



River Currents



A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 2
SUMMER, 2021

Message From the Radio Shack

Hello from the Radio Shack:

I have just returned from St. Louis to review our reunion schedule with the hotel. Rooms are filling up fast and NOW IS THE TIME to make reservations if you have not. Everything has opened up and capacities are at 100% seating in the restaurants, bars, etc. In this edition of the River Currents is the REGISTRATION form for the reunion. COVID-19 will be far behind us by September, and we will be having a great reunion! Be sure to call to make your hotel reservations. The number is **1-888-627-7066** for the HOTEL. Separately, send your REGISTRATION form with your check to Frank Jones. Remember, you have two things to do!!!! On-site registration is more, so mail yours today. We will refund any registration cancellations that are cancelled two weeks prior to the reunion. The hotel will cutoff room reservations on August 25th. Any overflow reservations will be at the Sheraton Plaza, which is across the courtyard from the Sheraton Chalet.

The bus tour to the **Missouri National Veteran's Memorial** in Perryville, MO is popular. We have two busses already chartered and will add more!!! If you wish to go, put that on your registration form also!! You must be pre-registered for this. A Plan of the Day is also attached to this edition so you can review where we are, as of today, with our plans.

The Arballos will be taking interviews at the reunion to add to the production of our MRF documentary. There will be a sign-up list at the on-site MRFA registration desk to sign up for an interview. The Arballos 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. Arballo Productions has launched the official fund-raising campaign this month that will provide the public funding necessary to produce the documentary **"The Mobile Riverine Force"**.

I am excited and so looking forward to seeing all of you in September. It will be a great one! Again, do not wait! Please make your reservations and your registration NOW!

Harry Hahn, President, SparksRivRon13@aol.com



Harry Hahn

Veterans Day 2021 - 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, Thursday, November 11, 2021. 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 forty (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 \$109.00 (plus tax) for a single and \$119.00 (plus tax) for double a 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 stay at this hotel, you must make your reservations under our group code prior to the cutoff date of October 9, 2021.

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.arlington-courthotel.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 2021.

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

Retired State Flags From the Coronado Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument Are Available for Purchase!

Board Member Tom Matyn has advised that all of the state and service flags on the VUMM display have been retired and replaced. MRFA members can purchase their state flags, by sending a check for \$20, and the specific state flag you would like to order, to Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument Fund (VUMMF), Post Office Box 181172, Coronado, CA, 92178-1172



I have purchased the Missouri state flag. Please understand, these are not "new" flags. They have had the honor of flying over this Memorial Monument, with pride!

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

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

(Continued From Spring Edition)

James D. Robertson. 4thBn./39th Inf, 9th ID. August '68/July '69. “I had a reporter and a cameraman following me around most of my first week home, so I felt awkward and self-conscious. I spent most of the time visiting with relatives and friends. There were several “Welcome Home” parties. It was shortly after the 4th of July, when I came home so there were still plenty of fireworks in the hands of the kids. I remember one instance when I was walking down the street talking to one of my cousins, and a pack of firecrackers went off nearby. I hit the deck and rolled under a parked car. That was embarrassing.”



Paul Ray, Riv Ron 151, 69/70. “Got drunk, and wrecked my parent’s car. How Did I Feel? I don’t know. My brain was in a constant ricochet.”

Frank Moran. B Co., 4/47th Inf. 67-68. “I felt relieved and welcomed by my wife. We have now been married 54 years.”

John Descoteaux. River Assault Squadron 9, Nov 67/Nov 68. “First week home I kept the wife in bed, drank a lot of beer, and ate a lot of steak.”

Jim Kerschner. B/2/60th Inf. 1970 -1971 “I got raving drunk a couple of times, enjoyed my mother’s and grand-mother’s cooking again (sure as hell beat C rations), but mostly I spent time with my friends in the mountains of central Pennsylvania. I can’t begin to describe how god awful good it felt to be able to go into the woods and not have to be constantly alert for our little yellow brothers. After that there were the girls. I had really missed looking at them.”

