



Army
Artillery

River Currents

Riverine Boats

A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 2
SUMMER 2019

From the Radio Shack



Harry Hahn

By the time this column reaches you, the planning and execution of the Mobile River Force Association reunion will be completed. In this issue there is an agenda for the reunion. As usual we will start the reunion on Thursday August 29 and continue through Saturday night the 31st. One huge change in this year's reunion is the fact that we will have live entertainment both Friday and Saturday nights. As we are in Nashville, we thought that adding live entertainment would be a nice touch. This would be different from the DJ of other years. Also, a difference in our Saturday morning memorial will be the inclusion of a special recognition to the 11 Medal of Honor recipients from the MRF. We are trying to make this reunion the best ever as we commemorate 50 years since we were in Vietnam.

The Maxwell Millennium House room block has been filled. Several people booked at other hotels in Nashville. Hotels.com may have low rate rooms left. If you do not stay in the convention hotel, **you still need to fill out your Registration Form for the reunion and return it with the fee.** This allows you to receive an entry badge and to be part of the reunion.

This is Terry Sater's first issue as our important position as Editor of this publication. Terry is always looking for good material to print in this publication. If you feel that you would like to contribute with an article of one of your Vietnam experiences, please contact Terry.

I look forward to meeting each one of you, and together, enjoying what should be a wonderful reunion in Nashville! Our thanks to everyone who work very hard to make these reunions successful.

Harry Hahn, President, SparksRiv-Ron13@aol.com



MRFA Reunion at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel, Nashville, TN, August 29 to September 1, 2019

Please note: you must have a conference badge to enter the conference center events so Register first before you try to attend any events!

The 2019 MRFA Reunion is in Nashville, TN, at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel. Check in will start on Thursday August 29 and the reunion will end on Sunday September 1.

We have had unprecedented reservations at the Millennium Maxwell House. The Maxwell Millennium House room block has been filled. Ashley Suter is taking a standby list if there are cancellations. The number to call for reservations is 1-800-457-4460 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please make sure to reference code 1908MRFAFJ when making your reservation on the hotel website, <http://www.maxwell-househotel.com/>.

This is a no pets allowed hotel. Service dogs are the only animals allowed.

The hotel parking is free. RV parking is allowed on the outer edges of the parking lot in the

designated area only. No AC power is provided.

The Millennium Maxwell House will run a free daily shuttle service from the airport. Fill out a flight form (on the website) to co-ordinate an airport pickup by the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel only. This airport shuttle is not ADA approved. Those needing assistance with wheelchairs or scooters will need to call 1-615-256-7000 at least 2 days in advance to reserve a shuttle. We are sorry, but the ADA shuttles will have to be paid for by the members.

Since the Millennium Maxwell House is filled, we have a block of rooms at the Spring Hill Suites down the road from the Millennium Maxwell House. The Spring Hill Suites will be \$189 per night with breakfast included. When the Spring Hill Suites rooms are filled, members will have to find their own lodging. This area is called Metro Center. Spring Hill Suites does not have an airport shuttle. InShuttle Transportation

offers roundtrip shuttle service to and from the Nashville airport to Spring Hill Suites for \$25 to \$30 per person. To book a shuttle, call 1-615-255-3519.

The cutoff date for reservations for Millennium Maxwell House and Spring Hill Suites is July 27, 2019. ★



Music City Tours

Free Friday Transportation: While attending the reunion, you can see why Nashville has been declared the "It' City" by the New York Times and about 100 people move there every day. We have arranged for an ADA accessible bus to transport our guests to the Opryland area that includes stops at the Grand Ole Opry, Opry Mills Mall and General Jackson Riverboat tour. The bus will run hourly from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. only on Friday. Our hotel also has a small shuttle every half hour to downtown from 8 a.m. till 10 p.m. every day.

Pay to see Tour: Additionally, Flair tours will run 3-hour sight-seeing tours from 2 to 5 p.m. both Friday and Saturday for \$35 per person. Places such as the Tennessee Titans and Nashville Predators & Sounds stadiums, homes of some of the music and movie stars, Natchez Trace parkway and bridge, Andrew Jackson Hermitage, State Capital, Vanderbilt University, famous Music Row where Elvis recorded, Printers Alley, Belle Meade Plantation, Johnny Cash Museum, Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, and the Wild Horse Saloon. Pre-register for these tours directly with Flair Tours at 615-361-3737. They may have a representative in the lobby.



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Mobile Riverine Force Association Membership Application Form

- ☐ New Member ☐ Associate Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Sponsor
☐ Donation ☐ CCB-18 ☐ Mobile Museum
☐ Change of address below.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

- ☐ Postal Delivery ☐ Go Green with Email

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____
Cell _____
E-mail _____

☐ WW-II ☐ Korea ☐ Vietnam

☐ Army Member
Unit (Division, Brigade, Battalion, Company, Platoon, Battery)

☐ Navy Member
Unit (Ship, Boat Hull Numbers, Navy Activity/Detachment, etc.)

Dates Served in Unit (mm/yr - mm/yr) _____ to _____

MEMBERSHIP RATES

☐ 1 Year \$20 ☐ 3 Years \$50

DONATION

☐ _____

To become a member, mail your check or money order (payable To MRFA) to Frank Jones, MRFA Membership Chairman, 9 San Marino Pkwy, Fenton, MO 63026-7513

2019 Reunion Plan Of The Day

Thursday August 29

Start Time	End Time	Event	Location	Comments
0900	1700	Registration	Conference Center Lobby	Register here first before attending any events. You must have your ID badge on to enter events.
0700	2100	Main Hall OPEN	Conference Center	Hall is open for coffee and donuts, beer and meet all your friends
0900	1700	MRFA Mobile Museum OPEN	Outside Conference Center	MRFA Trailer with all the KIA listed on sides of trailer, plus pictures and memorabilia
0900	???	Individual Unit Rooms OPEN	Conference Center	Individual Unit Rooms and MRFA Museum Room Open

Friday August 30

Start Time	End Time	Event	Location	Comments
0700	2100	Main Hall	Conference Center	Hall is open for coffee and donuts, beer and meet all your friends
0900	1700	MRFA Mobile Museum OPEN	Outside Conference Center	MRFA Trailer with all the KIA listed on sides of trailer, plus pictures and memorabilia
0900	???	Individual Unit Rooms OPEN	Conference Center	Individual Unit Rooms and MRFA Museum Room Open
0800	1700	Registration	Conference Center Lobby	
0900	1900	Free Bus Service	Outside Conference Center	Free Bus Transportation to Opryland, Mall and Downtown (runs every hour). See below
1100	1500	BBQ Lunch	Outside Patio	This is a pay your own event
1930	2200	Entertainment: Sailor Jerri	Main Room	

Saturday August 31

Start Time	End Time	Event	Location	Comments
0700	2100	Main Hall	Conference Center	Hall is open for coffee and donuts, beer and meet all your friends
0800	1600	MRFA Mobile Museum Trailer	Outside Conference Center	MRFA Trailer with all the KIA listed on sides of trailer, plus pictures and memorabilia
0900	???	Individual Unit Rooms OPEN	Conference Center	Individual Unit Rooms and MRFA Museum Room Open
0800	0900	Late Registration	Conference Center Lobby	
0900	1100	Memorial Service and Presentation of MRF Medal of Honor recipients	Conference Center Main Room	
1100	1500	BBQ Lunch	Outside Patio	This is a pay your own event
1900	1930	Saturday Night in Music City USA; Entertainment by Country Music Singer, Brian Huff	Conference Center Main Room	Welcome from Stan Melton ATC 91-5
1945	2200	Grand Ole Opry performers; Mike Snider Group	Main Room	

Music at the Reunion

Sailor Jerri is a Navy Veteran from central Minnesota. Although she's always had a love for singing, she began playing guitar so she could sing for the long-term care at the VA and in veteran support groups.



