



River Currents



A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 3
Summer, 2023

Message From the Radio Shack



Harry Hahn

Hello, from the
Radio Shack!

This is
your **LAST
CHANCE** to
sign up and
attend the
reunion. We
only have
registration

by mail. Do it now. If you come on site and try to register, it will cost you a lot more. We extended our mail in dates for registration to Sept 1st allowing for the later mail in forms. As I have said previously, on-site registration is costly, so **SIGN UP NOW**. Our staff wants to enjoy their time also at the reunion, and there are only two short times that you can register on site. **ON SITE REGISTRATION IS CASH, OR CHECK! NO CREDIT CARDS!** The last chance sign-up form is in this edition of River Currents. You will notice that we have an early agenda for the reunion in this River Currents. One of the **HUGE** additions to the agenda is a Saturday night **FREE BUFFET DINNER**. This will be a Banquet of Heroes where we will also announce the agreement that we have to provide all MRFA members with a Quilt of Valor personalized Quilt. The details of this will be rolled out at the banquet dinner. Following the dinner there will be DJ

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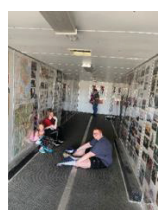
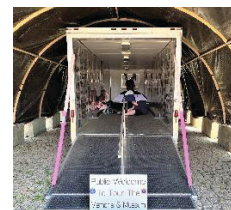
Russell Road Military Museum

By Harry Hahn



As previously reported, we placed the MRFA mobile museum into the Russell Road Military Museum, last fall. The museum is located at 43363 N. US HWY 41, Zion, IL 60099. They are open during the warmer months, as many huge exhibits are outside, such as tanks, airplanes, helicopters, and boats! That includes an A-10, F-15, Hueys, and a Vietnam era PBR. If you are fortunate enough to catch Mark or Joyce Sondag there, to show you around, it will be a real treat! Mark was enamored by military equipment since he was a kid. After an enlistment in the US Air Force, he started collecting many military vehicles, then planes, and on and on. His obsession with his "hobby" led him to build a museum. Mark and Joyce's son Kyle now runs the museum. The Sondag family is devoted to Veterans, and the memories of those who served.

The MRFA trailer, which housed the MRFA memorabilia, is outside in a tented enclosure to keep the sun and weather off the vinyl lettering, on the outside of the trailer. These are the names of our over 2,000 men who died in the Mobile Riverine Force. I was there on a warm summer day, and while a Dad was looking at all the pictures, his kids were taking refuge from the sun!



There are many aircraft that are on display, including the only A-10 that the Air Force doesn't currently own.



It was acquired when the Air Force was going to get rid of the A-10's and then decided to keep them. Oh yay, there's a cobra gunship there, also!



continued on page 2

**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

music and dancing for those of you with light feet!!!!!! Not me!!!

We are grateful to the Johnson Family Fund for their very generous donation to our MRF documentary and our reunion. The Arballos are feverously working towards completion.

That is all! See you at the reunion!

Harry....Out!

Harry Hahn, President.

SparksRivRon13@aol.com

Russell Road Military Museum

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Inside the museum, is an impressive display of the Mobile Riverine Force memorabilia. This includes jackets, hats, guns, and a display of all of our boats. Items previously donated by MRFA members are on display. This is among the artifacts from all the wars the US has fought in.



When heading up to Wisconsin on I-94, or when planning a vacation, check the website for when they are open, and make a stop there. You will be impressed. The museum is FREE of CHARGE to MRFA members.

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



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

Mobile Riverine Force Association Membership Application Form

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

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

- ☐ Postal Delivery ☐ Go Green with Email

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

- ☐ WW-II ☐ Korea ☐ Vietnam

- ☐ Army Member

Unit (Division, Brigade, Battalion, Company, Platoon, Battery)

- ☐ Navy Member

Unit (Ship, Boat Hull Numbers, Navy Activity/Detachment, etc.)

