THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE
River Currents

A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 3
Fall, 2025

Harry Hahn

Message From the Radio Shack

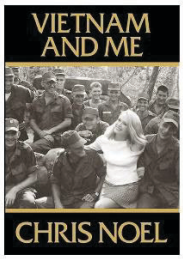
I'm just rested up from our reunion in St. Louis—another real barn burner! Thanks for all the positive feedback from this event. Thank you to **"The Johnson Family Fund"** for their donation, which was used to purchase and distribute shirts to all attendees, along with a very nice, high-quality LED mini-flashlight. The JFF also funded the fantastic Banquet of Heroes we enjoyed on Saturday night!

The question was asked, *"Will we have another reunion? Where will it be?"* The answer is yes, we will, and it will be right back here at the Sheraton Westport, assuming an acceptable room rate is negotiated. The buffet breakfast provided is worth $20 per person, and we will attempt to include this in your room rate again!

Eric Bowden, a professional photographer, took excellent photos for those who wanted them. Our hats are off to him for providing such an outstanding free service to our members and veterans in general! Anyone wishing to thank him can email him at eric@portraitofaveteran.org.

The viewing of the two-hour documentary ***"The Mobile Riverine Force"*** was a hit among members and guests. **Chris Noel**, who attended and sat with me, was moved by the documentary. Our thanks to **Arballo Entertainment** for screening the documentary. DVDs are still available at ArballoEntertainment.com.

Speaking of Chris Noel, she is up for a Presidential Freedom Medal. Please cast your vote at HonorChrisNoel.com. Chris is well-known not only for her acting career but also for her significant contributions to veteran care. She was the voice of the AFVN radio show *"A Date with Chris"* during the Vietnam War and, at the age of 82, continues to support her **"Vetsville"** home for Vietnam and Iraqi vets.



Our MRF documentary will screen for free for veterans in Branson, Missouri, during Veterans Week at two locations. Additionally, on Veterans Day, the MRFA will lay wreaths at the Vietnam Wall in Washington, DC. Our VP, "Doc" Bob Pries, will be leading that effort, as he does every year!

Chris Sater won Mable Springer's handmade flag quilt. Frank Springer and Liz Mann won the 50/50 Drawing. Frank and Linda Jones were always moving and always working!

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

Like us on Facebook

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.

Contact Changes

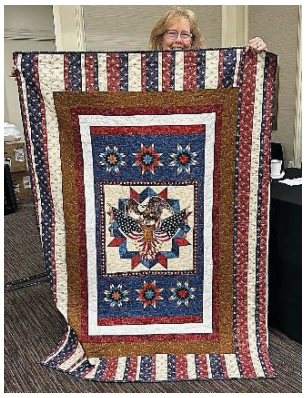
Please send Frank Jones any changes in address, phone number or e-mail addresses so that he can keep our database updated.

His address is:
9 San Marino Parkway,
Fenton, MO 63026

Frank's e-mail address is
mrfatango48@gmail.com

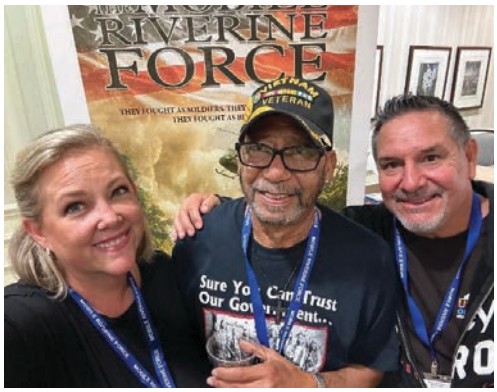
Contact the Editor

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

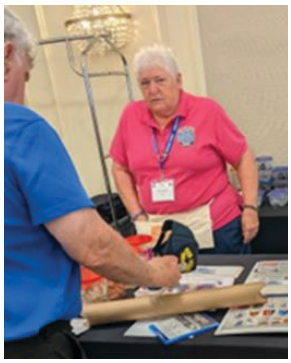


Kelly Matyn won Mable's quilt. Terry Sater won the Quilts of Valor Quilt.

