



River

Currents



A PUBLICATION OF THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 2 Spring, 2023

Message From the Radio Shack



Harry Hahn

Hello from the Radio Shack:

As we head into Springtime I am reminded of when I returned from Vietnam, 53 years ago on March

17th. We never forget the date of our return, nor do we forget those that we lost while we served there. Our tribute to our service there, and something that we will leave behind for others to remember the Mobile Riverine Force, is our documentary "Mobile Riverine Force." The documentary is nearing completion. A recent major donation will help to fund the editing and production of the documentary. Our goal is still to have it done by September. COVID slowed the progress, but I am reminded all the time by the Arballos that they do not want to sacrifice quality for speed.

Donations for the documentary are still being taken. There are several levels of participation. Bronze Level - \$25, Silver Level - \$100, Gold Level - \$250 Platinum Level - \$1000 plus. Full details are on our website. Checks may be sent to our Treasurer, Frank Jones.

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THE MRFA REUNION IS AROUND THE BEND!

The next operation of the MRFA has been planned! We will rendezvous September 14th, through 17th, 2023, at Latitude 38.627003, and longitude -90.199402. The Area of Operation is known as St. Louis Missouri. All 9th Infantry and Navy components will offload at the Sheraton Westport, Chalet Hotel. All hands should be getting their gear ready, and making transit plans!

TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION, REGISTER, AND MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS, NOW! LATE REGISTRATION AT THE REUNION WILL COST \$125 FOR MEMBERS AND \$150 FOR NON-MEMBERS. CHECKS ONLY! LATE REGISTRATION WILL ONLY BE FROM 1PM TO 2PM ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY!

The number to call for reservations is 888-627-7066, Monday through Friday. Make sure you reference the MRFA, when making your reservation. The cutoff date for reservations is August 23rd! The room rate for all rooms is \$139. A breakfast buffet is included every morning at the hotel, for registered MRFA guests.

The hotel has a free daily shuttle, to and from the airport. It stops at both terminal's hotel shuttle pickup zones, every half-hour. This regular airport shuttle is not ADA approved. A flight form is included here for those who need an ADA approved shuttle for airport transportation. Send the ADA flight forms to Frank Jones. We have arranged for an ADA accessible shuttle bus to transport our guests to prearranged locations downtown and a shopping mall. The bus will run Friday, 10:00am, to 4:00pm, and Saturday, 1:00pm, to 5:00pm. The hotel is pet friendly. A \$50 one-time cleaning fee is required. Members are asked not to bring any animals that we might have carried on the boats. Dogs, only.

Remember, there are great restaurants and entertainment, within Westport Plaza! **The Drunken Fish** offers Japanese, Seafood, Sushi, and Asian food in a relaxed atmosphere. **The Kobe Steak House** is an MRFA favorite, with amazing Japanese steak, chicken, or seafood, prepared at your table, by chefs that make a delicious

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



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

Mobile Riverine Force Association Membership Application Form

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

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY
 Postal Delivery Go Green with Email

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

WW-II Korea Vietnam
 Army Member
 Unit (Division, Brigade, Battalion, Company, Platoon, Battery) _____
 Navy Member
 Unit (Ship, Boat Hull Numbers, Navy Activity/Detachment, etc.) _____

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

MEMBERSHIP RATES	DONATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Years \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

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

MRFA 2023 Reunion

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meal fun! **The Trainwreck Saloon** offers great burgers, sandwiches, and bar food, in a casual pub setting. **Westport Social** has live music, with great food!



The Kobe Steak House



The Drunken Fish



The Trainwreck Saloon



Westport Social Club

We will have buses going to the St. Louis “Soldiers Memorial,” which has a new exhibit on the Vietnam War, which has a limited run until Memorial Day, of 2024. Soldiers Memorial also has extensive artifacts from WWI, WWII, and Korea.

Find us on Facebook

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

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

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

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

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

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

We hope you enjoy the group.

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



Message From The Radio Shack

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This may be the last reminder for you to sign up for the reunion in September. On site registration is costly, so SIGN UP NOW. We are impressed by the number of early registrations, and I can’t emphasize enough the need to get your hotel room and registration form in now. As I have said previously, we would like to free up our staff to enjoy their time at the reunion and there are only two short times that you can register on site.