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

MEMBERSHIP RATES

- ☐ 1 Year \$20 ☐ 3 Years \$50

DONATION

- ☐ _____

To become a member, mail your check or money order
(payable To MRFA) to Frank Jones, MRFA Membership Chairman, 9 San
Marino Pkwy, Fenton, MO 63026-7513



Message From Arballo Entertainment

Hello there,

Jeff and I hope that this update finds you and yours healthy, hopeful, and enjoying a beautiful summer.

First and foremost, we would like to extend our gratitude to those that have shared their story through a personal interview, film and photos for use in the film and to those that have offered to provide context and information through a phone call. It is not lost on us that you have entrusted us with your story, and we do not take that for granted.

Since our last update, we are elated to recognize the Johnson Family Fund as our first Corporate Sponsor of the Mobile Riverine Force Documentary. We feel extremely honored to have been extended such a generous contribution in support of this extremely important project and in honor of the Fund's founder, a Vietnam Veteran and former Army Ranger.

As you are aware, we have been working hard on the production of the Mobile Riverine Force Documentary with a goal to premiere the finished film at the Reunion this September.

It is with a heavy heart that we must share that the finished film simply will not be ready in time to Premiere this September. While we certainly share in your disappointment, we cannot stress enough our resolve, dedication and commitment to producing a beautifully finished film that truly honors each and every member of the Mobile Riverine Force. Clearly, Covid was a primary contributing factor that caused significant challenges and delays during production.

Even considering the challenges, we knew how very important it was to have the film ready for the Reunion this September, so we tried. It became clear though that as we rushed to completion for September, important aspects of the story were being compromised. With the understanding and support of Harry Hahn, President, and Mike Harris, Historian, we agreed that the Soldiers and Sailors of the Mobile Riverine Force have waited over 50 years to see their story told and that it was best to take a little more time to ensure the story is told correctly. We thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

We are in post-Production now and will look forward to providing updates over the next few months regarding our timeline for completion. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming reunion in September.

In closing, we are actively seeking CORPORATE SPONSORS. Securing CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP is imperative and especially important to our progression through post-production over the coming months. This really is fantastic opportunity for Business Owners and Corporations, so, please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly to discuss the details.

Thank you for entrusting us with your story. The best truly is yet to come!!

Take care,

Jeff and Shannon Arballo

Letter From Rich Kopec!

Hey Terry,

On my recent visit to the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument, I ran into Ben Keifa (on right) and Mike Gaughen, (center). I am on the left. Ben is a River Rat and a volunteer who has kept the grounds and memorabilia impeccable for many years, and Mike is a civilian volunteer now helping do the same. I hope you can honor Ben, by including this pic in the next edition of River Currents.

TY, Rich Kopec



*Richard Kopec,
Mike Gaughen, Ben Keifa*



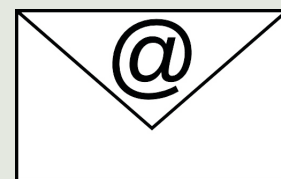
Contact the Editor

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!





**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**



Mobile Riverine Force Association

Plan of the Day for the 2023 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 AM and close at 10:00 PM daily. Beverages will be available. Be sure to wear your name tag at all times. Entrance to all reunion events require 2023 ID Badge. **COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST IN MAIN ROOM EVERY DAY 6:30-9:30 AM FOR SHERATON REGISTERED GUESTS***

Thursday, September 14, 2023

6:30 - 9:30 Breakfast in Main Room for Sheraton registered guests

6:30 AM Main Hall Hospitality Room opens

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Check in to receive name badge (outside Main Room downstairs)

1:00 PM - 2 PM ONLY - LATE REGISTRATION

\$125 - FOR MEMBERS

\$150 - FOR NON MEMBER

Checks or CASH only

Friday, September 15, 2023

6:30 AM - 9:30 AM Breakfast in Main Room for Sheraton registered guests

6:30 AM Main Hall Hospitality Room opens

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Check in to receive name badge (outside Main Room downstairs)

