-04/70)

Nan Fulton for LtGen Bill Fulton Cdr 2nd Bde Asst Div Cdr 9th Inf Div (1966-68)  
Tony Garvey for Wes Sade, Billy Olsen, and Staff Sgt. James Williams C Co. 4th/47th 9th Inf  
John W. Gerbing for Noel T. West A Co. 4th/47th KIA 06/19/67  
Regina Gooden for Sgt Lloyd Earl Valentine B Co. 3rd/47th KIA 09/05/68  
Leo Haynes for my fellow plank owner and buddy Don Grier GM2 USS Benewah. He died in a car crash in 2003

James Henke and Dave Nelson for James Callan, Sgt Tony Spradling, Sgt Gerald Thurman, Spec James B. Johnson, and all our Brothers lost on June 19, 1967, from A Co. 4th/47th 9th in AP BAC, Long An Province

Gordon Hillesland for Pat Lawson NSA Dong Tam (1967-68)  
Joe Hilliard for Joe Benack from Florida and Donald Hartzell from Pennsylvania

Sally Jackson for Paul Nace USS Colleton APB-36 (09/68-11/69)

Bruce Jensen in memory of Frederic Peers Webb A-111-4 KIA 12/21/67

J. R. Johnson Recon 3rd/47th (01/67-01/68) for Walker, Paredes, Gotch, Hayes, Nelson, and Howard

Dave Justin for Robert "Bobby" Scharnick A Co 2nd Platoon 3rd/60th and Dennis McDougal A Co 3rd/60th

Allen Kawabata for Adrian Howell T-111-8 KIA 12/04/67

Bob Land, Rich Lierman, Jim Zervos, and Pete Oakander for Frank Dettmers, our boat captain on CCB-131-1 (May 69-May 70). We do this in his honor and remembrance.

Richard MacCullagh for John (Doc) Phillips, HMC, USN (Ret) RivRon 15

Richard MacCullagh for Chaplain Rene L. Petit, LT, CHC, RC, RivRon 13 and 15

Stella Gayle Malone for Timothy Neary USS Jamestown AGTR-3 (01/69-12/69)

Kaye Marten, Travis Marten, and Tristen Marten in memory of Monte Marten (husband, father, and grandfather) B Co. 2nd/39th 9th Inf Div (1968-69)

H. Bruce Molver for HMI Zeph Lane who was severely wounded 03/31/69 and unfortunately killed in a private plane crash 05/20/85

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)

Albert and Sarah Moore for Capt Gerald Saucier CO USS Benewah APB-35 (09/66-02/68)

Victoria Mortensen in memory of G. Thomas "Morto" Mortensen RivDiv 92 A-92-8 (01/68-11/69)

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

Herman Murphy EN2 for USS Benewah shipmates: John Long EN2, Craig Bronish MR3, and George Schnieder MR2

Maj J. D. Nichols III CMDR C Co. 3rd/60th Inf (12/66-11/67) for Alfred Cornejo, Anthony Galeno, Richard Lasher, Rudolph Melendez, Sigfredo Pinto-Pinto, and Darrell Reid KIA 08/20/67

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)

Luis Peraza for SSG Michael K. Lewis KIA 06/13/69, SGT Harold H. Hunter KIA 01/27/69, and brothers of D Co 3rd/60th KIA during 1968-69

Janet Petersen for Col Pete Petersen USA (Ret.) Cdr 3rd/60th Inf (11/68-08/69)

Claire Siebert for GMG3 Richard Siebert IUWG-1 Unit 3, Qui Nhon (03/67-01/69)

John Smith for Paul D. Jose B Co. 3/60th KIA Westy 11/01/68

Thomas E. Smith for Joseph P. Blee C Co. 2nd/ Bn. 39th Infantry (1967-68), a boyfriend of mine

Aaron R. Spurway for Chief Ray

Chet "Gunner" Stanley for all the USN and USA KIAs of the MRF (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