Sailor Jerri

Jerri's "Hallelujah Veterans Version" has been viewed over 125 million times, and her music has been downloaded in 37 countries. Her album "No Rules In Sight" reached #14 on the Country charts. She is traveling the country bringing light to veteran issues through music. Jerri has performed in over 16 states this year, both alone and with her band!

Country Music with Brian Huff. Brian Huff is an up and



Brian Huff

coming Nashville singer and songwriter who does a variety of country, acoustic rock, and Americana music. Brian has played at the Grand Ole Opry. His latest single, "Gettin' Over You," can be found on iTunes and other streaming websites. More about Brian can be found online at www.brianhuff.com. Brian is excited about the opportunity to sing for the MRFA.



Mike Snider Group

Mike Snider has been a member and regular performer at the Grand Ole Opry for 30 years. A showman to the core, Mike's genuine Tennessee drawl incites laughter the moment he opens his mouth. Not only does he have an endless supply of jokes about country life, Mike and company play serious music. His string band will play old-time country music that laid the groundwork for today's bluegrass and country music for our reunion. More about Mike Snider is found at <http://themikesnider.com/> and <https://www.opry.com/artist/mike-snider>. ★

MRFA & 9th Infantry Division Reunion Registration Form

August 29–September 1, 2019

Name _____
 Unit in Vietnam _____ Dates _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ or Cell _____
 E-mail _____

Name(s): Spouse/Guest(s) _____ City _____ State _____

Send my registration form by email?
☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ No guests
☐ First Reunion

Registration fee • Cost includes member and spouse/girlfriend **\$70.00**
 (Does not cover lodging, food, bus trips, or shuttles)

Total number of other guest(s) (___ x \$25.00 each) _____

Guests under 16 are free.

Registration fee for Nonmember (\$80.00) _____

Late registration fee (\$75.00) _____

Grand total enclosed \$ _____

Please send this form with your check or money order (payable to the MRFA or Mobile Riverine Force Association) to MRFA 2019 Reunion, c/o Frank Jones, 9 San Marino Parkway, fenton, MO 63026 before August 15, 2019. Returned checks and cancellations prior to the reunion will be charged a \$25 processing fee.

When filling out the form, please use one unit and one date, even if you have served in more than one unit. To provide the complimentary transportation to and from the airport on a prearranged scheduled basis, fill out the 2019 MRFA Reunion Flight Information Form and send to Diane Carroll as indicated on the form.

If you do not send the form to Diane, you will have to find your own transportation to the hotel. Note: You will still have to check in at the registration desk to receive your name tag.

2019 MRFA & 9th Infantry Division Reunion Flight Information August 29 to September 1, 2019

Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Arrival Date	Airline	Flight Number INTO Nashville Airport	Arrival time INTO Nashville Airport	# of People Needing Ride
Departure Date	Airline	Flight Number FROM Nashville Airport	Departure Time FROM Nashville Airport	# of People Needing Ride

NOTE: Flight info due no later than August 14, 2019 to get on the hotel shuttle. No exceptions to this rule. If you do not sign up, you will have to find your own transportation to the hotel.

Send this form back to Diane Carroll by e-mail Diane.carroll@millenniumhotels.com; or fax to 1-615-254-8727; or mail to Diane Carroll, 2025 Rosa L. Parks Blvd., Nashville, TN 37228-1505, ATTN: 2019 MRFA Reunion Flight Info.

If you e-mail this form, you will receive a confirmation e-mail back within 3 days of arrival as to what your pick up times will be. If flights are delayed, call 1-615-259-4343, when you get into the Nashville airport and they will get you on the next shuttle.

Guests may be responsible for their own airport transportation if the hotel is given incorrect flight information or if flight changes and hotel was not notified.

Guests needing ADA transportation will be responsible for their own transportation. Call 1-615-865-4100 or 1-615-256-7000 to reserve a vehicle. Please call 2 to 3 days in advance.

Fate brought all of the soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division and sailors of River Assault Flotilla One together in Vietnam. The Mobile Riverine Force Association reunited all of them in this photo.



Doc Jay Warren, Harold Weber, Sgt. Jim Gleason, Doc Larry Austin, Sgt Lee Jackson, Jack Rauscher. Sgt Barry Baron (in front).

A Very Bad Op for 2nd Platoon, D Company, 4/47 and T-132-1, or Fighting the Enemy and the River

Looking back, you have to wonder how many of the men of 2nd Platoon, D Company, of the 4/47, and of the crew of Tango 132-1 had bad feelings about the operation they were embarking on, on February 4, 1969. Bad vibes and dark premonitions weren't unusual.

These soldiers and sailors were teamed together for a Search and Destroy operation in Kien Hoa Province, southeast of Ben Tre. Sgt. Jim Gleason thought it was odd that the platoon was not going out with two of their squad sergeants, which made them undermanned. Sgt. Barry Baron was on emergency leave. Sgt. Lee Jackson was recently promoted and was sent to Non-Commissioned Officer School, that week. It was reported that their lieutenant, who normally would have been with them, had business at Battalion HQ, and would not be on the op. They had a new sergeant who had just been assigned to the platoon.

Doc Austin, their medic, recalls that they started a sweep along the My Tho River, between Dong Tam and My Tho. The men of the platoon could easily watch the locals watching them, very carefully, and staying away from them as much as possible. The men knew that wasn't a good thing. The locals knew there were booby traps. One soldier had already had his foot blown off, that afternoon.

The next morning, February 5th, the company was ambushed, and 1st platoon took it on the chin. PFC James Francisco, from Laurence Harbor, New Jersey, was the first man killed.

Company Commander CPT Schneider was shot in the spine and paralyzed from the waist down. They were told that medic Montaigne had been killed. The main Command Post requested 2nd Platoon send their medic, Doc Austin, forward.

The platoon was to the right flank and behind the main CP, when the ambush occurred. Sgt. Lee Jackson and RTO Steve Stump volunteered to go forward with Doc Austin.

As they moved forward, through a canal of water, they inadvertently went right into a VC ambush, spooking the hell out of the Viet Cong, who quickly took flight.

Once Doc and Stump got the friendly fire by his own troops and gunships to stop, they made their way to the main CP to help.

Fortunately, Doc Montaigne wasn't really dead. Doc Austin went to see if there were any casualties he could attend to. Soon, he found

“Melendez did not know how to swim and jumping into the canal from a height of 6 or 7 feet caused him to sink into the mud in the bottom of the canal. We never saw him again.”

