



A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION



River Currents

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2
SUMMER 2020



Message From the Radio Shack

Harry Hahn

Hello from the Radio Shack: there is a lot going on in our association so I will get right to it.

First, and unfortunately, you may have heard that we had to cancel our San Diego (Coronado) West Coast Gathering of the Troops. The COVID-19 virus looks like it will not be going away soon. We will look at rescheduling this event when it may be possible. Your health and welfare are of the utmost priority. We are hoping for an effective vaccine this fall so we can continue to enjoy our senior years.

Your response to the MRFA sponsoring the production of a movie documenting the entire history of the Mobile Riverine Force in Vietnam has been incredible. I have been receiving phone calls and notes from members who are extremely excited about this undertaking. Importantly, the donations are starting to come in that will fund this production. Thanks to all that have and will contribute. There is a form for contributions in this newsletter. If you have not donated yet, please consider doing so now.

As we are nearing the one-year out point for our next reunion, we will be making more information available on reservations at the great location we selected. We have selected the Sheraton, Westport, which is just west of St. Louis for our reunion in September 2021. We will have complete information in our next issue of the River Currents so that you may begin to make your reservations. The dates to reserve are September 16, 17, and 18th of 2021. We selected these dates, after the Labor Day holiday, so that travel, rates and in general, accommodations will be much better. There are many restaurants and things to do. We are planning day trips to sites, including the Missouri Vietnam Veterans War Memorial wall! So, stay tuned as we put the final plans together!!!

Harry Hahn, President,
SparksRivRon13@aol.com

Coming Attraction!

Your Story! Our Story! Our Legacy! The Untold Story of
The Mobile Riverine Force and the 9th Infantry Division!

Produced by Arballo Entertainment!

Starring
YOU!

As announced in our Special Edition, we are extremely excited to launch a movie production of the historic Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division! Arballo Entertainment, the award winning company who produced "Scramble The Seawolves," (<https://www.pbs.org/video/scramble-the-seawolves-yacuzzi/>) is eager to tell our story. Jeff and Shannon Arballo have said;

"It is our vision and intention to also tell your story so that every American knows of the uniqueness of Task Force 117, your service, heroism, personal sacrifice and the overwhelming accomplishments of the Mobile Riverine Force during the Vietnam War."

To accomplish this mission, the MRFA and Arballo Entertainment need your help. We need you to share your film reels, photos, audio tapes, magazine articles, and anything else you care to contribute. Too often, Vietnam War movies and even documentaries haven't told the story of the Vietnam War, properly. This is OUR history! Our LEGACY! It is crucial that we grab this important moment to get it right. Our children, grandchildren, and great, great grandchildren will learn from this important production.

When sending pictures, please send them in a folder with your name on them. If you have an explanation of event, time and date please add that as well. Frame io Link- <https://f.io/Bq35kHmY>

If you have reels of film, please tape your name to any canister you send. Arballo will convert the film digitally, make you a copy of the disc so you have it forever, and they will send the original back to you.

If you have a memory stick/thumb drive, please put your name (first and last) on the stick with a marker or a tag through the keychain link.

Jeff and Shannon Arballo
Arballo Entertainment
760-809-4558
Jarballo24@msn.com
1296 Avenida Fragata,
San Marcos, Ca. 92069

Fund raising for our project is off to a terrific start! There are four levels of contribution, as noted on the form, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. Thus far, we have four Platinum Level donors; Alfred M. Cady, USS Benewah, APB-35, Dale "Doc" Jones, B&C Co. 4/47th Inf., Terry Sater, Riv Ron 13, and Robert A. Shinstrom, Co A 4th Battalion 39th Infantry.

Please contribute whatever you feel comfortable with, using the form on page 6. Anything you contribute is welcome.

We'll see you at the movies!

Survey Questions!

Survey Question #1): Have you been back to Vietnam for a tour?
If so, what impression did it have on you?

Survey Question #2): Did your Vietnam experience have any positive effects on your life? If yes, in what way?

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

Veterans Day 2020 Washington, D.C.



The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will be placing wreaths at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2020. We will be gathering at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at 8:30 A.M. on the 11th, and proceed to The Wall at 9:00 A.M.

We have blocked 40 rooms at the Arlington Court Suites, a Clarion Collection Hotel, in Arlington, Virginia for November 8th - 11th (check out on 11/12). Room rates are \$130.00 (plus tax) per night.

For reservations, call 1-703-524-4000 ext. "0". Please state our group name as "MRFA" and give your dates of arrival and departure. If you plan to attend, you must make your reservations under our group code prior to the cutoff date of October 11, 2020.

The Arlington Court Suites, a Clarion Collection Hotel, is located at 1200 N Courthouse Rd, Arlington, Virginia 22201. More information is available at <http://www.arlingtoncourthotel.com/>

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will have a hospitality room available on November 8th - 11th. Come join us as we honor our fallen Brothers on Veterans Day 2020.

We look forward to seeing you in D.C.

For more information, you may contact:

Bob (Doc) Pries, Vice President

Phone: (513) 659-4974

Email: pries247@gmail.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.**

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

Message from Commodore Wade C. Wells River Assault Force Cruise Book, 1967

"In WWII, I saw American fighting men of great valor and courage. I saw the same kind of men in Korea. Before coming to Vietnam, I wondered if American men today would measure up to those I knew in our previous wars. In a word, you have. You are a new breed of U.S. fighting men, the combat sailor, who fights with guts and conviction in close combat against brutal life-snuffing weapons. I have seen few in my Naval career who have pursued and persevered the way you have. Your service is a monument to the freedom for which we fight.

It is about you and for you that this book is put together. Cherish what memory it brings, for your actions have just written a most exciting chapter in modern military history. God speed to each and every one of you."

W.C. Wells



Contact Changes

Please send Frank Jones any changes in address, phone number or e-mail addresses so that he can keep our database updated.

His address is: 9 San Marino Parkway, Fenton, MO 63026

Frank's e-mail address is mrfatango48@gmail.com

After Action Report

Nashville Reunion - 9th Infantry, 1st Platoon, 3/47, Company D

Kathy & Cratis McLaughlin. The best thing I liked about our 2019 reunion was being able to see all my Vietnam brothers again and catching up on their lives. This included Darryl Tanaka. This was his first reunion and I was able to give him a CD from our previous reunions from 2009 to the present. He was very grateful to receive it. Also being able to honor our fallen brother, James Armstrong. It was a long time coming and it was a great memorial. The family was so pleased with it and the turnout of all the guys. Our Lt. Tom Williford, also got the entire group tickets to the Grand Ole Opry. We saw a great performance and our group was acknowledged by the MC.

Charlie Endorf. The thing I most enjoyed about the reunion in Nashville last summer was just the reuniting with guys who seemed like brothers we have known for years. The one difference was the color of their hair, or lack of, and most have a bigger waistline. Other than that. Still the same people from 50 years ago. We laughed and cried fifty years ago. Now, we just laugh and try to remember all the details. Just a great time and being able to attend the Grand Ole Opry with these guys, was priceless. A joy that only a few get to experience in a lifetime. To be a Veteran is a proud thing.