Donald Saylor. Riv Div 92, on Monitor 92-1, 1967. “I tried to relax and try to put the past year out of my mind. That didn’t work so I began what ended up being a short journey to try and make sense out of the world I had come back to. Most of us know how that turned out too.”

Bruce Peters. D Company, 4/39th Infantry./ 9th S&T 1969. “I was married ten days before I left, so what do you think I was doing? Seriously, I helped my father-in-law with harvesting soybeans for a week or so, bought a car, visited with family, then my wife and I drove to Ft Carson for my next assignment. We were there for 2 1/2 years until I was discharged in 1972. Oh, yeah, we had our first child a year later. Lol”

Dewey Pollock. BMCS ret. Tango 131-3. “When I got back I didn’t go home for five years. I went to Pennsylvania, to stay with friends. It took me awhile before I was even halfway comfortable around other people. The clincher was when I finally got up the nerve, I went to the VFW in Bath, PA. I had been there often in the year before Vietnam. The commander, reading my application, told me that the VFW had not decided what the Vietnam veteran’s status was, so he couldn’t take my application at that time. I left and it took me forty years before I entered another VFW.”

Don Blankenship. A-111-3 and A-152-21. 02/69-02/70. “Lyn and I married ten days after I got back from Vietnam, on February 11, 1969. So, as a result I was staying at Lyn’s parent’s house, getting blood tests, marriage license, putting together my new Fisher sound system which I ordered while in Vietnam, and just enjoying each other’s company. Loved being back in the world. We celebrate our 51st wedding anniversary on February 21, 2021.”

A.J. McCaskey. 4/47 Co. A, 1st Platoon 68/69. “I smiled a lot. It took a while to realize that I made it back in one piece. That I made it. I was quite nervous, but I was back, and elated.”



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

Survey Question

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Ralph Bigelow, T-131-8 68/69. “First week back I checked into Treasure Island. It was the island next to Alcatraz. I was a guard and runner with the Marines at the brig. Partied when I could in Frisco.”

John Eanes, Sgt., 11-Bravo Co. B, 2nd Bn, 47th Inf, 9th Div. Oct. ‘68/Oct. ‘69. “Went to Disneyland. Spent a week in Southern California. Got acquainted with my year-old son, who I had not seen since he was a newborn, and re-acquainted with my wife. Tried not to look like I was just out of the Army.”

David Sniff, HM2, USS Tutuila, Mar 66 - Apr 67. “Like many, I kept a low profile as I returned in ‘67 when anti-Nam was building a big following. I didn’t tell anyone where I had been and I felt lucky to be alive with only some psychological issues I worked through as time went on.”

Ray Ambrozy, C 3/60 9th Div. 02/67 - 02/68. “First week home, rented a 1968 Ford Torino, hung around with some friends, cruising Woodward Ave, (the strip in Detroit) picking up girls and going to bars, legally.”

Mike Spight, Radioman, RAD 153 and RAD 152, Jan. ‘70/Jan. ‘71. “I got home on 7 January, 1971. My Mom and Dad had a very nice artificial Christmas Tree set up and they left all the decorations up all over the house so we could celebrate Christmas together, and my making it home in one piece. I felt somewhat numb to it all...I still had two years to go on my four-year enlistment, and only had thirty days of leave to spend at home. So, I bought a new car (Triumph GT-6+) and met a young lady who I then dated for about a year whenever I was home on leave. An old Buddy and I, who was still in town, and I did a LOT of partying during my thirty days of leave...too much in hind sight.”

Ron ‘Doc’ McClain, 3rd Plt. Echo Co., 3/60 9th Infantry. 1/68-5/68. “Enjoyed peaceful time with my wife and infant daughter!”

