

# Vietnam Security Police Association Guardmount

## Thank you 377th SPS: Tan Sohn Nut and Tet 1968

Richard Meader,

VSPA: My name is Richard Meader. I came across the 377th SP page today as I was surfing the web, and I felt compelled to contact you.

You see, my father is Willard L. Meader. In November 1967, he was assigned as Commander of the 377th USAF dispensary and the 21st Casualty Staging flight. Like so many vets, Dad has never talked much about his time in-country. About the only thing we got from him until recently was that he was pretty unpopular with some of his troops, as he found room on base for those living in downtown Saigon and ordered the hospital staff to set up quarters in base housing.

In the past few years, he has finally committed his memories of the Tet Offensive 1968 to paper, and my sister and I finally found out just how close he had been to combat. In his recollections of the events of that night, he has high praise for the members of the 377th SP, and having learned of the events first hand, I wanted to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to the men of the 377th SPs for keeping my Dad safe. Without you guys' dedication and bravery, I'm sure that things would not have turned out so well.

Again, thank you for helping keep my father safe; it took me a long time to realize, but the impact of his (and others) military service has affected me deeply. I am proud to be his son; proud to be an Air Force dependent; proud to be an Army veteran myself (thankfully in peacetime); and above all, proud to the very depths of my heart of the men and women who have served in this nation's military.

Thank You,  
Richard Meader

## Dues now due

Hardship, no one will be turned down, however, we need you to contact Terry Morris, Steve Gattis or myself each year. No explanation is necessary; *we take care of our own.*

## REMEMBER THE DATES FOR OUR REUNIONS:

October 6 - 9, 2005 for the VSPA Reunion in VALDOSTA, GEORGIA (Moody AFB).

October 2006 Las Vegas, Nevada

November 2007 Washington D.C. Anniversary of The Wall - We will march as a unit in the parade!

When I arrived in NKP, Thailand in June, 1975, the first thing I heard was "This is a hostile area. We don't run aerobics here." "Hot damn!", I explained. That was the last news I heard since I got my orders out of Minot.

Later . . . U-Tapas, Thailand, Spring, 1976 – Someone in the back office got the bright idea and said, "The Vietnam War's over so, let's run aerobics!" Rumor had it there were three heart attacks after hearing those fateful words.

Note: The S.P.'s would run aerobics, not the rest of the base. So on a certain day, those of us who were off duty would run. The course would be cross-country around the base perimeter. No sweat (yeah, right).

People got mixed up directions and some ran the other way and got lost. Some stopped to smoke a cigarette and walk and then run after the smokebreak was over. One Tech. Sergeant flagged down a S.A.T. team for a ride while Thai marines threw stones at the rest of us from their bunkers. Needless to say, we all finished with flying colors! Next stop – the NCO Club for a cold one.

Rifle qualification: One day night flight (Dragon Flight) and our Thai mercenary guards went to the beach and shot our M-16's at paper targets. Sometimes we had to "cease fire" due to Thai fishing boats in the area and Cambodian kids running out from the (unofficial) Green Beret-operated refugee camp. One of the S.P. sergeants told me that he and some of the other "old Asian hands" would bury the spent brass for the kids to find so they could make ashtrays out of them and sell them back to the G.I.'s. So I too buried my spent brass and one old Thai mercenary guard patted me on the shoulder and gave me a thumbs up saying "you mumbah one!".

I also spotted a Thai guard sergeant nicknamed "Boon" punching holes in targets with his ink pen. He winked at me and smiled and an S.P. sergeant told me, "It's their rice bowl. Everyone passes." I said "no sweat".

Riot Control: We practiced riot control training in the old B-52 area, if and when we had to defend the base against anti-American protestors. (This was not needed – the locals loved us. In fact, it was a squad of Thai marines that had to rescue a lone anti-American protestor from an angry Thai mob.)

Do you know that whenever you get two or more S.P. sergeants together with riot batons, there is always at least one sword fight. Also, did you know that after a couple hours training we looked just like the Radio City Rockettes – Now wouldn't that scare the Commies!

One of the S.P.'s asked our flight leader, Lt. Bibbs, "Sir, if the reds attack and they get through the Thai marines, U.S. Marines and or Thai mercenary and Navy guards, then what use are these riot batons gonna do us?" Lt. Bibbs, being a former S/Sgt. spoke the truth when he said, "When the S#@\$ hits the fan, you won't be armed with riot batons." "Amen!" shouted a Blue Beret.