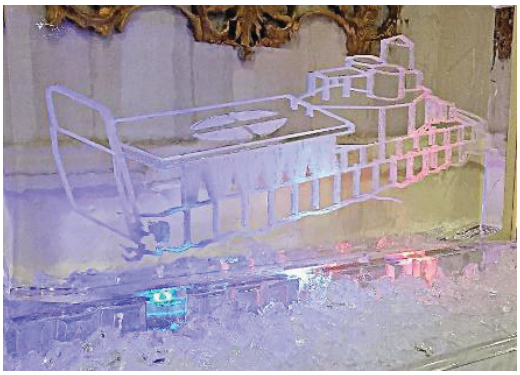
Bruce Graff won Esther Lightwine's Eagle and American flag quilt.



(Left) Debbie Jefferson, Esther Connolly Lightwine, and Mable Springer pulling raffle tickets! The "Raffle Ladies" also included; Georginia Ardinger, and Sandy Weiss.



"The bond between soldiers is forged in the fire of combat, tempered by time, and unbreakable even in the quiet of old age." *— Unknown*



Message From Arballo Entertainment

Hello Friends,

We hope this update finds you and your families doing wonderfully!

First and foremost, we want to thank the Mobile Riverine Force Association, its Executive Board Members, and families for trusting us to tell the extraordinary story of one of the most unique fighting forces of the Vietnam War—the Mobile Riverine Force.

A special thank you to the Johnson Family Fund, MRFA, KPBS, Brad Johnson, and the individuals and families who donated to the production. Your support and generosity made this film possible. Thank you!

As many of you know, we premiered the film on the flight deck of the USS Midway in March, and just a few weeks ago, we were thrilled to share it again at the reunion. These moments remind us how blessed we are to have this opportunity and the lifelong friendships that have come from it.

Our ultimate goal has always been to ensure this powerful and historic story reaches homes across America—not only to educate the public about this critical chapter of military history but also to share the deeply personal and emotional experiences of the men who served. We hope those who served in the Mobile Riverine Force feel honored by the finished work. The documentary aims to introduce the legacy of brotherhood, sacrifice, and service to a wider audience.

As Jeff shared during the reunion, there are still many more stories to tell, and this film is just the beginning. We look forward to working closely with the Executive Board in the coming months to plan special screenings across the country and include as many of you as possible in these events. Exciting News!

We're proud to announce that Scramble the Seawolves and The Mobile Riverine Force—both directed by Jeff Arballo and narrated by Mike Rowe—have been officially selected for the 13th Annual Military Film Festival in Branson, MO, November 6–10.Both films will be shown in the IMAX Theater—an incredible honor for us, the Seawolves, and the Sailors and Soldiers of the Mobile Riverine Force. Festival

Details:

Tickets: Veterans FREE | All others $6 (first-come, first-served basis; expect a line!)

Scramble the Seawolves:
Saturday, November 8 at 8:30 AM

The Mobile Riverine Force:
Sunday, November 9 at 8:30 AM

We'll reserve a few VIP rows as we get closer to the event. Stay tuned for updates by email and social media.

Finally, thank you for supporting our post-production and distribution efforts through DVD and movie poster sales. If you haven't yet picked up your copy, order today at: www.themrfdocumentary.com.We're excited for the weeks and months ahead as we share this story with the nation. Join us in spreading this legacy—stay tuned for more updates and screening opportunities!

With gratitude,
Jeff & Shannon Arballo

NOW HEAR THIS!

Remember to tell your friends and family that they can purchase the DVD/BluRay "The Mobile Riverine Force" and movie poster, at www.TheMRFDocumentary.com! This is an important documentary, narrated by Mike Rowe, and produced by Arballo Entertainment. It tells the story of the U.S. Navy and the 9th Infantry Division fighting for their lives and the lives of their brothers in the Mekong Delta, a combat legacy unseen since the Civil War!

Dear Shannon,

My husband, John, and I had the privilege of attending the Mobile Riverine Force Association reunion in St. Louis, where you and your husband introduced your remarkable film. John served on Patrol Boat T112-2 in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969, and this was our first reunion. He has rarely been around other veterans and never speaks about his wartime experiences, so I was unsure how he would feel at the event.

As the lights dimmed and your movie began, the ballroom fell silent for two hours—you could have heard a pin drop. When the lights came up, I wiped tears streaming down my face and noticed that every proud Vietnam veteran in the room was either hugging a fellow veteran or wiping away their own tears. John remained quiet until Paul Erasmus, who appeared in your film, embraced him. That moment unleashed a flood of emotions for John.

