



River

Currents



A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 1
SPRING, 2021

Message From the Radio Shack

Hello from the Radio Shack:

By the time you have read this, hopefully you have had your COVID Vaccine shot! The VA is doing a great job of administering it to Vets! All the Vets I have spoken with have had their shots.



Harry Hahn

Our September 2021 MRFA Reunion in St. Louis (Westport Plaza) is full speed ahead. The possibility of it being affected by COVID has diminished substantially. That means that you need to get your reservations made at the Sheraton Westport Chalet and get your reunion registration into our Treasurer. As I stated previously, we will be staying at the Sheraton Westport Chalet. This is a great venue that offers shopping, dining, and transportation to and from the airport. It is far west of downtown St. Louis. The main hotel will be the Sheraton Westport CHALET. The backup is the PLAZA hotel, which is just a short walk across the plaza complex. We will provide transportation for Mall shopping and to scenic downtown St. Louis. You have a sign-up option to see the Missouri National Veteran's Memorial in Perrysville, MO on your registration form. It is a beautiful full-size replica of the Vietnam Memorial wall in Washington. See our website for more details.

Please get your hotel reservations and separately, send in your reunion registration to Frank Jones. A registration form is included with this River Currents. This is the last River Currents you will receive that will give you the form! The way the vaccinations are progressing, and the fact that we will reach herd immunity soon, gives me a very good feeling about our having a great gathering. If you are concerned about making any cancellations. The MRFA will accept any cancellations up to September 1st, and give you a full refund. The hotel will accept any reservation cancellation up to 24 hours in advance of the arrival date. So, you have no financial liability to make your reservation and registration now and still have the option to cancel later. In other words, please get registered NOW!!!!!!

Donations continue to come in for our documentary. The Arballos will be taking additional interviews at the reunion to add to the final production of our MRF documentary. They will also be showing a "sizzle reel" at the reunion which will be used to promote the documentary while it is in its final production phases. These are the same people that were successful with the venture of the award winning "Scrambling the Seawolves" documentary. That film appeared on over 300 PBS affiliates. The final production will have DVDs available for purchase, but they are included for those who qualified by donating.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in September. Again, please make your reservations and your registration NOW!

Harry Hahn, President,
SparksRivRon13@aol.com

Are You Ready to Raffle?



No reunion would be complete without the fun surrounding our raffles, and the lovely ladies that take point on that operation is our "Raffle Queen" (Mable Springer) and her court, Sue Walker, Debbie Jefferson (little Debbie) and Sandy Weiss plus more whoever wants to volunteer and help. They are asking for volunteers to supply the raffle operation with everything they need for a successful mission! They are seeking crafts, wood carvings, metal work, homemade items, books from authors, military souvenirs, knitted or crocheted quilts, pillows, plaques, framed pictures, collector's edition knives, military models, anything you believe will help ensure the success of their mission! Every dollar raised goes to the MRFA. The ladies don't keep a penny of it! If you have any questions, you may contact Mable, at mablespringer@yahoo.com. If you would like to provide a raffle prize, but you are not able to attend the reunion, you can send your prize donation to Terry Sater, 807 Emerald Oaks Ct., Eureka, Mo., 63025. We'll make sure it is raffled!

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**

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



Mobile Riverine Force Association Membership Application Form

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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

Introducing Your Board of Directors

Michael A. Harris, RM2 – RAS 15/ RAD 152 – T-152-1 – mekong152@99w.us. I grew up in a “normal” family. Our parents weren’t openly loving, but my brother and I both knew that we were loved. My father was a WWII USCG combat veteran in the Pacific Theater. Mom worked as a grocery clerk.



Mike Harris



Freddy Breeland

RF/PF forces. I can only recall moving 9th ID troops at the beginning and end of my tour.

In November 1968 my T-152-1 boat and T-152-10 were “chopped” to the small VNN Junk Base at Rach Soi, 5 km south of Rach Gia. We worked with PBRs from

Early on I enjoyed sports and excelled in several. My favorite was football. I was a small fullback at 155 pounds, but led the district in touchdowns and times carrying the ball my senior year. I missed the rushing title by 22 yards. My coach offered me a minor scholarship, but I decided to go to Oregon State University. After a couple of terms my grades were not up to speed so “Uncle Sam” contacted me. I joined the Navy to stay out of Vietnam.

TF-116. Our Tangos alternated night patrols on the local rivers and canals. On December 27, 1968 T-10 took 3-4 RPGs killing Barry Barber and wounding several others on the boat. Barry was hit in the torso with a rocket. My crew volunteered to police the boat. It was an awful time for a group of young sailors.

After Boot Camp I went through Basic Electricity & Electronics School and then Radioman “A” School. When it came time to fill out our “Dream Sheets” our RMC instructor made an earnest appeal for us to consider river boat duty in Vietnam. Without telling anyone, I wrote it down as my first choice. When the orders came four of us received orders for River Assault Squadron 15.

Towards the end of my tour, we were operating out of Dong Tam. I had returned from R&R in Australia. My boat was on a long op so I was assigned to T-152-2. On June 15th a few boats went through the Crossroads and down Rocket Alley. When we arrived at the junction of the Ben Tre and Ong Muong Rivers we were ambushed. M-152-1 was hit by two recoilless rifle rounds from long range. LT Tom Kelley would later receive the Medal of Honor for his actions in that day. Later Tom initiated an award recommendation on my behalf for jacking up our disabled ramp manually while under fire. I was awarded the Bronze Star Medal w/V device. It was all very humbling and I dedicated it to all who served with me.

My next step was the Naval Inshore Operations Training Center (NIOTC) at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, CA. Over about 2.5 months we trained on the boats, did gunnery training at Camp Roberts, CA and SERE School at Whidbey Island, WA. I had about 5.5 months to ponder how I would perform in combat.