If you do not already know this, we have a Facebook page that our VP Doc Pries manages. You can sign up by going to the Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Facebook page and request to be added. Also, the MRFA has an email list that has interesting information being posted every day. Lately, Albert Moore has added some interesting articles and pictures. If you are currently not a member of the list, and would like to be added to this group email list, just email me and I will be happy to add you.

Harry Hahn, President, SparksRivRon13@aol.com



**2023 MRFA & 9th Infantry Division
Reunion 9/14/23 TO 9/16/23
Registration Form
(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)
Must be received by 9/1/2023**



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 or drinks)

MRFA Member Registration \$75 Nonmember Registration \$100 \$ _____

Late registration fee at the hotel for members Thursday and Friday \$75 or \$100

only 1PM - 2PM: (\$125) Non-Member (\$150) Must pay by check NO

CASH

Total number of other guest(s) _____ x \$ 25 ea. **Guests under 12 are free** \$ _____

Grand Total Enclosed \$ _____

Shuttle to Soldier's Memorial, Gateway Arch, St. Louis Aquarium/Wheel, West County Mall, and Hollywood Casino on a first come, first serve basis.

Please send this form with your check or money order payable to the MRFA. Mail to MRFA 2023 Reunion, C/O Frank Jones, 9 San Marino Parkway, Fenton, MO 63026 before 9/1/2023.

Full refund for cancellations will be made until 9/1/23. 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 MAIN ROOM or hospitality rooms without your lanyard/name tag. NO EXCEPTIONS! REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 14, 9AM TO 5PM AND FRIDAY, SEPT. 15, 9 AM TO 1PM.

**ONLY SEND THE FLIGHT FORM IF YOU NEED ADA TRANSPORTATION!
Please fill out the 2023 MRFA Reunion Flight Form and send to Frank Jones**



Veterans Day 2023 - 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, Saturday, November 11, 2023. 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 ten rooms (10) rooms at the Arlington Court Suites, a Clarion Collection Hotel, in Arlington, Virginia, for November 8th and have a total of twenty-five (25) available on the 9th– 11th (check out on 11/12). Room rates are \$129.00 (plus tax) for a Studio King (single) and \$139.00 (plus tax) for Studio Queen (double) 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 September 15, 2023.

Based on my discussions with the hotel management, they expect to be very busy during this time, so if you are planning on joining us I urge you to get your reservations in early.

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

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will have a hospitality room available on November 8th - 11th.

Come join us as we honor our fallen Brothers on Veterans Day 2023 and enjoy the camaraderie of your MRFA Brothers and their friends and families..

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

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

ASK MIKE



By Mike Harris
MRFA Historian

We invite members who have questions on VA Matters, Awards and Decorations, and MRF History, to send your questions to Mike Harris. Mike is uniquely qualified, as a former Veteran Service Representative (VSR), and Historian, for the Mobile Riverine Force. Send your questions to Mike, at mekong152@99w.us. Following, is some valuable information for all MRFA members and their families! Send your questions to Mike!

For decades there has been confusion regarding two South Vietnamese military awards. Why? The SVN government made their decision for what I call a “blanket award” in 1974 long after all of us had returned from Vietnam. Then our military branches authorized them for wear. They are:

- 1) Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross Medal Color with Palm)



- 2) Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Civil Actions Medal, First Class Color, with Palm)



Both of the “Unit” awards are ribbon only. Even though the wording says “Medal” in the title, it is referring to the “Ribbon” being the same “Color” as the “Medal”.

Here are the official criteria for Navy and Marine veterans:

SECNAV INST. 1650H - Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual - August 22, 2006 (Page 7-5):

4. Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation

a. Authorization. Awarded by the Chief of the Joint General Staff, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces in two colors:

Gallantry Cross Color with Palm and Frame (8 February 1962 to 28 March 1973) and Civil Actions First Class Color with Palm and Frame (1 January 1965 to 28 March 1973). SECNAV has specifically authorized certain units of the Naval service to accept and wear these awards. Such authorization is required in all cases for participation.

b. Eligibility Requirements. The ribbon bar with palm and frame are authorized for wear by personnel who served with certain cited units in Southeast Asia during the approved periods. Lists of eligible units are maintained by CNO and CMC.

c. In addition to those specific ships/units cited, all Navy and Marine Corps personnel who served “in country” Vietnam during the eligibility periods are eligible for both awards.