June 1976: We were on the last plane out of Thailand. When we landed in Hawaii, the stewardess popped in from the cockpit and said that "40 minutes after we left U-Tapas, terrorists ambushed a bus load of Thai in front of the Maingate."

War over, my ass!

# Death of a Friend and Brother – Rex Hare – Frank Bickerstaff - Robert Ohlson

Yesterday, I received the sad news that a dear friend and brother, Frank Bickerstaff, died. The news came at a time when I was thinking about the VSPA, the new year and how we could do more to bring old buddies and new friends together. Frank was very serious about being ready for anything, but he also had a wicked sense of humor that often illustrated his capacity to think. His compassion and respect for his fellow security policeman were right at the top for the man he was, a retired Master Sergeant with a Master's Degree.

Frank was ready. He died on January 1st and his obituary was sent by email on January 1st. The email was addressed from Frank Bickerstaff to several of his friends. The subject was "Obituary of Frank Bickerstaff." At first I had to wonder if it was a joke because I have an email file with 226 notes, jokes, cartoons and photographs from Frank.

Knowing that Frank would always be ready for whatever event would come along, it is no surprise that his obituary came from his own email and was probably written months ago.

## OBITUARY OF FRANK BICKERSTAFF

Frank C. Bickerstaff, Jr., 68 died on 1 January 2005. Frank was born in Richwood, West Virginia, and the family later moved to Plymouth, NC where he called home before entering the US Air Force in July 1954.

He served as an Air Force policeman in TX, SC, CA, NC and AL, along with several tours in Japan, Okinawa, Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam before his retirement in August 1981. Frank received his Masters degree in Criminal Justice from Troy State University after his retirement and immediately started to work for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service as a Safety and Security Manager. He and his wife Ryuko spent seven years in Nuremberg, Germany with AAFES before being reassigned to Newport News, VA, in August 1992. Frank worked as the safety and security manager at the AAFES Dan Daniel Distribution Center until he retired in November 2000. Frank's remains will be cremated and he will be interred in the Peninsular Gardens cemetery in Newport News, VA.

Donations to the National Cancer society are requested in lieu of flowers

## Another Name for # 111 -- Ray Rash, Sun, Jan 02 2005, 18:38:30

Another name can be added to LM number 111. A fine gentleman that I had the pleasure of working with but knowing nothing about, passed on the 27th of December. JOHN McCLATCHY of Brownsboro, Tx was a retired Air Policeman and yet I never knew it until his death at age 71. John retired from Kelly Springfield-Goodyear in Tyler, Texas with over 20 years of service as an electrician and was originally from Comanche, Texas. Rest well, Brother.

Gentlemen: I just received the below email from Ginger Ohlson, VSPA Member Robert "Craig" Ohlson's wife, who advised that Craig died of a heart attack on December 5, 2004.

## Robert Ohlson Passing -- Lew Goldberg, Wed, Jan 12 2005, 15:42:19

Gentlemen: I just received word from Ginger Ohlson, VSPA Member Robert "Craig" Ohlson's wife, who advised that Craig died of a heart attack on December 5, 2004.

Robert "Craig" Ohlson from Claremont NH and a long time VSPA member passed on 5 Dec 05. Craig was a K9 handler and was stationed at Binh Thuy and Tuy Hoa in 66/67. RIP Brother

# VSPA FLAG COMMITTEE REPORT

To date we have received a number of designs for the VSPA flag. The response from our members has been great with many unique ideas. At the end of February I'll be asking the rest of the committee to make a final decision on which one to chose. The final design will be one that not only reflects our heritage but will also need to be one that we can get reproduced into an actual flag. Some designs that look good on paper may be difficult to get manufactured. This will be the last call to our members to have any additional designs submitted by February 25, 2005.

Don Graham

Flag Committee

Chaplain Steve.

I thought I might be able to be of better help to interested parties if I could avail myself in conjunction with the newsletter. One of the men of my church here in NJ has offered to send a sermon tape each month free of charge to any interested member. Those interested can simply e-mail [JCSABO@msn.com](mailto:JCSABO@msn.com) and request it. If they do not have a computer they can simply call me. Thanks in advance.