Rich Lorman T-152-6 68/69. “I was head-to-toe in bandages for months in Chelsea Naval Hospital/Boston ---unable to feed myself or wipe my own ass, but when I finally hobbled to the family house to check on my stored/garaged 55 Chevy (afraid the family dog wouldn’t recognize me) the dog/car joyful reunion was primary in that first week “home.” Also, the Chevy was brought back to life and on the road that first week.”

John Pell, E CO., 4/47th, 68-69. “Looked for a job, but all the places I checked on, when I told them I just got back from Vietnam, they would not talk to me. And then, I was going to trade

school and every trade I chose, the VA would not pay for it at that time, which was May 1969, so I went to work with my dad in construction, which was good because I would never have been able to work in production to many bosses.”

Ron Smith. “I found out my fiancée was pregnant. My second dad died and was buried two days before. I went to a bar for a beer and ran into an Aussie. He called me a “baby killer,” so I knocked him out. That was March 7th, my first 24 hours home. The next day, I went to my VFW to renew my membership from 1968. I asked for a PBR and said I wanted to renew my membership. The bartender (a Korean War vet) said, “Get the f*** out of here. We don’t serve your kind.” I sure wished I had extended for six more months when I was asked to. I felt totally lost.”

George Perrault, Headquarters Support Activity Saigon (HSAS)/ USS Tioga County LST 1158. “(I was) Back in the U.S. April, of 66, had a short R & R, packed up my spouse and fourteen-month-old and shipped off to an LST, out of Diego. I went back over to the Pearl of the Orient!”

Alfred Griffith, SSG, Company E, 3rd Battalion 60th Inf. Dec ‘67/Nov ‘68. “I felt emotionally numb and alienated when I came back. I was wounded in the battle of My Tho, the concussion from the artillery almost deafened me. I thought they were going to amputate my right leg, at the field hospital on the Benewah. I can’t take statin drugs because of unbearable leg cramps. I still have shrapnel in both legs. I have been diagnosed with Ischemic heart disease. I had two major heart attacks, four stents, and Traumatic Brain Injury.”

Ron Garcia, USS Windham County LST 1170, 1966-68. “I visited the family of my friends still deployed and asked how they were. I felt like I needed to get status on everyone and talk to my friend’s parents. By the way, every one of them welcomed me home!”

John Weiss, Charlie Company, 2/60 Inf. Oct. 28, 1968/Feb. 9, 1969 “My first week home was a little different, I think. I spent six weeks in Walter Reed Hospital, and came home every weekend. When the Army “TDY’d” me to home, I goofed off until I got my retirement papers. I bought a new car and went back to work.”

Ray Harvey, Weapons Department Head, later First Lieutenant and Ship’s Stores Officer, USS Clarion River (LSMR-409), 69/70. “Went home to my family. Flew to Travis AFB. Changed into civvies and kept my mouth shut to avoid trouble, flew commercial to Nashville, took a bus to my home town. Got a rare hug from my Dad and, of course, from Mom. Got a thank you from one of the men in town. Got my car out of mothballs and ready to drive to my next duty station in Norfolk, VA. Started looking for a new

girlfriend.”

Charley Endorf, Delta Co. 3rd Bn., 47th Inf. July of 68 to July of 69. “I was able to leave the war over there. I did not bring it home. My personal faith helped me through that, and I spent a lot of time with family and friends, and I more than ever appreciated the life I had, and valued it more than ever. I felt good, and relaxed for the first time in a year. And ate real food. Mom’s cooking!”

Patrick M. Kelly, RivDiv 151, C-151-1. Jul. ‘68/Jun. ‘69. “Out of place. I found high school classmates that had also just returned. I haven’t seen them since. I moved away from my home town. I did the diving into the gutter on a car backfire. I spent about five minutes at the exit door at the Long Beach airport before I realized that the lights in the parking lot would expose me to incoming fire, and I was cautious to go out into the light.”