<http://www.marines.mil/Portals/59/Publications/SecNavInst%201650.1H.pdf>

This blanket General Order does not include U.S. Army personnel. Here are their criteria for only the one award:

d. Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) 8, 1974, announced award of the RVN Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm for service in Vietnam to the following units:

- (1) Headquarters, United States Military Assistance Command and its subordinate units during the period 8 February 1962 to 28 March 1973.
- (2) Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam and its subordinate units during the period 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973.

Here is a link to the Army General Order. Be patient as it is slow to open:

https://armypubs.army.mil/epubs/DR_pubs/DR_a/NOCASE-AGO_1974-08-000-WEB-0.pdf

Most of our MRF units were awarded both of these Unit Ribbons prior the blanket award in 1974. You can view the awards for the 9th Infantry towards the bottom of this page on our MRFA website:

<https://www.mrfa.org/us-army/list-of-unit-awards-army/>

Keep in mind that the USN and USMC awards/metal brackets are smaller than the Army brackets if you order one or both. Also, that there are no additional attachments for multiple awards. All will have a single palm device.

The Vietnam Cross of Gallantry medal/ribbon was also awarded to Units and Individuals. The individual wears both the medal and ribbon. A citation was also issued. Here are the U.S. Army criteria. Keep in mind this a different award than the “Unit Ribbons” above:

The RVN Gallantry Cross was awarded by the Vietnamese Government for valorous combat achievement in four degrees, as follows:

- (1) With Palm — To a unit which is cited before the Armed Forces.
- (2) With Gold Star—To a unit which is cited before a Corps.
- (3) With Silver Star—To a unit which is cited before a Division.
- (4) With Bronze Star — To a unit which is cited before a Regiment/Brigade.

Some of our MRF Navy personnel received this Medal/Ribbon as well. Most often for direct assistance to South Vietnamese military units.

I hope this helps clear things up. If you have any questions then feel free to contact me:

Mike Harris (RM2 – T-152-1) –
mekong152@99w.us



This is a survey I have wanted to run for some time. Although I asked for your thoughts on fictional movies, there were several votes for documentaries. By my count, the two most popular Vietnam War movies, were “**Forrest Gump**,” (sixteen votes) and “**We Were Soldiers**” (fifteen votes). There is an obvious connection between the MRF and “**Forrest Gump**,” with the main characters being in the 9th Infantry Division. I only regret that they weren’t evacuated by Tango boats on the river bank, rather than choppers! Neither movie received any “worst” votes.

“**We Were Soldiers**” is a heroic tale, and certainly one of my favorites. On a personal level, my son, Chris, told me that I didn’t talk about Vietnam until “**Platoon**” (a movie I liked) came out, in 1986, seventeen years after I came home. I’m not sure why. Two scenes in it hit home with me. The first, is when “Chris Taylor” got off the plane, and was hit with the heat and humidity. I know all of us recall that moment. The second scene I related to, was during the night ambush. It took me back to standing watch on the starboard bow of my Tango boat, T-131-6, on an operation, in the middle of the night. I was trying to resist letting my imagination run away. I kept hearing things, and seeing the jungle foliage seem to change shape. All of a sudden, a grenade exploded, in front of the port side of the bow ramp. If it was just a few feet to the right, it may have taken me out. We had troops in front of us, in a perimeter, so I couldn’t shoot. I yelled to Dennis Alexander to back the boat off the bank. “**Platoon**” came in with fourteen positive votes, and one negative vote. I felt the movie represented the change many went through from who they were when they arrived in Vietnam, and who they were, when they went home.

Survey Question:

What Vietnam movie most closely captures the feel of your experience in Vietnam?

Which is your favorite, or least favorite Vietnam movie?

I agree with the comments on “**Apocalypse Now**,” which received eight positive votes, and two negative votes. The first part of it was pretty good. The crew of the PBR was believable, at that point. The movie and the crew got weirder and weirder, as the boat went farther up the river. Both negative reviews for this movie were from Navy men.