Chaplain Steve

## **One cold night at check point charlie Ubon, Thailand -**

**Robert Williams.**

While on duty one cold night at Ubon, Thailand I was on duty at Check Point Charlie where I spent a lot of time as I was a Law Enforcement troop. One of our duties was to check every ID card that came through that gate and that meant climbing on every pink baht bus that entered the base. I had many of laughs watching GI's coming and going. The funniest was that cold night when a samlaw pulled up to the gate with an American with nothing on but his underwear. He was very drunk. He kept reaching in his pants for his wallet but that was gone also. So My self and the Thai guard thought we would have a little fun with him so we let him direct traffic in his birthday suit for almost thirty minutes before we called for a jeep to transport him to his barracks. Oh by the way did I mention to the troop was transported to the SECURITY POLICE barracks. Yes he did state he was a security troop. So after all these years the statute of limitations has clearly ran out. So come forth and tell us who you are. This happened Dec 1971. I really felt bad for you listening to how your pants just slid off that chair then threw a hole on the floor. Believe me you were not the only GI who lost his pants in Thailand.. But you were the first to show up at the gate with nothing but your name and your underwear on a three wheeled bike sprawled out across the seat like a king. Oh by the way I did pay the samlaw driver for your bicycle ride from the play boy club to the gate. You owe me five baht. Wow that is a lot of interest over the years.. W/B Robert E. Williams

# VDHA Reunion

This was my second VDHA reunion, the first was in St. Louis 2002. I call it a **good** reunion when you meet guys that were from the same Base. In this case the 432<sup>nd</sup> Security Police Sq. K-9, Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base. I call it a **great** reunion when you meet guys you served with or where in the same theater and with whom you gain a lasting friendship. I believe we are getting there with all the Thai Handlers getting together. All three of these events took place this year plus a bonus area.

Flashback: at the St. Louis reunion I met with Richard Deggans. After talking during the dinner it was discovered he and I were stationed together at Barksdale A.F.B., Louisiana in 1973 and he was the guy who took me to the hospital after I had been bitten in the back of the leg during attack training, a red Maverick was the vehicle of choice. To top all that off he lived in Dallas area and I in the Ft. Worth area. I call this a bonus.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> some of us Thailand Handlers (Udorn, Ubon, U-Tapao and Korat) took a side trip to Davis-Monthan A.F.B. for a Kennel tour. A great time by all I might add. Air Force MWD program may be scaled back but the dedication is still there. Man there is nothing like the smell of a kennel and the dogs barking to get heart racing.

Now we are about to step into another area and go beyond **great**. During the tour Kelly Bateman met Senior Airman Wyatt Rhoden and was taken by surprise. Kelly had adopted SRA Rhoden, so to speak, when he was stationed in the United Arab Emirates and by pure luck ran into him. After a MWD Demo put on by the 355<sup>th</sup> SPF Handlers we all visited and shared some of our career with them. When stationed at Hanscom A.F.B. in Mass. and in Kuwait Wyatt had served with TSgt Bagdon. Wyatt asked if anyone knew a Jay Bagdon. I'm thinking what the heck. I say yes and Wyatt fills me in with information he has on Jay Bagdon. Wyatt brought it up as he said Jay was about my age and "worked the old war dogs".

I get home from the reunion; look up a Jay Bagdon in Mass. and call. Next day I get an email and it is the Jay Bagdon I know. A chance meeting at an Air Force Base in Arizona and after 35 years I'm now in touch with an old friend I last saw in 1969 at Sentry Dog School, Lackland A.F.B... We have now just stepped over into the "HOLY COW" (yea those were the words) "**I can't believe this.**" I'm ready for the next reunion and I hope it is as fruitful as the first two have been. With any luck maybe I can talk Jay into attending.

My thanks to Bill Cummings and his PUP SSgt. Jon Sarabia for setting up the Davis-Monthan tour. To TSgt. Max Talley, Kennel Master at Davis-Monthan, you guys are the greatest. Trust me when us old guys can get a tour like this it means something special to us and saddens our hearts that we cannot do this kind of work anymore, this is why K-9 leads the way. ...

432<sup>nd</sup> SPS attendees this year were: Ernie Childers, Charlie Blood, Jay Jones, Ken Neal, Jimmy Thornton, David Briggs and Bill Garrett. George Reavis introduced himself at the banquet and added to the list of Udorn attendees.