PFC Fred Neubauer, a young man from Alma, Nebraska, behind a log. He had used the log as shelter and protection, firing over it. The VC had shot him in the head, through his helmet, killing him. Sgt. Lee Jackson volunteered to crawl up the canal, behind the dyke, and recover Francisco's body. He had been shot right in front of the enemy bunker, and they were still taking some fire. Sgt. Jackson was awarded his 4th Bronze Star for his actions.

That night, as the men tried to recover from the day's fighting, Battalion Headquarters decided to extract the platoon the next morning by Tango boats of River Division 132, part of Task Group Bravo.

Jack Rauscher, the engineman on T-132-1 recalls that for some reason, their boat crew was shorthanded on the morning of February 6th.

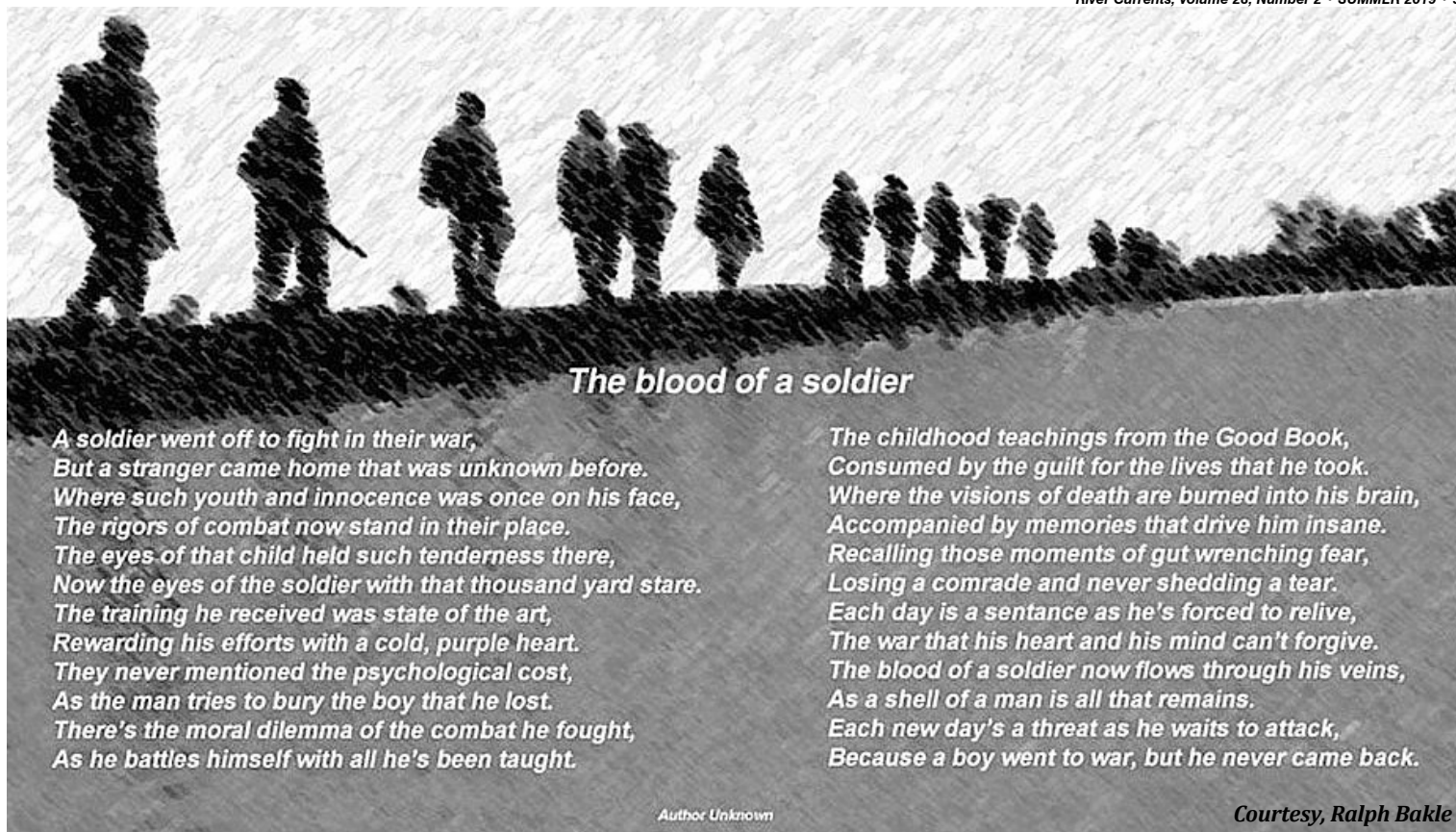
They were just coming back from a previous operation, when they were ordered to go across the river from Dong Tam, to pick up 9th Infantry Division troops. A new River Division 132 officer was in charge of the operation. It was his very first operation.

When morning came, they started to make their way to the PZ on the My Tho River. Doc Austin described what happened, *“While crossing a canal over a log bridge, a VC sniper opened up on our point man, PFC Rafael Melendez, who was from Hammonton, New Jersey, causing him to jump into the large canal. Melendez did not know how to swim and jumping into the canal from a height of 6 or 7 feet caused him to sink into the mud in the bottom of the canal. We never saw him again. Other than an unsuccessful preliminary attempt to recover him after the contact, we were directed to move out, so we didn't miss the designated pickup time. PFC Mendez was Melendez's cousin. He was totally distraught about not recovering his cousin's body.”*

When the 2nd Platoon got to the PZ, T-132-1 dropped its ramp, just short of the bank. As it pushed forward, the ramp jammed into the sticky, smelly muck. The soldiers were told to go ahead and board the tango boat, while the sailors tried to get the ramp out of the mud. They brought two more tangos up and tied them on either side of the troubled boat, hoping to fix the problem.

The new River Division 132 officer ordered T-132-1 to back off the bank, with the assistance of the other two tango boats. The boat captain objected, saying that the boat would take on water. The boats were not under fire and reasonably had time to fix the problem without risking the danger of backing off the bank with the bow ramp down. The experienced boat captain was

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



The blood of a soldier

A soldier went off to fight in their war,
But a stranger came home that was unknown before.
Where such youth and innocence was once on his face,
The rigors of combat now stand in their place.
The eyes of that child held such tenderness there,
Now the eyes of the soldier with that thousand yard stare.
The training he received was state of the art,
Rewarding his efforts with a cold, purple heart.
They never mentioned the psychological cost,
As the man tries to bury the boy that he lost.
There's the moral dilemma of the combat he fought,
As he battles himself with all he's been taught.

Author Unknown

The childhood teachings from the Good Book,
Consumed by the guilt for the lives that he took.
Where the visions of death are burned into his brain,
Accompanied by memories that drive him insane.
Recalling those moments of gut wrenching fear,
Losing a comrade and never shedding a tear.
Each day is a sentence as he's forced to relive,
The war that his heart and his mind can't forgive.
The blood of a soldier now flows through his veins,
As a shell of a man is all that remains.
Each new day's a threat as he waits to attack,
Because a boy went to war, but he never came back.

Courtesy, Ralph Bakle

VERY BAD OP

Continued from previous page

overruled and ordered to back the boat off the bank, immediately.