I departed Vietnam on July 15, 1969 with orders to the Naval Communications Station, Guam for 18 months. I saw later that I was suffering from raw PTSD as an RM2. I got into some trouble, but my base Captain showed mercy on me. I found out that he was a WWII, Korea and Vietnam veteran with two awards for valor.

Our group flew to Vietnam on July 20, 1968. After arriving we were placed onboard the USS Bexar (APA-237) off the coast of Vung Tau until our riverine craft arrived. My T-152-1 arrived 2 weeks later along with Tangos 2, 3 & 5. We outfitted at Nha Be and Cat Lai, tested our weapons in the Rung Sat Special Zone and then transited to Dong Tam. Shortly after arriving we went out on an op with RAS 13 and were “baptized by fire”. Several sailors were wounded. The invincibility factor was reduced considerably by that sobering event.

I refined my alcoholism while on Guam. I had saved about \$5,500.00 while in the service. After my discharged I purchased a used car and virtually drank the rest away. PTSD was raging in my life even though it was not an official diagnosis yet. I had trouble with relationships and got into many fights. It broke my heart one day when a buddy told me that the guys “are afraid of you.” I didn’t want to be that person, but the alcohol kept leading me down the wrong trails. I finally quit for good in April 1976. The problem then was I let recreation drugs take its place.

When our RAS 15 was complete we participated in large operations with as many as thirty-five boats. Much of our time was spent down south in Chuong Thien and Kien Giang Provinces near the U Minh Forest, which was Combat Base 480. We moved predominately VNMC, ARVN and



Mobile Riverine Force Association
www.mrfa.org



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Mobile Riverine Force - Vietnam

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Thank you for your participation!

The Officers and Board Members of the
Mobile Riverine Force Association

Introducing Your Board of Directors

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In 1974 I was accepted into the VA Carpenter Apprenticeship Program. The main goal I had was to learn what I could and start my own construction company in order to call my own shots while dealing with my PTSD. It worked out very well.

In 1981 I was 32 and had never married. I was so lonely that I was sick. I had been bitter towards God for many years. In anger one day I stood up, pointed my fist towards the sky, and said, "God, if you are real then make yourself real to me...!" Nothing happened. I continued to believe that I was going to rot and the worms were going to eat me. Four days later I was sitting in the same spot when God spoke to me in what I now know is my "spirit". He said, "Flush your drugs down the toilet!" It surprised me, but guess what I did? I argued with the Creator. I said, "What about my buddy Randy, he uses them too?" He said, "He doesn't need them either. Flush them down the toilet!" Out of obedience I gathered up all of my drugs and began flushing them. It took quite a while, but once I finished the task I felt good. Hope had entered my life again.

I had been searching for Freddy Breeland, my buddy from T-152-8, for 16 years. I found him in Mississippi in 1985. He'd been searching for me too. I traveled down south to visit. His wife and son went on a planned vacation with the neighbors. Freddy and I had a wonderful time reminiscing. We both had tears in our eyes as I began my journey back to Oregon. We kept in touch via the telephone. Then about 6 months later, his wife called early one morning to inform me that Freddy had been in a single car accident and wasn't expected to live. He passed the next day. I tried to assist his widow and son spiritually and with some finances. Months went by and I started having feelings towards her. I was repulsed, but eventually God showed me that it was Him Who was prompting me. Connie and I have been married for 34 years now. I helped raise Jason from 13 years of age and he's a wonderful young man. It is truly a "novel" story. I would trade it all to have Freddy back, but we all know that's not possible.

Finally, in the late 80's I felt healed enough to reach out to my fellow Vietnam veterans. I founded a "Point Man International Ministries" (PMIM) Outpost in Coos Bay, Oregon. Later Connie and I moved up to the PMIM HQ in Washington state to work full-time with the ministry. I became the Operations Officer overseeing all Outposts globally. PMIM is now open to all veterans. I am happy to say that the Coos Bay Outpost is still active 31 years later. The president of PMIM asked me to organize short-term mission teams to labor in Thailand and Burma. In 1989 I arrived in Bangkok ahead of the

first team. An offer to travel into communist Laos came up. It was a real eyeopener. I led several teams over and when our work was completed, I escorted the Vietnam veterans into Vietnam. I traveled into Vietnam 6 times between 1990 and 2010.

In 1990 I felt a "calling" to serve full-time on the foreign mission field. Connie agreed and we moved to Bangkok, Thailand in January 1992. We labored in Thailand, Burma and Laos. Our target country was Laos. We lived in Bangkok for 3.5 years and Savannakhet, Laos for nearly two years. A lot was accomplished, but the communists didn't like me. Connie felt strongly that they might create an "accident" for me. We decided to return stateside after 5.5 years. It was rough at times, but seeing God's miracles before our very eyes made it all worth it.

After returning Connie went back to work as

an X-ray/MRI Technologist. I served as an accredited "Veteran Service Representative" with "Vietnam Veteran of America" for over a decade while remodeling the old home we purchased.

Later we sold the home for a great price and moved to the inland valley in 2013. God provided us with a beautiful home with 3.85 acres adjacent to the 4th & 5th holes of "Diamond Woods Golf Course" in Monroe, Oregon (population 610). It's the only home on the course. Why you ask? The original owner sold 8.15 acres to the golf course and built the home. No other homes can be built around the course as 5 acres is required and there's no acreage available. It is a dream home for me as a golfer. Connie has taken up the sport and enjoys it too. I hunt golf balls for therapy. We both love it.

Shortly after arriving in S.E. Asia in 1992 I made contact with MRFA President Albert Moore. We kept in touch throughout our time on the mission field. I told him in 1992 that when we returned stateside that I would do what I could to assist the association. I believe that I have kept my word.