1:00 PM - 2 PM ONLY - LATE REGISTRATION

\$125 - FOR MEMBERS

\$150 - FOR NON MEMBER

Checks or CASH only

1:00 PM - 10 PM Free beer outside Main Room

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Product sales open

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Shuttle Service to Soldier's Memorial, Gateway Arch, Grant's Farm, and West county Mall (Shuttle makes continuous circle)

All group rooms and RivRon Room open

Lunch on your own on or off property

Continuous Coffee service all day in main room

12 noon - 2:00 PM and

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Reception (hors devours outside main room (downstairs))

MRFA Hospitality Rooms

River Squadron Room - St. Moritz - Terry Sater/Randy Pete hosts
White River - Davos Room - Bill Brennan host

Saturday, September 16, 2023

6:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast in Main Room for Sheraton registered guests

6:00 AM Main Hall Hospitality Room opens **9:00 AM**

MRFA Memorial Program

- National Anthem - Please stand / Hand Salute
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome
- Church Call
- Invocation
- 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
- Missing Man Table Ceremony
- Reading of names of those who have passed away since the last reunion - Two Bell Ringing of the Bell
US Army, US Navy, Marine Corps, US Air Force, US Coast Guard

Prayers for our Departed Brothers and sisters

- Taps
- Last minute announcements

Noon to 2:00 PM Product sales

1:00 to 5:00 PM Shuttle Service to Soldier's Memorial, Gateway Arch, Grant's Farm, and West county Mall (Shuttle makes continuous circle)

1:00 PM - 10 PM Free beer outside Main Room

2:00 PM Raffle drawings - Donations accepted

3:00 PM - 5:00 VACATE main room to allow banquet preparations

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM Reception (Main Room)

5:30 PM - 7:00PM Banquet of Heros Dinner

Complimentary Buffet Dinner

Donated by Johnson Family Fund

7:00 PM - Presentation of Quilts of Valor

5:00 PM - 10:00 PM cash bar (free beer)

7:30 PM - 10:00 PM DJ with music if you wish

Sunday, September 17, 2023

6:30 AM - 9:30 AM Breakfast in Main Room for Sheraton registered guests

Note: Volunteers are appreciated. See Frank Jones



Survey Question:

“What technology, or weapon available today, do you wish you could take back in time, to when you were in Vietnam?”

This survey question was born in the midst of Facebook comments on our page. Eric Hougland posted; “I served in the Duffel bag sensor team at ATSB TUYEN NHON. I was not exposed to the direct threats that the boat crews were. We used INTEL from the boat crews and officers to place the sensors. We tried to lessen the danger they faced.” I responded; “Thank you for all you did! As for intel, I wish we had the technology today’s “SWCC” guys have, being able to send a drone ahead, to scout for ambushes!” That got me wondering what OTHER items might have come in handy, from the 21st Century, in the primitive period of the late 60’s and early 70’s!



Bob Dyson, Co. B, 2/47th Inf., December 4, 1967 to October 4, 1968. I would have liked night vision goggles.

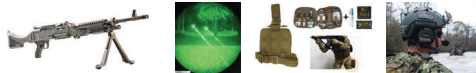
Mike Spight, RivRon 15, Rads 153, and 152, 1970-Jan 1971 as a crewman/gunner on both ASPBs (RAD 153) and a Tango Boat (RAD 152). The weapons/technology of today that I would have loved to have on the boats in 70-71 include the following:

- 1) 7.62x51mm and 20mm GAUs (Gatling guns) mounted in gun turrets. Augmented with M249 LMGs or M240 GPMGs on top of each mount.
- 2) Modern M4 carbines issued to every crewman, all with modern, Red Dot Sights (RDS) or Low Power Variable Optic (LPVO) sights.
- 3) Modern laser and IR Pointer/Illuminators multi-function aiming devices (MFALs) mounted up on all individual and crew served weapons.
- 4) Night Vision Goggles (NVGs) for every crew member.
- 5) Modern body armor systems (plate

carriers and front/rear plates) for each crew member.



