



A Publication of the Vietnam Security Police Association

December 1, 2010

Winter 2010 Issue



# GUARDMOUNT

**VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION**  
*"We Take Care of Our Own"*



## VSPA REUNION 2010



VSPA 16th Annual reunion at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX—Oct. 6-10, 2010

Reunion 2010 - Lackland AFB and Camp Bullis



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Phil Carroll, President VSPA

I've got two words for you about becoming president of this association: "learning curve!" I'm really excited to have been voted into this job, but I do have to admit that there's even more going on than I knew. Steve and Newell get more respect from me every day.

Our first accomplishment as a new board of directors was writing the resolution that was voted for at the reunion, about throwing our support behind AMVETS and the Vietnam Veterans of America to encourage the Department of Justice in its efforts to appeal two recent court rulings. One appeals court panel and one federal district court have found the Stolen Valor Act to be unconstitutional, but we will now have our voice raised with other veterans groups calling for all like-minded Americans to speak out in support of this important

law. The resolution is in this issue of Guardmount.

One thing that's going to make life easier for all of us who have to manage the membership of the association is the new software that Don Poss has been working to purchase and install (and troubleshoot and troubleshoot) that does the digital communicating between our members database and our website. This software does more than most of us understand. Every time somebody pays dues it has to be entered in the database through this software; every time one of our members tries to get into the members-only Restricted Area of the website it's through this software, and every time somebody calls up a list of members who served at a base it's done through this software. Our old software vendor went out of business, so Webmaster Don Poss has been able to get us a more modern and much more capable package. It took a lot of extra effort on his part but it gives us increased capabilities and stability. Thanks for the hard work and your expertise, Don!

Our other great news is that the history book we've been salivating about for so many years has actually been printed. Last I heard from Steve Gattis, the first week of November, was that it was soon to be shipped. I can't wait!

I've heard many suggestions and ideas from you about our reunions in general, and the last and next ones in particular. The board and I will be talking about all these thoughts as we start work on next year's in Dayton. I know a lot of people gave a lot of time and effort to get the San Antonio reunion to happen, and I believe we'll get the same kind of enthusiasm next year. These reunions mean so much to me, and based on what I hear from others they are just as important to you, so they're worth the huge amount of time and effort they consume. I loved this association before I was able to attend my first reunion in 2006, but my love really came to life when I was able to see, talk face-to-face with, shake hands with, and hug so many of you guys and your families. Thank you all for being members, and Welcome Home!





# New VSPA Officers Elected

The 16th Annual Reunion of the Vietnam Security Police Association was held October 6–10, 2010 in San Antonio, Texas. The group was hosted by Lackland Air Force Base and toured both Lackland and Camp Bullis. Highlights of the Reunion included presentation of the newly-elected VSPA officers, a visit to the Memorial for “Nemo, the War Dog”, and a tour of the Air Force Security Forces Museum along with the special camaraderie with friends and comrades that everyone enjoys and looks forward to each year. Your new elected officers are: Phil Carroll, president; Greg Cain, vice president; Bill Marshall, second vice president; Dennis Evans, secretary; Richard Garcia, treasurer, and Kelly Bateman, historian. Newell Swartz remains on the board of directors as immediate past president, and so does Steve Gattis as President Emeritus. Bill Marshall has also assumed the duties of the Membership Chairman.

## Honoring Steve and Lise Gattis

The VSPA organization honored President Emeritus Steve Gattis and wife, Lise, for the five or six years of hard work that Steve put into our VSPA History Book. That work, on top of many other VSPA tasks, meant that Steve didn't pay ANY attention to the "Honey-Do" list for that whole time - thus the inclusion of Lise on the award. She deserved it as much as he did!

"We should give them something more than just another plaque; he's got lots of engraved wood plaques from VSPA," Newell said. "We should get somebody to write him a poem, so it's really, really personal." So newly elected VSPA President Phil Carroll wrote a poem. He had it engraved on a brass plaque which was fastened to a big walnut plaque below a picture of Steve and Lise with the History Book cover in the background. It reads:



*Thank you Steve and Lise Gattis*

*We've got the book we dreamed about for nearly 40 years,  
You know we're shocked 'cause we've all been a-cryin' in our beers.  
Others talk about their outfits, no doubt they were the best,  
But now we've got our History to prove we stood the test.  
Air Policemen, Law Enforcement, Security on the wire,  
K-9, Safeside, Heavy Weapons, the coffee jeep under fire.  
But now when that war (that's been over for so long)  
Comes up in conversation, poetry or song,  
We'll be able to sit back and confidently share  
Facts and figures, our stories & photos, proving we were there.  
The Brotherhood is grateful, each one of us in debt,  
Whether Vietnam or Thailand, we knew we'd not forget  
But getting this in writing, so handsomely done and bound,  
Is a legacy you've given us, for as long as we're around.*

## New Associate Member Announced

This year, incoming President Phil Carroll had the privilege of announcing the name of a new Associate Member of the VSPA.



