



A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION



River Currents

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 4
Winter, 2021

Message From the Radio Shack

Hello from the
Radio Shack:

We have just
closed out 2021
with a good
year, despite
COVID-19
hanging on and
causing minor
interference to



Harry Hahn

some of our plans. We are looking
forward to a great 2022, which will
be full of many events.

The MRFA has successfully negotiated an agreement with the Russell Military Museum, located at the Wisconsin/Illinois state line. They have agreed to accept and display our MRFA museum trailer at their facility on a full-time basis. They close for the winter months, but are open spring through fall displaying tanks, helos, airplanes and other war-time memorabilia in and outdoors. The access for MRFA members will be free when you show your MRFA membership card!! More details on this as we move forward. It was time to retire the trailer and our old tow vehicle prior to any excessive repairs or having to purchase a new tow vehicle. This location is central for member access and should prove to be a great visit, especially with the other memorabilia there from other wars. They also have two PBR boats on display.

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2022 “MRFA MINI-REUNION” — SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA LOEWS CORONADO BAY RESORT September 7 – 8, 2022



Begin making plans to drop your bow ramps and hit the beach in San Diego, next September! Make your reservations for this operation and arrange for air support, as soon as possible. You will bunk at the beautiful Loews Coronado Bay Resort, 4000 Coronado Bay Road, Coronado, CA 92118, in beds considerably above the racks you slept in the hootches in Dong Tam, the steel decks of Tango boats, the ships of the MRB, or the muddy rice paddies of the Mekong Delta!

Perched on its own 15-acre peninsula, Loews Coronado Bay is a private oasis of tranquility near San Diego. No mortars. No flares. Just good times, good friends, good food, and good drinks. This Coronado hotel offers views of the shimmering bay waters and the San Diego skyline.

There will be no Resort Fees. There is a \$15 self-parking per night. Check in September 7th however the great rate we

have is available three days prior to and post reunion dates. Planned Activities:

Visit to VUMMF Memorial on U.S. Navy Amphibious Base, Coronado, CA

PCF ride and tour of San Diego Harbor on restored Vietnam era Swift Boat

Regular shuttle to downtown Coronado from hotel.

We recommend utilizing Uber or Lyft from San Diego Airport to hotel as there is no airport hotel shuttle available.

IF YOU PLAN ON VISITING THE VIETNAM UNIT MEMORIAL MONUMENT (VUMM), YOU WILL NEED TO FILL OUT SECNAV FORM 5512-1 IN ORDER TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE BASE. YOU WILL FIND THE FORM LINK ON THE MRFA.org WEB PAGE!

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

Message From The Radio Shack

continued from page 1

Coming next September will be our “MRFA Mini-Reunion” in Coronado, CA. Look for the full details in this newsletter. The final agenda is not completed yet. However, it will include a visit to the Vietnam Unit Memorial on the US Navy Amphibious base and a ride on a Vietnam Swift boat around San Diego Bay. Also, the premier of the documentary on the MRF “Riverine Force”, by Arballo productions will be shown. Other good news surrounding the production of the MRF documentary is that KPBS has obligated themselves to help fund and support the documentary. This means they will AIR the documentary on their station and make it available to all other PBS stations. The documentary, “Scramble the Seawolves”, aired on ALL PBS stations around the USA. We are still looking for, and all donations for the documentary, will be appreciated.

Harry Hahn, President,
SparksRivRon13@aol.com

2022 MRFA MINI REUNION

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SECNAV 5512-1 form is NOT required for any person who has a DoD ID card. Retired Military, 100% disabled Veterans and their spouses should have this card. Spouse must present an up-to-date Temporary DoD ID card.



Any Veteran who has a VA Health Services Identification Card (now accepted after Jan 1, 2020). Spouse will still need 5512-1 form.

We still need to know if you have your DOD ID on the newer Registration Form above.

If you have already filled out the old Registration Form, we will be contacting you with this information.

SECNAV 5512-1 form IS required for:

All adults (18 and older) who do not have a DOD or VA Health Services card.

This must be filled out and sent with your MRFA event Registration Form if you are going on the base memorial tour.

Be sure to print all four pages and follow the instructions. Send to Frank Jones, 9 San Marino Parkway, Fenton, Mo., 63026.

The last date for submitting this form is July 10th. No 5512-1 forms will be accepted after July 10th.