Your film was extraordinary, and Mike Rowe's narration was perfect. Thank you for dedicating the time and effort to create this deeply meaningful work, clearly a labor of love. The stories of these brave men and women, who were often met with hate instead of a hero's welcome upon returning home, deserve to be preserved. Without films like yours, their history risks being lost once the last Vietnam veteran passes.

John and I hope you will consider making another film, as there is so much more to their story. We purchased a copy of your film to share with our adult grandsons, hoping they will understand the sacrifices made by these courageous teenagers who proudly served their country, even when their country didn't always appreciate them.Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for creating this exceptional film. Warmest regards,

John and Michele Losi

MRFA Recipient Information - all fields are required except county and nickname

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Address Line 2: _____

City, ST, Zip _____ _____ _____

County *(if known)*: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Discharge Status: Honorable Conditions Dis-Honorable Conditions

Army Navy

Coast Guard Other _____

Dates of Service *(year to year)*: _____

Discharge Rank: _____

E.g.: E1-E10, WO1-WO5, and O1-O10

Our Mission Statement: *To cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.*

Please use space below signature to provide information about locations of service (e.g., stateside, deployments, countries). Example: France, Germany, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Beirut, Granada, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, Somalia, the Middle East, anti-terrorism operations and terrorism attacks against Armed Forces personnel. You may also provide comments about the nominee regarding unit or ship assignment, duties or responsibilities while serving, experiences, or other information that will help personalize and make the ceremony meaningful for the recipient. Please add service location, duties, medals/ribbons or any other information you would like to share to help make the award ceremony more personal for all involved. **Add extra sheet if necessary for all information.**

I certify that I have read the QOVF Mission Statement, and affirm the information I provided is accurate.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

MAIL THIS FORM TO

Name: Ginger Fondren

Group Address: P.O. Box 103, Gladeville TN 37071-0103

Email: ginger.fondren@QOVF.org

Proprietary & Confidential

Portrait of a Veteran Project

My name is **Eric Bowden**, and I am a seasoned and accomplished photographer. Two years ago, I embarked on a heartfelt journey that combines my passion for artistry with my deep respect for service. With a lens in hand and a vision in my heart, I started a passion project that I hope will make a profound impact.

Driven by an unwavering desire to honor our nation's heroes, I have set out to photograph as many Veterans as possible. When I photograph, I can see untold stories of courage, sacrifice, and resilience. It is through my lens that I aim to capture not merely a portrait, but the essence of each Veteran's story. Every Veteran photographed can choose to tell his or her own story with me, and I will share these in-depth interviews on my blog. It is my ambition to preserve their stories and histories.

In every portrait, I capture more than just a face - I encapsulate a lifetime of sacrifice, honor, and resilience. My photographs are a tribute to the heroes who have walked through the crucible of service and emerged as our nation's proud Veterans.

I am not merely a photographer. I am a storyteller who is dedicated to preserving the essence of their service, courage, and strength.

My mission is to honor, celebrate, and remember. Through the artistry of photography, I aim to capture the unspoken words etched in the lines of their faces and the depth of their eyes. I seek to reflect the pride, sacrifice, and camaraderie of our Veterans.

Portrait of a Veteran images can be seen in special events, corporate hallways, hospital lobbies, and personal homes. I will NEVER charge a Veteran for the gifted images. It is my honor to tell and preserve their story.

Eric Bowden
eric@portraitofaveteran.org
https://www.portraitofaveteran.org/
Donate: https://www.portraitofaveteran.org/donate

Gus Gustuson, U.S. Navy
Mobile Riverine Force Association
The Faces of Freedom by Eric Bowden

Ronnie Larson, U.S. Army, Ronald Gilchrist, U.S. Army and Okey Toothman, U.S. Army
Mobile Riverine Force Association
The Faces of Freedom by Eric Bowden

"Time may gray our hair and dim our eyes, but the bond of brothers-in-arms shines brighter with every reunion." — Unknown

Rodney Compton, U.S. Army, Ron Wallace, U.S. Army , George Ziggler, U.S. Army and George Harrington, U.S. Army
Mobile Riverine Force Association
The Faces of Freedom by Eric Bowden

John G. Smith, U.S. Army, Robert Pries, U.S. Army and David Lull, U.S. Army
Mobile Riverine Force Association
The Faces of Freedom by Eric Bowden