Tom Matyn

Tom Matyn. I joined the Navy Reserves in February 1968, for two reasons. #1) The draft was on, and I didn't favor being a ground pounder and, #2) My older brother spent his time on a "tin can" in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, which sounded great to me. Being a Reserve I had weekly classes at Broadhead Naval Armory located on the Detroit River, for twelve months. That summer, I went to boot camp at Great Lakes for only two weeks (weekend warriors). The regular boots didn't like us!! Then I went on a one-week cruise out of Norfolk and learned how to polish brass! In February of '69, I got orders to Treasure Island. A few days later, I got orders to the "Sphinx." I thought, "Egypt?" Wrong, the Mekong Delta! The OINC said you better call home, you're flying out this afternoon. I got to the Sphinx, and was assigned to the ship fitter/ hull tech division, repairing the MRF craft, in and out of the water. I made HT 3, and also was the divers tender for the next year. Halfway through my tour, it was announced that if you had less than one year left of active duty, you would be separated upon returning to the US. It was one hell of an experience, and I would gladly do it again. In 2008 I discovered the MRFA and the VUMMF and immediately joined both organizations and shortly after I was elected to be a board member for both organizations, and the restoration coordinator for CCB 18. We have our working party on the 3rd Saturday of each month, at our Memorial at NAB Coronado! Come on down !



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Contact the Editor

If you have questions, stories, or comments for "River Currents," please e-mail Terry Sater, at terry.s8er@yahoo.com Not all stories can be published. All must be family friendly. We want a good balance of Army and Navy stories, so please participate!

Survey Question: “What did you do your first week home from Vietnam, and how did you feel?”

Warren Thomson. 3rd platoon, B Co., 3/60th. On the Benewah Jan., '69, to May '69. Moved to 3/47 B Co., around May '69. Sent home in July 1969. I returned home after being given emergency leave due to my mother's terminal illness. Literally, in 36 hours, left the 3/47th base camp and arrived at Ft Dix, NJ with mud on my boots and my jungle fatigues. I probably would not have been granted the leave, if Nixon's troop withdrawal plan had not started and was not meeting the plan withdrawal numbers published. Soon after I returned home, I received notice to report to Schofield Barracks, HI instead of going back to the “Nam”. Big relief and later I was reassigned to Ft Devens, so I could be with my mom in the last few months of her life. The first week, I reacquainted with my new



wife that I had married the week before I went to Vietnam and ate a ton of her special hamburgers. I was still bothered about the “why me” question of how I was not injured and how could I have

been sent home after just seven months in country. I later realized that it was part of a larger problem that I had that we now call “PTSD”. The twists and turns of life often confuse us, but I was in the hands of my God even though I did not really have a relationship with Him at the that time.

Thomas Center. The Cross Roads Diaries. T-91-4. Dec. 67/Dec 68. “Well, I was deeply involved in completing marriage plans for the wedding that was scheduled about eight days after my return (when I left for Nam I told her to leave my life)... but first, there were many trips to McDonald's for many “fish fillets” and buying many new clothes. “feelings” nonexistent.”

John Kern. 1097th Trans Co, 9th Inf. Aug '68 - '69. “Well, I spent the first two days sleeping, the next couple of days just walking and seeing the sites I had pretty much ignored before I left and smelling the scents that I had pretty much become used to and I didn't pay any attention to too much of anything else and the next several days reconnecting with friends. I also could never and have never got my head around the hatred that had blossomed for the veteran and had to stop wearing my uniform.”

Bill Patterson. QM. Monitor-2, RAS 13, RIVDIV 131. Sea Float, Nam Can, IV Corp. “Spent first week sleeping and recuperating from the worst cold/flu I ever had.”

Ron Rutowski (“Ski”). 2/60th Infantry 9th Inf. Div. May '67/May '68. “I was glad to be home, “back in the world”. But emotionally I was still back in the war. I watched TV and as I watched the news about the war and I was still there. It was all real. Why didn't everyone around me in my home stop what they were doing and pay attention to the war on TV. At the dinner table I saw the news about the war on TV as someone said “pass the peas”. I just stared at the TV. I watched my brothers. I prayed for my brothers.

I listened to all the rock and roll music of the day to help deaden the pain of the war. I drove my car to all of my favorite spots in my city, with the hopes that it would bring back the feelings of teenage innocence. I worked to feel normal again. I felt all alone in my feelings.”

Ronnie Fontenot. YRBM17, in Dong Tam. Jan. '68/Nov '68. “During my first week home I ate lots of fried chicken. Lots of ice cream and lots of cold drinks.”

To be continued in the summer issue of River Currents

Introducing Your Board of Directors

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Charlie Ardinger

Charles Edward Ardinger, born in Norfolk, Virginia, graduated from Spring Grove High School, Spring Grove, Minnesota, enlisted in the USN at La Crosse, Wisconsin, June 1960. Boot camp training at Great Lakes, Illinois (June-September 1960); Reserve Fleet at Orange, Texas (September 1960-September 1961); USS Mattaponi AO-41 (September 1961-June 1964), made one West Pac off the coast of Vietnam; Cargo Handling Battalion 2, Subic Bay, PI, and Da Nang, Vietnam (June 1964-June 1965), when the marines went in. When I got back from Vietnam in June, I married Georginia Leader from San Francisco, California, July 2, 1965. I went to the USS Graffias AF-29 (July 1965-June 1967) and later to the USS Catskill MCS-1 (June 1967-May 1968). Early in 1968, I requested a transfer to the River Assault Squadron 15, Mekong Delta, Vietnam (May 1968-July 1969). I got my boat T-151-11 August 1968. Went on an OPS early September with APB 9 and M13. I loaded troops to be put in night Ops. We were in the

Rung Sat, September 6th, heading for night location when we got hit with a B40 rocket in my coxswain flat. It exploded below my feet and my radioman got his arm badly mangled—was hit with two b40s—one a dud and the other one took my RM's leg. An alpha boat was hit and two men were injured with head wounds. All I could say is “What the hell did I volunteer to come back to Vietnam for!” I had 11 months to go and many more firefights—after that every day was bad. The day T-151-5 got blown up I watched the helo pad come flying at me. We lost Jose Campos and David Land, plus three ARVN. I could talk on about other Ops, but you guys who were there know about them.