“**Hamburger Hill**” received eight votes. “**Brothers In War**” received five votes. “**The Deer Hunter**” received five positive votes and two negative votes. “**Good Morning Vietnam**” received five votes. “**Full Metal Jacket**” received four votes. “**The Green Beret**” had four positive comments, primarily because men were familiar with the Army base in Georgia, where the movie was filmed. It also received two “worst” Vietnam movie mentions. “**The Last Full Measure**” received two votes. “**Go Tell The Spartans**” got one vote, as did “**Stuntman**,” “**A Walk In The Sun**,” and “**Boys of ’67 Men In War**.”

I have no doubt each person’s thoughts have something to do with their own personal experience, or perhaps their perception of what the experiences of others was like.

Terry Sater, Editor

James A. Blood. Corporal. 3/60 9th Inf. B Co. 1967-1968 “**Forrest Gump**.” The firefight in the jungle was the most disturbing part of the movie. As a point man it brought back flashbacks of MY time in the jungle. One of the most realistic depictions I have seen in a movie.

Nicholas Miller. Lt. COS RivDiv 152, July 1968-Jun 1969. Not on your list but the movie I always recommend to folks who want to understand the



Vietnam vet’s experience: “**Stuntman**” (1982) with Peter O’Toole. It is the story of a Vietnam vet running from the law who is hidden by a movie production company, making a war movie and they turn him into a stuntman. Moral: none of the common beliefs about the war or Vietnam vets are true.

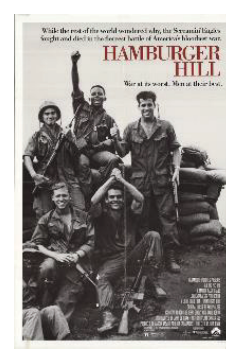
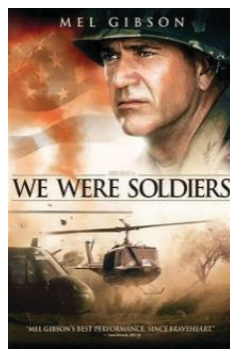
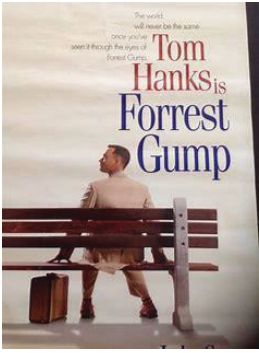
Worst movie: “**Apocalypse Now**.” Based on a fantastical premise, which gives the megalomaniac film director the opportunity to misrepresent both the experience and the motivation of the soldiers and sailors. The movie used the power of video to try to validate civilian fantasies of the worst things U.S. soldiers were doing. Basically a pornographic representation of U.S. servicemen.

Bob Dyson. I would say “**We Were Soldiers**” is the best, not only for the intense battle scenes but for the impact on the families at home. “**Hamburger Hill**” would be my second choice, mainly for its dialogue between the soldiers, which reflected my experience.

“**Forrest Gump**” was good in that his unit, 2/47th Inf, was my unit. It seemed consistent with what the men who were short told me when I arrived at the unit in December 1967.

“**The Green Berets**” was one of the worst. I saw it with a group of combat veterans while stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, after my first tour. It was a good demonstration of American weapons, but the plot was so bad that it was

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comical. “The Deer Hunter” was surreal and seemed determined to make a “Hollywood” point, which is to say it had no relationship to reality.

Elwin Jimmo Seymour. SSG. E6, US Army January 1968 to Nov. 1968. HDQ CO. 4th Btn., 47th Inf. 9th inf. Div. “Forrest Gump” had to be at the top of the list.

Tom Urban ETR3 Radioman, T-92-11, Z-92-11 Nov. 1967 - May 1968. “Forrest Gump.” The ambush brought back vivid memories, along with the feelings that were portrayed back home, before and after being in country.

Ken Kalish. River Patrol Section 523, July ’67 - April ’68. AFVN Saigon, May ’68 - February ’69. “We Were Soldiers,” for the intensity and the reality of some scenes, and “Forrest Gump,” for the interpersonal relationships, the experience of Cat4s, and the post-war links that remain for all of us.

Herschel Hughes Jr. USS Colleton. OPS officer and GQ OOD, June 68 to June 69. I’ll vote for “We Were Soldiers,” too.