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years, and the brothers you stood beside in the fight." — Unknown

ASPB 91-3 Boat Crew
Mobile Riverine Force, Vietnam 1967-68
The Faces of Freedom by Eric Bowden

Max Holcomb, U.S. Army
Mobile Riverine Force Association
The Faces of Freedom by Eric Bowden

"We don't meet at reunions to relive the war, but to hold tight to the men who carried us through it." — Unknown

A Co. 2/60th
9th Infantry
The Faces of Freedom by Eric Bowden

Quilts of Valor

The Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) was founded in 2003 by Catherine Roberts, a Blue Star Mom. Her son's year-long deployment to Iraq provided the initial inspiration, and her desire to ensure that returning warriors were welcomed home with the love and gratitude they deserved provided the rest.

She felt that uniting quilters in a national effort could achieve her goal of covering all service members and veterans touched by war. These quilts, called Quilts of Valor, serve as a tangible reminder of an American's appreciation and gratitude. This grassroots effort quickly spread across the United States and today includes thousands of quilters from all 50 states.

Quilts of Valor are stitched with love, prayers, and healing thoughts. Service members and veterans who have been touched by war receive these tangible awards of gratitude that unequivocally say, "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor."

(L) John "Rowdy" Oxley and Janet Gustuson (L) Lexie Millikan-QOV Executive Director , Ginger Fondren-Tennessee state Coordinator and member of QOV Outreach Committee, Patricia Kessler-chair on QOV group at AMVETs 106 St. Louis, Linda Martine-Missouri state Coordinator

The QOVF first connected with the MRFA through John "Rowdy" Oxley, a member of the QOVF Board of Directors. Our first MRFA group awards took place in Las Vegas, Nevada, where we presented 42 quilts. Following that reunion, 17 additional veterans requested and received Quilts of Valor. We then awarded nine quilts at the 2023 MRFA reunion in St. Louis. At the 2025 MRFA reunion, we presented five quilts on Friday morning in a private ceremony and 11 at the Hero's Banquet on Saturday evening. We received an additional 30 requests that Saturday evening. To date, we have received 376 requests and awarded 248 quilts.

Quilts of Valor Recipients: Harry Hahn, John McDowell, James Burchfield, Larry Banning, James Henry, Michael Harris, Stephen Benedict, Andrew Conklin, Kenneth Sutton, William Flamm, and John Weiss

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother." — William Shakespeare, Henry V

MRFA GEAR LOCKER

www.mrfa.org

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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 | 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

EXAMPLES:

UP034 USS Mercer Logo | UP035 River Raiders | UP036 River Rat | UP039 Brown Water Navy | UP041 MRF Vietnam Veteran | UP042 RAS 13

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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

UPDATED 09/22/2025

"The soldier above all others prays for peace, but when he reunites with his brothers, it's the shared battles they toast to." — Unknown

Members of the 2nd 60 Infantry Regiment 9th Infantry Division.

"A soldier's heart never truly leaves the battlefield, but at a reunion, it finds its home among those who stood beside him." — Unknown

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1. Indicate your choice of item number (be sure to include size, if applicable), with quantity, and total amount. Add amounts for grand total to enclose.
2. Make check or money order payable to: MRFA. The MRFA does not take credit cards.
3. Mail Gear Locker Order Form and check to MRFA, PO Box 271, Lake Villa, IL 60046. Email Harry Hahn at SparksRivRon13@AOL.com for questions.

Products Chairman
HARRY HAHN
President

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Vietnam Veterans Memorial Placing of the Wreath, November 8th -11th!

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will place wreaths at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11, 2025. We will gather at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at 8:30 a.m. and proceed to The Wall at 9:00 a.m.. We have reserved twenty (20) rooms at the Arlington Court Suites, a Clarion Collection Hotel, in Arlington, Virginia, for November 8–11 (check out on 11/12). Room rates are $144.00 (plus tax) for a Studio King (single) and $154.00 (plus tax) for a Studio Queen (double) per night.

To make reservations under our group number, call 1-703-524-4000. Please provide our group number, "FB27A1," and your arrival information as requested.

Based on my discussions with hotel management, they expect to be very busy during this time, so I advise you to make reservations sooner rather than later.