Ernie Childers 432nd SPS K-9 Duke X093

Member of:

Vietnam Dog Handler Association

Vietnam Security Police Association

# **I was at NKP then... -- Ken Black**

From Jan 1975 to about July 75 I was at NKP. I then was sent to Udorn to finish out my tour, but I remember well the days following the loss of the chopper. I was assigned to the 601st Photo Sq, det 12, commanded by Cpt Ronald Rand. When I reported in January, he looked up from his desk and said, Black, why are you here? Your orders were cancelled while you were on leave." I immediately offered to return to the C-130 and head back home...instead, he said, "they need augmentees at the 56th SPS...that's where you'll go". So after about 3 weeks of showing me which end of the M-16 to point down range, and how to operate a crew served weapon, I started spending my nights on the perimeter...usually in a tower, sometimes in a bunker. I got to know a couple of the guys on that flight because I worked with them on a regular basis. I remember one guy in particular I spent a lot of time working out with, and he and I both took Tae Kwon Do from Master Nam there on base. He was just a great guy... he was short but muscular, had been to college a couple of years before joining, and had the greatest outlook on life I had ever seen. I can't remember his last name, though, and I hate that. I remember just thinking, if there was anyone around that I wanted to be like, it was this guy. He just inspired you to do more...I eventually got out of the Air Force, went to college, spent time trying to find what I really wanted to do in life, and finally went to dental school. I went in the Army National Guard, then went into the Army Reserves. I am now a major in the dental corps, and have been called back to active duty(for the second time since 9/11) and am serving at Ft. Jackson, SC. So far, I have not been to Iraq or Afghanistan, though that could happen eventually. I can honestly say, the loss of those guys had an impact on my life. I always felt I had an obligation to do well, because they got their chance taken away. Also, Captain Rand landed on Koh Tang and won the silver star for bravery...he was scheduled to be on the chopper that went down...if I remember correctly, he had pictures from the flight line before they took off. I used to have some of the pictures my buddies gave me that were in the 601st, but I can't relocate them. If anyone remembers me, or would like to contact me, my Army e-mail is [kenneth.m.black@us.army.mil](mailto:kenneth.m.black@us.army.mil).

It is hard for me to realize that I'd been back in the world for 37 years. The innocent youth that went to war and came home forever changed. I wonder how my life would have changed if I didn't go to war. I could have stayed home and protested the war. I could have been married with two kids before my own kids arrived in the early 1970's. I could have been college educated with a BS in life. I could have more beers with my former buddies. I could still be paying off my education. I could have served six years in the National Guard. I may have been a lifer NCO or No Chance Outside. I would have never been in a loveless marriage for 20 years. I could have tried drugs and found peace. I could have spent more time listening to my parents.

I did enlist in the USAF and was volunteered to be a cop. I was not a career airman at Dow AFB in Bangor, ME. I only wanted to get out of the USAF and become "Mr." Again. Then came Vietnam.

I didn't know my life would be changed forever after a year in Nam. Most of my male friends are VSPA & VVA members. I still have a few non-Vet friends, two brother-in-laws, single guys who chase young women. I wonder if these males understand what VIETNAM did for our lives.

The world has changed in 37 years. Some of our brothers have died and gone home to God. I hope not to the other place. I can wonder "what if" in the world of fairy tales. But life is not a fairy tale. Vietnam was a place of death, destruction; a place of peace and beauty. We were there to fight a war and stop the communist. If we lost Vietnam the bad guys would conquer Asia.

Looking back over the 37 years the communist didn't conquer Asia--- Vietnam is a communist state today. Some of our fellow Vietnam Vets have returned to Nam to help the country and people to rebuild their lives from this experience. Thirty seven years ago at Cam Ranh Bay we could not leave the base, now we can't get back on the base. Some things never change in Nam. I would like to return one day, just to fly into Cam Ranh Bay AB, run off the plane and find my 12<sup>th</sup> Air Police roots. But our lives have changed for better or worse. Some of our troops have died and others disappear into the world.