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





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Dr & Mrs John Baldwin Surgery 24th EVAC HOSPITAL (1968-69)  
Ralph Bakle from Charles Sykes for a job well done  
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Craig "Doc" Champion E & D Cos. 3rd/47th Inf (03/68-11/68)  
John and Doris Chrzanoski A Co 4th/47th and B Co 6th/31st (03/69-03/70)  
Mike Clark Medic 4th/39th 9th Inf. Div (04/66-09/67)  
LTG Robert Conaty XO RivDiv 131 (05/68-04/69)  
Gene R. "Spike" Cooper USS White River LSMR-536 (10/65-08/68)  
LTC Richard Crotty HHC 3rd Bde, 9th Inf (07/67-07/68)  
William "Andy" Curtner RivRon 13 T-131-1 (03/68-03/69)  
Peter Danchuk USS Windham County LST-1170 (02/72-02/76)  
Robert Dockendorff NSA Dong Tam/YRBM-17 (03/67-04/68)  
David Donovan HHC 3rd/47th Inf (01/67-12/67)  
William Duggan RAS 13 M-131-2 (08/68-08/69)  
Robert Durrett T-112-7 (01/67-12/67)  
Ron Easterday HHC 2nd/47th Inf (04/66-09/67) and G-5 9th Div (09/67-01/68)  
Paul Eastham T-132-11 (05/69-07/69)  
Virgie Eblen Associate Member  
Leon Edmiston B Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf (06/68-05/69)  
Dennis Erlandson D Co. 3rd/47th Inf (08/68-04/69)  
Edith Ethridge Associate Member  
Larry Gunner Ethridge USS Askari ARL-30 (07/69-07/70)  
Terrance Feters HHQ 3rd/47th Inf (04/69-07/69)