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will have a hospitality room available from November 8–11.Come join us on Veterans Day 2025 as we honor our fallen brothers and enjoy the camaraderie of your MRFA brothers, their friends, and families.

Bob (Doc) Pries, Vice President
Phone: (513) 659-4974, Email: pries247@gmail.com

"All MRFA members are invited to sign up for the MRFA e-mail list, at MRFA@gaggle.e-mail.com to stay informed with breaking news at the MRFA. Everyone is asked to reply to sender, rather than to "All," unless asked specifically requested otherwise.)

Thoughts From the Editor

For a few wonderful days in September, the sailors and soldiers of the Mobile Riverine Force gathered for our reunion, a sacred pilgrimage of brothers bound by our crucible of war in the Mekong Delta. The unyielding trials left indelible marks on our souls, yet in the embrace of this brotherhood and the unwavering love of our families, we found solace, strength, and healing. The warmth of our reunions continue to fill the air with laughter, tears, and stories that only we can understand—tales of courage, sacrifice, laughter, and the unspoken vows we made to each other on those riverine battlegrounds. Each handshake, each shared glance, carried the weight of years weathered together, a testament to the unbreakable bonds forged in the fire of conflict, where we stood shoulder to shoulder against the chaos of war.

Since 1992, these gatherings have been our refuge, a hallowed space where the Army and Navy men of the Mobile Riverine Force, alongside our cherished families, could honor the past, celebrate the present, and face the future knowing we will not be forgotten. We are old men now, no longer like tameless horses in our youth, our hair gray and our steps slower, but the fire of our camaraderie burns as fiercely as ever. We can laugh, share stories, and carry each other through the years, lifting the burdens of memory and loss with the strength of our shared history. As we clasped hands and raised glasses last week, we were reminded of the words adapted from General Douglas MacArthur: *"Old soldiers never die; they just fade away. But when they gather, the memories of their battles burn as bright as ever."* In that moment, we felt the truth of those words, our legacy—the stories of our valor, our unity, and our love—burning brightly, destined to live on in the hearts of those we hold dear.

The Mekong's muddy waters may have long since disappeared in our past, but the spirit of the Mobile Riverine Force and all who served in it, remains a beacon of resilience. We are more than veterans; we are a family forged in the hardest of times, bound by memories that time cannot erode. As we brothers stood together, we knew that our sacrifices were not in vain, that our stories would echo beyond our years. Our reunion was not just a gathering; it was a promise kept to each other, a vow that our brotherhood will endure. We rest easy now, secure in the knowledge that our legacy will be remembered, carried forward by the love of our families and the unyielding bond of the Mobile Riverine Force, a light that will never fade.—

Terry Sater
Editor, River Currents
River Assault Squadron 13, '68-'69

"Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot, but he'll remember, with advantages, what feats he did that day." — William Shakespeare

I captured this image of B Company, 4/39th, as they were being picked up by T-131-6 on July 11th or 12th, 1968. Reflecting on the primitive conditions aboard our boats, I felt a deep sympathy for these soldiers and the relentless hardships they endured. They lived in the mud, were perpetually wet, faced the enemy across open rice paddies, and navigated countless unseen booby traps with every step. Their suffering was immense, yet not once did I hear a single complaint from them. Terry Sater

"We don't meet at reunions to relive the war, but to hold tight to the men who carried us through it."— Unknown

Send your questions, comments, or stories for River Currents to the Editor, at:
terry.s8er@yahoo.com.

Tribute to Albert Moore, by his stepson, Rich Otteson

Richard Otteson receiving the flag from Dakota Tolbert

It's challenging to put a person's life into a few words; however, I hope this captures the essence.

Albert was a deeply private man who never wanted attention or praise — but behind the scenes, he made a quiet impact by constantly helping others. I'd like to share three themes that I believe best reflect the man I knew and loved:

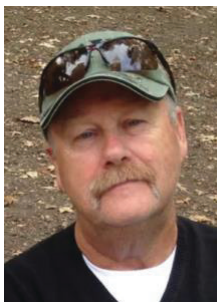
Leadership and Service. In the military, leadership often follows a strict chain of command. Orders are given and followed — not necessarily questioned. This top-down structure is essential for national security and discipline. But leadership isn't always about authority. Albert embodied a different kind of leadership — Servant Leadership — where the goal isn't power, but service. He focused on lifting others up, helping them grow, and putting their needs first. One of my favorite sayings is: "It's amazing what a team can do when nobody cares who gets the credit." That was Albert in a nutshell. He rarely took credit for anything, but his efforts were always at the heart of the mission. As a Navy cook during the Vietnam War, he fed the crew — a simple but essential act of service that reflects his character. Even later in life, Albert always had a kind word, a listening ear, and a helping hand. Serving others wasn't something he did — it was who he was.