From there I went to the US Naval Training Center, Hancock, Michigan (September 1969-September 1972); Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (September 1972-October 1976); and Brig Warden, NAS Corpus Christi, Texas (October 1976-July 1980). I retired to Iowa in 1980.

I advertised for my boat crew in the VFW, American Legion, and other organizations. I had a lot of calls from River Rats and Raiders. They all wanted to have a reunion. I compiled their name and phone number. In 1991 or 1992, Albert called and said he was going to have a reunion. We talked about who to ask to come to Hickory, NC. What a time we all had and that was the start of the MREA reunions. I have been to every one since. I held office as Treasurer and membership from 2002 to 2018. Only reason we stayed that long was a great working relationship with Albert and Georgie.



Survey Question; *“If you could go back in time and visit yourself before you went to Vietnam, what advice would you give your younger self?”*

Warren Thomson. 3rd platoon, B Co., 3/60th. On the Benewah Jan., '69, to May '69. Moved to 3/47 B Co., from May '69, to July '69. “I would say focus on your college studies and spend less time being distracted with your home town sweetheart. Stay in school and get your degree. If I had stayed in school, I would have graduated during the time period that President Nixon was drawing down the troops from Vietnam and likely would not have been sent there. In addition, I could have taken an engineering job at a defense contractor like Pratt & Whitney and maybe missed the draft altogether. This would have put me in on a much different path of life than what God actually rolled out for me. Though I am blessed with the life path that He has put me on, staying in school, instead of flunking out would have saved my family and first wife a lot of pain and grief. When I returned from my two-year service, I went back to school and earned Dean's List status for the entire remaining college education. This just proves that I had the mental ability to successfully completed my schooling if only I had appreciated and focused on the opportunity that I had in hand before I failed and was drafted.

Thomas Center. “The Crossroads Diaries,” T-91-4, Dec 67/Dec 68. “I would recommend; “Think a little bit ... you don't even know what life is about, yet you want to end yours without affecting anybody else. You are not being realistic, and you have no idea what lies ahead.”

John Kern. 1097th Trans Co, 9th Inf. Aug '68 - '69. “First, I'd probably prepare better for struggling through mud, even though I served on a boat (1097th Trans), we did have to run ashore with a heavy anchor to secure the boats in place and retrieve them! Second; shucks, I don't know, I must've learned to duck pretty quickly, 'cause I didn't get wounded (“OJT”)! Maybe try to study more about the people, the war and what it was all about.”

Bill Patterson. QM. Monitor-2, RAS 13, RivDiv 131. Sea Float, Nam Can, IV Corp. “Take more pictures! Unlike the other branches, the Navy had limited resources to document activities, etc., from spring 1969, till the close out. Based on experience searching both classified and unclassified Naval Archives/History Center.”

Ron Rutowski (“Ski”). 2/60th Infantry 9th Inf. Div. May '67/May '68 “Fight to stay alive. It's OK to fight to stay alive. Fight to save yourself, your fellow combat brother and a people that want

to be free. Fighting in a war is hard physically, and emotionally. You can stay alive physically and emotionally. Fight and forgive yourself for the things you must do. God is by your side.”

Ronnie Fontenot. YRBM17, in Dong Tam. Jan. '68/Nov '68. “I was wounded twice and still got a souvenir in my head. I did what I thought was the right thing to do and don't regret it. If I was to be twenty again and had to do it over I would still do it.”

James D. Robertson. 4th Bn./39th Inf, 9th ID. August '68/July '69. (I would tell my younger self) “Go to Warrant Officer Flight School when it's offered to you; it's worth the two-tour risk to have such a marketable skill when you get out of the army and flying choppers will be a lot more fun than slogging the paddies with the infantry.”

Paul Ray. RivDiv 151, 69/70. “Listen to them at NIOTC (Naval Inshore Operations Training Center). Learn the Whole Boat.”

Frank Moran. B Co., 4/47th Inf. 67-68. “No real change, maybe go to West Point instead of Infantry OCS.”

John Descoteaux. River Assault Squadron 9, Nov 67/Nov 68. “I would tell my younger self to not enlist, and move to Canada.”

Jim Kerschner. B/2/60th Inf. 1970 -1971 “Your first question is interesting, if nothing else. I've thought about it, and come up with the following; I was an Infantry Platoon Leader in Nam. My time in the upper delta (Tan Tru), and then Cambodia, and the area between the Razorbacks (DauTiang.) and the Cambodian border, caused me to adapt to several different types of terrain and operations. During that time, I was very fortunate that I had soldiers wounded, but none Killed. I figure I was very lucky or blessed by God, or both. What I would tell myself is that you will be making mistakes and doubting yourself daily, but what you need to remember is that you need to trust yourself and your decisions and try hard not to show how scared you really are. If you show it, the others will feel it as well. Belief in your abilities is what is going to get you and your soldiers through this.”

Donald Saylor. Riv Div 92, on Monitor 92-1, 1967. “I would say, “Ok, you asked for it (I asked to take another person's orders to the MRF), so here we go, but take a good long look

at the world around you boy, cuz it will never look the same again.”

Bruce Peters. D Company, 4/39th Infantry/9th S&T. 1969. “Don't depend too much on your “training.” Much of it will be of no help in actual combat. Stay close to the experienced grunts, and learn all you can from them.”