Joseph “Joe” Butchart, Company A, 15th Combat Engineer Battalion. Aug. ‘68/Jul. ‘69. “When I returned home, the plans were already made for my upcoming marriage. Nevertheless, I remember feeling like an alien at home (the San Francisco Bay Area); and I was scared to be home. I constantly looked over my shoulder. Every time a car went by, I was ready to duck and hide. I really was afraid to walk down the street. So much at home had changed in the year I was in Vietnam. It was a new and uncertain environment. In Vietnam, you were certain about how to act and react in that environment.”

Paul George, EN3, T-112-9 Jul. ‘68/Nov. ‘68. A-112-7 Nov. ‘68/Jul. ‘69. “I got my driver’s license, and four days later checked in to a dormitory at Ohio State University. Back in 1969, all freshmen were required to spend their first year in a dormitory... no exceptions.”

Steve Crecy, E Co, 15th Engineers Bn. ‘67/‘68. “I, at this age, have CRS (can’t remember stuff, the nice way to say it). I think I mostly ate, drank and slept for the first week and took long showers.”

Jerry Hyde USS Askari. USS Askari (ARL-30). Feb. ‘67/Feb. ‘68. “Let my long-constrained libido run amok.”

Gary Hassebroek, B 4th of the 47th 9th Inf. May ‘68/Jun. ‘69. “I came home trying to figure how I made it and visited any and every one I knew,”

Eddie Fast, ETR-2, USS Colleton, 1 partial day on T-112-13. “I’m not sure what I did when I got home but I do remember my first day out of Great Lakes Naval Hospital. It was Veteran’s Day 1967 and I stumbled into the festivities. I was behind some large bleachers on State Street not knowing what was happening on the street. When the 21-gun salute went off, I found myself flat

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Survey Question

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on the sidewalk in my dress blues. I was kind of embarrassed and got out of there quickly.”

Frank Passarelli. RM3, RivDiv 151, Tango 151-1/Tango 28, May ‘69/May ’70. “My first week home. I stayed away from everyone, and I ate Chicago style pizza, Chicago style Italian beef, sandwiches, and hot dogs. Mostly I ate everything Mom cooked. I took very long BATHS.”

Phil Byrum. 9th Div. 3/60th, Feb ‘68/Feb ’69. “(It was a) Great time to reunite with my wife who I married in June 1967, and was drafted in August of ‘67. It was like a second honeymoon before we left for Ft. Bennington, to finish up.

Ken Kalish, JOC. River Patrol Section 523 & AFVN, Saigon. Jul. ’67/ Feb ’69. “That first day home I got a job as a TV reporter, paired with a high school buddy and Army VN vet (I Corps) as my photographer. Went dancing with my mom and met my first wife – all in that first week. Didn’t know I was suffering from PTSD for two years, since Dan and I were doing lots of traffic accidents, fires, and “spot news.” Dan and I covered my mother’s death 24 Dec, ’69 for the 10:00 news that night.”

Frank Jones. Boat Captain T-48 Jul. ‘69/Jul ’70. “I spent my first week getting reacquainted with my wife and meeting my son who was 7 months old. Still married to this beautiful lady.”

Tony M. Pope. 4th /47th, 1968/1969. “I visited my family but, especially my 95-year-old grandfather, who had never left Kentucky, and worked for the railroad for fifty-two years. He asked me how far away Vietnam was from Kentucky. I told him 10,000 miles. He replied, “That must have been a hell of a train ride!”

Andy Curtner. T-131-1, March ‘68/March ’69. “After I came home, I visited with my family. I had thought about extending over there because I was close to my boat crew, but the crew came home at the same time and I wanted to be with my family.”

James Fredrick. 9th Div., 3rd/47th, Feb. ‘68/ Feb. ’69. “I had a complicated time getting out of RVN (a story for another time) so by the time I landed in California I was stretched pretty thin emotionally. I called some family friends in the Oakland area expecting a big welcome but I did not get that. I was disappointed with the reaction I got and felt unsure of how my return was going to be received. I decided to just go straight home rather than stay on in California. I stayed overnight in Oakland and then flew home to Tulsa the next day. My parents met me at the gate. I was shocked at how much they had aged in the year I had been gone.