# 37 YEARS – Frank Pilson

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*Continued from page 7*

I guess we should appreciate the VSPA & VVA members we presently know. Have we as a group changed over the last 37 years? That answer will vary from Vet to Vet. My life has changed for the better, thanks to my wife who made me face Nam and win the battle of PTSD. Thanks to my Grandson, who I could be honest with about what I did in Nam, my kids who look at me as still their Dad. Who had good sense to tell me that Joan was the best thing in my life. To special friends of VSPA & VVA who have been there for each other in bad times and good times. To a really nice guy named Meat Ball who served in the Army in Nam near a golf course. This guy served two tours as a Combat Medic in Nam. He saved the lives of many fellow Vets.

A true story took place several years ago in Yeadon, PA. A fellow VSPA & VVA member was picking up a fellow VSPA & VVA member for a monthly meeting. After picking his peer up the one Vet said to the driver “you can’t trust white people in your house because they take your toilet paper and steal your phone books”. I just looked at my peer and laughed like hell. Pay backs are a bitch, several months went by and again I picked up my fellow Vet. But I gave him a roll of toilet paper (new) and a current phone book. Believe it or not.

Many words can be said about Vietnam after 37 years. We came home, but 58,000 plus did not. I have very mixed feelings in writing this piece. I know the sun will still rise tomorrow and set in the evening. But some how the persons who served in Nam were changed forever, good or bad. How did we change in our lives? Do our women understand us now? Do our kids and grandkids change because of what we did in Nam? I guess life will answer all these questions, if there is an answer.

To our God who gave us all a second chance at life in this world.

Next year 38.

# VSPA Scholarship Fund - Jim (Buda) Lebowitz you

At the VSPA Annual Business Meeting the scholarship fund was discussed. We have \$500.00 that can be awarded to members, spouses of members, children and grandchildren of members. All it takes is a 3.0 GPA and complete the appropriate paperwork. The scholarship award can be used for post secondary education, i.e., trade school or college.

I can send you the necessary paperwork via e-mail or snail mail. You can contact me as follows:

E-mail (work) James.Lebowitz@med.va.gov

E-mail (home) jelcatfish@aol.com

Home Phone 732-254-7912

Work Phone 908-647-0180, ext. 4354. You can contact me between 0700 and 1500 (that is 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM civilian time)

FAX 908-604-5343

## Agent Orange - Paul Mashburn

I haven't received any feedback from the previous article, good or bad, so I'm not sure what questions or opinions, if any, you may have on the subject of Agent Orange exposure and diabetes compensation. Please send questions or comments directly to Paul at [fuzzbert\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:fuzzbert_1999@yahoo.com). I'll endeavor to answer your questions in follow up articles.

The bottom line of last quarter's Guardmount article was this: If you have been diagnosed with Type II Diabetes and you served a day "in country" Vietnam, you are entitled to monthly VA compensation. To apply you need copies of your medical records, which should include a letter from your doctor, and an original copy of your DD214. If you don't have an original copy, the VA will even research and find original copies of your DD214 and other assignment records for you. This compensation normally amounts to 20% disability, which usually translates to \$205/month for life! There is also a retroactive catch up amount that goes back to the earliest diagnosis found in your doctor's records.

If you have developed any of the conditions listed on the VA website (<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide/>), then you are eligible.

Other sources of research on the subject can be found at:

<http://www.landscaper.net/agent2.htm>

[http://www.hcvets.com/Agent\\_Orange.htm](http://www.hcvets.com/Agent_Orange.htm)

<http://www1.va.gov/agentorange/>

<http://www.myeloma.org/myeloma/newsletter.jsp?type=detail&id=1141>

<http://www.diabetes.org/type-2-diabetes/agent-orange.jsp>

The most current information can be followed at

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=PubMed>

Contact your local VA representative today for assistance in applying for what you have earned!

Paul Mashburn

Life Member #152

DaNang 66-67

There's an old saying "Security Police are made, not born" and it was at Lackland A.F.B., TX. after boot camp that I first learned to be a "Sky Cop". It was at the S.P. Academy that I learned to use the weapons of my new trade. How to make an apprehension, control a riot and subdue a saboteur.

I became a security specialist. An expert (thanks to AZR – combat preparedness training) in light infantry tactics. As a new member of this elite organization I had also memorized the Security Police Creed. "I am a Security Policeman. I hold allegiance to my country, devotion to duty and personal integrity above all.