Sgt. Kenneth Johanson. It was my first time at the Mobile Riverine Force Reunion. I found it so wonderful to meet my fellow service men and women, Most of all to see my great men that went through our service in Vietnam. The 2 I most enjoyed seeing after 50 years was Roger Grossinger and families, plus my medic Doc Graham. Was in awe of how great they all looked and found out what happened to them after we were wounded or not. And to hear about others that didn't come home like we did. I was truly shocked to hear about wounds Doc Graham had received other than a broken leg he had the last time I saw him. We also had a great time with all the Army guys with the dinner we all went to. And then to go to the Grand Ole Opry and was acknowledged for our Vietnam service. It will truly be a high light of my life. God bless all our wonderful service men and women in today's services. May we all be blessed for helping our servicemen in the future.

My name is **Darryl (Doc) Tanaka**, and I had the very great honor and privilege of being the platoon medic for 1st platoon, D Co., 3/47th, from late September, 1968 to March 5 1969. I and a number of my bros were wounded on that date and were dusted off. Fifty years later, in early August, 2019, I received a call asking me if I was the Darryl Tanaka who served with the 9th Div., in 1968-1959, and informed me about the 50th year reunion in Nashville Tn.

Initially I had some mixed emotions about attending after fifty years had gone by, since last seeing them, but within a day after receiving that first call, I received several calls from my old comrades encouraging me to come join them. Their voices were not familiar, but their names were all very familiar. As we spoke I envisioned each of them as they looked in 1969. I decided to go and I can, unequivocally state, I had the ABSOLUTE BEST three day weekend EVER! It was so great seeing these fellas again, sharing stories, remembrances, and events with other fellow platoon members. Some stories brought tears of sadness and others brought almost uncontrolled laughter. I heard stories about how the reunions were like the best possible therapy because you were with the men who all shared the same experiences, men who understand you. By the end of the first day, I fully agree with the reunions being a very beneficial type of therapy. There was a period of time after I was wounded, and long after my service had ended that I harbored some feelings that I should have, or could have done more, done better in caring for the men of 1st platoon. At the reunion, it was so very, very heartwarming and humbling to be told by these fine men that I did indeed do a good job and that they always knew they could count on me to be there if needed. I told them that the two things I've been most proud of in my life is my wife of 38 years and being the medic for 1st platoon, D Co. 3/47th, 9th Inf. Div. I am so very glad I went.

My name is **Sgt. Paul Baird**, 3rd of the 47th, 9th Infantry Division, D Company, 1968-1969. I am writing this to encourage all who are part of the MRF or the 9th Infantry to join us for our 2021 reunion. These reunions are very special events, and I guarantee that you will have a great time. It is such an amazing time to be able to sit down and visit with all of my brothers and just catch up on where we are now in our lives, and where we were, and remembering our brothers who did not return from the Vietnam War. I still stay in contact with nearly eighteen of my platoon brothers, regularly, but at the last reunion in 2019 I had the honor of seeing two brothers I have not seen in over fifty years. That's why I encourage you to come to the 2021 reunion. There is so much love between our brothers. We had each other's backs in time of war, and death and destruction, even when our country forgot us. We did what we had to do, and we still have each other's backs today.

There was so much entertainment to do, that three days is not nearly enough time. There is always great food to eat, while we are there as a group where you can fill your stomach, and



Row 1 Tommy (Doc) Graham, Johnny Hayes, Bill Welsch, Paul Baird, Cratis McLaughlin, Thomas Williford, Walter Sadowski, Row 2 Steve Gooding, David Oxford, Sam Oxentine, James Longhitano, Roger Grossinger, John Uhrich, Charlie Endorf, Robert Merck, Row 3 Darryl (Doc) Tanaka, Anthony Gonzales. Not pictured Joe Shulda, Ken Johanson

fill your heart with memories of where we came from, and where we are now. I encourage all to come in 2021 bring your wives also, if they can. On my last reunion, my wife who is fighting stage four cancer, was able to come and had a good time with the other wives, too. I look forward to meeting even more brothers at the 2021 reunion, it will be an event you will not regret nor forget.

Bobby Merck, Shelby N. C. This reunion was really special for several reasons. The guys in our platoon got to see our medic Darryl Tanaka for the first time since March 5, 1969. Doc Tanaka got wounded at the same time I did. He got wounded much worse than I did. His wounds were bad enough that he got sent to Japan for top medical treatment. None of us had seen him since that day. We were all really glad to see him. Seeing him made the reunion a whole lot better. I was also glad to see our point man, Johnny Hayes, he was probably the best point man that any platoon could ever have. He is from the backwoods of Kentucky. Johnny saved all of our lives more than once. Johnny missed our last reunion in 2017, because of health reasons. We were all really glad to see him and know that he could get up and around.

The most special thing about this reunion, the one thing that meant the most to all of us was a memorial service for one of our brothers who was KIA on March 25, 1969, James Armstrong, from Old Hickory, Tennessee, which is very close to Nashville. James was a very special man. He was everybody's friend and we all still miss him very much. We got to see his grave site and meet his brother and other family members. We had a memorial service for him which was very emotional time for all of us. James will always be in our hearts. To this day, I call it an honor to have served with him. Nashville had a lot of things to see and a lot of things to do, which also made this reunion a good one. Every reunion we have is always special. Just seeing my brothers makes me stay on a cloud for a long time after the

Nashville Reunion *continued*

reunion is over. Our platoon is a special bunch of guys over fifty years have passed. We are still very close, and always will be. I couldn't have served with a better bunch of men. I can't wait until the next reunion to see all of my brothers again. As always, it will be special.

Anthony Gonzales. I never thought I would have the chance to say good bye to my buddy James Armstrong. Our 2019 Riverine reunion in Nashville gave me that opportunity.

Armstrong and I were stationed at Tiger's Lair (68-69) and like all the guys in our platoon we played cards (he always won), listened to music (he liked country), got drunk and high, had each other's backs, faced our fears and counted the days until we could go home. On March 23, 1969, I was out front, walking point element with Armstrong and a tiger scout. It was like any other day in the Delta, walking through rice paddies, and hootches in the distances. As we proceeded along a dike and stepped into the thick wood line, a barrier that immediately grips you, a feeling I still experience today. I was the third man out in the element and carrying the radio with Armstrong in front of me, and the scout ahead of us. As we walked ever cautiously through the brush and narrow dirt trail suddenly I heard a loud explosion. I came to on my back looking up at the sky. Tree branches and gravel were falling on my face as I came to realize what happened.

I stood up, my ears ringing endlessly and my leg hot with shrapnel. I looked around and saw Armstrong's torn body in front of me, his arms flinching-barely moving. The medic came and fixed me up with morphine and called the chopper to Medivac us out to base camp. The scout who stepped on the trip was blown apart, no sense picking him up. It was under these circumstances that I last saw Armstrong and said my farewell.

Fast forward...August 31, 2019...like the "Phoenix" from ancient Greek mythology, many of my fox hole buddies, 11B 20 grunts of Company D, 1st Platoon 3/47th, led by our fearless Lieutenant Williford are still alive. Those not alive, live forever in my heart. My heart was so heavy for so long until Roger's letter arrived at my home and I saw the living link to my experience in Vietnam. I now know I'm not alone. We lost many good men so that we can all go on and earn our lives. Armstrong has always been with us, and in Nashville we finally got to say a proper good bye.

I found a place in my heart for all my platoon whom I once thought I'd never see again. Thanks to Roger and the Lieutenant for holding us together and keeping us strong. We are all survivors. "Aho" To All My Relations.