Camaraderie and Passion. Though Albert was reserved, he held great passion for the causes and people he cared about. As President of the MRFA, he had every opportunity to stand in the spotlight — but he chose instead to stand behind the scenes, working tirelessly to support the group's success. He was the planner, the steady hand, the quiet force keeping everything moving. Though Albert was reserved, he held great passion for the causes and people he cared about. One of his fellow MRFA members said it best:

"Albert was hands down one of the finest men I've ever had the good fortune and privilege to meet and call a friend. He was a true gentleman and tremendous patriot with a great sense of humor, a ready smile, passionate about whatever the cause, and a kind word for everyone he ever met. He was the founding heart of the MRFA and as the salt water and brown water sailor he was, I wish him fair winds and following seas — and ask him to keep the hatch door ajar for the rest of his shipmates as we all take our turn to follow."

continued on next page

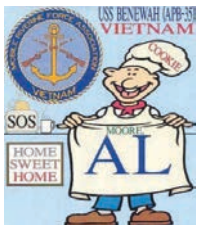
TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One



Richard Donald Preston Jr.
Member Richard Donald Preston Jr. passed away on June 17, 2025. While in Vietnam he served aboard the U.S.S. Mercer (APB-39) from March 1968 to June 1969. Richard is survived by his wife Mary.

Larry D. Bloemer
Member Larry D. Bloomer passed away on February 13, 2025. While in Vietnam he served with 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from May 1968 to February 1969. Larry is survived by his wife Vickie.

Joseph A. Terzi
Member Joseph A. Terzi passed away on August 5, 2025. While in Vietnam he served with B-1, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from June 1966 to May 1968. Joseph is survived by his wife Elisabeth.



Albert Banks Moore
Member Albert Banks Moore passed away on July 3, 2025. While in Vietnam he served onboard the USS Benewah (APB-35) as a Cook and then Inshore Underwater Warfare Group 1 from April 1967 to April 1970. Albert was instrumental in founding the Mobile Riverine Force Association (MRFA) in 1992. He served as President of the association from 1992 until 2017. Albert was preceded in death by Sara, his beloved wife of 41 years.

John W. Smith
Member John W. "Johnnie" Smith passed away on February 19, 2025. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 11/Division 112 onboard A-112-5 in 1968-69. Johnnie is survived by his wife Mary Jane.

Tribute to Albert Moore, continued

Devotion to Friends and Family. I had the honor of calling Albert my stepfather — but to me, he was simply "Pops." He came into my life over 40 years ago, when he and my mother Sara met at a time when they both needed someone steady, loving, and trustworthy. They gave each other exactly that — and built a life together full of love, partnership, and commitment. Married for 41 years, they passed within just 8 months of each other — Albert at 86 and Sara at 83. He loved his grandchildren and great-grandchildren deeply and did everything he could to support them. Though age and health slowed him down physically, his spirit remained strong, sharp, and full of love. To everyone who reached out with kind words and support — thank you. Thank you for standing by Albert, for sharing in his mission, and for honoring the man he was.

In closing, and in Albert's own words: "Be as cool as you want to be."

Letter from Joe Zemlin, President, Combat Craft Crewman Association

Dear Terry and Members of the Mobile Riverine Force Association,

It was an honor and a privilege to join you at your reunion in St. Louis last week. I remain deeply grateful for the warm welcome I received and for the opportunity to share time with men who embody such a proud legacy of service. Our organizations are linked not only by the waterways where we served but also by a shared devotion to brotherhood, sacrifice, and the preservation of naval special operations history.

I was sincerely touched by your kind words regarding the Combatant Craft Crewman Association challenge coin. Please know that the coin was given as a symbol of respect—from one community of warriors to another—and as a reminder that our histories, though from different eras, are forever connected by the riverine and maritime missions we carried out in defense of our nation.