Ted Fetting B Co. 2nd/60th Inf (10/67-02/68)  
Robert Flaige E Co 3rd/60th Inf (05/67-05/68)  
Ronnie Fontenot YRBM-17 in Dong Tam (01/68-11/68)  
Dennis Frank D Co. CMDR 3rd/60th Inf (07/68-07/69)  
Fred Frost E Co. 2nd/60th Inf (12/67-12/68)  
William B. Fullerton USS Benewah APB-35 (1970)  
Nan Fulton Associate Member  
Richard Gallagher USS Mercer APB-39 (1968-69)  
Gamewardens of Vietnam Mid-Atlantic Chapter  
Jaime Garcia M-111-1 (03/67-12/67)  
CSM Homer Garza First Sgt of C Btry 3rd/34 Arty (01/68-01/69)  
Capt James Gautier Co RivDiv 111 (10/68-05/69)  
John N. Gavin USS Satyr ARL-23 (1971)  
John W. Gerbing A&E Co 4th/47th Inf (1966-68)  
Regina Gooden Associate Member  
Roger "Grossie" Grossinger D Co. 3rd/47th 9th Inf (1968-69)  
Frank Gubala A Co. 3rd/47th Inf (02/68-07/68)  
Harry Hahn RivRon 13 M-131-1 (03/69-03/70)  
Daniel B. Hall, Jr. Staff ComRivFlot One (12/68-07/69)  
William Halloran COMRIVFLOT ONE N2 (09/67-09/68)  
Roger Hamilton, Jr. USS Mark AKL-12 (08/68-08/69)  
Jeffie Hanks USS Benewah APB-35 (01/70-01/71)  
SFC Michael Hanmer RivRon 13 and 153 (07/69-02/71)  
Joseph Harper USS White River LSMR-536 (12/66-12/68)  
Leo Haynes RivDiv 594 PBR-8120 (04/69-02/70)  
Charles Heindel C-91-1 (11/67-12/68)  
Wayne Higdon USS Satyr ARL-23 (06/67-05/69)  
Joe Hillard Gunner T-48 (09/69-03/70) and Boat Captain T-44 (03/70-07/70)  
D. D. Hoffman RivRon 9 ASPB 91-8 (03/67-03/68)  
James Hoyer 1097th TC (MB) (08/68-07/69)  
MajGen Ira A. Hunt Jr. HHQ 9th Inf Div (05/68-07/69)  
Alan G. Hyde 9th Signal (1966-67)  
In honor of Albert Moore and all he has done for the MRFA  
Truman Irving USS Mark AKL-12 (08/68-08/69)  
Bill Isetts RM2 USS Askari ARL-30 (07/66-08/67)  
Francis Janssen B Co. 93rd Const. Eng. (08/67-07/68)  
David Jarczewski C Co. 4th/47th Inf 9th Div (05/66-05/68)  
Bradley Jenkins HHSB 3rd/34th Arty & 2nd/47th Mech (09/68-10/69)  
Bruce Jensen T-111-3 (1967-68)  
Duane Johnson 15th Combat Engineers (06/67-06/68)  
J. R. Johnson Recon 3rd/47th Inf (01/67-01/68)  
Gerald Johnston USS Nye County LST-1067 (01/66-01/67)  
Frank B. Jones RivRon 15 T-48  
Edward Jordan RivRon 15 T-152-47-T44 (08/68-08/69)  
Dave Justin A Co. 3rd/60th Inf (12/66-11/67)  
Dane Keller RivDiv 532 PBR 121 (05/69-05/70)  
Thomas Kelley USN (Ret) RivDiv 152 (09/68-06/69)  
John Kitchura A-152-3 & Riv Div 153 Apha 58 (04/69-04/70)  
Gary L. Knox RivRon 9 A-91-8 (01/68-06/70)  
LTC Nick Laicona USA (Ret.) C Co. 3rd/60th Inf (1968-69)  
Robert Langston C Co 2nd Plt 2 4th/47th 9th Division (10/68-07/69)  
Bob Lennon USS White River LSMR-536 (1966-68)  
Walter F. Lineberger III XO RivDiv 91 (1968-69)  
Jerry Lippincott IUWG-1, LCM-877 (06/70-05/71)  
Arthur L. Lockhart NSA Det Dong Tam RVN (01/68-01/69)  
James Long Sr. ComRivFlot One Staff (11/67-11/68)  
Richard Lorman T-152-6 (06/68-06/69)  
Larry Lyons RivDiv 112 C-112-1 (1967-68)  
Michael A. Marquez A Co. 3rd Plt 3rd/60th Inf (07/68-07/69)  
Frank O. Martinovich A. Co 3rd/60th 9th Inf Div (03/68-03/69)  
James Masters USS Askari ARL-30 (09/69-08/70)  
Vincent Matura RivRon 152 (10/69-07/70) "Suffolk 24"  
Paul A. Mayne YRBM-16 (01/67-02/68)  
Larry McCallister C-2 4th/47th Infantry (12/67-12/69)  
Cratis McLaughlin D. Co 3rd/47th 9th Inf Div (09/68-07/69)  
Phil McLaughlin USS Blanco County (LST-344) & USS White River (LSMR-536) (08/67-09/69)  
Kenneth McLean B Co. 4th/47th (11/68-01/69)  
Philip Mercurio USS Colleton APB-36 (09/48-07/52)  
Adam Metts T-111-2 (08/68-10/69)  
Nick Miller COS RivDiv 152 (07/68-06/69)  
MiiSpec Tours Inc  
Nickola Mitschkowetz BM2 APL-30 (11/68-11/69)  
Capt L. K. Monahan USNR (Ret.) YRBM-20 (1970-71)  
A. R. "Monti" Montillo B Co. 3rd/60th Inf (04/68-09/68)  
Albert and Sarah Moore USS Benewah (APB-35)  
J. Russell and Alice Moore A-91-5 (11/68-06/69)  
Joe Moore USS Colleton APB-36 (10/66-10/67)  
Roy and Lynn Moseman 4th/47th Inf  
Tom Muench Korea Era Vet SAC  
Naval Advisory Group  
Nha Trang (1967-68 and 1970-71)  
MAJ Joseph D. Nichols III, CO C Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf Div (12/66-11/67)  
Jasper Northcutt B Co. 2nd/47th Mech Inf (11/66-05/67)  
James Noyes C Btry 3rd/34th Arty (06/67-06/68)  
Gary O'Brien MM3 USS Mercer APB-39 (04/68-12/69)  
George R. O'Connell USS Terrell City LST-1157  
Christopher Olsen T-131-8 (05/68-05/69)  
John C. Oxley Recon E Co 3rd/47th Inf (11/65-11/67)  
Capt Jerry Pape USN (Ret) Staff COMRIVFLOT ONE (01/68-12/68)  
Dwayne Parsons M-111-1 (Zippo 1) (11/67-11/68)  
Rodney Peeler 2nd/60th Inf (04/69-08/69)  
Luis F. Peraza D Co. 3rd/60th Inf (11/68-08/69)  
Anthony Perez USS Iredell County LST-839 (11/69-07/70)  
John "Ron" Perry T-132-11 (06/68-06/69)  
Michael Howard Phillips D Co. 15th Combat Engineers 9th Inf (08/68-06/69)  
Bill Posson USS Hampshire County LST-819 (1969-1970)  
LCDR Leonard Previto CTF-117 (08/67-08/68)  
Bryan and Dolly Rasco USS Indra ARL-37 (09/67-01/69)  
Paul Ray M-151-5 (06/69-07/70)  
David Raybell Monitor 111-3 (11/66-02/68)  
Bill & Donna Robinson CO USS Mark AKL-12 (06/70-05/71)  
Lawrence "Larry" Roche A-152-2 (10/68-07/69)  
Greg Rockow USS Harnett County LST-821 (1968-69)  
Matthew F. Rovner USS Colleton (09/66-12/67)  
Ronald Rulon HHCO and D Co. 15th Combat Engr. Bn (03/6-10/67)  
Billy Sanders RivRon 11 RAD 112 T-112-1 & CCB-112-1 (Vietnam 1967)