My first duty assignment was Minot A.F.B., ND patrolling missile sites and shoveling snow for S.A.C. It didn't take me long to volunteer for a "special duty assignment" in Northern Thailand. The mission was classified and as they say in the grade B movies "if I told you I'd have to kill you". So much for C.Y.A.

Twenty-eight years later while attending a Korean-American church service here in Oklahoma City, I saw a 13-year-old Korean girl that caused me to have a "flash back". The flash back was about "Suay the flower girl" She was Thai and about 12 or 13 and sold flowers to the G.I.'s at the bars around NKP. I didn't know her real name so I nick named her Suay, which is Thai for pretty or beautiful. It made her smile.

I was a twenty-two year old two stripper at the time and didn't know she had a crush on me. On day, before sundown, she burst into tears after seeing a bar girl at Lolita's club kiss me. A led Zeppelin tune "The song remains the same" played while my buddy "Bush" Thome said "Hey man, I think she really likes you".

The exotic bar girl laughed at the whole situation. And so I made a mad dash outside to find Suay. I wanted to say..... what? Maybe "I'm sorry". Who knows? I just didn't want the poor kid to think I was just another "Ugly American". It seemed that that movie was playing all over Thailand at the time. But once outside she was nowhere to be found. I never saw her again.

Thailand is a Buddhist country and I truly hope that through the years good fortune smiled upon the little flower girl nick named Suay.

# Veteran Contact Numbers – by Don Graham

For info on home loans, disability, medical care and burial –  
1-800-827-1000  
Life Insurance – 1-800-669-8477  
Education (G.I. Bill)- 1-888-442-4551  
Health Care Benefits – 1-877-222-8387  
Agent Orange – 1-800-749-8387  
Headstones & Markers - 1-800-697-6947  
web address [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

Need help with the VA? Bill Wagonlander, VSPA member, has a web site that will help.  
[Http:12.239.11.79/vetsvacorner/](http://12.239.11.79/vetsvacorner/)

## Offices that can assist in searches for supporting documentation.

To obtain copies of your records go to-  
[www.archives.gov/research\\_room/vetrecs/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/index.html)

National Records & Administration Center  
Attn: NCP-MA  
9700 Page Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

Washington National Records Center  
8601 Adelphi Road

Adelphi, MD. 20740-6001

National Archives & Records Administration  
Library & Printed Archives Branch  
Eight & Pennsylvania Aves. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20408

Air Force Personnel Center  
Attn: DPPP  
550 C Street West Suite 12  
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714

## Unit Histories, Lineage and Honors

Air Force History Support Officer – 202-404-2264

Dept. of the Air Force  
HQ/AFHRA  
600 Chennault Circle  
Maxwell AFB, AL. 36112-6424

## Correction of Military Records

Air Force Review Board  
Office SAF/MIBR  
550 C Street W. Suite 40

# VSPA Flag – Don Graham

At the 2004 business meeting it was decided that we should have a flag to represent the VSPA. A committee was formed and will review designs submitted by the membership. The flag will be displayed at our reunions and used in any parades we may participate in. Please send any idea's for the design to Don Graham. We will also be creating Guide-on's for each squadron.

The committee consists of the following members.

Don Graham  
John Langley  
Ken Neal  
Ed Way  
Don Poss  
Terry Morris  
Earl Cary

Don can be reached at [tuyhoa68@att.net](mailto:tuyhoa68@att.net) or

Don Graham  
2911 Westminster Road  
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Also, Veterans Bonus

South Dakota has a Veterans bonus of up to \$500.  
For info please contact-  
SD Veterans Bonus  
500 E Capital  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-773-4656

Mass. also has a bonus of up to \$300. For info please contact-  
Office of the Treasurer  
One Ashburton Place 12th Floor  
Boston, MA. 02108  
617-367-3900 ext 208

Other states may also have a bonus. Please check with your local state representative.