The CCCA's mission is simple yet enduring: to honor the heritage and preserve the stories of Navy Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewmen (SWCC) across generations while supporting our active-duty warriors, veterans, and their families. Like the Mobile Riverine Force, our strength lies not only in what we accomplished on the water but also in the bonds of loyalty, courage, and camaraderie that endure long after the missions end.

Your kind invitation to contribute to River Currents is deeply appreciated. I hope that, in doing so, we can strengthen the bridge between our two associations and inspire a sense of continuity between your historic riverine service in Vietnam and the modern craft and crews that carry forward that same spirit today.

On behalf of the Combatant Craft Crewman Association, please accept my sincere gratitude for including us in your gathering. I look forward to future opportunities where our paths may cross again, and I pray for God's continued blessings upon you, your families, and the enduring brotherhood of the Mobile Riverine Force Association.

With the utmost respect and gratitude,
Joseph Zemlin
President, Combatant Craft Crewman Association, Inc.

In Memory Of

Wendell Affield, for Buddha Ed Thomas, Boat Captain, Tango 112-11 (02/68–02/69)
Serena Barnes, for Michael Barnes, 2nd Brigade, 3rd/47th, 9th Infantry Division
Bill Buffie, in memory of Lyle Parin, USS Floyd County (LST-762), Vietnam
David Wilson in memory of:2nd Lt. Timothy Shelton, 4th/39th, KIA 06/25/69, Pvt. Steven Murray, 4th/39th, KIA 05/26/69, Pvt. Harvey Crabtree, 2nd/4th Artillery, KIA 06/19/69, Pvt. Dennis Mattox, 1st/501st, 101st Airborne Division, KIA 08/23/69
Bill Dabel for Donut Dollie Emily Strange, C-1, 3rd/39th
Orville "Lee" Daley for Roger Valentine, CSI, USS Askari (ARL-30), 1967–1968
Bill Frede for:BM1 Guy Dail, T-112-2, 1967
BM3 Johnny Maness, T-112-2, 1967
SN David Flamburis, T-112-2, 1967
Patrick Haggerty in memory of :CDR.. Charlie Cox, Commanding Officer, River Division 111 (11/67–11/68)
Capt. Jim Gautier, Commanding Officer, River Division 11 (12/68–06/69)
Susan Hanmer for SFC Michael Hanmer, River Squadron 13 and 153 (07/69–02/71)
Susan T. Henderson for Ross D. Henderson, Gunner, USS Luzerne County (LST-902), 02/70–12/71
Gordon Hillesland, for Pat Lawson, NSA Dong Tam, 1967–1968
Mike Mosey, NSA Dong Tam, 1967–1968
Joy Hurd, 06/68
Joe Hilliard, for :Jim Schwan from Wisconsin, Buck Grant from Alabama, Joe Benack, Donald Hartzell
Bruce Jensen, in memory of Frederic Peers Webb, A-111-4, KIA 12/21/67
J. R. Johnson, 3rd/47th, 9th Infantry Division "Recon" (05/66–01/68), in memory of :Walker, Gotch, Paredez, Nelson, Hayes, Howard, King, Twitchell, Spake, Chesnoski
Frank Jones, for: Arthur Delmar "Buck" Grant, River Squadron 13/15 (07/69–07/70)
SFC Michael Hanmer, River Squadron 13 and 153 (07/69–02/71)
Jerry Lippincott, in memory of Freddie Tapper, USN, IUWG-1
Adam Metts, for Donald L. Bruckart, T-111-2, KIA 03/31/69
A.R. "Monty" Montillo, in memory of John Sperry
Christopher Olsen, for Ralph Bigelow, T-131-8, River Squadron 13
Theodore and Anita Richter, (Ralph's sister) for Ralph Bigelow, T-131-8, River Squadron 13
Larry Ruebke, in memory of Alan Trucano
Dave Schell, in memory of SFC Mike Hanmer, River Squadron 13 and 153 (07/69–02/71)
John Smith, for Paull D. Jose, B Company, 3rd/60th, KIA 11/01/68
Charlie Thompson, in memory of Doyle E. Templeton, 2nd/39th, 9th Infantry Division
Jim Towey, for Jack Steinman, who saved many lives through his heroic actions, 05/14/69. RIP Brother.
In memory of my Brothers, B Company, 2nd/39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division

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