Dewey Pollock. BMCS ret. Tango 131-3, 68/69. “To my younger self, the day before I joined the Navy I was sixteen. I'm not sure I would listen to anyone giving advice especially a twenty-year-old man.”

Don Blankenship. A-111-3 and A-152-21. 02/69-02/70. “What would I tell my younger self? “Don't sweat it GI, you will get back to a normal life after Vietnam. Trust in God!”

A.J. McCaskey. 4/47 Co. A, 1st Platoon 68/69. “I would put both hands on my shoulders, look myself in the eye, and say, “Listen dude, you are in the infantry, 11B. Where you are going, and what you will be doing, you will be seeing death and destruction like you've never seen before. You will see people die. You may have people trying to kill you, and you may have to kill people trying to kill you. You're going to have to deal with it. I know you can. I want you back.”

Ralph Bigelow, T-131-8 68/69. “I was 17 and volunteered. I'd do it all again.”

John Eanes. Sgt., 11-Bravo Co. B, 2nd Bn, 47th Inf, 9th Div. Oct. '68/Oct. '69 “Don't carry so much with you to Vietnam. I didn't need underwear, field jacket, etc. I should have taken more socks, boot laces, and an instamatic camera.”

David Sniff. HM2. USS Tutuila. Mar 66/Apr 67. “You go thinking there is a cause and I'm doing my patriotic duty. But there really wasn't a choice, I was going.”

Ray Ambrozy. C 3/60 9th Div. 02/67 - 02/68. “Don't leave your entire record collection with that girl, who was never gonna' write you anyway! Never heard from her or any of my records again.....ha ha”

Mike Spight. Radioman. RAD 153 and RAD 152, Jan. '70/Jan. '71. “I'd tell myself to buy a good 35mm camera before arriving in country, and take pictures every day that I could...at

least a roll a week...of everyone, everyplace and everything.”

Ron ‘Doc’ McClain. 3rd Plt. Echo Co., 3/60 9th Infantry. 1/68-5/68. “Keep your head (and body) LOW, and stay close to John Adame, and John Carrillo!”

Rich Lorman. T-152-6 68/69. “A WWII/ Korean vet old timer told me to do exactly what I’d tell my younger self: “Keep your head down and DON’T be a hero!”

John Pell E CO. 4/47 68/69. “If I knew the way we would have to fight the war and the outcome and how we were treated when we got home I would have found a way to not go.”

Ron Smith. “I would say “No fears. You’ll make it !”

George Perrault. Headquarters Support Activity Saigon (HSAS)/ USS Tioga County LST 1158. “Had no choice, already had seven years in the USN in April 65, and got orders to ship out almost ASAP.”

Alfred Griffith. SSG. Company E, 3rd Battalion 60th Inf. Dec ‘67/Nov ‘68. “I should have been in better physical shape. It took two months before I could get use to the long marches.”

Ron Garcia. USS Windham County LST 1170, 66/68. “Don’t send money home (unless your married) it won’t be enough to do anything with and you’d miss a lot of great times!”

John Weiss. Charlie Company, 2/60 Inf. Oct. ‘68/Feb. ‘69 “I would advise the younger me to ask more questions. I never knew where we were. How did this work. More questions. P.S, never give your watch to someone else, on night ambushes. Somebody will turn it ahead and you will get stuck with a two-hour watch.”

Ray Harvey, Weapons Department Head, later First Lieutenant and Ship’s Stores Officer. USS Clarion River (LSMR-409), 69/70.

Do a thorough inspection before relieving the guy who is leaving.

Find a mentor and try to do what he suggests. Take the hard job at General Quarters, learn all you can about it and learn to conn the ship like a pro. It makes the captain act much calmer when you have the deck.

Keep my helmet on and my head down during fire missions.

Keep a sharp lookout when underway in a war zone at night with the navigation lights extinguished, the ship blacked out and idiots driving unlighted fishing boats around you.

Eat when I get a chance after my men are fed,

sleep when I get a chance when my men have had the chance to sleep, shower when I get a chance after my men get their showers -- advice from my Father

Keep learning my job even if it is stuff that doesn’t seem important,

Write to Mom at least once a week.

Don’t trust my girlfriend of four years to be there when I get back.

Don’t reconcile with her after she sleeps with her boss.

Don’t get drunk.

Don’t get drunk more than once a week.

Don’t get drunk without friends around.

Don’t let friends get into trouble when they are drunk.

Don’t go anywhere alone.

Form my own opinions about the old man.

Humor the chief, listen to the chief, honor the chief, take his advice but make my own decisions.

Don’t sound the General Quarters alarm during the one shower hour in the last two weeks when there are fifty guys standing in line on the main deck, wearing only towels and shower shoes.

Don’t sound the General Quarters alarm when somebody says there is a fire in the shipfitters’ shop when it is really just somebody welding metal with grease on it.

Don’t try to pack a week’s worth of liberty into the one hour ashore during a resupply, refueling or rearming time alongside the pier.

If somebody reports a leak in the shaft alley, pour concrete in it.

HIDE THE TRIGGER CORD and DO NOT ALLOW THE USE OF LIVE ROUNDS when your men are testing the rocket launchers after repairing one after a mission.

Charley Endorf. Delta Co. 3rd Bn., 47th Inf. July, ‘68/July ‘69. “Listen to your superiors who have been there for a while. Do what is told, and asked of you at all times, and keep your faith in God, as he will help protect you. Remember where you grew up and act accordingly.”

Patrick M. Kelly. RivDiv 151, C-151-1. July ‘68/June ‘69. “Not much. I did what I could. Saw a lot. First fire fight was the New Year’s Eve ambush.