John Kern. 1097th Trans Co, 1968-1969. “We Were Soldiers” Mel Gibson - best ever. Worst has to be “Platoon” and “The Deer Hunter.” A friend of mine and I were discussing those years ago and both of us (he was also in the 9th Inf.) said they were the most depressing movies we’d ever watched, and sure enough, we both watched ‘em again. Go figure, but they were total fiction, and portrayed the military in the worst possible light. John Wayne

was making the movie “Green Berets” while I was in Ft. Benning Ga. We got to “hear” him at an auditorium - I say “hear” because we were so far up in the seats we couldn’t see the stage. “Full Metal Jacket” ranked right up there with those - I guess after all the bad press we got most folks viewed us that way. I think it might have been ten years before I’d even admit to anyone that I’d even been in the military, much less to VN. To end on an upbeat note “Forrest Gump” was great too.

Gerald Barney. “Forrest Gump” Thumbs Up. “Platoon.” Thumbs Down.

Gerald Burleigh. “Apocalypse Now” - the worst movie on Vietnam.

Steve Jenkins. The least realistic of any of them is “The Green Berets.” I was in NCO school at Ft. Benning when they were making it, all the “VC” are holdovers and recycles from basic training units, and the whole plot is just too unreal. “Platoon” had some really eerie scenes, especially one of the ambush scenes, which brought back some not-so-good memories. “Apocalypse Now” had some good stuff in it but got a little wacky at times.

Daniel Cannode. GM2DG Coast Guard Squadron One IV Corp Div 13 Point Grey 82324. “River Rat” 69-70. “Go Tell the Spartans” My Dad a Combat Medic in WWII was an Advisor in Viet Nam 1960.

Bob Deissig. Parts of “Platoon” showed some realism, but of all these movies, the one I have watched about 5 times is “We Were Soldiers.”

Don Depies. “Platoon” and “Brothers In War” (Documentary).

Roy Moseman. The battle scene in “Forrest Gump.”

Harry Hahn. “We Were Soldiers.”

Robert Stern. “Apocalypse Now” (for the effects the tracers coming at the patrol boat) and “Hamburger Hill” (for the battle for the hill and the losses).

Al Brown. “Brothers in War” - Documentary by National Geographic.

Randy Schwartz. “Platoon” was intense and not an experience shared by everyone, but for me it captured everything but the smell. “We Were Soldiers” was good.

Ed Bednarczyk. “Hamburger Hill,” and you left off “We were Soldiers”

Kerry Cook. “Platoon” was it for me. I felt like I knew some of them.

Pat Kelly. “Hamburger Hill.” Can’t beat the air assault in “Apocalypse Now.” “Platoon” was also realistic. Gee, no Brown Water Navy movie.

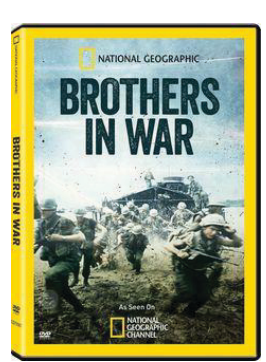
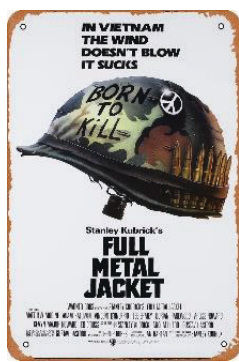
Hank Davis. “Hamburger Hill” captured the attitudes, language, that I remember. Plus, it was based on an actual event. “Forrest Gump” was based on the MOH story of our Sammy Davis.

John Rowdy Oxley. “Forrest Gump” Ap Bac II June 19, 1967. 9th Infantry Division.

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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!



Ned Arcouette. “Hamburger Hill” is my selection.

Sonny Castellano “Brothers In War.”

William Frede. Bits and pieces of “Apocalypse Now,” “Good Morning Vietnam,” and “Forrest Gump” brings back memories. I drove a Semi for a few years, and sometimes early in the morning as the sun was coming up I would pick up my CB Mike and give them all a “Good Morning Vietnam” drawn out a little like Adrian Cronauer did.

Al Breininger. CSO RivDiv 91, 1967. Best overall movies: “We Were Soldiers.” Solid story that appeared right on with history’s account. “Good Morning Vietnam.” Many stories and takeaways in this film. Funny, serious, sad.