The following day I got a call from one of those California friends asking me why I had not stayed in California to see them. I told her why and she said to get myself back to California because there were people who needed to see me, so I flew back to California.

Two of those people were the parents of a good friend of mine who had been killed in Vietnam the previous June. They lived near Oakland and I had stayed with them for a while when I was on leave before departing for Vietnam. They needed to talk to me about their son and hear my memories of him. I also met with the family of another friend who was wounded in Vietnam and had returned to the field after he had recovered from his wound. I then spent a few days in the Bay Area before returning to Oklahoma.

I was glad I went back and saw those people. I think it did them some good. I know it was good for me.”

Mark Vandling. M-132-3. 105/50 gunner. 6-‘69/6-’70. “I visited friends, went back to work, worried about my buddies still on the rivers, and generally felt out of place.”

Steve Benedict. A/3/60. 3- ‘68/3-’69. “I don’t recall what I did that first week back, but somewhere around there, I recall thinking, in the spring of ‘69, that I wanted to get involved in protesting the war I had just left, so I began doing that, although my early thoughts weren’t real coherent. I remember being invited to be interviewed on a local talk radio program and realizing that I wasn’t quite sure what our government should be doing in Vietnam at that point, so I imagine I was a rather unpersuasive guest. At least that’s how I recall it.

John Gibbs. RM2, M112 – 2, a division 115 Tango, then to A115-7/A-17. 4-‘69/1970. “I had a Medical three-week extension at Great Lakes for adjusting to life in “the world,” hernia operation, and filing a VA claim for hearing loss. When I got home, I couldn’t do much of anything for a month.

Tom Witt. YRBM-21, Tan Chao 8/71-10/71, Dong Tam 10-‘71/4-’72. “I left all my greens back in-country. Some memories are best left behind! I had a nice ChiCom pistol and an AK-47. Someone else got them. That first week, and actually for six months, I searched out old friends, and discovered how much my attitude had changed, and theirs didn’t, about certain things! It took me twenty-seven years to look up my old Navy buddies and discovered the MRFA guy right in my own county got me to join the local VFW. It really took that long to decompress!”

Donald Matras. Coastal Division 11, An Thoi, ‘68/’69. “I realized that I didn’t belong in that world that I had been dreaming of for a year. Something had changed and I wasn’t sure what. But, I didn’t belong there, anymore.”

Dick Sowa. RM3. T-131-3, RAID 73, USS Repose (AH-16). 69/70. The day I arrived at Long Beach for discharge, the Red Cross got hold of me to tell me that one of my best friends had been killed in a motorcycle accident. I got emergency leave to attend the funeral, and it delayed my discharge by about a week.

When I got home (March 1972), I put on my old suit and went to the funeral home. A lot of his and my old friends were there...ones that were more of the “acquaintance” type. The typical reaction to me was “oh...I haven’t seen you around for a while...where have you been?” As soon as I mentioned the service, and Vietnam, I got “Oh” and some blank stares. No recognition whatsoever of my sacrifice. It was almost like I was a leper, and they didn’t want to become infected so they said nothing at all. It was of no interest to anyone, and they couldn’t care less. Most of society treated me the same way...nobody cared whether I had served or not. So, over the years, it just faded away. Nobody asked, and I never talked about it. Of course, family and close friends were supportive, but not the vast majority of society. It’s only been the last few years that things have changed...and especially since 9/11. Since I worked for the Feds, I did get some job-related recognition...and was able to count my military time toward Civil Service Retirement. So that was good. But overall, it was a non-event most of the time. Nonetheless, I put my flag out on all the holidays (one of the very few on my block that did, until the last couple years), and have Vietnam Vet license plates.