The Form asks for: Employment Activity Information – This is for people accessing the base for employment purposes. Leave blank.

Item 25 – Base Sponsor. Write in VUMM. Sponsor Phone: 760-458-0439

If you have any Questions or Input then please contact: Frank Jones, mrfatan-go48@gmail.com. Cell: 314-303-2730

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



**2022 MRFA & 9th Infantry Division
Mini Reunion
Registration Form**

*This is NOT your Hotel form. make Hotel Reservation
separately*

September 7-9, 2022 - Loews, Coronado, CA



Name _____

Unit in Vietnam _____ Dates _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ or Cell _____

E-mail _____

Send my registration confirmation to me by e-mail Yes ☐ No ☐

☐ No guests

☐ First reunion

Name(s): Spouse/Guest(s) (1 at no charge)

City

State

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Registration fee: Cost includes member and 1 /spouse/girlfriend (\$55)

(Does not cover lodging, food, bus trips, or shuttles)

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

Guests under 16 are free

Bus to and from Memorial = \$20 per person

PCF - Swift Boat Ride per person fee = \$35 per person

Nonmember registration fee (\$80)

Late member registration fee: (\$75) Non-member (\$100) Grand total enclosed \$ 0

\$ _____	Fee
\$ _____	Xtra Guest
\$ _____	Bus to Memorial
\$ _____	Boat Ride

Please send this form with your check or money order (payable to the MRFA or Mobile Riverine Force Association) to:

Frank Jones
9 San Marino Parkway
Fenton, MO 63026
314-303-2730
mrfatango48@gmail.com
by August 1, 2022.

Returned checks and cancellations prior to the reunion will be charged a \$25 processing fee.

Note: You need to check in at the MRFA registration desk or Bayside gathering room to receive your name tag.

Documentary Update - Jeff and Shannon Arballo



On behalf of Jeff and I and Arballo Entertainment, we would like to extend a heartfelt Happy

New Year to you and your family! We hope that this blessing finds each of you healthy, hopeful in bright days ahead and anticipating “resolutions” come true!

On a personal note, we would like to thank each of you that have reached out to offer your condolences on the passing of Shannon’s Dad, Seawolf, Joe Crutcher, Vung Tau, ’67 - ’68. He was our very own Hero. He always asked to hear about the men we had interviewed and the progress on the Mobile Riverine Force documentary, a story he knew very little about, even though he was in the Mekong Delta, too. He was our biggest fan and cheerleader and I only wish he had had a chance to meet you in person. He would have proudly shaken your hand, even given you a hug and would have listened to the story that you chose to share with him with appreciation and gratitude. We are reminded, yet again, why stories like this are so very important.

We want to take this opportunity to share an update on the production of The Mobile Riverine Force Documentary. In case you did not hear, we are thrilled to share that the Documentary has the full support of KPBS here in San Diego. With this support, we intend to seek National Distribution, so that this film, your story, will be aired on PBS stations across the country and will forever be etched on the hearts of Americans across the Country. We will be sure to keep you updated on our progress.

If you have **original film and/or photos**, **it is NOT TOO LATE....** Please contact us as we’d be grateful to receive them for possible use in the film.

We will be finalizing interviews this month, so long as it is safe for us to do so with the recent Covid numbers,

something that we as a production crew have always been cognizant of.

We would like to thank each one of you who have sat with us to share your story, made a financial donation towards this very important project and to those who have been readily available to answer questions and be a valuable resource for us. We thank you for your support!

Please find below an excerpt of our **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP** campaign letter that we have begun to send out. With that said, if **YOU are the owner of a Company or Business** or know a Business Owner that may want to help us bring this important project to fruition as well take advantage of the unique advertising opportunity through KPBS, then please continue to read for additional details. Sometimes you just never know who may want to step up and stand beside an endeavor like ours. One of the Corporate Sponsors for Scramble the Seawolves was a company called, Western Ag, a leading manufacturer of hay tarps, baseball field covers, shade covers for cattle and more. The owner of this company was very good friends with a Seawolf and when he learned that we were urgently seeking Corporate Sponsors, the owner reached out and made a tax-deductible donation. Western Ag was promoted each time Scramble the Seawolves aired on TV across the Country, over 350 different PBS Stations. Even though they knew there would not likely be a true return on their financial contribution, they were simply proud to help bring a special project like this to fruition, ultimately honoring our Nations Heroes... then men who served and sacrificed in service to our Country.