Joseph “Joe” Butchart. Company A, 15th Combat Engineer Battalion. Aug. ‘68/Jul. ‘69. “I would tell myself, that presuming military service was required, to do my job as trained, to be a professional, and to remember that I was an American, representing the people and supporting the Constitution of the United States of America.”

Paul George EN3. T-112-9 July ‘68/Nov. ‘68. A-112-7 Nov. ‘68/July ‘69. “I’ve always wished that I would have kept a daily journal.”

Steve Crecy. E Co, 15th Engineers Bn. ‘67/‘68. You pose interesting questions and I don’t think the answers are easy to answer. I assume you mean with “what I know now” in regard to #1. I would not change anything. My brief two years in the Army gave me self-confidence and knowledge that can’t be purchased. That is not to say it was a cake walk. I saw enough incoming to scare the hell out of me, but was lucky enough to have it better than many of our brothers. It was sad to see the upheaval that occurred for the locals, many of them ignorant over the war (except the VC).

Jerry Hyde. USS Askari (ARL-30). Feb. ‘67/ Feb. ‘68. “Hey, if you re-enlist they will send you to a place called Vietnam. I know you’ve never heard of it, but it is an awful place and you will hate it, so don’t re-enlist. There are better options.”

Gary Hassebroek. B 4th of the 47th 9th Inf. May 68/June 69. “I would tell my younger self to join the Air Force!”

Eddie Fast. ETR-2, USS Colleton, 1 partial day on T-112-13. “I would advise myself to have more fun in high school, but at the same time study more. I was pretty naïve going into the Navy at seventeen years old. At that time, I didn’t know what “pot” was. When I was informed that I was going to be an electronic technician, I had no idea what that was.”

Frank Passarelli RM3, RivDiv 151, Tango 151-1/Tango 28, May ‘69/May ‘70. “What advice I would give myself? “Keep your ___ down” and don’t volunteer for anything.”

Phil Byrum. 9th Div. 3/60th, Feb ‘68/Feb ‘69. I would tell myself not to listen to the folks at Ft. Dix and wear a uniform home. That still bugs me to this day. Try not to suppress the experience and do better keeping up with our brothers. A big raspberry (keeping it clean) to the uptight major in Japan who had me blouse my boots when we stopped for fuel. I just wanted to be comfortable for the twenty-three-hour flight.

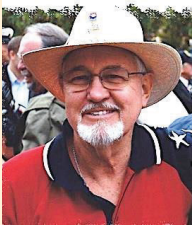
Ken Kalish, JOC. River Patrol Section 523 & AFVN, Saigon. Jul. ‘67/ Feb ‘69. “Listen to your crewmates. Not everyone who shoots at you is your enemy.”

TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One

Former Member **Leslie Haugness** passed away on January 28, 2021 as a result of Pancreatic Cancer. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 11 – River Assault Division 112 as a GMG2 onboard M-112-2 in 1966-67



Member **William Lee “Bill” Reynolds** passed away on January 11, 2021. While in Vietnam he served with Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, from May 1966, to May 1968. Bill is survived by his wife Meg. – **“My Brother “Mr. Enthusiasm.”** He got the most out of anything that was going on. He was sixteen months older than me, and we were very close. He was not a good fisherman but he always wanted me to take him fishing. This past summer I took him out on Swan Lake in Montana and he caught a twelve-pound Northern Pike! He was thrilled! We both shared the same sense of humor, sometimes not always convenient. Bill was blind in one eye and when he beat me on every single game of pool he would always say **“Bob, ya know I can only see out of one eye.”** I will miss him terribly.” – Bob Reynold

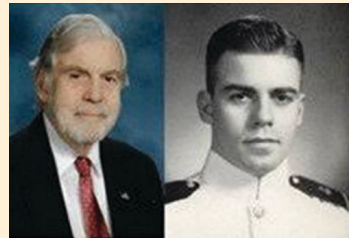


Former Member **Ronald Alvin Dix** passed away February 24, 2021. While in Vietnam he served with River Patrol Force (Task Force 116) in River Division 512 from January 1969 to January 1970. Ron is survived by his wife Darlene.

Associate Member **Dennis F. Morse** passed away on February 22, 2021. Dennis was a fellow “Navy Diver” friend of Member Chief Chet Stanley. He was a great supporter of our MRFA since 1996.

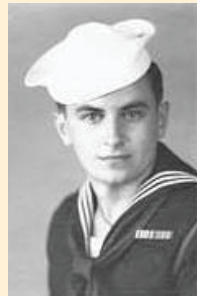
Member **William Patrick Bergan** passed away on March 17, 2021. While in Vietnam he served with Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from December 1966 to November 1967.

Member **Larry Lee “Weed” Wedemeier** passed away, August 11, 2020. While in Vietnam, he served with Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from May 1968 to April 1969. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jeanenne, in 1993.



Commander **James McLeod Carr Jr.** (USN Ret.) passed away on December 10, 2020. While in Vietnam he served two tours as a designated Navy Intelligence Officer with the Mekong Delta Mobile Riverine Force.

Member Senior Chief **James J. McMahon Jr.** (USN Ret.) passed away on November 27, 2018. Chief McMahon served in World War II, Korea and did 3 tours of duty in Vietnam. From June, 1968, to July, 1970 he served with Mine Division 112 on MSBs.



Member **Dean Ayres** passed away on March 21, 2021. While in Vietnam he served with the 709th Maintenance Battalion and 99th Combat Support Battalion April 1969 to May 1970. Over the years Dean provided wonderful roasted pigs at several of our reunions. He did an excellent job and we all partook of pulled pork sandwiches. Dean is survived by his wife Katherine.