Then, about a year ago (about 2003), I had some cable tv problems and a service tech came out...a guy about 25-30 or so. After he was done, I walked him out to his truck, and as he passed my pickup, he noticed the Vietnam Vet license plate. He turned around, stuck out his hand to shake mine and said “thank you for serving...I want you to know how much I appreciate your sacrifice”. Needless to say, I was flabbergasted and speechless. It was the first time since coming home, that anyone (except family and you all in the MRFA) had openly acknowledged it. Of course, I thanked him for his kind words, but was so dumbfounded I couldn’t think of anything else to say.

I know it was a small thing, but it made a difference to me, and will stick with me forever.

“I stayed away from everyone, and I ate Chicago style pizza, Chicago style Italian beef, sandwiches, and hot dogs. Mostly I ate everything Mom cooked. I took very long BATHS.”

Great Places To Dine and Dance, in Westport Plaza!



Kobe Steakhouse – A combination of great food and entertainment!



Westport Social – A fun atmosphere, with music!



The Trainwreck Saloon – Good food in a casual, friendly setting

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

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!



Mobile Riverine Force Association

Plan of the Day for the 2021 Reunion



Opening and closing of the individual hospitality rooms will be up to the different units. Main Hall Hospitality Room is open to all hands and will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 10:00 p.m. daily. Beverages and snacks will be available. Be sure to wear your name tag at all times. Entrance to all reunion events require 2021 ID Badge

Thursday, September 16, 2021

7:00 a.m. Main Hall Hospitality Room opens
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration by Linda Jones and Don Blankenship (outside Zermatt Room)

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Product sales hosted by Debbie Pries and her staff

Raffle tickets available from Mable Springer (Raffle Queen) and her staff

MRF and 9th Inf Division Museum Room hosted by Bob Pries and his staff (Alpine 1 and 2)

MRFA Memorial and Museum Trailer hosted by Bruce Graff (contact person and driver) and Charlie Ardinger

10:00 p.m. Main Hospitality Room closes

Friday, September 17, 2021

7:00 a.m. Main Hall Hospitality Room opens
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration open (outside Zermatt Room)

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Product sales open

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Shuttle to Downtown (Arch), new Aquarium and out to shopping mall (operates continuously)

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- Raffle tickets available
- MRF and 9th Inf Division Museum Room open
- MRFA Memorial and Museum Trailer open
- All group rooms and RivRon Room open

10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Bus to Missouri's National Veteran's Memorial - Perryville - must be pre-registered to take trip. Arrives back at hotel at 2:30p.m.

Lunch on your own on or off property

Lunch and dinner buffet is available in Sheraton Chalet Restaurant for SPECIAL PRICING of \$15.95

Lunch and dinner buffet is available in Sheraton Chalet Restaurant for **SPECIAL PRICING** of \$15.95

MRFA Hospitality Rooms

River Squadron Room - St. Moritz - Randy Peat and Terry Sater hosts

White River - Davos Room - Bill Brennan host

Saturday, September 18, 2021

7:00 a.m. Main Hall Hospitality Room opens

9:00 a.m. MRFA Reunion Program

- **National Anthem - Please stand / Hand Salute**
- Master of Ceremonies (Don Blankenship A-111-3/A-152-21)
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome - Harry Hahn - President MRFA
 - Recognition of officers and Board
- Guest Speaker - Tom Kelley- Medal of Honor Recipient and Commanding Officer of River Division 152

Short Restroom break

Memorial Service

- Church Call
- Invocation (Don Blankenship)
- Flags and certificates presented to widows, sons, or daughters of our fallen Brothers from Vietnam and those who have passed on since, who attended past reunions - (Ron and Nancy Baker, USN retired)
- Missing Man Table Ceremony - (Harry Hahn Bob Pries/Dave Lull)
- Reading of names of those who have passed away since the last reunion (Don Blankenship and Roy Moseman) Two Bell Ringing of the Bell Memorial (Frank Jones)
US Army, US Navy, Marine Corps, US Air Force, US Coast Guard Prayers for our Departed Brothers and Sisters
- Taps (Roy Moseman)
- **Presentation of MRF Documentary sizzle reel by Jeff and Shannon Arballo**
- Last minute announcements

