



Mobile Riverine Force Association Memorial/Museum is to honor all those who suffered the unthinkable horrors of war and sacrificed much on the altar of freedom



Praise is hardly enough

History

Historically, this was the first time the Army and Navy worked together since the Civil War.

Background

In the early part of 1992, Albert Moore, a former cook on the USS Benewah, and Charlie Ardinger, a Boat Captain out of RivRon 15, had an idea to get some old shipmates together for a reunion. They combined forces and the reunion was held at the Days Inn in Hickory, NC, April 2-5, 1992. About 200 former Navy and 9th Infantry Army guys and guests showed up. A meeting was held April 4, 1992, and a vote was taken to establish the new Mobile Riverine Force. So the Second Mobile Riverine Force was formed as an Army and Navy Association (Mobile Riverine Force Association a non-profit [MRFA] association with the state of North Carolina).

The MRFA had been searching for a suitable location for a Mini-Museum for several years. The Association was unable to find a location that would be acceptable and convenient for our members.

After much thought, the Officers and Board Members approved the purchase of a 48' Fifth Wheel Avenger Trailer equipped with interior lighting, generator, rear entrance ramp, side exit door, and non-skid rubber flooring to be used as our Mobile MRFA Memorial/Museum and for much needed storage between reunions.

Before the names were added to the trailer, Dave Argabright and a few other members of the 2nd/60th and Ralph Fries of the MRFA spent about 2 years exhaustively researching Government databases to ensure a high degree of accuracy. However, there are some errors in the Government data and on the Mobile MRFA Memorial/Museum.

Member Richard Corrick agreed to haul the trailer to all MRFA reunions for the cost of fuel only. The Officers and Board Members felt that this was the perfect answer for our Mobile MRFA Memorial/Museum and would also solve our much needed storage problem. Richard Corrick made the first Mobile MRFA Memorial/Museum available for viewing at the 2003 MRFA Reunion in Fort Mitchell, KY, August 27-31, 2003.

Update

At the 2007 reunion, a number of our members commented that they believe there were errors in the KIAs listed on the MRFA Memorial/Museum (i.e., missing names, wrong unit, etc.). Once a list was developed, Bob Pries and others researched the names to verify accuracy and made modifications where appropriate. Before the 2009 reunion, some name and date KIA corrections were made and more in-country units were added.

Represents

The Mobile MRFA Memorial/Museum is in honor of all and

represents all of the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division (Old Reliables) KIAs. The Navy portion includes KIAs from units of the Brown Water Navy including Task Force 117 (Mobile Riverine Force), Task Force 116 (River Patrol Force), Task Force 115 (Coastal Surveillance Force), Navy SEALs as well as all other in-country Navy and Coast Guard KIAs in the Mekong Delta and other areas of Vietnam from 1965 to 1975.

9th Infantry Division Riverine Battalions included 3rd/5th Cav, 1st/16th, 6th/31st, 2nd/39th, 3rd/39th, 4th/39th, 2nd/47th, 3rd/47th, 4th/47th, 2nd/60th, 3rd/60th, 5th/60th, 50th Infantry (LRRP) and 75th Infantry (LRRP). 9th Infantry Division Artillery units included 2nd/4th, 1st/11th, 3rd/34th, and 6th/77th. Other 9th Infantry Division units included the 709th Maintenance Bn, 1097th Transportation Company, 9th S&T Bn, HHC 9th ARVN Bn, 1st and 3rd Bde 9th Infantry Division, 9th MP Co, 9th Med Bn, 9th Rep Co, 9th Admin Co, 9th Prov. Signal Bn, 39th Cav Platoon ACV, 43rd and 45th Inf Platoon (Scout Dog), 65th Inf Platoon (Combat Tracker), 335th Radio Research Co, and the Old Reliable Academy.

Commander Task Force 117 (Mobile Riverine Force) included River Assault Flotilla One, River Assault Squadron 9/Divisions 91/92, River Assault Squadron 11/Divisions 111/112, River Assault Squadron 13/

Divisions 131/132 and River Assault Squadron 15/Divisions 151/152/153.

Commander River Support

Squadron 7 included USS Benewah (APB-35), USS Colleton (APB-36), USS Mercer (APB-39), USS Nueces (APB-40), USS Kalispell (YTB 784), and USS Winnemucca (YTB-785).

Commander Task Group 194

included Landing Tank Ships: LST-344 USS Blanco County, LST-515 USS Caddo Parish, LST-525 Caroline County, LST-551 USS Chesterfield County, LST-601 USS Clarke County, LST-603 USS Coconino County, LST-786 USS Garrett County, LST-819 USS Hampshire County, LST-825 USS Hickman County, LST-836 USS Holmes County, LST-839 USS Iredell County, LST-848 USS Jerome County, LST-854 USS Kemper County, LST-901 USS Litchfield County, LST-902 LST Luzerne County, LST-905 USS Madera County, LST-912 USS Mahanomen County, LST-980 USS Meeker County, LST-1032 LST Monmouth County, LST-1067 USS Nye County, LST-1073 USS Outagamie County, LST-1077 USS Park County, LST-1082 USS Pitkin County, LST-1088 USS Pulaski

County, LST-1123 LST Sedgewick County, LST-1126 USS Snohomish County, LST-1141 USS Stone County, LST-1148 LST Sumner County, LST-1157 LST Terrell County, LST-1158 USS Tioga County, LST-1159 USS Tom Green County, LST-1161 USS Vernon County, LST-1165 USS Washoe County, LST-1166 USS Washtenaw County, LST-1167 USS Westchester County, LST-1168 USS Wexford County, LST-1169 USS Whitfield County, and LST-1170 USS Windham County. Also Auxiliary Repair Ships: USS Satyr (ARL-23), USS Sphinx (ARL-24), USS Askari (ARL-30), USS Indra (ARL-37), and USS Krishna (ARL-38).

Remembrance

There are 2,983 of our casualties listed under their respective units on the sides of the Mobile MRFA Memorial/Museum. Because of the number of KIAs that the Navy (2,558) and Army (2,624) sustained in the Mekong Delta, there was not enough space on the sides of the trailer for all of them. We apologize we were unable to post all of our KIAs.

All the Army and Navy KIAs on the Mobile MRFA Memorial/Museum are listed by last name and by state in a book with the trailer and is available for your convenience.

Our brothers in the Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry will be remembered by family, friends, and each of us in the Mobile Riverine Force. Their sacrifice for their country and for the people of the Republic of South Vietnam will never be forgotten.

Contact

If anyone would like the Mobile MRFA Memorial/Museum brought to their area, contact Bruce Graff USS Passumpsic AO-107 (07/65-10/68). He is the contact and driver for the Mobile MRFA Memorial/Museum. His e-mail is pinecrek@mabeltel.coop.

The cost is \$1.00 per mile round trip plus \$50.00 a day for the driver. We will need two motel rooms down, and back, as another couple comes along to assist. We keep the trailer open roughly from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's nice to have electricity available to use the lights in the trailer. We need roughly 70 feet to park it on grass so we can set up our tent.