# New Members In Order Of Enlistment.

## New Members in order of enlistment.

### Oct-04

Troy Williams	Nakon Phanom 5/75-76 Korat	Fayetteville, NC
Rodney Creecy	Tan Son Nhut 11/69-70	Richardson, TX
Thomas "Tony" McRae	Ubon 6/73-74	Pell City, AL
Robert Goad	Bien Hoa 11/65-66	Tomah, WI
Manuel Roybal	Tan Son Nhut 4/66-67 Nha Trang Cam Ranh Bay	La Mesa, CA
Jorge Delacruz	Binh Thuy 4/68-69	Atascosa, TX
Jay Jones	Udorn 12/69-70	Wichita, KS
Jerome Martis	Ubon 1/71-72	Larksville, PA
Raymond Kane	Danang 7/71-72 Takhli	Lynn, MA

### Nov-04

Thomas "Chat" Chattam	Phan Rang 70	Calhoun, GA
John Moran Jr. "Steve"	Korat 4/65-66	Watertown, CT
Terry Ryals	Pleiku 6/67-68	Amite, LA
Ronald Spreckels	Binh Thuy 10/67-68	Hayward, WI
William Hartley Jr.	Bien Hoa 12/66-67	Versailles, KY
Dennis Biennas	Tuy Hoa 68-69	Woodbine, MD
Fred Barton	Danang 6/69-70	Charleston, SC
Larry Veazey	Phan Rang 7/68-69	Maplesville, AL
William Sautter	Phan Rang 2/67-68	Ellijay, GA
David Munzert	Nha Trang 10/64-65 Danang 8/66-67	Edinboro, PA
Wilbur Stockdale	Bien Hoa 8/65-66	Mishawaka, IN
Michael Messenger	Cam Ranh Bay 4/66-67	Englewood, CO
James Walton	Bien Hoa 69-70	Piedmont, SD
Thomas Johnson	Nha Trang 7/69-70 Bien Hoa	Seymour, TX

### Dec-04

Bruce Ross	Nha Trang 5/65-66 Phan Rang LM 174	Eclectic, AL
William Ehl	Tan Son Nhut 11/66-67 Tuy Hoa	Flower Mound, TX
James Dean	Phu Cat 3/68-69 Pleiku	Dothan, AL
Paul Johnson	Phu Cat 3/68-69 Pleiku	Marinette, WI
John Smith	U-Tapao 9/71-72	Mayodan, NC
John Sarles	Tan Son Nhut 70-71 Ubon & U-Tapao 74-76	San Antonio, TX
Robert Filo	Cam Ranh Bay 3/71-72	Port Reading, NJ
Douglas Lee	Korat 5/75-76 K9	Evansville, WI
Raymond Lukse	Nakon Phanom 5/71-72 Phan Rang	Oroville, CA
Jim Johnson	Bien Hoa 64 Tan Son Nhut 6/66-67	Philippines

# The Original Moving Wall – by Sharon Denitto

Nothing evokes emotion more than the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. Since the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans dedication on November 11, 1982, no one could fathom the impact of Maya Ying Lin's concept for a living tribute to our brothers and sisters who served in Vietnam. The concept of a memorial was innovative but it was Ms. Ying's brilliant design that has withstood the test of time. Originally the memorial design was not widely accepted but the memorial itself was always respected, honored and appreciated. One man understood the deeper meaning and had a vision. From his heart, he proceeded with a life-changing project – not for himself but for generations.

John Devitt made it his goal to create a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that could be transported around the country. He asked two close friends, Norris Shears and Gerry Haver to join in his quest to build this replica and travel around the country – community to community. His vision was contagious and with determination, the Mobile Wall was first displayed in Tyler, Texas on October 15, 1984. The original, exact half-size replica is true to the stationary memorial in DC including its mistakes and the discrepancies that were inadvertently engraved into the granite. The replica was warmly received and hailed an incredible structure to honor our Vietnam veterans. It was also renamed "The Moving Wall" for its mobility and for its emotional experiences.

John believed in communities and The Moving Wall was such a gift from him to friends, families, veterans and communities. He asked himself how great it would be for the memorial to come to a city for a week of remembrance. The Moving Wall, from its original conception, has always visited each community for a week in order to have as much participation in 24 hours, each day. The two Moving Walls travel from late March through November crisscrossing the country. The third replica, originally an integral part of the legacy, is now retired on a permanent site in Kansas.

The Wall or Moving Wall was the original replica that focused more on the veteran than the conflict -- it is a healing place. People are so grateful that the replica visits their community and most people are overwhelmed by all the multitude of names on this memorial. If they had never witnessed it before, they are amazed because they didn't anticipate it would create a reaction in them. Also there are many who have seen the DC memorial can't believe The Moving Wall evokes the same emotional reaction.