Doc Austin and a soldier from Hawaii they nicknamed "Pineapple," went into the back of the well deck of the tango boat, and sat, leaning against a plywood wall, separating the well deck from the engine room. They could hear the engines of the boats straining hard to get the boat ramp out of the mud. All of a sudden, the ramp pulled free, and the boat swung around, facing up river. The force of the current pushed the ramp straight down, into the water. The full force of the river was funneled into the gaping bow of the tango boat. The first wall of water that came in was 3 to 4 feet high. It pushed Pineapple and Doc Austin through the wall. Doc got out as quick as someone who shot out of a cannon, but Pineapple was pushed all the way into the engine room.

Jack Rauscher and the boat captain were in the engine room, trying to fix the bow ramp problem. As soon as the water started rushing in, Jack knew the boat would sink, but he had no idea it would capsize. Jack escaped through a hatch in the engine room. The boat captain escaped through a hatch going from the engine room to the well deck area.

The boat captain climbed the ladder to the flight deck, just as the boat was turning over. He was briefly trapped under the flight deck, as it turned over. Fortunately, the water was deep, and he wasn't pinned under the flight deck and pushed into the mud of the river bottom.

By the time Doc Austin got to the edge of the boat to get out, the boat was starting to turn over.

Harold Weber was a 20-mm cannon gunner. When the trouble with the ramp became apparent, he had climbed out of his gun mount and was standing on the boat's helo deck, observing the ramp problem. BM3 Mark Siedentopf was the other 20-mm cannon gunner. He was from Fremont, California. He was a surfer and an expert

swimmer. Being on top of the flight deck/helo deck, Harold Weber was able to get away from the boat, as it began to capsize.

As Doc Austin started swimming away from the boat, he was shedding as much gear and clothing as he could. He saw another man from his platoon in trouble. "I could see the boat flight deck was going to roll over on Torres, and I grabbed ahold of him, just as the flight deck hit his shoulder. We swam to the bank and waited to be picked up by another tango boat."

Jack Rauscher swam back to the boat, after it had capsized, standing on the hull, and shouting for Harold Weber. He was surprised to see Harold on the shore. Harold was not a good swimmer.

Doc said; "it was amazing to see the tango boat upside down with the stern sticking up in the air." Twenty-five minutes had passed from the first wall of water hitting the boat when suddenly Pineapple broke the surface and swam to shore. He had swam from air pocket to air pocket in the overturned boat, until he could find his way out. He said that he had encountered several dead bodies in his search to get out." Doc noted that Pineapple was truly, deeply distraught. He felt sorry for him, and the trauma he had gone through, but was also happy, because he knew Pineapple would be going home for good.

RTO Steve Stump recalls that out of everyone and everything on the boat, there were no weapons, no radios, no ammo, no boots, or any equipment recovered. All of them had pretty much stripped to just their pants, so they could swim to shore. It was difficult to get a headcount, because of the events of the previous 2 days. Their new platoon sergeant, SFC James Douglas from Memphis, PFC Reddix from Rodessa, Louisiana, and PFC Troy Sittin from Hugo, Oklahoma, along with BM3 Mark Siedentopf, all drowned in the boat. Harold Weber said the crew of T-132-1

believed that the ammo cans for the 20-mm cannons and Mark 19 grenade launcher probably hit

" I could see the boat flight deck was going to roll over on Torres, and I grabbed ahold of him, just as the flight deck hit his shoulder. We swam to the bank and waited to be picked up "

and injured Siedentopf or pinned him. Reddix was best buddies with one of the other men, Lattier. Troy Sittin had been wounded late in 1968. This was his first mission back with D Company, since recovering from his earlier wound. Stump bailed out of the port, aft area of the well deck, as it started to turn. When he made it to shore, he observed a sailor having trouble in the water. He swam out to get him and the two of them drifted to another tango, which pulled them in. Steve always thought it was peculiar that a Navy sailor was unable to swim.

Jack Rauscher recalls that there was a sailor on one of the other boats that was a diver and kept going down to help guys escape from under the deck of the boat. He wishes he knew his name. He believes the man did his best, should have been given a medal. Perhaps he was.

The 2011 winter edition of "River Currents" provides somewhat of a postscript to this event. Wally Barnick, EN4, who was a crewman on YD-220, "the unmistakable large floating crane tied to the ammi-piers at Dong Tam." Roy Haake, an E6 Electricians Mate was the YD-220. In the 2011 article, Wally said, "I will always remember the ATC that was brought into us by a salvage craft. The ATC had flipped over during an operation somewhere out in the boonies. This was one of the ATCs that had a helo-deck. It took divers and Roy's skills most of the day to get the rigging in place before we were able to right the vessel and ultimately lift it up and placed on an ammi-barge for salvage. I never got confirmation, but was told there were many casualties that day, when a jammed ramp allowed the boat to take on water, leading to the overturning." ★

Because They Cared

By Terry Sater

Every war is different, yet in many ways, the same. It has always been one side trying to kill the other side. Those in wars have always loved getting letters from home. Today's warriors miss out, in some ways. Although e-mails may come more often than handwritten letters, they don't have the distinctive handwriting of the loved one writing the message. An e-mail doesn't have the intoxicating scent of your wife's or girlfriend's perfume that you can savor in your shirt pocket for weeks on end.

I suspect "care packages" have been sent to war zones for much of history, but I imagine the items sent have changed over the years.

I asked the men of the MRFA what they received in their "care packages" from home. There were some interesting, funny, poignant, and thought-provoking answers. There was also some commonality. Many items were concentrated in just a few categories.

Ralph Bakle had a pen pal from Boston who used to send him packages. The goodies in this picture of a gun mount are from one of those packages.

Ray Piuma received his draft notice after being in the Navy for 2 years. Thomas Center got his too and promptly burned it.

Booze was a major category of care package treats, which is just a little surprising, because it is illegal to ship it in the mail. My girlfriend sent me a bottle of bourbon in a plastic Listerine bottle. Her father worked for the Post Office and wasn't too thrilled. The Listerine taste leached into the bourbon, but the crew of T-131-6 and I drank it anyway.

Don Johnson received two plastic baby bottles full of Seagram's 7 VO. Surprisingly, Clifford Jessup also received booze in baby bottles. His contained rum, and they were packed in a cigar box.

Dennis Parkis received a great combination of a box of Slim Jims, with a bottle of Canadian Club.

Ron Charles got a 5th of whisky. Poor Delano Poppelreiter was tortured by opening his care package to find a BROKEN bottle of whiskey.

Like something you would see in an old prison break movie, Ralph Bigelow scored a bottle of scotch, hidden in a loaf of French bread.

Tim Miller received a birthday cake and got his wish because it came with a bottle of booze. The cake was moldy, but the booze was great!

Butch Jarvinen got his vitamin C and a good buzz when he collected a box of oranges filled with vodka. The perfect "screwdriver" for a front-line warrior!

Randy Peat got a cake filled with bourbon from his mom. What a great mom!

One of Frank Springer's care package goodies was intercepted by the Post Office. He received red pistachios from his sister, but a bottle of booze, hidden in a loaf of bread, was confiscated by the Post Office. Nuts!