Thank you for your continued support and we pray that the New Year brings and abundance of blessings, good health and special memories and moments to you and yours!

Jeff and Shannon Arballo

As we venture through the final stages of production on The Mobile Riverine Force documentary, we are dedicated and committed to honoring the Soldiers and Sailors by sharing their captivating story with the Nation. Stories like this matter. They matter to the men who lived to tell the tale. They matter to the families of their fallen Brothers who laid down their lives and made the supreme sacrifice. They matter to a grateful Nation that is now beginning to recognize and acknowledge the service and personal sacrifice of our Vietnam Veteran.

With 11 Medal of Honor Recipients, the United States highest military award for valor and gallantry, numerous Navy Crosses, Distinguished Service Crosses, Silver Stars, Bronze Stars and Unit awards including, but not limited to, Presidential Unit Citations, Navy Unit Commendations, Meritorious Unit Commendations, Vietnam Gallantry Crosses, Vietnam Civil Actions, First Class Ribbons, thousands of Purple Hearts and over 2700 Soldiers and Sailors who made the supreme sacrifice in service to our Nation, deserve to have their story known by ALL Americans. The Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force has earned its proud place in the annals of the United States Military History.

Arballo Entertainment has made a personal commitment to produce the Feature Documentary, The Mobile Riverine Force, so that the legacy, accomplishments and sacrifice of these American Soldiers and Sailors will forever be immortalized. Through personal interviews, original film, and photos, we will bring this story into the homes of all Americans, etching a special place in their hearts. The uniqueness of the joint Army-Navy Brotherhood and their contribution to the Vietnam War and our American Military history must be shared and we feel a sense of pride, privilege, and tremendous responsibility in completing a film that is of the highest

quality. These men deserve it! Endeavors like this, quite honestly, would not be possible without the generosity of Sponsors who also feel a sense of passion and duty in honoring our Nations Heroes. We are writing you today to ask your corporation to stand beside us as a Corporate Sponsor and help us bring this story to fruition. Our estimated completion is September 2022 and for us to achieve critical milestones with production and post-production, we are immediately SEEKING \$225,000 TOTAL.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Exclusive \$225,000

As the Exclusive Sponsor, your organization will be positioned as the lead contributor in getting **The Mobile Riverine Force** produced and distributed

- Receive two 15-second verbal-visual “billboards” with your logo and corporate message. Those acknowledgements will remain part of the program throughout its entire 2-year PBS License time.

- Publicity materials will include your company’s name, logo, and role as the Documentary’s Exclusive Supporter.

Major \$75,000-\$100,000

- Receive two 10-second “billboards” with your logo and corporate message. Those acknowledgements will remain part of the program throughout its entire 2-year PBS License time.

- Your participation will also be acknowledged in all publicity and distribution materials surrounding the program’s Broadcast during its 3-year run.

In-Part

\$15,000-\$50,000

- Receive on-screen acknowledgements 4-7 seconds in length, in proportion to your sponsorship level. Those acknowledgements will remain part of the program throughout its entire 2-year PBS License time.

- Publicity materials will include your company’s name, logo, and role as the Documentary’s In-Part Supporter

Sponsorship contributions, at any level, are made payable to our Fiscal Sponsor, The Mobile Riverine Force Association

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP

ON-AIR RECOGNITION

A Company that underwrites The Mobile Riverine Force will receive prominent on-air identification and credit on all public television broadcasts. A program of this significance typically enjoys numerous repeat telecasts

NAME IDENTIFICATION

In addition to television visibility, sponsors will benefit from identification in all printed promotional material and press releases provided to the public about the Documentary.

CORPORATE PROMOTIONS

The use of The Mobile Riverine Force in association with Sponsors own advertising presentations and publicity campaigns are encouraged, including but not limited to video excerpts for company websites and/or printed material such as in-house newsletters, posters, flyers, and other forms of corporate communications. If you feel moved to join us in bringing

this story to life, we will welcome the opportunity to either sit down with you in person or speak by phone to answer questions you may have about the project.