Lunch and dinner buffet is available in Sheraton Chalet Restaurant for SPECIAL PRICING of \$15.95

Noon to 2:00 p.m. Product sales

Noon to 5:00 p.m. Shuttle Downtown and Shopping Venues

2:00 p.m. Raffle drawings - Donations accepted see Mable Gun raffle to be held after the raffle drawings

2:30 p.m. to ? Visiting with shipmates, family, and friends

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM cash bar (free beer)

7:15 p.m. DJ music

10:00 pm. Main Hospitality Room closes

Sunday, September 19, 2021 Check Out

Note: Volunteers are appreciated. See Frank



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



Name _____

Unit in Vietnam (one unit only) _____ Dates _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Name(s): Spouse/Girlfriend or 1st Guest _____ City _____ State _____

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

_____ City _____ State _____

_____ 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 \$ _____

\$75 or \$100

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

Total number of other guest(s) _____ x \$ 25 ea. **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.

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TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One

Member **Michael D. "Mike" Farver** passed away on December 23, 2020. While in Vietnam he served with 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division as a Combat Medic in 1968-69. Mike is survived by his wife Betty.



Member Chief **John C. Miller** (USN Ret.) passed away. At this time, we do not have a date of death. While in Vietnam Chief Miller served with Coastal Squadron One from March 1970 to December 1970.

Member **Thomas L. "Mac" McLemore** passed away on January 16, 2021. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 11 – River Assault Division 112 as a 20MM gunner onboard T-112-7 from December 1966 to December 1967



Former Member **Larry Marline Webb** passed away on April 7, 2021 after several courageous years on dialysis. While in Vietnam Larry served with Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division from January 1967 to January 1968.

Member **William C. Marlow** passed away on April 21, 2021. While in Vietnam he served with Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in 1969-70. William is survived by his wife of 26 years, Mary Snider Marlow.

Member **James William Egan** passed away suddenly on April 27, 2021 due to a heart attack. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 9 – River Assault Division 92 onboard T-92-7 from December 1967 to December 1968 as a GMG3. His Tango boat was used to place an Army APC aboard with flame turrets as the first experiment for a Zippo Boat. James is survived by his wife Nancy.



Member CWO2 **Gary R. Grahm** (USN Ret.) passed away on May 1, 2021. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 11 – River Assault Division 111 onboard A-111-7 from May 1968 to June 1969. Gary retired after serving 22 years in the Navy. He is survived by his wife Brenda.

Member **William H. "Bill" Brinton** passed away on April 17, 2021. While in Vietnam he served as a Sergeant with Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from January to April 1969. Bill's tour was cut short due to wounds in battle. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth.



Member **Roger L. Tolbert Sr.** passed away on April 29, 2021. While in Vietnam he served with Echo Company, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from June 1967 to June 1968. Roger served a 2nd tour with the 101st Airborne Division. He is survived by his wife Sara and Granddaughter Dakota.

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.