Best movie depiction of combat: The helicopter attack of the village after surfing, in “Apocalypse Now” was one of the best scenes in a movie for being close to the real intensity and chaos of battle. Other than that, the movie was about a C grade movie. It really lost me in the second half after the USO Show - it was just plain weird.

Ronnie Cohorst. “Forrest Gump.”

Craig Jones. USN MRF. 1967 - 1969 (two tours). “Platoon,” “Hamburger Hill,” some river scenes in “Apocalypse Now,” and most of all; “We Were Soldiers.”

Martin Molloy. The fire fight in “Forrest Gump” is the most realistic fire fight and closest to the real thing I have seen. Once you are in a real fire fight, you can never forget the chaos, fear, excitement and adrenaline rush you feel all at the same time. Nothing I have done in my life can compare.

Bill Doolittle. “Apocalypse Now Redux.”

James P. Wollner. 2nd Airboat Plt., 15th Eng. 9th Div. There are a couple of movies that stand out to me as exceptional. The first is “We Were Soldiers,” and the second is “The Last Full Measure.” This last movie was particularly moving and I had not seen it until a month ago. I would recommend it to everyone as it portrays the story of selfless courage, heroism, and honor of our brothers and more important the after effects that many of us and our families, have seen and suffered through. Again, if you have not seen it I urge all of you to take the time to watch it. To me, this is the kind of movie that we will always remember!

Charles Zies. “Boys of 67 Men in War”

John Hooper. “Platoon.”

Ray Ambrozy. “The Deer Hunter.” This movie portrayed what many VN era Draftees experienced. I remember in 1966 when I got the GREETINGS how many of our neighborhood got the same letter. We all left within months.

Howard Cohen. “Full Metal Jacket,” when the hooker tries to sell herself in town and the cowboys who picked your pockets and your stuff was driven away on a motorcycle

Mark Vandling. “A Walk In The Sun.”

Chris Young. “Forrest Gump.”

Bruce Harness. “The Green Berets.” It wasn’t that great, the only reason I watched was because we trained at the Set location at Ft Benning. The set was made with plaster wrapped around the trees, HQ was made from dry wall. On

film it sure made it look good.

Al Brown. “Brothers in War” - Documentary by National Geographic.

John Kennedy. I think “The Deer Hunter” showed how the guys were completely changed from the time they went and the person that came home.

Ron Mercurio. 4/39th Oct 68-Oct 69 Infantryman, D 4th platoon, then became a sniper for Bat., early 69, then hardcore Col. came in. Also assigned to Navy with night and day missions on the river, for a few weeks. I liked it. Got treated much better and ate good food. Also, I did helicopter runs in night and daytime along the river. I picked out some. “The Green Berets,” “The Deer Hunter,” “Forrest Gump,” “We Were Soldiers,” “Platoon,” “Good Morning Vietnam.” They were all OK.

Don Nelson. Always thought it was “Forrest Gump.”

Rob Schlegel FTG3. USS Pitkin county. 1970-71. A great movie that should be on the list is a more recent one. “Last Full Measure” is a true story about an Air Force para rescue who refused to leave a battle he was dropped into because the Army unit had lost it’s medic. He gave his life for his fellow man and was not honored properly with the medal of honor until many years later. This movie is more than just a documentary. It is the spirit of serving others above self.

Joseph Lacapruccia. “We Were Soldiers.”

Mike Spight. RAD 153 and RAD 152, Jan 70-Jan 71. For me, the following: #1: “We Were Soldiers.” Note, that I have a couple of copies of the book,

signed by LTG Moore. Just wish I'd had the opportunity to have Joe Galloway and SGM Plumley sign my copies. #2: "Full Metal Jacket." #3: "Apocalypse Now Redux." #4: "Platoon." #5: "Forrest Gump." #6: The Deer Hunter. #7: "The Green Berets." I do have it on good authority that in the scene filmed at the Airborne School, when the bare chested candidates were running PT past Wayne, the OIC leading the PT formation was then Captain Bob Howard, who was assigned to the Airborne Committee when the movie was being filmed at Ft. Benning. Bob Howard retired as a Special Forces Colonel, and is the most highly decorated Soldier in the history of the U.S. Army.