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)
 Ron Baker, In memory of BM@ William Comer, KIA 2/68
 Col. Dennis A. Bassett, for Lt. Leland McCants, III
 Bill Befort, in memory of Burroughs, Hilgart & Henke, B Co 4/47 5/67
 Bill Buffie, 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)
 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).
 **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
 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 Flamburis, T-112-2, 1967
 Thomas M. Freeland, Jr., USS Tutuila, ARG-4 (03/68-02/69)
 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
 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, for Chaplain Rene L. Petit, LT, CHC, 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 3/31/69
 Judy Moody, in Memory of Darwin L. Moody T-112-10
 Major J. D. Nichols III, CMDR, C Co. 3rd/60th Inf. (12/66-11/67), for Alfred Comejo, Anthony Galeno, Richard Lasher, Rudolph Melendez, Sigfredo Pinto-Pinto, and Garrett Reid KIAs 08/20/67
 Linda Pawlicki, in memory of Bob Pawlicki, T-111-11 (3/67-12/67)
 Sfc. Claud Onley, A Co. 3rd/47th Inf., KIA 5/66
 Dave Schell, in memory of SFC. Mike Hanmer, RivRon 13 & 153 (7/69-2/71)
 Robert Stumpf, in memory of John Sperry, & Joseph Rees 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 Sgt Dick Arnold, A Co. 3rd/47th, Max Delacruz, and G. P. Jones, C Co., 3rd/47th
 Okey Toothman, in memory of Judy Wallace
 Okey Toothman, in memory of Major General Lucien “Blackie” Bolduc
 Okey Toothman, in memory of Gary E. McCabe A Co. 3rd/47th Nancy VanDruff, in memory of Robert E. VanDruff, T-91-5/T92-4 (11/68-11/69)
 From your Brothers, B Co., 2nd 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in memory of John Nielsen, B Co. 2nd/39th, (04/68-04/70)



2021 MRFA & 9th Infantry Division Reunion
 9/16/21 TO 9/19/21
 Registration Form
 (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)
 Must be received by 9/1/2021



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 Flight Information
 September 16 - September 19, 2021



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Name(s): Additional Guest(s) _____ City _____ State _____

Send my registration form to me by e-mail Yes No First reunion

Registration includes member and 1 guest (Does not cover lodging, food, bus trips)
MRFA Member Registration \$75 Nonmember Registration \$100

Late registration fee at the hotel for members: (\$100) Non-Member (\$125) \$75 or \$100

Total number of other guest(s) _____ x \$ 25 ca. Guests under 12 are free \$ _____
 Bus trip to Vietnam Memorial Wall in Perryville _____ x \$25 each \$ _____
 (Must sign up in advance for bus. No sign up at the reunion)

Grand Total Enclosed \$ _____

Shuttle to Gateway Arch, St. Louis Aquarium/Wheel and West County Mall on a first come, first serve basis.

Please send this form with your check or money order payable to the MRFA. Mail to MRFA 2021 Reunion, C/O Frank Jones, 9 San Marino Parkway, Fenton, MO 63026 before 9/1/2021.

Full refund for cancellations will be made until 9/1/21. After this date NO REFUNDS will be made. Returned checks will be charged a \$25 processing fee.

Note: You will still have to check in at the registration desk to receive your name tag. There will be no admission to hospitality room without your lanyard/name tag. NO EXCEPTIONS! REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 16, 9AM TO 5PM AND FRIDAY, SEPT. 17, 9 AM TO NOON.

ONLY SEND THE FLIGHT FORM IF YOU NEED ADA TRANSPORTATION!
 Please fill out the 2021 MRFA Reunion Flight Form and send to Frank Jones

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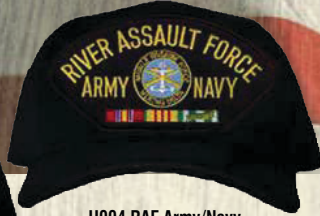
H001 MRFA Vietnam



H002 9th Inf Div Vietnam



H003 RAF TF-117



H004 RAF Army/Navy



H005 Old Reliables
9th Inf Div Vietnam



H006 USS Benewah Patch



H009 39th Infantry Regiment
w/black 6"x3" patch on black cap
(covers 2nd/39th, 3rd/39th, and 4th/39th 9th Inf Div)



H010 47th Inf Regiment
w/black 6"x3" patch on black cap
(covers 2nd/47th, 3rd/47th, and 4th/47th 9th Inf Div)



H011 60th Infantry Regiment
w/black 6"x3" patch on black cap
(covers 2nd/60th, 3rd/60th, and 5th/60th 9th Inf Div)

Mesh Back Hats



H017 Combat Infantryman



H018 Purple Heart



H019 9th Med Bn Dong Tam Vietnam



H020 Combat Medic Vietnam



H022 Silver Star
w/black 6"x3" patch on mesh back
black cap



H021 U.S. Navy Corpsman Vietnam



H015 9th Inf. Div. Vietnam
SVC Ribbon



H016 MRF CAR Vietnam

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H007 Tango w/ Helo



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H012 MRF PUC



H013 MRF Svc Ribbon

Survey Question

continued from page 7

Frank Jones. Boat Captain T-48 Jul. '69/Jul '70. "I would tell myself to pay close attention to all the training procedures."

Tony M. Pope. 4th /47th, 1968/1969. "Make better grades in college!"

Andy Curtner. T-131-1, March '68/March '69. "After high school, I had a good job in construction and didn't think too much about Viet Nam. My mother was really concerned about me getting drafted and I really didn't want to get drafted either, so I joined the Navy to stay out of Viet Nam and that backfired since I ended up going. Looking back, I wouldn't change anything.

James Fredrick. 9th Div., 3rd/47th, Feb. '68/Feb. '69. "While I have no real regrets about going to Vietnam (9th Division, 3rd/47th from February 68 to February 69) I would probably tell my younger self that I had more options at that point in my life than I thought I did. I was a freshman in a college that I didn't like. I would have preferred to have left school and worked for a while and then gone back to school at the University that I

preferred but in August of 1967 that was not an option. If you were not in school you were going to be drafted, so I quit school and volunteered for the draft.