- 6) Modern MCH/ATE ballistic helmets for each crewman with mounted EARPRO/radio comms and set up to mount NVGs for night time ops.
- 7) IFAKS (Individual First Aid Kits) for each crew member and a large, well-stocked TRAUMA Kit on each boat.



Thom Ayers, Co. B, 4/47 9th Inf Div. Apr. 68-69. I guess if I could take anything of today’s technology back to 1968 it would be night vision goggles. Carrying the M-60, they would have been a great advantage on ambush patrol. And, come to think of it, a silencer would have really kicked ass.

Ray Harvey, USS Clarion River (LSMR-409) 1969-1970. Starlight scope mounted on stanchion or conning station. I know they were available in the Navy, but we did not have one. We steamed in complete darkness with no running lights showing, no lights above deck at all and the equipment lights on the bridge covered in masking tape so as not to blind the watch standers.



It was almost impossible to see [and not run into] the small Vietnamese fishing boats at night, especially when there was not even any starlight because of an overcast and no moon above the overcast. If there was a moon of any kind, it might light up the cloud layer but if the layer was too thick or there is no moon it was DARK.

The fishing boats almost never showed

running lights or even a white light unless a near miss occurred. For an example of what WOULD cause the fishermen to show a white light, read the story Clarion River Lights Up The Night on the MRFA website.

Watch standing required one bridge stander to continually watch the radar with his head in the radar hood and another bridge stander to keep a pair of 7X50 binoculars up to his eyes [and OUT of the radar boot. After the guy with the binoculars got his eyes adjusted to the no light conditions, he had to use the binoculars the entire watch -- 4 hours because the other guy [the one on the scope] was night-blind if he took his head out of the scope hood. They could not even switch jobs to get a “break” and it was exhausting to be continually looking for “almost” contacts vs. waves on the scope and shadows with the binoculars.

“Night vision” goggles would have helped CLOSE to the ship, but the starlight scope I saw on my second ship on the east coast was superior to the binocular method.

James Wollner, 2nd Airboat Plt. 15th Eng. 9th Infantry Div. The most important technology that we know about today is the cell phone. The only way we could communicate with parents, friends, girlfriends was by letters. Some letters that you got you didn’t want to read, “Dear John’s or the letters just stopped coming, it would drive you crazy. Upon further thought maybe we were better off not knowing about cell phones and instant communications! As for weapons, the 50. cal. “persuader” MG still used today is my weapon of choice!

continued on next page

Jerry Hyde. USS Askari ARL-30. 1967-68. This is an easy one. Gimme the iPhone 14.



Pete Kinne. A co, 3/60 9th division 2/68 - 1/69. That's easy: Google maps. When I think how we agonized over those maps, trying to identify our current location after being dropped in the middle of nowhere and humping for a few hours, the ease of a cell phone location makes me crazy when I compare the two. Unfortunately, If we had them, I'm sure everybody would carry his personal phone, protect it from water like it was the baby Jesus, and then someone would have it go off and light up in the middle of the night in a rice paddy and get picked off by a sniper. Those AK 47 rounds would sure put a hole in an iPhone, in the breast pocket of your jungle fatigues.



In the other direction, the one item of 1968 technology I wish I could get as easily now as then, also easy: C-4. No contest. The number of interesting things that C-4 and Det cord could accomplish would be as interesting as they were back in the day.

Kenneth McCorry. Riv Div 515/ Stabron 20 1969-1970. We had Honeywells and Mk 19 40mm on our PBR's the rounds would slip in the Honeywell's and every Mk 19 I ever fired jammed. I could put out more with a M-79 !! A better firing 40mm would have been nice.