Floyd McGovern got a nice bottle of Rhine wine, and then laid his head down on the foam pillow it was shipped in.

Jay Martin celebrated his 21st birthday with a bottle of champagne, wrapped in two loaves of bread.

John Gerard Organ, Jr. had the hair-raising experience of getting a shampoo bottle filled with

bourbon. The person who sent it failed to rinse out the bottle, thoroughly. John said "It tasted awful, but we drank it, anyway!"

Ed Hino received a package that contained tortillas blackened with a fungus, but also a bottle of margarita, which they drank on New Year's Eve.

Wes Fur simply said he received "liquor."

Food, particularly cakes, was popular care package gifts. Bill Fountain received a birthday cake in May of 1967 for his February birthday. I'm guessing the cake didn't age as well as Bill did.

W. Scott Sexton received a birthday cake from his grandma, in December. His birthday was in May. The white cake was green with mold, but he "never told Granny."

Bob Van Druff lucked out on his birthday. His care package contained cookies, a new pair of boots, and a three-layer chocolate cake. "It was in perfect condition."

For his birthday, Loren Salzman got a birthday cake and four cans of Coors.

Allan Stiltner and Greg Whitt got "a chocolate cake that was like in the mail for over a month. It was like dust." They ate it, anyway.

Jim Montague was blessed with getting "a birthday cake that had a cellophane top, and I got it without a single smudge of frosting on the sides of the box." Miracles do happen!

Robert Nichols lucked out with "a German chocolate cake with a coconut glaze frosting. Arrived in perfect condition." His bud-

dies also liked it.

Howard Chernikoff received a crushed and stale chocolate cake. Howard managed to get a piece of it.

Marvin Austin, Sr. got some big donuts that had an orange glaze, sent by a neighbor, Mrs. Willie Mae Mealy. He doesn't know how she did it, but they still tasted fresh!

Ronald Mayeaux's family sent him pecan pies and bread.

Mark Vandling was sent a large bar of maple sugar. John Miller received packs of grape kool-aid. Ken Wilkinson received grape and orange kool-aid.

All kinds of sweets were popular care package gifts. Ken House got a 2-pound coffee can filled with cookies and hard candy. Warren Domenick's Granny sent him her homemade peanut butter cookies and Louisiana hot sauce. The cookies required hot coffee for soaking at least 5 minutes before consuming.

Patrick Brannon also received a bottle of Louisiana hot sauce, which he said made "C rats taste very good." Products of Louisiana were not



confined to hot sauce. Lightnin Patin got a package of Cajun coffee and pecan pralines.

Ron Albee's mom sent him a case of freezer pops. He stored them in a small fridge in his compartment on an LST.

Skip Blackstone got homemade chocolate chip cookies. Harry Hahn's oldest sister sent cookies, candy, and many other things. All of it was prepared with love by her little kids. Bill Doolittle also received cookies. Gene Ellen Vella Dittamo got a melted bag of M&Ms that tasted like chocolate milk. Marvin Raffler's mom sent him sour apple candies that all melted together, but they were still good!

Ronnie Fontenot's mom sent him oatmeal cookies and a jar of Tang orange drink. The lid came off the Tang, in shipment, making the cookies taste like orange. Ronnie said they didn't taste real good, but they ate them, anyway!

Ronald Baker's wife sent him a jar of Tang and a jar of pickled pig's feet. Both jars broke and had to be thrown away. He was really looking forward to the pig's feet!

James Yenne was happy to receive licorice from the Switzer Candy Company, in St. Louis.

Even seafood was sent to us! Charles Mehitretter received a can of steamer clams. Patrick Bonham enjoyed a can of whale meat. Douglas Spangler enjoyed cherry-smoked salmon that his father caught and canned. Dick Sowa scored with getting shrimp cocktail sauce and canned shrimp. He and his crew scrounged up some ice and enjoyed the shrimp cocktail for quite a few days.

Danny Anderson enjoyed good old cheese from home in Wisconsin. Mike Gay received a 3-pound block of sharp cheddar cheese, covered in red wax. Vincent Jimmy DelliPaoli's girlfriend sent him salami and provolone cheese. Dan Schrauth got a 2-pound stick of summer sausage. The peeling was green with mold, but the sausage was delicious. Dan Peckham enjoyed deer jerky from home. Ronald Mayeaux had the privilege of eating deer jerky made by the grandfather of one of the men in his platoon, who was from Arizona. Frank Jones got doggie donuts that he and his crew ended up eating, themselves. He also got Polish sausage, made in Cicero, Illinois. Robert Stumpf got canned ravioli. Hervey Lee Myers got a can of chicken and dumplings.

George Tafoya's mother sent him a pound or more of pinions. "Most people know them as pine nuts. I grew up in south central Colorado and the pinon trees grew there in the foothills. The trees

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

BECAUSE THEY CARED

Continued from previous page

only go to seed about every 4 to 7 years. As kids, we would go out and pick them with our parents and grandparents. I was craving them and I told one of my sisters in one of my letters, so a few weeks later, I got them in a care package."

Several guys mentioned getting "Playboy" magazines. I received one myself from my girlfriend, Judi. Before she sent it, she and my sister, Judy, went through it and put swim suits on every single picture (even cartoons), with a Magic Marker. All the guys on our boat were mad at ME!

Gene Richardson said he received a *Playboy* from his mother. "My wonderful Methodist mother. What a shock. It was so out of character on her part, but very welcome by my whole platoon."

Gary Grahn got a BOX of *Playboys* from an old high school buddy.

Jerry Hammel's grandpa had drug stores. Jerry scored a package of condoms and *Playboys*.

Billy Two Feathers snagged one of the more "unusual" care packages. His brother's "hippie girlfriend" sent him some "special ingredient" brownies, for his 19th birthday. "Even the first shirt liked them. He had two!" The "special ingredient" was easily available in Vietnam, but you know what they say about how "the grass is always greener," or something.....

Some of the packages were a little more "edgy." Daniel Seidenberg received a Marine combat knife. Craig R. Smolinski got a Case pocket knife from his sister, which he still has.

Ken House was gifted a Colt 25 auto for his back pocket. Col. Monte G. Euler got a .38 caliber pistol.

Several guys received Jiffy Pop, popcorn, including Carl J. Kramer, Jerry Smith, Walter Lee, and Mike Boylen, of B Company, 3/47. They all heated it up using C-4, with mixed results. Jerry Smith said they heated it with C-4 in a C ration can, but "It burned so hot, it just melted all the popcorn kernels." The other guys apparently had better luck.

Harless W. White received "a green wool sweater." John Patrick Descoteaux got an olive drab Air Force uniform, to replace his polyester greens. Frank Jones received many pairs of tire tread sandals and wide leather watch bands.

Cliff Mulder received the heartwarming gift of a small heater for the monsoon season.

Joe Rosner received mosquito repellent, which was ALWAYS in need in the Mekong Delta!

Dale C. Simpson's family sent him a yellow, orange and green stuffed duck. One morning,

Dale's hootch took a 122 shell, leaving the hootch in shambles, but his duck survived, unscathed.

A third grade class in Seattle sent Ken Bago thirty letters.