We would be more than happy to provide the letter of support of The Mobile Riverine Force from KPBS. Tax Deductible Contributions can be made payable to our ***Fiscal Sponsor, The Mobile Riverine Force Association.***

Your contribution is tax deductible as the MRFA is a 501(c) Corporation.

Please make check payable to the MRFA and mail to;
Frank Jones, 9 San Marino Parkway,
Fenton, MO 63026

In closing, we thank you for taking the time to consider this request. We are asking you to support this mission to tell the Nation about a unique group of American Heroes who served our country during the Vietnam War and accomplished the impossible. The Mobile Riverine Force documentary will change the lives of the men that live today who tell the tale and that will honor their fallen brothers.

Jeff Arballo, Director

Shannon Arballo, Producer

760-809-4558

arballoentertainment@gmail.com

1296 Avenida Fragata,
San Marcos, CA 92069

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!

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



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: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Thank you for your participation!

The Officers and Board Members of the
Mobile Riverine Force Association

Remembering Barry Barber

By Mike Harris

In late 1968, T-152-1 and T-152-10 were “chopped” to TF-116 to work with PBRs from RivDiv 531 and 513. It was part of “Operation SEALORDs,” which was set up in October, 1968 to interdict enemy troops and supplies from Cambodia. We were placed at the remote Rach Soi Vietnamese Navy Junk Base, five clicks (A “click” is a kilometer. 1Km is equivalent to 0.6214 miles.) south of Rach Gia. We were down there for about ten weeks. We returned to the MRB the first week of January 1969.

In retrospect, operating out of Rach Soi was pretty much a “suicide mission” for our two Tangos. We each rotated night ambush patrols with the PBRs. The PBR sailors became disgruntled right away with how slow our Tangos were. So, they decided to let a single Tango travel about eight clicks from the Rach Soi base to a village on the Long Xuyen Canal each day. It was insane running alone through those canals. We’d depart the base and enter a very small river that ran up to, and past, Rach Gia. Then we’d exit Rach Gia to the north, and beach at the same village every afternoon in preparation for the night patrol. The PBRs would show up later. Talk about being vulnerable by running the same route each and every day! The Viet Cong could have even captured our entire crew at the village or killed us all on the spot.

Patrolling every other night was rough. We’d head out at dark and return to the base sometime in the early morning hours. Then we’d try to sleep during the heat of the day as well as gear up for the next night.

It was our turn to go out on December 27, 1968. I remember there was supposed to be a “Christmas Ceasefire.” Right! Someone from T-10 informed us that they had a hole in one of their fuel tanks and they asked if we could go out. Our incompetent Boat Captain (who we got replaced after getting to the

MRB) had backed us into the riverbank the night before, bending a shaft and messing up a screw. We had limped in on one engine. After we informed them of our dilemma, they used a wooden stake and cloth to plug the hole in their tank and headed out.

As our crew was playing cards, our radio erupted with chatter. We could hear the noise of the firefight when the T-10 crew and PBRs hollered back and forth to one another on the frequency. After things settled down a report came that there was one dead and several wounded, on T-10. We waited desperately to hear more information. Finally, someone said the KIA was Barry Barber. Our hearts sunk and a dark despair took over.



Barry second from left and Joe on the right.



Barry Barber, with cigar.

After the medivac chopper ferried the dead and wounded sailors away, we finally heard what had happened. Tango 10 received three direct hits from rocket propelled grenades. One hit our friend, Barry Barber in the chest. Others had been placed strategically to wound other crew members.

I remember stillness as we waited for Tango 10 to be escorted back to our location. She had to be towed and it took a long time. Sometime around mid-morning, she rounded the bend and we helped tie her up to the concrete abutment.

Nothing could have prepared us for what we were about to see. When the lights were shined into the well deck of the boat, we could see the horrible carnage. Blood mixed with spent machine gun cartridges. The latter was evidence that Barry had fought hard until his sudden death.

We all stood around like zombies in dis-

belief. I remember hearing someone say that the Army Medic on the chopper had thrown up when he saw the aftermath. They had taken Barry’s remains away in a body bag. Now it was our responsibility to clean up the rest.

That night, I don’t think any of us got any sleep. Tango 10 was tied up next to our boat and we could smell the scent of blood, gun powder and death. I wept in silence at the loss of our friend. The fact that he had died manning the same machine-gun position that I did in my boat would not hit me until later. It could have just as well been Tango 1, and me.