But The Moving Wall is not the only replica that travels around the country to communities and the public does not know the differences between these various replicas. To them the replica represents the original memorial with the names in the same order, using the same directory. There are some physical differences and the other replicas only come to a community for three days of commemoration. Also the other replica websites are far more elaborate than the original Moving Wall and/or Virtual Wall site. The website reflects the simplicity and respect of the original design.

Back in 1984 when John first displayed this replica, he did so from his heart. In later years, various groups witnessed the success of The Moving Wall and decided to create their own replica.

Around 1996, Jan Scruggs (originator of the concept for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial) built the Traveling or Healing Wall and is slightly smaller than The Moving Wall.

In 1998/99, a group in Florida created the American Traveling Tribute Wall. It is 4/5th in size and dates where added to each panel.

Lastly is the Dignity wall that began displays in 1996 and the replica structure is erected in the community cemeteries. Configuration of panels at both ends were also altered.

John believes his replica is a lifetime responsibility and should evoke unsolicited respect. He said he would continue displaying The Moving Wall as long as communities continue to ask for it. All other replicas also serve a purpose – The Moving Wall can't be in every town. I cannot believe how many people to date have either never seen the stationary DC Wall or a replica of the memorial.

On a personal note: I have been working at the Memorial and The Moving Wall since 1993. I believe in John's dedication and vision. However, I find I would rather be at The Moving Wall in each community than at the DC memorial. You cannot meditate for long periods of time nor can you stand close by on the grassy knoll and reflect. Whereas at the replicas you can come and sit in front of it for an entire day and no one will bother you. In DC the apex is too tall for visitors to reach the top name. At the replicas, everyone can reach and rub every name on the Wall from the Apex to the infinity edges. In DC you go to the Wall and then you visit another memorial somewhere else, whereas when you come to The Moving Wall, it is just the memorial you come to visit. I love the human contact at The Moving Wall and being able to continue educating other generations about our Vietnam veterans. My dedication is constant – "I am representing my generation when others can no longer do so."

# Guardmount – Behind the scenes

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## Special thanks to

**Don Graham**

**Tom Ames**

**Mary Ann Caton**

**Who helped with this issue**

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## Military Records Not Being Destroyed

The National Archives and Records Administration is not destroying any military records, according to the American Forces Press Service. NARA is trying to counter an Internet rumor that advised veterans to apply for their Official Military Personnel Files to save them from destruction.

The records are stored at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. Officials there said that there has been an uptick in the number of veterans requesting their records. This takes time away from other legitimate requests – such as veterans requesting separation documents or medical records. Bottom line: If you receive this sort of e-mail, ignore it. Your military records are safe.

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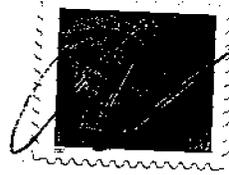
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We will divide these attacks into two categories. One will be for those attacks that you have documentation for and the other will be for those attacks that you remember but have no documentation. We will collect this information, research it and provide the results to the Air Force History and Research Center at Maxwell AFB, AL. Please contact Don Graham at [tuyhoa68@att.net](mailto:tuyhoa68@att.net) or 610-691-6960 -16-

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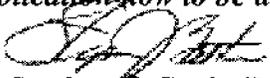
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**WAYNE H. COX, CMSgt. (Ret.)** was born Dec. 10, 1946 in Joplin, MO. Entered the USAF on Feb. 8, 1966 and graduated from Air Police Technical School, Lackland AFB, May 1966. He served in active duty air/security police units at New Mexico, Texas, Wyoming, Oklahoma,



Vietnam, Okinawa, Philippines, Germany, United Kingdom, and Washington, DC.

His most memorable experience was the assignment as Security Police Manager, RAF Greenham Coman, UK. The deployment of the Ground Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM) system helped win the Cold War. His last assignment as the CMSgt. of the Security Police, HQ USAF, Pentagon.

Awarded the AFMSM w/ 5 OLC and AFCM w/ 2 OLC. On Feb. 16, 1980 he married the former Cathy Ann Parker of San Antonio. He retired June 1, 1995, and is currently Deputy Office Leader, Planning & Assess. Ofc., Facilities Security & Safeguards Div., Los Alamos Nat. Lab., Los Alamos, NM. *Approx. 150 words.*

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