Robert Schrader. I would have liked to have a few of the 175 self-propelled arty like the ones I supported as Service Battery Commander 6th Bn 8th Arty, before I came to the MRF as a medical

officer, but with airborne forward observers to keep the count.



Herschel Hughes, Jr., CDR, MSC, USNR (Ret.) I was a SWO line officer back then and the GQ OOD for the Colleton for a year (June 68-June 69). I would have liked to have had twin Z-drives for passages in swift currents and shallow water. In addition, a bow thruster would have made those twilight anchorage shifts a lot easier. GPS would not have gone amiss either. And while I am at it, how about Skype for keeping in touch with family?



Joseph Lacapruccia. Can't think of anything better than the Flame thrower on

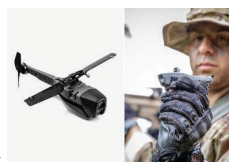


my boat M92-2 (zippo). 11/27/67 - 11/27/68.



Pat Kelly. RM2. Ha! None. Gimme that M-79 and the rest of the armament on our boats.

Bruce Peters. I would have loved to have a drone. To see from above what we were going to encounter would have been such a game changer!



Randy Peat. Armed drones. Fire and forget.

Richard P.

Hawkins. COMNAVFORV / CHNAVADVGRP. Dec 69 to Dec 70 in country. Although some of us did not serve in an area of combat that required having to shoot with whatever weapon we had, I have thoughts in response to your question.

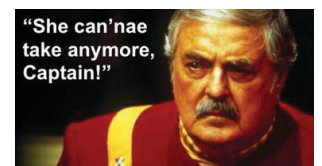
My role as a hai quan trung Uy at VN Navy Headquarters in 1970 required me to travel to at least 15 logistics bases from Da Nang to An Thoi. When I left the Saigon area, I had a sidearm with me, which I never used. So, I have no perspective on the main question of weapons.

Since much of my time was at Headquarters with ADM Tran Van Chon and his staff and sometimes with ADM Zumwalt, Almost any office automation we have today would have been helpful. This would have been really helpful in the implementation of job assignments for some 8,000 VN Sailors to replace an equal or fewer number of US sailors as part of the ACTOVLOG program. This was my singular job while a peer was responsible for the Saigon Shipyard manning requirements. We were tasked with recruiting, training, and deploying VN Sailors in time to satisfy the VN Navy requirements, which we actually created.

I was fortunate that my Aunt loaned me her old typewriter and helped me learn how to type when I was a young teen in the early 1950's. I had to prepare and type a trip report after visiting each base after interviewing each of the Commanding Officers about their personnel manning requirements. It would have been a problem had I not known how to type to prepare each trip report.

As an aside, I have tried to locate one of these reports and have had no success locating any...even in the Zumwalt papers at Texas Tech as well as in my entire file with the Navy and VA. Interestingly, I did find a telephone directory with my name in it in the Zumwalt Files.

Brian Mahin. Mark 19 gunner, T-132-9, 5/68 to 5/69. I would take "Scottie" (from Star Trek)! Then our boat captain, "Wild Bill



Holt," could yell at "Howdy" Hildebrandt our Coxswain: "HOWDY!!! Call Scottie, and beam us outta this mess!

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!

Acquiring Military Records and Awards

Around 1990 I began investigating my personal military awards. Much was based on talking to other veterans who had found out they had earned additional awards they were not aware of. I eventually found out that I had earned (5) Unit Awards that I had not known about. It took a while for me to get them all

set in concrete as the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) messed the process up more than once.

In this article I am going to show you how to go about requesting your personal records and also see if you are missing any awards. It is never too late to pursue them so the information can be passed along to future generations.

There is a place to do this using a form online. However, I suggest that you follow my lead as it will provide NARA with more information regarding missing awards.

After getting my awards in order I began assisting our fellow veterans. Through the years I have probably helped 200-300 with the process. It certainly takes patience, but the end result is gratifying. You will not only receive an upgraded DD-215, but all of your military and medical records.