There were touching, sweet stories of care packages. Pat Hartley's wife sent him the ignition key for a new car she bought. She didn't let anyone else use the ash tray until Pat got home, almost a year later. John Turner's girlfriend, who is now his wife of 49 years, wrote to him several times a week and sent him care packages three to four times a month. She usually sent banana nut bread and dozens of cookies. His buddies always circled around him at "mail call."

Steve Hopper received fudge that his mother made for the family, for as long as he could remember. He and two of his brothers served in Vietnam, and she sent her fudge to all three of them. She renamed her recipe, "Overseas Fudge." His family still calls it that, today. She would pack it in popcorn and it was still creamy and good when it arrived. They still make her fudge every year, at Christmas.

Mike McCann's mom sent him crayons and coloring books to give to the Vietnamese children.

William Marlow got a package of toy cowboys and Indians to give away to the local kids, when they were on outpost duty, like guarding bridges or MedCaps. As he recalls, few of them made it to kids, because Tiger Scouts found them in his gear while they were on their way to the outpost and quickly had them out of the bags. The Tiger Scouts played with them on the deck of the Tango boat.

Bruce Peters got his wedding ring sent to him, buried in fudge. It wasn't accompanied with a "Dear John" letter; quite the contrary. Bruce had been told that the guys shouldn't wear rings, watches, or other jewelry in the field, so Bruce left all of that at home. When he arrived in Vietnam and saw guys walking around "looking like Mr. T." He wrote to her and told her to send it to him. "She 'hid' it in a coffee can full of fudge. What a mess when it arrived! She did ensure the coffee can's contents for \$100.00, what she had paid for the ring. We were within a day of putting in an insurance claim when it arrived, all beat up but after eating all the fudge, using my three middle fingers to scoop it out, there was the ring still wearing it 50 years later."

Huston Johnson got a package from someone that was simply meant for someone serving in Vietnam. He sent a letter back to let them know he received their package. From then on, and for

every week, he got a box of cookies, a cake, or cupcakes.

Louis Dominguez's mother would record "Laugh-In," every week and send him the tape reel. Out in the mud, most of the time meant that it would sometimes be a while before he could find a portable tape machine to play it back.

Jack Miller's sister sent him nylons to give to the nurses for special treatment when he was in the hospital. Jack says that it worked. "They loved them."

Ken Hogan told us, "My mother sent me an American flag that our Congressman had flown over the Nation's capital and the Illinois State House. It flew on two boats, in-country, and now on my houseboat, 50 years later. A gift from home, then and now, is a symbol of all of our Brother's sacrifices."

The underlying message of all of these care packages is that despite the fact that some, back in the states thought badly of those of us who served in Vietnam, we had loved ones, friends, and family that not only loved us, but showed it in their letters and packages. We need to re-



member them and forget the haters. If you have stories about the care packages you received, we would like to hear them! Please send to terry.s8er@yahoo.com! ★



The Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam Page. After you send a request to join the group, Bob Pries will approve your request to join the group.



Reflections artist has died

The Vietnam Veterans of America magazine has reported that Retired US Air Force Master Sgt. James Tiley Williams died, December 19, 2018, in Corriganville, Maryland, at age 84. Williams may have been one of the country's most recognized Vietnam War veterans. Sometimes known as "The Man at The Wall," he posed for the artist Lee Teter as a businessman visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. As "The VVA" veteran magazine reported it, "The result was the iconic

painting, *Reflections*, in which Williams is pictured deep in thought, his head bowed, and with one hand on The Wall."

As a former businessman who has visited The Wall three times, this painting meant a great deal to me. I have print #2997 hanging in my "Man Cave."

The magazine reports that Teter licensed the rights to "Reflections" to Chapter 172 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. ★

MRFA Mekong Mirth—Things That Gave Us a Laugh In Vietnam!

"About 1 week in-country, I was at Bear Cat in a bunker on base camp security. My Starlight scope told me I had movement out front. I called back and reported it. The sirens went off and the flares went up. Guess what? I had monkeys running around in the area cleared back to the jungle. I was a bit of the laughing stock for a few days..." Delano Poppelreiter

"On a night insert with two choppers and eight men, we landed in a clearing hoping to have contact...the only contact was something to our left that myself and one of my men emptied our M-16s into...the thing was a water buffalo... the next day we flew back to the area and paid the farmer for destroying his John Deere." Denny Frank

Edward Harshman tells the story of seeing a USO show on the *Colleton* (APB-36). Suddenly, a soldier stepped in front of him, blocking his view. Ed addressed the situation with the salty language of a sailor, telling the soldier to get out of his way. The soldier slowly turned towards

Ed, showing his Captain pins on his collars. The officer didn't say a word, but kept silent and walked away. To this day, Ed feels bad about it. He thought for sure that he was in a world of trouble for being rude to an officer.

One of the worst jobs anyone had in Vietnam was the work detail requiring the grunt or sailor to pull the half barrels of waste from under the latrines and burn them with fuel. Tom Zigoris remembers that day an "FNG" was ordered to do that job with the officer's latrine. The new guy explained that nobody told him he was supposed to pull the half barrel out of the latrine before he set it on fire. The officer's latrine went up in flames in minutes. As Tom says, "That was an auspicious start on a year tour."

"We had a Petty Officer with a shaved head. He got drunk and passed out in his bunk. His head was shining in the night light. I cut a slit in cardboard and sprayed through the slots with red, white, and blue spray paint and had his head in stripes. He sure was mad. I got caught and had work details chipping and painting on YRBM 17, LOL." Ronnie Fontenot

Calvin Bailey (A 4/39, 1967-68) tells this story. "We hacked through heavy jungle all morning. Finally came out onto a road. There the point team found a stalled Lambretta (scooter)." Two Vietnamese immediately abandoned it and disappeared into the jungle on the other side of the road. "The point team started checking out that scooter and found over \$118,000 in Vietnamese money (a Vietcong payroll). One of them said, 'War is Hell, boys' and started stuffing his rucksack. By the time the Lieutenant got wind of it, about five guys had stuffed all their pockets and rucksacks with money." The Lieutenant ordered the men to return all of it, so that intelligence could determine what Viet Cong units were operating in the area. Calvin had suspicions to this very day about what REALLY happened to that money.