I fought off my natural desire to vomit as I saw the magnitude of the catastrophe, the next morning. My emotions ran wild as I climbed down into Tango 10. I recall slipping on blood and cartridges as we formulated a hasty plan. Hundreds of flies swarmed us as we stood there in shock. Hardly anything on the boat had escaped the destruction. It was impossible to clean the boat thoroughly. Hours later we finally had done the best that we could with what we had to work with.

After our job was complete someone said a short prayer. Tears flowed as we gave our regards to our lost buddy.

I still struggle with Barry’s death, to this day. He was killed during a Christmas “cease-fire,” on December 27, 1968. I remain angry with those who sent the crew members of Tangos 1 and 10 on such a suicide mission. For what? We knew that something would eventually happen. We just didn’t know how serious it would be. A good man died that day. Shortly

4 Sailors Shot In Canal Clash

563 Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — One U.S. sailor was killed and three others wounded Wednesday night when hidden Communist gunners opened up on a Navy patrol boat probing a reed-lined canal 105 miles south of here.

The wounded men were pulled from the besieged boat by an Air Force “Pedro” helicopter while Navy “Seawolf” choppers raced to the scene to provide covering fire.

The three sailors are reported in satisfactory condition at the 29th Army Evacuation Hospital.

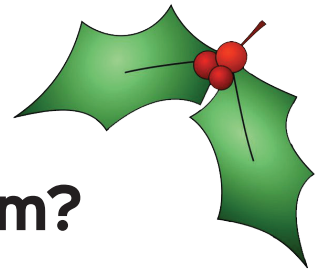
The patrol boat was making its way along the Rach Gia-Long Xuyen canal in the southeast corner of the country when the Reds — their number undetermined — opened up from the banks with automatic weapons.

6 Pacific Stars & Stripes
Monday, Dec. 30, 1968

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Survey Question #1) What do you remember about Christmas in Vietnam?



Joseph Butchart. I was assigned to Company A, 15th Combat Engineer Battalion. On Christmas Day 1968, I got up and worked all morning. I needed to complete the daily morning report and other admin duties. I did not work the rest of the day. I just hung out with my closer friends and missed being home.

Joseph Lacapruccia. The only thing I remember about Christmas is that we decorated M-92-2 with Christmas garland wrapped around the 40mm barrel and having little kids looking at it and wondering what the hell we were doing. That's all I can remember.

James P. Wollner. Cpl. 9/67 to 8/68. 2nd Airboat Plt. Echo Company 15th Combat Eng. 9th Inf. Div. My fondest memory along with a couple of thousand other guys was the Bob Hope show, or maybe Raquel Welch on Christmas day 1967 at Camp Bearcat, Hdqtrs. 9th Inf Div. (before Dong Tam), it was awesome!

Charles Allen. Didn't make it to Christmas 1969. I was wounded by a B40, and Christmas 1969, for me, was spent in Yokosuka Naval Hospital.

Tom Bennis. RM2, ComRivFlot One Staff. I spent my first month in Vietnam, Dec. '67, at Dong Tam, working 12 on/12 off, 0600 to 1800. Christmas Eve was spent in the EM club getting slightly intoxicated until midnight. Then back to work at 0600. Other than particularly intense moments of homesickness, Christmas was no different than any other day.

Rob Schlegel. FTG3. USS Pitkin County. I graduated from FT school at Great Lakes and received orders to the USS Pitkin County in March of 1970.

As you are well aware, the MRF was no longer serving in the Mekong Delta. You guys did the heavy lifting before I arrived, however the work securing the Delta did not stop because the 9th went home. The river patrols were on going and the Navy YRBM support units were still up river and needing to be re-supplied. That said, my response to your request may not be relevant since you addressed it to MRF members which I was not and you may not wish to use it.

We made a number of support runs up river during 1970 and 1971 to keep those Navy guys still deep in the Delta supported with food, fuel and most importantly ammunition. Our last major up-river support run was a long one lasting from late November 1970 to early January 1971 which as I remember put us at the YRBM 21 about 2 clicks south of the Cambodian border during Christmas 1970.