My method includes filling out a Form 180 and including a Cover Letter with it explaining what awards are missing or need to be changed.

We will start with the Form 180. A fillable version can be located online at the link below. Having your DD-214 avail-

able will help. When filling the form out online DO NOT leave the page until the form is completed and you have printed TWO copies. One for your records and one for NARA. Here is a "Cheat Sheet" that I share on filling it out:

Section I:

1 – 7) are self-explanatory. The more information the better. Use your DD-214 to find date of entry, discharge and inactive reserve time.

Section II – Information and/or Documents Requested:

1) Check the "Undeleted" box and fill in your service years requested in the line to the right.

Check "Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)"

Check "Medical Records"

To the right of "Other" type in: Military Medals/Ribbons and an Upgraded DD215

2) Purpose: I would check "Personal".
Section III:

1) Check the 1st box

2) Put your current address here

3) Sign and Date

To print only the fillable part of the form be sure you are on the page you filled out and go to FILE and then PRINT in your toolbar. Once the print window pops up click on the CURRENT PAGE button (or pages 2 to 2) and click on PRINT. Make an extra copy for yourself before you leave the site on the Internet. You will be sending the entire packet to the address #14 at the end of the form.

<https://www.archives.gov/files/standard-form-180.pdf>

If you served in the Navy, you can use this PDF file to research possible awards. Keep a keen eye out for

continued on next page

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



E-mail

MRFA GEAR LOCKER

www.mrfa.org

**FREE
SHIPPING**
ON ORDERS OVER \$60

Unit Patches

These full color embroidered patches vary in size from 2 to 3" in diameter. Long lasting brilliant detail make these items a must have for every collection.

\$7.00



UP001 MRF Mekong Delta (white anchor)



UP002 MRFA Vietnam



UP003 MRF Mekong Delta (yellow anchor)



UP004 9th Inf Div (no words)



UP005 9th Inf Div Vietnam



UP006 9th Inf Div Vietnam Veteran



UP007 RAF TF 117



UP008 RAF One



UP009 VCCC (blue)



UP010 VCCC (brown)



UP011 VCCC (silver)



UP012 Combat Boat Captain



UP013 Combat Boat Crewman



UP014 RivRon 9



UP015 RAD 91



UP016 RAD 92



UP017 RAD 111



UP018 RAD 112



UP019 River Squadron 13



UP020 RAD 131



UP021 RAD 132



UP022 RivRon XV



UP023 RAD 152



UP024 Riv Div 153



UP025 MRF 3/47



UP026 3rd/60th Inf



UP027 39th Inf



UP028 47th Inf



UP029 USS Benewah APB-35



UP030 USS Colleton APB-36



UP031 USS Mercer APB-39



UP032 USS Nueces APB-40



UP033 USS Benewah Logo



UP034 USS Mercer Logo



UP035 River Raiders



UP036 River Rat



UP039 Brown Water Navy



UP041 MRF Vietnam Veteran



UP042 RAS 13

Jumbo Patches

Enormous 9" diameter patches, a must have for your favorite jacket or shirt!

Full color embroidery is bright and brilliant. **SPECIAL SALE: \$8.00**



JP001 MRFA Vietnam



JP001a MRF Vietnam



JP002 MRFA Vietnam



JP002a MRF Vietnam



JP003 MRF Mekong Delta



JP004 9th Inf Div Vietnam



JP005 9th Inf Div Vietnam Veteran



TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One



David W. Raybell

Member David W. Raybell passed away on April 16, 2023. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 11 – River Assault Division 111

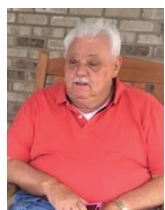
onboard M-111-3 from November 1966 to February 1968. Dave is survived by his long- time wife, Mary



Domenick A. Lombardi

Member Domenick A. Lombardi passed away on April 29, 2023. While in Vietnam he served with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Artillery, 1st

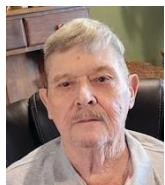
Armored Division from February 1966, to February 1969. He finished his tour with the Mobile Riverine Force, 9th Infantry Division. Domenick is survived by his wife, Susan.