Walter Sadowski. The 2019 MRF Reunion in Nashville did not disappoint. Gathering with my brothers from 1st platoon is always special, and this year even more so for several reasons. For the first time our platoon reunited with our medic Darryl Tanaka who we had not seen for 50 years. Last time we had been with Darryl, he had been

wounded and sent home. It was wonderful to see Darryl, and to share memories and life's updates.

Our platoon also participated in something especially emotional. As a group we held a special graveside ceremony in Nashville with the family of one of our fallen comrades, James Armstrong. Lt. Tom Williford planned, organized, and arranged for a formal ceremony with all the platoon attendees. We were able to share memories invoking both laughter and tears. It was very touching for us to share with his family members how much Jim Armstrong meant to all of us.

Caren Staples. I was invited to attend my first Mobile Riverine Force Association & 9th Infantry Reunion in 2019 by my boyfriend who served in Vietnam. Initially I was a little nervous but, as people started to arrive for the reunion and I was getting introduced everyone made me feel welcome, like I had been part of the group for years. There is an amazing bond that you could just feel with all those who were there and served together. These guys would do anything for each other-when you are young, sent thousands of miles to a different country and then thrown into combat action guess it shouldn't be a surprise when your life depends on the people around you that you'd share a brotherhood with them- this was their other family. For some veterans attending, this was their first reunion with the guys that they hadn't seen in over fifty years. You would have thought time had stopped as they welcomed and embraced each other. It warmed my heart to see them catching up, but mostly the healing that you could feel was taking place. Everyone there was touched by some type of loss during Vietnam and coming together for the reunion seemed to help heal some of those losses.

For me the most memorable part of the reunion was the tribute that was paid to one of their fallen brother that was buried in Nashville. As each one got up to give their final salute you could see the respect and gratitude they felt serving with him. After a touching and teary ceremony, a photo book was given to the family-some of these photos they had never seen-what a precious gift for the family.

During the reunion I listened to the stories that were being shared and got some understanding what being in combat was like for them. Felt very honored to be invited and have so much respect and love for not only those that I met, but for all the men and women that served Thank you for making me feel so welcomed--I'm looking forward to returning to future reunions with my newfound friends.

John and Connie Uhrich. We enjoyed the reunion for Vietnam Vets held in Nashville, Tennessee in Aug-Sept 2019. Even though we used the alternative hotel. Accommodations were good and main hotel was easy to get to. The turnout was good and it was great to see fellow veterans. This all included good food, drink and comradery. High lights included a memorial for James Armstrong and the Grand Ole Opry. Thanks to all

Bill Welsch. Nashville is a great town and was a wonderful place to get together with my

buddies. There was lots to see and do and we had some wonderful meals. I especially liked the spicy chicken, a local favorite. What I really enjoyed the most was spending time with my platoon mates. We talked for hours, looked at photos, and laughed. It's always a good time for me and my soul. I'm grateful to have found this place and these people again. I'd also like to thank the host and all the people who work so hard to make this happen. It is appreciated.

Sam Oxentine. I have always enjoyed every reunion but the one in Nashville was extra special. Since we recognized a fallen brother, and got to meet his family, also. Enjoyed the time we got to spend with each other talking about old times, good times and looking forward to the next time.

Roger (Grossie) Grossinger. What I enjoyed about the reunion in Nashville, was being able to see three of our platoon members we had not seen in fifty, or fifty-one years; Tommy (Doc) Graham, Darryl (Doc) Tanaka, and Ken Johanson. As a platoon we were able to do a memorial service for one of our brothers we lost in March, of 1969; James Armstrong from Old Hickory Tennessee. Many thanks to our platoon leader, Tom Williford for setting up this service. Lt. Williford also got in touch with Armstrong's family to attend the memorials service. I felt that this meant an awful lot to his family, and showed them how well liked James was, to all of us. Tom Williford also set up and arraigned for our platoon with wives and girlfriends to see the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday night, and made it possible for us to be recognized for our service to our country.

Jim Longhitano. The things I enjoyed the most about our 2019 reunion in Nashville was reminiscing with old war buddies about our time in Vietnam. The stories and laughs brought back memories and laughs from over fifty years ago. The food was second, from the late night dinner at Bolton's, recommended by Tony Gonzales and his wonderful wife to that great lunch we had just outside the Grand Ole Opry. Finally that terrific tour we enjoyed visiting the Grand Ole Opry which honors the history of Country Music. Oh did I mention the 24 hour bars on Broadway. Great time! Thanks!

David R. Oxford. The best part of the Riverine reunion was being with my brothers from Vietnam. We had a new one that we hadn't seen in fifty years. The reunion was very well planned.

Thomas R. Williford, Platoon Leader, 1st Platoon, Company D, 3/47th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, (Mobile Riverine Force)

Greetings to all:

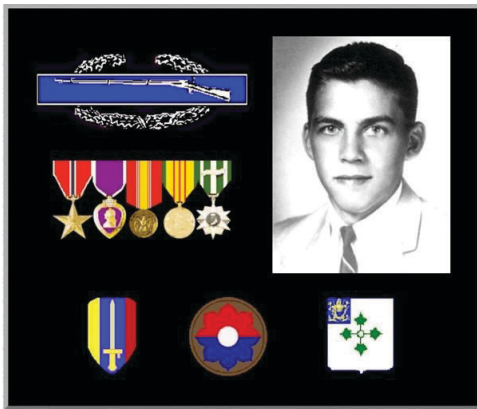
There are several things that were truly remarkable in our last Mobile Riverine Force reunion, last fall in Nashville, Tennessee.

I'm always intrigued by the mobile museum van with the tribute to the fallen and displayed to the Company level. also the military operations map inside gives many of us "old guys" a reference point to recall events and locations that

Nashville Reunion *continued*

happened so long ago, and helps to understand more the sense of it all more in respect of the “bigger picture” and what we were doing there and what we accomplished. Likewise, the models of the “Tangos” bring back so many memories from a “grunts” perspective that are truly unique to only us.

The 2019 reunion however, was particularly special in that many members of 1st Platoon were able to personally and physically pay tribute to and honor a fallen brother. Fifty years ago Sgt. James H. Armstrong was taken as a result of a booby trap in Keim Hoa Province, Republic of South Vietnam. He was buried in Old Hickory, Mount Olivet Cemetery alongside his mother and dad. We were able to organize a truly moving grave site memorial event with the help and participation of his sole brother and nieces.



Sgt. James H. Armstrong

After fifty years, twenty-something members of 1st Platoon gathered at the site to honor Sgt. James Armstrong's service and sacrifice. For many, this was the first time they had seen their fellow platoon members, since Vietnam. First, we put together a remarkable album with a full page of him and his Medals/awards. Other pages showed the operational area that we worked in the Delta. Many other pages were dedicated to photos of him that other platoon members had taken and contributed from their personal collections. This album was dedicated and presented to Jim's brother Phillip, at the beginning of the event. After welcome, introductions and opening remarks, a very heartfelt and moving memorial service presentation was given by LTC. Mark Phillips, State Chaplain for the Tennessee Army National Guard and a veteran of the war with Iraq.

This was followed by individual platoon members giving personal testimonials about their Vietnam experiences with Sgt. Armstrong. Next, each member came forward individually and placed the traditional coin on Jim's marker and rendered the slow, sad, final salute. We then did the ringing of the bell for all twenty-two members of Company D, who were lost. Finally, the playing of taps concluded the event.