My motives were mixed. I believed in the war, wanted some adventure, and wanted to get out of where I was, but I have to admit I never thought I would go to Vietnam. At 18 I did not see myself as a combat soldier. I saw myself as a future college graduate who would go on to some kind of a professional career. I had to go through the Army to get to where I wanted to be. Imagine my shock when I was classified 11Bravo and went to infantry school.

Looking back, I could have probably gotten into my preferred University without going into the Army but I did not know how to do that and my parents couldn't help. They had no money and neither of them had gone to college. While my father understood the long-term financial benefit of going to college neither of them really understood what going to college meant or how to go about it.

What I would tell my younger self now is go to your high school counselor and ask him what you need to do to get where you want to be. I think my counselor could have pointed me in the right direction if I had asked."

Mark Vandling. M-132-3. 105/50 gunner. 6-'69/6-'70. Stay below deck on 10-30 and on 1-20 ! and buy 1,000 shares of Walmart on return home.

Steve Benedict. A/3/60. 3- '68/3-'69. "I would tell myself to try to soak in the whole experience, as bad as it could be, so I could get as much out of it as possible. As it was, I think my nineteen-year-old self was just thinking about surviving. I might have advised doing a journal, or diary."

John Gibbs. M112 – 2, a division 115 Tango, then to A115-7/A-17. 4-'69/1970. "To prepare best I can and don't let fear take over."

Ron Mercurio. 4/39th. 10-'68/'9-'69. "Be alert, careful, listen and watch everything and always be ready for anything."

Tom Witt YRBM-21, Tan Chao 8/71-10/71, Dong Tam 10-'71/4-'72. "I'd do it pretty much the same way! Student deferment was running out! I found out I wasn't made for college, but I had a tool & die maker's background. Find out yourself how things work and our countries political foreign policy actually happens!"

Donald Matras. Coastal Division 11, An Thoi, '68/'69. "Join the Air Force."

Thank you for all of your great responses to our two survey question. The second survey question, asking how you felt, and what you did, your first week home, will appear in the Summer Issue!

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Dane Keller, Riv Div 532, PBR 121 (05/69-05/70)
Thomas Kelley, USN (Ret), RAS 9, & Riv Div 152 (08/68-06/69)
John Klungreseter, T-111-2 & M-111-1
Gary L. Knox, Riv Ron 9, A-91-8 (01/68-06/70)
LTC Nick Laiacona, USA (Ret.) C Co. 3rd/60th Inf. (1968-69)
Robert Lamoureux, C Co., 3rd/47th
Art "Lash" LaRue, Zippo-3, RID-45, Alpha-67 (1/70-1/71)
Jerry Lippincott, IUWG-1, LCM-877 (06/70-05/71)
Naval Advisory Group
Richard Lorman, T-152-6 (06/68-06/69)
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, Riv Ron 152 (10/69-07/70) "Suffolk 24"
Paul A. Mayne, YRBM-16 (01/67-02/68)
Larry McCallister, C-2 4th/47th Infantry (12/67-12/69)
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 Metzzen, C-4, 3rd/60th Infantry 12/66-11/67
Nick Miller, COS., RivDiv 152 (07/68-06/69)
Capt. Lawrence K. Monahan, USNR (Ret.), YRBM-20 (1970-71)
A. R. "Monti" Montillo, B Co. 3rd/60th Inf. (04/68-09/68)
Albert B. Moore, USS Benewah, and IUWG-1 (04/67-04/70)
J. Russell, and Alice Moore, T-91-5, (11/68-06/69)
Rick Moran, B Co 4th/47th Inf. (11/67-10/68)
Russ Naden, USS Tutuila , ARG-4
Thanks Artillery
Daryl Newell, USS Benewah, APB-35, 4/70-2/71
Capt. Jerry Pape, USN (Ret), Staff, COMRIVFLOT ONE (01/68-12/68)
Dwayne Parsons, M-111-1 (Zippo 1) (11/67-11/68)
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
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)
Jerry Ross, T-131-1 (08/69-08/70)
Loren Salzman, E Co., 4th/47th, (12/67-12/68)
Billie Sanders, Riv Ron 11, RAD 112, T-112-1 & CCB-112-1, 1967 plankowner
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 (05/66-1/68)
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. Shuttters, USN (Ret), Boat Captain, T-111-1 (9/67-8/68)
Bill Slover, XO, USS Colleton, APB-36
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)
Charles Thompson, 9th Admin Co. (02/66-11/67)
Harley Timmerman, T-132-10 (06/68-06/69)
B-2 2nd/60th Air Mobile, 9th Inf. (01/69-05/69)
Milton Turnage, M-151-1 (07/68-06/69)
Roger Valentine, USS Askari, ARL-30 (07/67-05/68)
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)
Gary Weisz, A-91-4 (10/67-07/68)
David H. White, USN (Ret), USS Satyr, ARL-23 (08/69-08/70)
Wm. "Whit" Whitworth, Lighthorse 5D, Troop 3rd/5th Cav (9th Inf. Div.) (03/68-04/69)
BMC. Donald Wiita, USN (Ret), T-111-13 (03/67-02/68)
Rhett Wise, A Co. 3rd/47th Inf. (03/67-04/68)
Jeffrey L. Withers, Riv Ron 11, A-112-8 and M-112-2 (06/68-06/69)
John Woronicak, APB-35 Benenwah
William H. Ziebarth, 9th Signal 3rd/34 Arty (05/66-12/67)
James Zieminski, EN2, Boat Captain, RivDiv 153, ASPB 6854 (04/69-04/70)
Robert Zimmer, XO., USS Mercer, APB-39 (02/68-07/69)