Ronnie Johnson. "We Were Soldiers." That was one of the best.

Michael Hoks. "Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans War Stories." A DVD and book that came out on PBS for the 2010 LZ Lambeau event.

Bob Flaige. "The Deer Hunter" was pure bunk. His going back to Vietnam in uniform with full beard to locate his friend was a bit much. I guess he also brought the body back in his duffle bag.

A.J. McCaskey. 9th Infantry Div., 4/47, Company A, '68/'69. No doubt, there were a number of well-made movies of the Vietnam war, and a few very disappointing ones. Personally, the movie "Platoon" is one of the top 'Nam movies. Probably because I identified with a lot of it. "Platoon" depicted my Nam experience above all the rest. The movie did compress numerous incidents and experiences of G I's in Nam. And I doubt any individual infantryman went through every crazy trauma the troops went through in Platoon. But for me, the movie was as realistic as it gets. I was almost crouching in my seat.

The absolute worst 'Nam movie in my opinion, was "The Green Berets." I was actually able to see it in Viet Nam with my platoon and we mocked, guffawed, and ridiculed it all the way through. We felt it was a hilarious caricature of what we were experiencing and doing in the Mekong Delta.

Terry Thompson. 9th ID Delta. "Platoon" best, and "Apocalypse Now" worst.

Bob Vargas. Probably "Good Morning Vietnam," even though it doesn't cover much about us grunts but it does illustrate the general situation in early Vietnam.

William Cunningham. Inshore Undersea Warfare Group 1. Western Pacific Detachment. Unit 3(Qui Nhon). First, the best RVN movie was "An Odd Angry Shot." A movie about the

Australian SAS in RVN. Great scene where the 'old sarge' tells the young troop the Truth: "People back home are more worried about what's happening on "Carnation Street"(a BBC soap opera) than Vietnam.

I watched "Hamburger Hill" recently. Although one of the better ones, Will somebody PLEASE call Hollywood and inform them we liked to carry bullets. All the ammo pouches are empty, was there a shortages of grenades?

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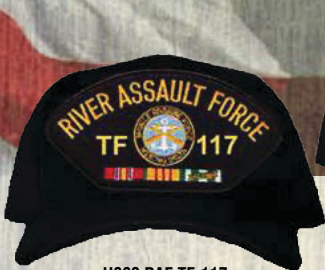
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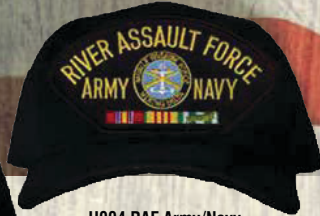
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TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One



Roger Marvin Goff passed away on January 22, 2023. While in Vietnam he served with Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in 1967-

68. Roger is survived by his wife Deborah. They were married for 52 years



Former Member **Gary B. Kroshus**, passed away on January 27, 2023 due to an Agent Orange related cancer. While in Vietnam he served with the 9th Division Long Range

Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) from April 1967 to April 1968. Gary is survived by his wife Barbara



Member **James Eugene "Big Jim" Meehan** passed away on February 6, 2023. While in Vietnam he served with Inshore Underwater Group-1, Unit 4

in Nha Trang from August 1966 to August 1967. He is survived by his wife Diane.



Former Member **James Ray "Jim" Schwan** passed away on February 9, 2023 following a long bout with Lymphoma. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 15 – River Assault Division 152 in 1969-70. Jim is survived by his wife Elaine of 51 years.



Gary Lee Forester passed away on February 14, 2023. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadrons 13 & 15 – River Assault Divisions 132 & 152 onboard an Assault Support Patrol Boat and Armored Troop Carrier in 1969-1970. Gary is survived by his daughters, Rhonda "Buffy" Forester and Angela "Missy" Campbell and his son, Johnathan Shane Forester



Member **James Michael Reilly Jr.** passed away at home on February 13, 2023. While in Vietnam he served with Bravo Company,

2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from July 1968 to July 1969. James is survived by his wife Raewai.



Member **Lawrence W. "Larry" Maloney** passed away on March 9, 2023. While in Vietnam he served with Headquarters &

Headquarters Company, 9th Infantry Division from January to September 1968. He is survived by his wife Sandra.



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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