We thought we would have Christmas dinner delivered by air on Christmas day but it was canceled and instead we received steaks that we decided to cook on the main deck as a bar-b-que of sorts. As the steaks started coming off the grill and being served, you could hear a lot of chatter among the crew members. It wasn't long before steaks started going over the side into the Bassac River. They were so tough you could have used them for shoes. I grabbed one of the brown cardboard boxes they were packed in and stamped on the side it said "USDA Grade Good". To this day I have never seen meat graded "Good". Prime and Choice I recognize. Our Mess Cooks decided to substitute Hamburgers.

Ron Miriello. 50 Cal. Gunner. Tango 91-13 & Alpha 92-4. 1968-1969. My

Christmas 1968 memory was the Bob Hope Christmas Show in Dong Tam. I was very fortunate to attend. I'll always hold Bob Hope in the highest regard for his decades of giving his all for our armed services. I especially remember the moment Ann Margaret stepped off that helicopter. What an absolute doll! She was so sexy. My favorite moment of the show was when Bob was doing a short skit with Miss World (a stunning blond). Well, when he rested his head on her breast, the oohs & ahs could probably be heard a mile down River. I have over 500 pictures I took in Nam, and the USO pictures are my favorite.

Warren Thomson. I did not have to serve in Nam during Christmas. I arrived in January and left in July. Nonetheless, the Christmas before I left was memorable, in that I married my first wife on December 28th. That holiday was the most troubling for me as I realized my mistake in not completing my college studies and was very anxious about my pending tour in Nam. I am sure that all of my brothers can relate to this. God had my back even though I did not realize it at the time.

Bill Patterson. QM2 (CAPT, USN Ret), 105 mm Monitor 2, RAS 13, SEAFLOAT, Nam Can, IV Corps. Received a 12" artificial Christmas tree from the family in a care pkg containing extra photos, letters, blank cassette tapes, food stuff etc. And, backup copies of "In-A-Gadda Da Vida" by the Iron Butterfly (the long version) that was played publicly in combat situations or as an announcement of our arrival in a contested area. The short version is my listening limit now.

Joseph Johnson. PBR Mobile Base 2 at Tan An, Long An Province from June 1969 to March 1970. What I remember about Christmas was an Army Corps of Engineers tug boat losing power and drifting into one of our barges on Christmas Eve. Unfortunately, there was a PBR between the barge and tug. We used a crane to lift the boat onto the barge to prevent it from sinking. The next day (Christmas) there was a sign on the PBR saying "Merry Christmas, your friends Army Corps of Engineers". A few weeks later, the tug had a silhouette of a PBR painted on the side of the pilot house, like they did on fighter planes.

Gary A Cunningham. 3/60th 9th Infantry D Company. 07/1968-06/1969. Memory of Christmas in VN. My wife sent me a little Christmas tree that I hung above my bunk on the ships. There were three plastic angels on it, and I still have one that I hang on our tree every year. I also put a note in the bag we keep it in as to what it was, and meant to me, so our kids will know. My wife and family/friends also sent me a huge box of toys & misc. that me and some guys took to Ben Tre and gave to all the kids. One was a bag of marbles that I just held up and opened the bag and the kids went crazy after them. There was a little comb & brush I gave to a particular Mama-son.

Al Breininger. CSO for RivDiv91 in Vietnam from Jan to Dec.1967. I was wounded on Dec 4, 1967 and subsequently shipped to Yokosuka Naval Hospital and then Philadelphia Naval Hospital. I spent

Christmas 1967 in the hospital in Japan and it is one etched in my memory. It was a quiet Christmas Eve with staff and dependents from the base coming through each of the wards singing Christmas Carols. So, it had a nice warm home touch feel. They presented each patient with a small gift. And, being away from home, it is a memory I always treasure. Christmas day included a nice meal, but the highlight was that

Christmas Eve moment.

John Weiss. I spent Christmas 1968 at a firebase in Thu Thua. We got an invite to Bob Hope in Dong Tam. Our Lieutenant put everyone's name in a hat and drew them out. I was lucky and got to see Bob Hope. Several Donut Dollies came to the camp and handed out presents. I don't remember what we had to eat. Turkey?