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 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
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 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 for John Nielsen B Co. 2nd/39th (04/68-04/70)
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Del Rosso, Patrick, RivRon-13 and 15, 12/69-11/70
Desiderio USCG (Ret), CDR David A., USCGC Pontchartrain (WHEC-70), 06/69-01/71
Dockendorf, Robert D. NSA Dong Tam/YRBM-17, 03/67-04/68
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Gerbing, John W., A&E Co 4th/47th Inf 1966-68
Hahn, Harry, RivRon 13 , M-131-1, 03/69-03/70
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Hamilton Jr., Roger N. "Cookie", USS Mark AKL-12, 08/68-08/69
Hammond Jr., Robert M., HQ 3rd/34th Arty, 10/68-08/69
Hagood, Wayne M., RivRon 15 T-52 RID 48 07/70-07/71
Harper, BM2 Joseph E USS White River LSMR-536, 12/66-12/68
Hawkins, LTJG Richard P., COMNAVFORV NAVADVGRP (VNN HHQ), 12/69-12/70
Haynes USN (Ret), EN2 Leo H. RivDiv 594, PBR-8120 04/69-02/70
Hilliard, Joe A. Gunner T-48 & Boat Captain T-44, 09/69-07/70
Hodgkinson, Joseph "Alan", A Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf. 01/68-08/69
Howlett, Bernard G., USS Carondelet IFS-1, 12/65-08/67
Hoyer, James "Jim", 1097th TC (MB), 08/68-07/69
Hughes Jr., John L., E Co. 3rd/60th Infantry, 04/68-10/68
Hyde, Alan G., 9th Signal BN, 12/66-10/67
Janssen, Francis B Co. 93rd Const. Eng 08/67-07/68
Jarezewski, David V., C Co. 4th/47th Inf 9th Div., 05/66-05/68
Jenkins, Bradley E., HHBSB 3rd/34th Arty & 2nd/47th Mech, 09/68-10/69
Jensen, Bruce A., T-111-3, 1967-68
Jensen, Richard G., A & E Cos 3rd/60th Inf., 12/66-11/67
Johnson, J. R. E Co. 3rd/47th Infantry 05/66-01/68
Johnston, Gerald, USS Nye County, 01/66-01/67
Jones, David R. Riv 111 Z-111-7, 10/68-10/69
Jones, Frank, RivDiv 152 , T-48 Boat Captain 07/69-07/70
Jones, Richard L., USS Tutuila ARG-4 06/71-12/71
Jorzak, Paul A., RivRon 9 T-92-5, 11/66-11/67
Kaweck, Jerry "Hollywood", B Co. 3rd/47th Inf 07/68-12/68
Keller, Dane K. RivDiv 532 PBR-121, 04/69-04/70
Kelley USN (Ret), Thomas G., RivDiv 152, 09/68-06/69
Klingrester, John A., T-111-2 and Mike-111-1 07/67-09/68
Knock, Gary L., RivRon 9, A-91-8, 01/68-06/70
Laicausa USA (Ret), LTC Nicholas M., C-1 3rd/60th Infantry, 11/68-07/69
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Long Sr., James L., ComRivFLOT One Staff, 11/67-11/68
Loomis, Steven NAG, Saigon Shipyard 06/70-06/71
Lorman, Richard E., T-152-6, 06/68-06/69
MacDonald, James H., B Co 3rd/60th Inf. 11/67-03/68
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Matura, Vincent, RivRon 15 RAD 152, 10/69-10/70
Mayne, Paul A. YRBM-16, 01/67-02/68
McCallister, Larry D., C-2 4th/47th Infantry, 12/67-12/69
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Melton, Frank S. "Stan", RivRon 9, T-91-5, 01/67-12/67

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Ross, Jerry, T-131-1, 08/69-08/70
Salzman, Loren E. Co. 4th/47th Inf., 12/67-12/68
Sanders, Billie, RivRon 11 C-112-1 & T-112-1 03/67-12/67
Saunders, Norman J., B Co. 3rd/39th Infantry, 01/69-08/69
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Schradler, Robert W. "Bob", D Co. 9th Med BN 07/68-07/69
Schuster, F. George, USS Indra ARL-37 1968-1969
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Wallace, Ron, B-3 3rd/47th Infantry, 05/66-08/67
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Wise, Rhett S., A-2 3rd/47th Inf 02/67-04/68
Withers, Jeffrey L., RivRon 9, and 11, 06/68-06/69
Woronick, John W., USS Benewah APB-35, 03/68-03/69
Ziebarth, William H., 9th Signal Batt 3rd/34th Art, 05/66-12/67
Zieminski, James F., RivDiv 153, ASPB-6854, 04/69-04/70
Zimmer USN, LT Robert J., XO USS Mercer APB-39, 02/68-07/69
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