Norman Saunders B Co. 3rd/39th Inf (01/69-08/69)  
Duane Schinn Z-111-7 and M-111-2 (12/67-06/68)  
Robert "Bob" Schrader D Co. 9th Med BN (07/68-07/69)  
F. George Schuster LTJG USS Indra ARL-37 (1968-69)  
George Schwemmer C Co. 6th/31st Inf. (1968-69)  
Thomas D. Scott USS Colleton APB-36 (12/66-04/68)  
Bob Shawen Friend of the Ardingers  
Jerry Shearer C Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf (04/67-04/68)  
Joseph W. Shedlock A-152-4 (10/68-07/69)  
Jim Silva D Co. 3rd Platoon 4th/39th Inf (Vietnam)  
Richard Simpson C Co. 3rd/47th Inf 9th Div (05/67-05/68)  
John Smith B Co. 3/60th (05/68-06/69) for all Riverines  
Marc Spilberg 4th/47th Inf (01-68-01/69)  
Aaron R. Spurway USS Vernon County LST-1161 (1966-68)  
Chet "Gunner" Stanley C-111-1 and M-111-3 (1966-68)  
Thomas Stuart USS Benewah APB-35 (1966-67)  
Harley Timmerman T-132-10 (06/68-06/69)  
John Swart T-132-1 (04/68-04/69)  
Bryan Swisher B Co. 3rd/47th Inf (12/68-06/69)  
Jack Terry USS Colleton APB-36 (1966-68)  
Thanks to 155 mm (Mech) Arty  
Charles Thompson 9th Admin Co. (02/66-11/67)  
Harley Timmerman T-132-10 (06/68-06/69)  
Tip of the hat to Albert  
Jim Towey Co. B 2nd/60th Infantry (10/68-08/69)  
USS Terrell County LST-1157  
Roger Valentine USS Askari ARL-30 (07/67-05/68)  
Bob and Nancy VanDruff T-91-5 and T-92-4  
GMGI Ricky Vice USN (Ret.) T-131-7 (03/68-05/69) and NAG (01/71-06/72)  
Ron Wallace B Co. 3rd Plat 3rd/47th Inf (05/66-08/67)  
Hank and Becky Washburn USS Colleton APB-36 (01/67-09/68)  
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)  
BMCM Donald Wiita USN (Ret) T-111-13 (03/67-02/68)  
Norm Wilkinson B Co. 4th/47th Inf (03/67-03/68)  
Rhett Wise A Co. 3rd/47th Inf (03/67-04/68)  
Jeffrey L. Withers RivRon 11 A-112-8 and M-112-12 (06/68-06/69)  
William H. Ziebarth 9th Signal, 34 Arty (1966-68)  
James Zierniski EN2 Boat Captain RivDiv 153 ASPB 6854 (04/69-04/70)  
Robert Zimmer XO USS Mercer APB-39 (02/68-07/69)  
Admiral Elmo Zumwalt ComNavForV