It was a momentous event I think, for all of us, and one that would have never been experienced

if the reunion had been held elsewhere.

From the memorial service, we regrouped at the hotel and reconvened at the Cock of the Walk Restaurant for great camaraderie and deep fried Tennessee catfish with corn bread, pickled onions and navy beans (do they have army beans?).

Then, on to the Grand Ole Opry, all seated together as a group, with our spouses/ significant others, to hear Martina McBride, Vince Gill and The Oakridge Boys. It was great country music, and we were all humbled by the special recognition by the Master of Ceremonies (WSM Radio Announcer) and a standing ovation from the crowd.

For me, the Nashville reunion was the best ever and I hope we see it here again in 2021.

Joe Shulda. The last reunion held in Nashville Tn. was really great. It was fantastic to see so many of our comrades in attendance from the 1st platoon of D Company, 3/47th 9th Infantry Division Mobile Riverine that served together in the Mekong Delta of RVN. The camaraderie was still alive and well.

Tommie (Doc) Graham. September 21, 1968, is a day that will be remembered by few as a dark day. We were all just doing our duty and it seemed like any other day for us. We couldn't have been more wrong. Around 3:00 a.m., our camp succumbed to an attack by enemy troops using mortars. Chaos ensued and a handful of our fellow soldiers paid the ultimate price that night. Fortunately for me, although I had taken in a good bit of shrapnel into my body, I was pulled out and taken to the medivac by Ken Johanson. For that, I will have more gratitude and respect for him than anyone can ever imagine.

Upon returning home, I had unfortunately lost all contact with my platoon and spent many years thinking of them and wondering if they made it out alive and how they had been, if they had. I was ecstatic to receive a message on behalf of Roger Grossinger about if I was the same Tommie Graham that he had served with. It was the first in fifty-one years that I had heard even the slightest peep from anyone I had once served with. I cannot even express the joy I felt from just that little exchange. To hear that a reunion was being planned for all of us just kind of the icing on the cake. I don't think that there was anything that could've prevented me from being there for that. I enjoyed the venue that was chosen and had some of the best times being able to reconnect with everyone as we toured the Opry House. No matter where we all may go, or what choices we all make, every single man that was in our platoon will always be connected.

I just want to say that I truly appreciate the opportunity to see and talk to all of you. I will be eternally thankful to all of you and hope to see you all again. Thank you so much for the pictures and the stories from those days. It makes me happy to be able to share these with my family. You guys have finally answered those questions that have plagued my mind for so long now so my appreciation runs deep. Can't wait to have another reunion.

The U.S. Navy Uniform

The following are commonly asked questions concerning the history behind Navy uniforms.

BELL BOTTOM TROUSERS –

commonly believed that the trouser were introduced in 1817 to permit men to roll them above the knee when washing down the decks, and to make it easier to remove them in a hurry when forced to abandon ship or when washed overboard. The trousers may be used as a life preserver by knotting the legs.

THIRTEEN BUTTONS ON TROUSERS

– there is no relationship between the 13 buttons on the trousers and the 13 original colonies. Before 1894, the trousers had only seven buttons and in the early 1800's they had 15 buttons. It wasn't until the broadfall front was enlarged that the 13 buttons were added to the uniform and only then to add symmetry of design.

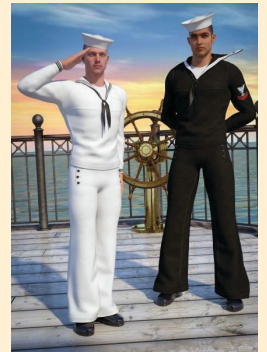
WHITE HAT – In 1852 a white cover was added to the soft visorless blue hat. In 1866 a white sennet straw hat was authorized as an additional item. During the 1880's the white “sailors hat” appeared as a low rolled brim high-domed item made of wedge shaped pieces of canvas to replace the straw hat. The canvas was eventually replaced by cotton as a cheaper more comfortable material. Many complaints on the quality and construction led to modifications ending in the currently used white hat.

JUMPER FLAPS – the collar originated as a protective cover for the jacket to protect it from the grease or powder normally worn by seamen to hold hair in place.

MEN'S NECKERCHIEF – the black neckerchief or bandanna first appeared as early as the 16th century and was utilized as a sweat band and collar closure. Black was the predominant color as it was practical and did not readily show dirt. There is no truth to the myth that the black neckerchief was designed as a sign of mourning for Admiral Nelson's death.

NECKERCHIEF SQUARE KNOT – there is no historical significance to the knot other than it being a knot widely used by sailors which presents a uniform appearance.

DUNGAREES – in 1901 regulations authorized the first use of denim jumpers and trousers, and the 1913 regulations originally permitted the dungaree outfit to be used by both officers and enlisted with the hat of the day.





Mobile Riverine Force Association
www.mrfa.org



**My Contribution to the development of a Documentary Film
Mobile Riverine Force - Vietnam**

The following Donation Levels are available for your financial contribution to the development of a Documentary Movie on the Mobile Riverine Force – Vietnam.....please choose one!

- ☐ **Bronze Level** - \$25 "Thank You Letter" as well as Name in Credits on the DVD
- ☐ **Silver Level** - \$100 "Thank You Letter", Name in Credits on DVD, and a Copy of DVD
- ☐ **Gold Level** - \$250 "Thank You Letter", Name in Credits on DVD, Copy of DVD and a MRFA Challenge Coin
- ☐ **Platinum Level** - \$1000 plus "Thank You Letter", Name in Credits on DVD, Copy of DVD, a MRFA Challenge Coin and a Signed Movie Poster.

Please make your check payable to **MRFA**. Then mail this form and your check to:

Frank Jones
9 San Marino Parkway
Fenton, MO 63026-7513

Amount_____

Your donation is tax deductible as the MRFA is a 501 (c) corporation

Name:_____

Unit:_____

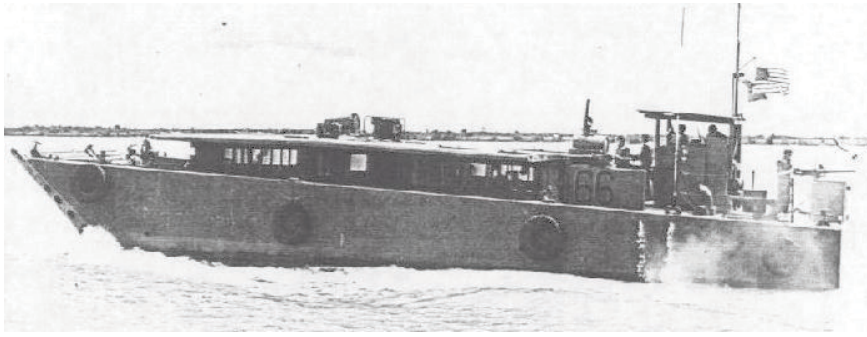
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Thank you for your participation!