"Our first day in-country was about 90 degrees. We weren't used to it yet. I had heat

sickness and threw-up. Later that night we froze trying to sleep. All of us bundled up in our poncho liner. Weird we thought. So hot during the transition from our ship to Bear Cat and then somehow froze our butts at night. I brought that poncho home and my little girl used it as her suckie blanket for many years. I still have it." Floyd Mcgovern

"It was either the 4th of July or New Year's Eve. After a full day of operation, we pulled into a fire support base for the night. I was on ASPB 112-6 and Caruso and I were sitting on top of the boat talking about things we had done as kids. As we were talking, all of the cannons went off and scared the hell out of us. Some of them had fired some form of fireworks. I know that they had a good laugh, knowing that they scared us." Joseph Mattie

"Two Alpha-boats were patrolling across from Dong Tam (free-fire zone) in darkness when we ran aground on a sand bar. Try as we may, we could not back off it. Not wanting to show any light, and trying to keep as quiet as possible, we opted to walk a line over to our sister boat. Our .50 gunner volunteered. Off he went and was quickly invisible in the darkness; barely visible with a Starlight. After several minutes of steady progress (we were laying out the line behind him), there was a sudden 'shout,' a lot of splashing, and the line quickly being pulled from our hands. The splashing stopped when he reached the other boat; we were pulled off, and he was reunited with us. We all asked him what had happened out there. He responded, he thought he had been 'attacked' by a sea snake, and took off 'running.' It wasn't until he reached the other boat that he realized the 'snake' was the bitter end of the line he was hauling over!" Gary Grahm

★

From the Membership

My name is Terry Sater. I have the honor and daunting responsibility of assuming the duties of Editor of "River Currents" from Albert. I, like you, thank Albert and everyone who have made the MRFA what it is, today. I wish everyone who served with the MRF had taken the opportunity to join our association, attend reunions and read "River Currents." Being part of the MRFA has made our lives happier, healthier, and fuller. "River Currents" is a constant reminder that none of us are alone and that we are all part of Brotherhood, forged in war, many years ago, but will last forever.

I spent my career in the electrical industry and have dabbled in writing for years. I have written political editorials for newspapers, sales columns for a trade magazine, and a book "The Nightmare of the Mekong."

I hope in the months and years to come, we can bring more of your experiences and memories to the pages of *River Currents*. We want a balance of stories of interest from the Army and the Navy. One of my favorite quotes is from Lieutenant General Harold G. Moore, who said; "There is no such thing as closure for soldiers who have survived a war. They have an obligation, a sacred duty, to remember those who fell in battle beside them all their days and to bear witness to the insanity that is war."

I look forward to working with each of you, and leaning on all of you for help and guidance. I am intimidated at the prospect of trying to fill Albert's shoes, but I know I can count on him to keep me on course and continue his legacy.

If you have funny stories about things that happened during your time in Vietnam, please send them to terry.s8er@yahoo.com.

If you would like to contact me with ideas or stories for future editions of *River Currents*, you can reach me at terry.s8er@yahoo.com. I will also be at the Nashville reunion. You will likely be able to find me in the RivRon Hospitality room during much of the reunion!

In Brotherhood,
Terry Sater
Editor, River Currents
River Assault Squadron 13



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P006 RAD 112 P007 RAD 131 P008 RAD 132 P009 RivRon XV P010 RAD 152 P011 Riv Div 153 P012 USS Benewah APB-35 P013 3rd/60th Inf P014 MRF 3/60 P015 39th Inf

P016 47th Inf P017 River Raiders P018 River Rat P019 Brown Water Navy P020 White River P021 U.S. Army P022 U.S. Navy P023 Vietnam Svc Medal P024 Purple Heart

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Military Dogs during the Vietnam War

The Vietnam War saw a big increase in the use of dogs in direct combat roles. Jungle patrols were very limited in what the soldiers could see and hear, even more so at night. Their dogs were invaluable in extending the senses by the much superior canine ability in hearing, smell and sight.

During the Vietnam War, the US Army Infantry Center, Headquarters Detachment Scout Dog (at Ft. Benning, GA) supervised handlers and dogs for the scout dog training program with two attached platoons, the 26th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) and the 51st Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog). The 51st IPST was later split to equip and man the newly activated 58th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog). The 58th deployed to Vietnam in February 1968.

Scout dogs were trained for jungle combat in a 12-week course that started with obedience and then taught voice and body signals. They were trained to alert differently for the scent of a living person or an inanimate but unfamiliar object. There was specialized training for daytime or night scouting, detecting tunnels, mines, trip wires and booby traps, and guard duty.

Some dogs were specialists in one skill while others were cross-trained to perform in multiple tasks. Dogs were used for detecting enemy infiltrations into airfields and base camps, alerting on snipers and ambushes, sniffing out hidden enemy base camps, locating enemy underground tunnel complexes, and finding hidden caches of enemy weapons, food, and medical supplies.

As one example, in 1966-67 Police Field Force K-9 teams accompanied joint US and Vietnamese units conducting



Part of team composed of six Police Field Force members and a security element of men from the 199th light Infantry Brigade



Scout Dog 9th Infantry Division

cordon and search operations in Military Region IV. After the military unit had cordoned off the area, the police entered the hamlet, checking the identification cards of all inhabitants as well as making a complete search, assisted by dogs, of the area for tunnels, personnel, weapons, and supplies. A representative of the Combined Intelligence Staff accompanied the unit on these operations and provided photographs of Viet Cong as well as the blacklists for the district concerned. Offenders were arrested, and the remainders were released.

Vietnam K-9 units, the dogs and their handlers, were credited with saving thousands of lives in the war. There are countless stories of how the dogs prevented an ambush, discovered deadly mines or booby traps, or sounded the alarm against infiltrators. These dogs were so effective that the VC offered bounties for killing military working dogs and their handlers.

Three to four thousand scout and sentry dogs served in Vietnam, largely German Shepherds. Sadly, at the end of the conflict, in a decision that remains painful decades later, most of the in-country dogs were euthanized. Fewer than 250 dogs were returned to the United States or other locations. ★

Water Mine Warfare in South Vietnam

By Edward J. Marolda

The Vietnamese Communists used thousands of mines against US and allied naval forces throughout the conflict in Vietnam, much as they had against the French during the First Indochina War. Between 1959 and 1964, Viet Cong mines, often homemade devices, took an increasing toll of naval vessels and civilian craft on the many rivers and canals of South Vietnam. This threat ended commercial traffic on some of the country's primary waterways.

As US naval forces deployed to South Vietnam in the mid-1960s, moving into the watery environment of the Mekong Delta west and south of Saigon, they took steps to counter the enemy's mine threat. The danger was especially acute on the waterways near Saigon, South Vietnam's most important port. Viet Cong closure of the Long Tau River, which followed a meandering, 45-mile course through the Rung Sat swamp on its way to the capital, would have put an enormous strain on allied logistic resources in the southern regions of South Vietnam.

As a result, on 20 May 1966, the Navy established Mine Squadron 11, Detachment Alpha (Mine Division 112 after May 1968) at Nha Be. The minesweeping detachment operated 12 or 13 57-foot, fiberglass-hulled minesweeping boats (MSB). The MSBs fought with machine guns and grenade launchers and carried surface radars and minesweeping gear for clearing explosives from the rivers. The Navy also set up three-boat sections at Danang and Cam Ranh Bay. Detachment Alpha's strength increased in July 1967 when the first of six mechanized landing craft, minesweeping (LCM[M]) Cam Ranh Bay.

Despite the presence on the Long Tau of Mine Squadron 11 and other river warfare forces in the second half of 1966 and early 1967, the Communists mounted a serious effort to interdict the waterway. The Viet Cong used mines, 122-mm rockets, rocket-propelled grenades, recoilless rifles, machine guns, and small arms against American and Vietnamese naval forces and merchantmen. In August 1966, Viet Cong mines severely damaged *SS Baton Rouge Victory*, a Vietnamese Navy vessel, and *MSB 54*. Then that November, the enemy sank *MSB 54*. In February 1967, Communist direct-fire weapons and mines destroyed *MSB 45* and heavily damaged *MSB 49*.