FREE SHIPPING
ON ORDERS OVER \$60

NEW
MRFA GEAR LOCKER
www.mrfa.org



H001 MRFA Vietnam



H002 9th Inf Div Vietnam

Cotton Hats

Cotton hats with embroidered patch on front. Adjustable back. **\$20.00**



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)

Service Award Hats

Service Award hats are available in five styles on an olive drab base. All cotton, washable with pewter finish clasp. **\$20.00**



H012 MRF PUC



H013 MRF Svc Ribbon



H015 9th Inf. Div. Vietnam
SVC Ribbon



H016 MRF CAR Vietnam



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

NEW



H007 Tango w/ Helo



H023 Bronze Star
w/black 6"x3" patch on mesh back black cap

UPDATED: 11/27/2020

Henry Velez for my fallen brothers, B Co. 2nd/39th Inf
From your Brothers B Co. 2nd 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry
Division in memory for John Nielsen B Co. 2nd/39th (04/68-
04/70)

Letter from John ROWDY Oxley, 9th Infantry Division.



Quilts of Valor®
Quilts = Healing!

Brothers and Sisters,

Nine years ago, I received my first WELCOME HOME in 46 years. It happened when I was awarded a Quilt of Valor. That day changed my life and allowed me to help others on the “road home.”

I joined the 9th Infantry Division in April, 1966, and went on the USS General John Pope, AP-110, with Recon E/3/47th. As you know, there was no grand welcome when we came home, and we all dealt with that differently. I didn’t realize how much I still had bottled up until I was wrapped in that quilt. Four simple words: “Thank you. Welcome Home.” What a balm for me; the quilt, the warmth to soothe.

The Foundation’s Mission: “To wrap those touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor;” we’ve awarded almost 300,000 to date. Ensuring my brothers and sisters could have that comfort became a priority. I became a voice for the Foundation and currently serve on the Board of Directors. I received my 50th Anniversary Commemorative Pin at the Pentagon, representing Veterans, my unit and Quilts of Valor alike. Each remaining member of my platoon received their QOV.

I’m now on a quest to find all remaining survivors of the Battle of AP Bac, June 19, 1967, both Army and Navy, and wrap them in a Quilt of Valor, and I need your help! Please nominate yourself and those you know so we can all feel the warmth and recognition of a grateful nation.

To nominate yourself or a fellow Veteran, or find out more about the Foundation, please go to www.QOVF.org. Thank you to each of you for your service. We look forward to saying to each of you, **“Welcome home.”**
John ROWDY Oxley, Board of Directors, Quilts of Valor® Foundation

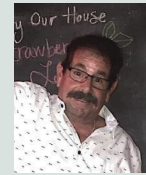
TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One

Member **Arthur Wade** passed away on September 16, 2021. While in Vietnam he served with Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in 1966-1968. Arthur is survived by his wife Judy.



Member **Donald Morris** (USA Ret.) passed away on September 9, 2021. While in Vietnam he served with Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from June 1966 to December 1967. Donald retired from the U.S. Army with 22 years of service.

Member **Richard Jay Santone** passed away on



October 3, 2021 following a brief illness. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 13 – River Assault Division 132 as a BM3 onboard A-132-2 from September 1968 to July 1969. Rich was then transferred to Mine Division 112 from July – September 1969 to complete his tour of duty.

Member Senior Chief **James A. Wooten** (USN



Ret.) passed away on August 29, 2021 primarily due to Agent Orange diseases. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 15 – River Assault Division 152 as a Plankowner Boat Captain on M-152-1 from June 1968 to June 1969. Chief Wooten served a 2nd tour of duty as a Naval Advisor to the South Vietnamese Navy while stationed at Solid Anchor from 1970-71. James was married to his wife, Dixie, for 59 years.

Member **Joseph “Alan” Hodgkinson** passed away in late



2021. While in Vietnam he served as a Sergeant with Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from January to August 1968. Alan wrote a book titled “After Incoming” about the Vietnam War. He is survived by his beloved sister Zia Isola. – “Alan was very active in veterans issues and was beloved by many. He was our fellow combatant and dear friend to us.” – Paul “Dino” DeNicola & Ed Riddl.

Former Member ETC **Donald Duane Doubleday** (USN



Ret.) passed away on October 20, 2021. While in Vietnam Chief Doubleday served onboard the USS Benewah (APB-35) in 1967-68. During his 23-year military career he served in the Merchant Marines as well as active-duty service during WWII.

john.oxley@QOVF.org, www.QOVF.org

Visit us on Facebook: Quilts of Valor® Foundation

The Quilts of Valor® Foundation is a non-profit organization established and operated in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.



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