The Officers and Board Members of the
Mobile Riverine Force Association

1097th MD Boat Company Vietnam Era



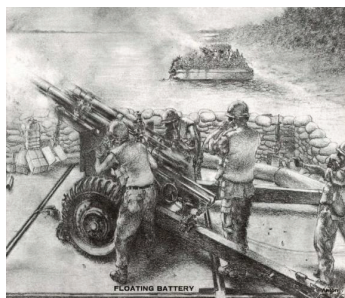
The 1097th earned the majority of its campaign streamers and awards during the Vietnam Campaign. During this period, the company supported the 45th Engineer Group at Vung Ro Bay in the effort to help build a deep water port there. That port was constructed and was the second largest in Vietnam. Under the Command of Captain Pagonis, the company had a strength of nineteen LCM-8s, one LCM-6 command and control vessel and up to 180 men. The LCMs used at this time were more than 25 years old, but Captain Pagonis assigned one LCM-8 as the Damage Control Vessel (DCV) to perform maintenance when required. The DCV and maintenance team at the time kept spirits high with its motto, "Never deadline a vessel." Apparently it worked as reportedly the unit kept a 90% operational status of its boats.

The Mission in July 1967 on the Mekong Delta was to support the 3rd Battalion, 34th Artillery, a part of the 9th Division's 2nd Brigade. The Artillery consisted of six 105-mm Howitzers mounted on floating barges. The 1097th mission was to maneuver these Howitzers into firing positions along the deltas. This allowed infantrymen of the 9th to have enough fire support to land at various areas conducting waterborne assaults in the deltas. The company remained flexible throughout its tour which is one staple of its outstanding success. This is witnessed in articles highlighting how the company was able to create waterborne landing platforms for Hueys, move six howitzer barges, and two mortar barges. Due to the need to develop a doctrine for this new and unique mission of supporting riverine operations, the 1097th spearheaded how LCMs would be used for the future of riverine operations. The 1097th during this tour became completely waterborne, as did the Artillery unit it supported, thanks to the ingenuity and creativity of the 1097th soldiers. By the end of the tour the 1097th modifications created living quarters, fire direction centers, command posts, landing pads for medevacs, ammo depots, and maintenance facilities all completely waterborne. What made the unit so successful in Vietnam also brought great credit to the unit. Captain Pagonis was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with "V" device, and the Legion of Merit for his actions as company commander. Other awards included four Bronze Stars for valor and 24 Army Commendation Medals with "V" device. During this era, over 100 heroism awards and six unit medals were presented to the company.

After Captain Pagonis left for the Advanced Course in early 1968, Captain Gary D. Wilde assumed responsibility for command. Under his command, the company grew in strength to twenty-seven LCM-8s and 181 men, but continued the Artillery support mission on the deltas with consistent success.

One notable incident that occurred in the Vietnam era was the tragic death of a young platoon leader that occurred on 26 September, 1967. Second Lieutenant William Yongue died from drowning. He was attempting to cut loose a piece of rope that was caught in the propeller to get one of the vessels underway for a mission. As he attempted to cut loose the rope, he hit the bridge of his nose on the bottom of the vessel and did not return to the surface. Lieutenant Yongue had been one of the 24 men that had received the Army Commendation Medal as noted before. Apparently Lieutenant Yongue was respected by his men and his community at home. His funeral service was filled to the point of standing room only from his friends and family from all over the state. He was promoted posthumously to First Lieutenant, and the company named the maintenance barge USAV Yongue.

The last company nickname, River Raiders, came from the original nickname given during the Vietnam Era of River Rats.



The Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam



Hey Brothers, check out our Facebook page, "The Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam" Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195572170458597/>

Our Facebook Group is dedicated to all Army and Navy men who served with pride and distinction in a place called the Mekong Delta. Be it on water or land, they all served their country. Whether they were on a Monitor or making a helo assault, setting an ambush on a lonely, quiet, dark night, walking through waist-deep water in a rice paddy, riding a tango boat up a narrow canal, or at anchor in the middle of a brown-water river for long hot hours. Places like Dong Tam, Tay Ninh, Snoopy's Nose, the Cross Roads, Ambush Alley, My Tho, Rach Kien, Plain of Reeds, Parrot's Beak, Tan An, Nha Be or Ben Tre and names like Colleton, Washtenaw, Windham, Benewah, Westchester, Satyr, Askari, PBR, and Swiftboat are names and places we'll never forget.

This group is to preserve a living memory of all those who served in the Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam.

Many friendships from days past have been renewed because of our group page. It is a great place to make connections with others who served with the Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division.

A few rules are in place to keep order in the group. They are:

1. Politics and religion are the fastest way to start an argument and cause hard feelings and absolutely have no place on this page.
2. We expect members to treat each other with respect.

We hope you enjoy the group.

In Brotherhood,
Doc Pries - MRFA Vice President and Group Admin



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C-Rations Survey

What was your favorite item in a case of C Rations?

What was your least favorite item in a case of C Rations?

--My name is **Clarence Shires** I served in Charlie Company, 4th/47th, 9th Inf. Div., from 1966 to 1968. When we arrived in Vietnam in January, 1967 we were issued C Rations dated early 1940's (WWII era). We were told we had to use them before we got the new type.

Some of the peanut butter was hard as a brick and was not homogenized (oil and peanuts not mixed). The pack of cigarettes were Camels, Lucky Strikes, Pall malls or Chesterfields (old and strong like I liked them). Later on we were issued the new 1967 C. Rations. They were a lot better.

What was my favorite item in a case? Answer; the P-38 (can opener)

What was my least favorite item in a case? Answer; Ham and Lima Beans (bad taste and some of them foamed when you opened them up)

What creative steps did I take to make them more appetizing? Answer; I would take the can of bread, open it with the P-38, throw the bread out into the jungle, and using the P-38 make a stove out of the empty can. Open the can of C Rations, mix hot peppers, spring onions, rice or other items in it, place it on the stove (bread can), place a small ball of C-4 (plastics explosives) in the stove and light it with a match (it will burn a hot flame) and heat my food.

Coffee was made by taking someone's helmet (steel pot), pouring the packs of instant coffee from the C Rations in it, adding water and heating it on a camp fire or using a small amount of C-4. Sometimes I would ask one of the guys to carry a large empty can to heat the coffee in, or you could trade them (C Rats) to some sailor on the ships for a tasty bit of chow. Which I have done.

--**Frank Mallon**. LTC/Retired. USAR. This should be an interesting survey. I like it. B-1 units were the ones I remember and ate for three months while with the 2/47th Mech. Infantry before being assigned to the MRF, in January of 1968. My favorite C-ration was TURKEY LOAF My least favorite was HAM AND EGGS, CHOPPED. I also liked the fruit cocktail and coconut (hated the crackers).

--**Pete Oakander**, RM3 - May 69, to May 70, RivRon 13, aboard CCB-131-1, until she sank. Then RivRon staff radioman at Dong Tam and the Benewah. Favorite - Peaches and Pound Cake - had to go to two different boxes to get 'em. It was always a race to see who got to them first. Least Favorite had to be the Ham and Lima Beans. Talk about plugging you up! Creative - when we learned about Top Ramen - mixing them with C Rats was ok - at least more edible.