Ronnie Ernest Campbell

Former Member, Ronnie Ernest Campbell, passed away on April 29, 2023, of Pancreatic Cancer. While in Vietnam he served with River As-

sault Squadron 9, River Assault Division 91, onboard T-91-8, from October, 1968, to October 1969. Ronnie is survived by Beverly LaPradd Campbell, his wife of 57 years.



Jimmie J. Apel

Member Jimmie J. Apel, passed away on January 22, 2023. While in Vietnam, he served with Alpha Company, 1st

Platoon, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, from May to September 1969.



Jess Loya Jr.

Member Jess Loya Jr. passed away on February 23, 2023. While in Vietnam, he served with Bravo Company, 2nd

Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, from January to December 1967.



James L. Long Sr.

Member James L. Long Sr. passed away at his home on May 13, 2023. While in Vietnam he served on Commander River Flotilla

One Staff, from November 1967, to November 1968. James was preceded in death by his long-time wife Carol.



Stanley Loye Willingham

Member Stanley Loye Willingham passed away at his home, on June 18, 2023. While in Vietnam, he served onboard the USS Colleton (APB-36) as a

Corpsman, working with an Army Surgical Team, from March 1968, to March 1969. Stan is survived Paula, his wife of 56 years.



Courtney Lynn Frobenius

Former Member Courtney Lynn Frobenius passed away on April 11, 2022.

While in Vietnam, he served with Bravo 2, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Courtney was highly decorated earning the Silver Star, 3 Bronze Stars, with V, and the Army Commendation Medal, with V.



Herbert W. Worthington Jr.

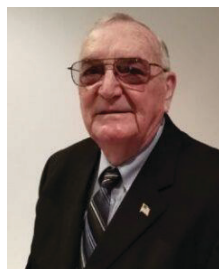
Member Herbert W. Worthington Jr. passed away on April 26, 2022. While in Vietnam, he served with Charlie

Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, in 1970. Herb was predeceased by his wife, Angela, of 53 years.



Luther D. Ott

Member LTC Luther Don Ott (USA Retired) passed away, in his home, on March 5, 2021. While in Vietnam, he served with the 9th Signal Battalion, 9th Infantry Division, from January, to December 1968. He was married to Myra for 22 years, before her untimely



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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Serena Barnes, for Michael Barnes, 2nd Brigade 3rd/47th 9th Inf.
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Gordon Hillesland, for Pat Lawson, NSA Dong Tam (67-68), & Mike Mosey, NSA Dong Tam (67-68)
Joe Hilliard, for Joe Benack, from Florida, and Donald Hartzell, from Pennsylvania, KIA 1970

Bruce Jensen, in memory of Frederic Peers Webb, A-111-4, KIA 12/21/67
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Frank Jones, for SFC Michael Hanmer, RivRon 13 and 153 (07/69-02/71)
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Adam Metts, for Donald L. Bruckart, T-111-2, KIA 3/31/69

Linda Pawlicki, in memory of Bob Pawlicki, T-111-11 (3/67-12/67)
Larry Ruebke, in memory of Alan Trucano
Dave Schell, in memory of SFC Mike Hanmer, RivRon 13 & 153 (7/69-2/71)
Charlie Thompson, in Memory of Doyle E. Templeton 2nd/39th Inf. 9th Inf.
Nancy VanDruff, in memory of Robert E. VanDruff, T-91-5/T92-4 (11/68-11/69)
In memory of my Brothers B Co. 2nd 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division



Mobile Riverine Force Association

9 San Marino Parkway

Fenton, MO 63026

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