By the spring of 1967, however, the tide began to turn. ★

TAPS



Chatman

Member HMC **Norman Wallace Chatman** (USN Ret.) passed away August 3, 2016. While in Vietnam with the Mobile Riverine Force (Task Force 117), he served aboard the USS Colleton APB-36 (10/67-11/68). You may contact his wife Sheelah Chapman at sc2097@yahoo.com.



Daniels

Member Chief **R. L. "Dan" Daniels** USN (Ret) passed away May 25, 2018. Dan served with NSA Da Nang and NSA Nha Be (02/69-09/70). Dan is survived by his wife Linda.



Woolums

Member **Timothy R. Woolums, Sr.** Senior Chief USN (Ret.) passed away March 12, 2019. Tim served aboard the USS White River LSMR 536 (10/65-10/69). You may contact the family c/o his daughter Michelle Eck trwoolums@gmail.com.



TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One



French

Member **Robert A. French** passed away March 26, 2019. Robert served in C Co 4th/47th (Riverine Infantry) 9th Infantry Division (05/66-05/68). Robert is survived by his wife Charlene K. French, Tampa, FL, rfrench13@tampabay.rr.com. May our Brother rest in peace.

Member **Jerry Shockley** passed away October 16, 2018. Jerry served in HHC 3rd/60th Infantry (12/67-12/68). Jerry is survived by his wife Barbara.

William "Bill" McMullen passed away February 12, 2019. Bill served with C Co. 6th/31st Inf. (04/68-04/690). At the time of his passing, Bill was residing in Wellington, Florida.



Stull

Member Col **Terry G. Stull** USA (Ret.) passed away April 6, 2019 following a battle with congestive heart failure. As a proud West Point graduate of the Class of 1966, he bravely served two tours in Vietnam. Col Stull served with A Co 3rd/47th 9th Infantry Division River Raiders (11/66-12/67). He enjoyed a successful career in the Army, retiring as a Colonel in 1993. Col Stull

is survived by his wife Arletta, Senatobia, Mississippi, stuli1966@yahoo.com.



Powell

Member **Frank L. Powell** passed away May 7, 2018. Frank served onboard the USS Nueces APB-40 (03/69-05/70). Frank is survived by his wife Patty Keith.



Hall

Daniel E. Hall Jr. passed away April 6, 2019. Daniel served with Charlie Co. 9th Inf. Division Vietnam (1968-69). Daniel is survived by his wife Kathy. *I'm very proud of my dad. He will be greatly missed, Lisa Hall.*



Kershner

Member BM1 **Paul Kershner** (USN Ret.) passed away April 27, 2019. Paul was Boat Captain of Tango 112-12 and Tango 152-10 (T-50) (01/69-02/70). Paul is survived by his wife Tazuko Kershner. You may contact the family c/o his son Paul Jr.,

484-512-0316.



Westling

Member Reverend **Lester Leon Westling Jr.** (Chaplain Captain USN Ret.) passed away May 2, 2019. Reverend Westling first served 14 months with the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment at Camp Carroll in I Corps near the DMZ. His second tour of duty was with the Naval Support Activity, Saigon in IV Corps (05/69-05/70). When his tour was about to end, he was ministering to 65 different units.



Kitchen

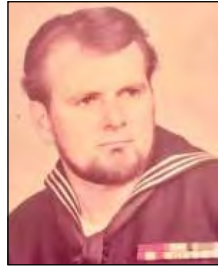
Member **Arthur "Artie" Kitchen** passed away March 15, 2019. He served as a Third Class Engineman (EN3) onboard the USS Satyr ARL-23 (05/70-03/71). Artie is survived by his wife of 48 years, Joan, and three sons.



Doolan

Member SMSGT **Charles "Chuck" Atwood Doolan** USAF (Ret)

passed away June 30, 2018. Charles served on the USS Blanco County LST-344 (09/66-09/67). Chuck is survived by his wife Janice.



Howe

Member **Gerald (Jerry) L. Howe** passed away August 14, 2014. Jerry served on the USS Nueces APB-40 (06/68-07/69). You may contact his daughter Wendy Wensits at wensits@icloud.com. *"Jerry was a founding Member of the MRFA. He was a good sailor and a good person who made himself available when it came to helping his fellow Veterans."* Albert Moore.



Johnson



Johnson

Member **Bruce L. Johnson** passed away August 31, 2018. Bruce served with C Co. 2nd Plat. 4th/47th Infantry (08/67-03/68). Bruce is survived by his wife Connie.

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.

A fellow veteran, Harold & Beverly Bailey, David Blossom, Kimberly Butler, Delmar & Diane Cable, Robert & Barbara Crowley, Dean & Karen Despelder, Dick & Lisa Dorato, Steve & Leah Futch, Godfrey Lee Education Association, Lois J Host, J. H. & S. L. Nauta, Mrs. Artel Scheid, Gabriel S Snyder, Karen & Mark Vander Vliet, John F. Williams, David & Lavonne Yoder, and Connie L Young in memory of David Donovan HHC 3rd/47th Inf (01/67-12/67) William Blausier for Thomas Gaudet, David Land, and Jose Campos our 151 Division brothers that were KIA's

Maj General Lucien Bolduc, Jr. USA (Ret) for Guy Tutwiler Bill Buffle in memory of Lyle Parin USS Floyd County LST-762 (Vietnam) 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 Laurence Welk (KIA May 1967) and Lydes Gardner (KIA Sept 1967) 4th/39th 9th Inf Div Janice Dahlke for son Cpl. Randy R. Mueller D Co. 2nd/47th KIA 03/03/69 Fran Divilbiss for Cdr. Dave Divilbiss, Supply Officer on Staff COMRIVFLOT ONE, USS Benewah APB-35 (1966-68)

Sgt Robert Flaige for SFC Fernando Quintero KIA 02/27/68 and SP4 Robert "Bob" Jenks E Co. 3rd/60th KIA 03/03/68

Bill Frede for BM1 Guy Dail and Johnny Maness T-112-2 From your Brothers B Co. 2nd 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in memory of Monte Marten B Co. 2nd/39th (04/68-04/69)

Nan Fulton for LTGen Bill Fulton Cdr 2nd Bde Asst Div Cdr 9th Inf Div (1966-68) Regina Gooden for Sgt Lloyd Earl Valentine B Co. 3rd/47th KIA 09/05/68

Gordon Hilliland 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 Doris May Johnson in memory of Franklin Johnson TF 117 1967 Purple Heart Vet

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

Richard MacCullagh for John (Doc) Phillips, HMC, USN (Ret) RivRon 15 Richard MacCullagh for Chaplain Rene L. Petit, LT, HMC, RC, RivRon 13 and 15

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)

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

Major 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 Garrett Reid KIA's 08/20/67

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Chet "Gunner" Stanley for all the USN and USA KIA's 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

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Okey Toothman in memory of Sgt Dick Arnold A Co. 3rd/47th, Max DelaC Okey Toothman in memory of Judy Wallace

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USS Guide MSO-447 for Shipmate and Brother Harold Foster Henry Velez for my fallen brothers, B Co. 2nd/39th Inf

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