--**Frank Everitt**. I left in country in November, '67 so my memory is a little fuzzy on this, but here goes. Question 1 - Favorite item

B-1 Units	B-2 Units	B-3 Units
Meat Choices (in small cans): Beef Steak Ham and Eggs, Chopped Ham Slices Turkey Loaf Fruit: Applesauce Fruit Cocktail Peaches Pears Crackers (7) Peanut Butter Candy Disc, Chocolate Solid Chocolate Cream Coconut Accessory Pack*	Meat Choices (in larger cans): Beans and Wieners Spaghetti and Meatballs Beefsteak, Potatoes and Gravy Ham and Lima Beans Meatballs and Beans Crackers (4) Cheese Spread, Processed Caraway Pimento Fruit Cake Pecan Roll Pound Cake Accessory Pack*	Meat Choices (in small cans): Boned Chicken Chicken and Noodles Meat Loaf Spiced Beef Bread, White Cookies (4) Cocoa Beverage Powder Jam Apple Berry Grape Mixed Fruit Strawberry Accessory Pack*

was the peanut butter. Question 2 - Least favorite item was ham and eggs. Question 3 - I used C4 to heat them up. When that wasn't available, I just toughed it out and ate what was available.

--**Bill Frede**. Favorite C-Rats - Peaches and Pound Cake, mixed, from two different cases. Least Favorite was Ham and Lima Beans (Large Cans) and Ham and Eggs (Small Cans). All C-Rats tasted better if you stole!" *comshawed*," or as we called it a "*relocation*." Requisitioned a bottle of hot sauce and some onions off the mess decks of the Benewah or Colleton, and heated them up with a chunk of C-4, made it taste like a Five Star meal.

--**Ed Gorczyk**, ASPB 91-3, 1967-68. One of the benefits of being in the Navy and riding on an Alpha boat was that we could carry extra cases of C-rats and pick and choose what we wanted for our meal as opposed to the infantry that likely had to take what was available that day. Not only could we take extra cases, but at times when we had a sufficient supply, we would open multiple cases and enjoy an ala carte meal made up of items from the B-1, B-2 and B-3 cases.

Of the three units, my first choice was the B-2 Unit with Beans and Wieners, Spaghetti and Meatballs, and Meatballs and Beans. I'd eat Beefsteak Potatoes and Gravy if the choices were limited, but it only took one taste of Ham and Lima Beans to know that they were better suited for bartering with the locals than attempting to choke down as a meal.

Jungle dining didn't get much better than mixing the best of the three cases while trading the Ham and Lima Beans for fresh fruits and vegetables from a friendly villager after conducting a routine stop and search of their small boat as it headed to market with fresh produce.

We also took advantage of the heat from our diesel engines to warm our meal to a proper temperature. An important part of food prep was learning to punch a couple of small vent holes in the can before placing it somewhere secure on the warm engine but not the exhaust manifold as one of our crewmembers mistakenly did. When that C-ration can cooked-off with a big bang, we thought the engine had thrown a piston rod. Just

one exploding can of Beans and Wieners was all it took to learn that valuable lesson, and our engineman made a harsh point of bringing up for weeks after that overheated C-ration can exploded and coated a large portion of one engine and the exhaust manifold with a gooey mess that smoked and smoldered and smelled like burnt food for the entire op; what a nasty mess to clean!

Ah, but the peaches, fruit cocktail, and pound cake were always in high demand. Looking back I think you could probably

find someone willing to fieldstrip, clean, and reassemble your 50 cal. if you had the right mix of canned fruit and dessert cakes. But in the end, it was Navy chow from the mess deck that was always first choice.

--**Sgt. Bob Marburger**, Nov. 68 - Nov. 69. #1. Favorite: Peaches & Pound Cake & small cans; My Aunt would send several "Jiffy Pop Corn," every month, I could put a small dab of C4 in the small cans, the Jiffy Pop was done in no time! #2. My Least favorite was Ham and Lima Beans! #3. I don't remember doing any creative steps! #4. Most of the year, I was the CO's Battalion Radio Man, plus two other Radio Guys, We always had plenty of C Rations

--**A. R. "Monti" Montillo**, Bravo Company 3/60. Apr-Sep 68. Favorite Items were Fruit Cocktail, Beans & Wieners, and since my Mom was a Southern Girl I could eat Ham & Lima Beans everyday (I had no trouble trading for Ham & Lima Beans). Least favorite item, hands down, was B-1 Ham & Eggs.

Creative Steps - using C-4 to heat food, coffee or cocoa

Something we all found funny was when we tossed C's to kids they would shake the cans ... 100% of the time if the can contained White Bread they threw it back!

--**Gerald E. Barney**. 9th Infantry, 9th Signal, Co. A, Bearcat & Cat Lai, 1966-67. I would have to say my favorite C-Rat was the Turkey Loaf. Since our kitchen was not fully up to speed yet, I made my own Christmas dinner. Of course turkey loaf was the main course followed by fruit cocktail with Chocolate for dessert! I even told a white lie in my letter home to Mom & Dad "I had a great turkey dinner for thanksgiving but they were out of cranberries". I'm sure Mom took that sentence to mean I was in a totally safe environment at that point in life. Dad being a WW2 veteran probably just smiled.

I have also had many C-Rat dinners since returning from Vietnam. As a Federal Wildland firefighter we lived on them for many years, at least until the newer MRE's came along.

Ham & Lima beans very yucky!

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Cornet. He had been transferred there. A plane was there the next morning to take a bunch of us grunts to whatever airport we went too. I ran into two guys up there that we came over together... We all said together "Well I See You Made It!" Sooner or later we all got on a Big Bird and headed to California. Where ever we landed, it took 24 hours to get terminated out of the Army, it was 1 am when I got a cab to the airport, I found my Gate, Myself and several guys slept on the floor, didn't want to miss the gate when it opened up. My home state is Ohio...I was the only GI on the plane...The plane made a stop in Dayton, Ohio. A very nice Stewardess let me off the plane to call home to my family, it's fifteen minutes to Columbus OH. There were about six to eight family members that made it. My wife, and my nine month old Son Scott. He was born while I was in Vietnam. Red Cross sent a message to me saying he was born.

--Eric Samson. (US Navy). The flight from Tan Son Nhut Air Base to Travis AFB was a long 18 hours. It was early morning mid-June 1969, and as we approached landing the sun was rising in the east, turning the hills a beautiful green and gold. As we touched down, the entire plane of soldiers and sailors burst into tears and cheers. My fiancée was waiting for me, and drove us to San Francisco where we were married a week later at Treasure Island by a Navy chaplain.
ericmandysamson@hotmail.com.

What was your nickname in Vietnam?

—**Eric Samson.** My formal title was Ensign Samson, but aboard the USS Nueces, we would always see the little flat-bottomed boats in the Mekong and Bassac Rivers. Thus, my moniker became “*Ensign Sampan.*”

–**Sgt. Bob Marburger.** Nov 68 - Nov 69. At the time of the Red Cross message, The Company was out on an operation, I would have to call Base Camp for supplies, when I did, Commo Chief SGT. Betts started calling me “*DADDY.*” It still hangs on me, today! When I got back to Base Camp, I was able to call home. They were happy to hear me!!!

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TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One



Kathy and Jerry Ranson. In the photo on the right, Jerry is third from the right.

Jerrold (Jerry) W. Ranson was born on Wednesday, April 16, 1947 and passed away on Sunday, April 19, 2020, due to COVID-19. Jerry served in River Assault Squadron 13, from March of '68, to March of '69.

Member Gary Emery McCabe passed away on May 26, 2020. While in Vietnam he served with Alpha Company, 3rd Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from May 1966 to January 1968.



Gary was living in College Place, Washington at the time of his passing. Gary wrote the book, *"A Tour of Duty with the 'Tiger' Platoon, The Diary of Gary McCabe"*.

Former Member John J. Sperry passed away on May 4, 2020, following a brief illness. While in Vietnam he served with Bravo Company, 3rd Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from April 1968 to April 1969. John is survived by his wife of 50 years, Suzi.



Member Jack F. Platter passed away on April 20, 2020. While in Vietnam he served with Echo Company, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from May 1966 to May 1968. Jack is survived by his wife Michelle.



Member David L. Argabright passed away on March 31, 2020. While in Vietnam he served as CPT with Headquarters & Headquarters Company and Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from July 1968 to January 1969.

Member CDR John Kirk Ferguson (USN Ret.) passed away on March 22, 2020. While in Vietnam he was Commander of Strike Assault Boat Squadron 20 (STABRON 20).



Member Eugene Francis Seacor passed away on January 26, 2020. While in Vietnam he served with Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 47th (Mech.) Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from September 1968 to July 1969.

Member James A. Hasselman passed away on January 20, 2020. While in Vietnam he served as a 1st Lieutenant with Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in 1967-68. James lost his wife, Doreen. He is survived by his six children.



Member John J. LeBorgne passed away on November 23, 2019. While in Vietnam he served with Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from May 1966 to May 1967. John is survived by his wife of 53 years, Maryellen.



Former Member BM1 Doyle Campbell passed away on October 11, 2019 of Cystic Fibrosis. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 15 - River Assault Division 151 as Boat Captain of T-151-2 from May 1969 to May 1970. Doyle is survived by his wife, Kelley, of 39 years.

John A. Viggiano passed away on December 29, 2013. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 15 - River Assault Division 152 as an RM2 onboard T-152-10 from July 1968 to July 1969.



Charles J. Stone passed away on January 28, 2011. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 15 - River Assault Division 151 onboard C-151-1 from July 1968 to July 1969. Charles is survived by his wife of 22 years, Virginia "Sue". - "John was a comedian, always kept us laughing. He will be greatly missed." - Fellow Crewmate Pat Kelly

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 Affield, for Buddha Ed Thomas, Boat Captain Tango 112-11 (02/68-02/69)

William Blauser, for Thomas Gaudet, David Land, and Jose Campos our 151 Division brothers that were KIAs.

Bill Buffie, in memory of Lyle Parin USS Floyd County LST-762 (Vietnam)

John and Doris Chrzanowski for B Co. 6th/31st 9th Inf. Div. Troopers. KIA, B-40 Rocket, 12/13/69, Gary M. Gryzen (DC Wall Panel W15, Line 54) David A. McIntyre (DC Wall Panel W15, Line 54) and Gary T. Phillips (DC Wall Panel W15, Line 54).

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)

**David Wilson, 2nd/60th KIA 08/05/69, Timothy Shelton 4th/39th KIA 06/25/69, Steven Murray 4th/39th KIA 05/26/69, Harvey Crabtree 2nd/4th Arty KIA 06/19/69, and Dennis Mattox 1st/501st 101st Abn. KIA 08/23/69

Orville "Lee" Daley, for Marvin Marks WWII, USS Askari ARL-30

David Donovan, from Delmar & Dian Cable

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David Donovan from Dick & Lisa Dorato

David Donovan from Karen & Mark Vander Vliet

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, BM3 Johnny Maness and SN David Flabburis T-112-2, 1967

Tony Garvey for Wes Sade, Billy Olsen, and Staff Sgt. James Williams C Co. 4th/47th 9th Inf.

Regina Gooden for Sgt. Lloyd Earl Valentine B Co 3rd/47th KIA September 5, 1968

Susan Hanmer for SFC Michael Hanmer RivRon 13 and 153 (07/69-02/71)

Gordon Hillesland for Pat Lawson NSA Dong Tam (67-68) & Mike Mosey NSA Dong Tam (67-68)

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

Bruce L. Johnson C Co. 2nd Plat. 4th/47th (8/67-3/68)

J. R. Johnson 3rd/47th 9th "Recon" (05/66-01/68) in memory of Walker, Gotch, Paredez, Nelson, Hayes, Howard, King, Twitchell and Chesnoski

Frank Jones for SFC Michael Hanmer RivRon 13 and 153 (07/69-02/71)

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

Adam Metts for Donald L. Bruckart, T-111-2 KIA 3/31/69

Judy Moody, in Memory of Darwin Moody

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 KIAs 08/20/67

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

Sfc. Claud Onley, A Co. 3rd/47th inf. KIA 5/66

**All the USN and USA KIAs of the MRF (67-70)

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

Okey Toothman, in memory of Judy Wallace

Okey Toothman, in memory of Major General Lucien "Blackie" Bolduc

Okey Toothman, in memory of Sgt. Dick Arnold A Co. 3rd/47th, Max Delacruz and G. P. Jones C Co. 3rd/47th

**From our Brothers B Co. 2nd 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in memory for John Nielsen B Co. 2nd/39th (04/68-04/70)

Henry Velez for my fallen brothers, B Co. 2nd/39th Inf.





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Bill Frede, T-112-2 (01/67-10/67)
Fred Frost E Co. 2nd/60th Inf. (12/67-12/68)
Richard Gallagher, USS Mercer APB-39 (1968-69)
Tony Garvey, C Co. 4th/47th 9th Infantry Div. (1968)
Capt. James Gautier, C.O., RivDiv 111 (10/68-05/69)
John N. Gavin, USS Satyr ARL-23 (1971)
David R. Georgius, NAVAIRFAC AIRCOFAT Logistics Helicopters (10/70-11/71)
Harry Hahn, RivRon 13 M-131-1 (03/69-03/70)
William Halloran, COMRIVFLOT ONE N2 (09/67-09/68)
Roger Hamilton, Jr. USS Mark AKL-12 (08/68-08/69)
Robert Hammond, Jr., HQ 3rd/34th (10/68-10/69)
Jeffie Hanks, USS Benewah APB-35 (01/70-01/71)
BMCM (Ret) Wayne Haggood, RivRon 15 T-52 (07/70-12/70) & RID 48 (12/70-07/71)
Kenneth Harbert, USS Gunston Hall (1966-1967)
Joseph Harper, USS White River LSMR-536 (12/66-12/68)
LTJG Richard Hawkins, COMNAVFORV NAVADVGRP (VNN HHQ) (12/69-12/70)
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 Hilliard, Gunner T-48 (09/69-03/70) and Boat Captain T-44 (03/70-07/70)
Alan Hodgkinson, A Co., 3rd/60th Inf. (01/68-08/69)
Kenneth Hogan, RivRon 11 RAD 112 T-112-13 (02/69-09/69)
Bernard Howlett, GMGSN USS Carronade IFS-1 (12/65-08/67)
James Hoyer, 1097th TC (MB) (08/68-07/69)
Maj. Gen. Ira A. Hunt Jr., HHQ 9th Inf. Div. (05/68-07/69)
Alan G. Hyde, 9th Signal (1966-67)
Truman Irving, USS Mark AKL-12 (08/68-08/69)
Bill Isett, 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, HHBS 3rd/34th Arty & 2nd/47th Mech., (09/68-10/69)
Bruce Jensen, T-111-3 (1967-68)
Richard G. Jensen, A & E Cos 3rd/60th Inf. (12/66-11/67)
Duane Johnson, 15th Combat Engineers, (06/67-06/68)
J. R. Johnson, Recon, 3rd/47th (01/67-01/68)
Gerald Johnston, USS Nye County, LST-1067 (01/66-01/67)
David R. Jones, Riv Ron 15, Z-11-7 (10/68-10-69)
Frank Jones, RivDiv 152, T-48 Boat Captain, (07/69-07/70)
Richard L. Jones, USS Tutuila ARG-4 (06/71-12/71)
Pl Jorczak, T-92-5, 11/66-11/67
Edward Jordan, RivRon 15 T-152-4/T-44 (08/68-08/69)
Jerry "Hollywood" Kaweck, B Co. 3rd/47th 9th Inf. (07/68-12/68)
Dane Keller, RivDiv 532 PBR 121 (05/69-05/70)
Thomas Kelley, USN (Ret) RAS 9, and RivDiv 152, (08/68-06/69)
Timothy J. Kelly, C-3 2nd/47th (Mech.) (06/68-06/69)
Michael Knowlton, YRBM-18 (01/68-01/69)

Gary L. Knox, RivRon 9 A-91-8 (01/68-06/70)
Larry Koltz, Command Flotilla-1 Task Force 117 Div. 91 ATC 91-10 (09/66-6/70)
LTC. Nick Laiconia, USA (Ret.) C Co. 3rd/60th Inf. (1968-69)
Jerry Lippincott, IUWG-1, LCM-877 (06/70-05/71)
James Long Sr., ComRivFlot One Staff (11/67-11/68)
**Naval Advisory Group
Richard Lorman, T-152-6 (06/68-06/69)
James Lowe, APL-26 (05/68-05/69)
James H. MacDonald, B Co. 3rd/60th Inf. (11/67-03/68)
Robert Marburger, C Co. 2nd/60th Inf. (11/68-11/69)
Michael A. Marquez, A Co. 3rd Plt. 3rd/60th Inf. (07/68-07/69)
Frank O. Martinolich, 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)
Randall McComas, E Co., 15th Combat Eng., (10/68-08/69)
Crisis McLaughlin, D Co 3rd/47th 9th Inf. Div. (09/68-07/69)
Kenneth McLean B Co. 4th/47th (11/68-01/69)
Cyril "Bud" McQuillan, Jr. E Co. 2nd/39th HHC (02/68-02/69)
Adam Metts, T-111-2 (08/68-10/69)
Terry Metzen, C-4, 3rd/60th Infantry, 12/66-11/67
Nick Miller, COS, RivDiv 152 (07/68-06/69)
Rick Miller, B-2 4th/39th Infantry (12/67-12/68)
Nickola Mitschkowetz, BM2 APL-30 (11/68-11/69)
Capt. Lawrence K. Monahan, USNR (Ret.), YRBM-20, (1970-71)
A. R. "Monti" Montillo, B Co., 3rd/60th Inf. (04/68-09/68)
Joe Moore, USS Colleton APB-36 (10/66-08/67)
J. Russell and Alice Moore, T-91-5, (11/68-06/69)
Lt. Frank Moran, B Co 4th/47th Inf. (11/67/10/68)
Thanks Artillery
Daryl Newell, USS Benewah, APB-35, 4/70-2/71
Charles Ostrov, HHC. 2nd/47th Mech. Inf. (01/68-12/68)
John Oxley Recon E Co 3rd/47th Inf. (11/65-11/67)
Ed Paananen, HQ, 3rd/47th 9th Inf. (05/66-06/68)
BM3 Charles C. Page, USS White River LSMR-536 (04/69-05/70)
Capt. Jerry Pape, USN (Ret) Staff, COMRIVFLOT ONE, (01/68-12/68)
John Wayne Parrish Jr., Co. A 4th/47th Inf. (01/68-01/69)
Dwayne Parsons, M-111-1 (Zippo 1) (11/67-11/68)
Kurt I. Patton, Mike 5 and T-37 (11/69-11/70)
Anthony L. 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)
BM1 W. R. Posey, Craft Master, YTB-785, 1967-68 1970-71
Bill Posson, USS Hampshire County, LST-819 (1969-1970)
Paul Ray, M-151-5 (06/69-07/70)

David Raybell, Monitor 111-3 (11/66-02/68)
Col. Henly "Ed" Reed, HHC 2nd/60th Infantry
Capt. William Renton, USS Askari, ARL-30, (10/68-09/69)
Bill & Donna Robinson, C.O. USS Mark, AKL-12 (06/70-05/71)
Larry Roche, A-152-2 (10/68-07/69)
Jerry Ross, T-131-1 (08/69-08/70)
Pieter A. Ruig, 3rd/47th, 9th Inf. Div., (12/67-07/68)
Loren Salzman, E Co., 4th/47th, (12/67-12/68)
Billy Sanders, RivRon 11, RAD 112, T-112-1 & CCB-112-1, Vietnam, 1967 plank owner
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" and Betty A. Schrader, D Co. 9th Med. Bn., (07/68-07/69)
F. George Schuster, LTJG. USS Indra, ARL-37, (1968-69)
Col. Sam Schutte, Co. B, 4th/47th Infantry (03/66-12/67)
George Schwemmer, C Co. 6th/31st Inf. (1968-69)
Thomas D. Scott, USS Colleton, APB-36 (12/66-04/68)
Jerry Shearer, C Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf. (04/67-04/68)
Joseph W. Shedlock, A-152-4 (10/68-07/69)
Cdr. William D. Shuttles, USN (Ret), Boat Captain T-111-1 (9/67-8/68)
John Smith, B Co. 3/60th, (05/68-06/69) for all Riverines
Marc Spilberg, 4th/47th Inf. (01-68-01/69)
Chet "Gunner" Stanley, C-111-1 and M-111-3 (1966-68)
Thomas Stuart, USS Benewah, APB-35 (1966-67)
John Sturtz, T-151-9 (06/68-06/69)
Bryan Swisher, B Co. 3rd/47th Inf. (12/68-6/69)
Albert L. Taylor, RivDiv 93 R-92-1 (11/68-6/69)
Bernard Thompson, EN3, USS Askari, (ARL-30) 01/69-01/70
Charles Thowes, 9th Admin Co. (02/66-11/67)
Harley Timmerman, T-132-10 (06/68-06/69)
Joseph J. Trovato, 3rd/60th 9th Infantry (06/67-06/68)
Milton Turnage, M-151-1 (07/68-06/69)
Roger Valentine, USS Askari, ARL-30 (07/67-05/68)
GMGI Ricky Vice, USN (Ret.), T-131-7 (03/68-05/69) & NAG (01/71-06/72)
David J. Vicknair, USS Washtenaw County, LST-1166 (1968-1970)
Ron Wallace, B Co. 3rd Plat 3rd/47th Inf., (05/66-08/67)
Bill Weidman, T-111-12 (02/67-02/68)
David H. White, USN (Ret), USS Satyr ARL-23 (08/69-08/70)
Wm. "Whit" Whitworth, Lighthouse 5D Troop 3rd/5th Cav (9th Inf. Div.) (03/68-04/69)
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)
John Woronick, APB-35, USS Benenwah
William H. Ziebarth, 9th Signal 3rd/34 Arty. (05/66-12/67)
James Zierninski, EN2, Boat Captain RivDiv 153 ASPB 6854 (04/69-04/70)
Robert Zimmer, XO, USS Mercer, APB-39 (02/68-07/69)