We have a membership category in the VSPA of "Associate Member," which is an honor we bestow only for exemplary service to the VSPA and its members. This honor requires a vote of the Board of Directors. There have been only nine previous awards of this honor; we added one more October 6, 2010.

Juli Warner, Phil Carroll President, Newell Swartz  
Past President, Steve Gattis President Emeritus.

**Juli Warner** of the Leatherman Tool Group became the 10th person to receive the honor of an Associate Membership in the VSPA for her big heart, hard work and tremendous support for the Old Dawgs & Pups program supporting active-duty K-9 troops in today's war zones. She has also supported other VSPA initiatives.

It was an honor to welcome Juli to our ranks.



# VSPA Members “TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN”

By Bill Cummings LM 173

On Friday, October 8, 2010, Kelly Bateman, Ernie Childers, and Bill Cummings visited SSgt. Brent Olson at the Brooks Army Medical Center. We were escorted by members of the 802<sup>nd</sup> SFS, K-9 handlers TSgt. Jason Adams and TSgt. Brock (who had served with SSgt. Olson only months earlier) and they did a great job of coordinating our visit.

As many of you know, SSgt. Olson and his MWD Blek were injured September 17, 2010 when they entered a building in Afghanistan and five (5) IEDs exploded. SSgt. Olson was severely injured and was evacuated out of the AOR. He has wounds to his right arm (including a steel rod that has been placed to stabilize the broken bones in his arm); he has shrapnel wounds on his neck, chest, stomach and legs, and severe burns on his left arm. MWD Blek lost both eardrums and sustained muzzle wounds. Both are expected to make a full recovery after months of rehabilitation. SSgt. Olson has been assured that he will be able to adopt MWD Blek by the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, when he recovers from his injuries. Blek should lead a very normal life (less his hearing) at Fort Living Room with the love and admiration of SSgt. Olson.



**L to R: Ernie Childers, Bill Cummings, Kelly Bateman with SSgt. Brent Olson**

SSgt. Olson is in the process of returning to his home station at Maxwell AFB, Alabama for several months of treatment and he plans to return to the SFS K-9 field as soon as he is available. Once he is settled in we have volunteers in Alabama and Indiana (his home state) who have stepped forward to represent the VSPA to remain in contact with Brent and his family.

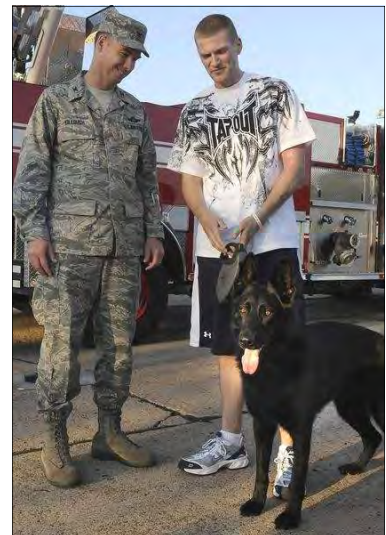


**U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Brent Olson, a military dog handler, and Blek, a military working dog, clear caves in the Ziral Mountain area Paktika Province, Afghanistan - July 20, 2010**

I must take just a moment to say that we, the VSPA, raised and presented SSgt. Olson with a check in the amount of \$1,935.00 to assist his family to get to Maxwell to see him and any other expenses that they might incur. We also presented him with a VSPA hat, shirt, challenge coin (and one for his father), a “Feed the Dawgs” badge, and numerous other badges and mementos from all of our organizations and members. He was extremely appreciative of our efforts and now he fully understands our motto “We take care of our own”! What a fine young warrior! He insisted that we stay and visit while he showed us the events that occurred prior to his injury (it included A-10s and Army helicopters “bringing the fight” to the incident prior to his injury). After our hour long visit we wished him well and vowed to remain in contact, and to be available if he should need our assistance.

On behalf of Kelly, Ernie, and myself, we just want everyone to know that it was a great privilege and honor to represent the VSPA, and to get to meet and honor this young Security Forces Military Working Dog handler. This is the type of hero who represents our country each and every day down range – this is what it is all about. His first concern was to return to his unit and to finish his tour. In this day and age, it takes real guts and courage. After we met with Brent – we would have expected no less. He sure reminds me of a lot of old gray- haired guys that I know and gather with each October!

**Update, Nov. 2010:** SSgt. Olson is at Maxwell for extended physical therapy (three days each week). His burns are healing very well and he should not need any skin grafts. His shoulder is healing very slowly – but SSgt Olson is in great spirits and is very grateful for all that the VSPA has done for him. Our donation took care of his family to fly in to see him and boy did he appreciate that! Blek is doing great. He now resides with SSgt. Olson.



**Olson returns to Maxwell AFB, welcomed by Col. Brian Killough, Commander of the 42nd Air Base Wing Oct. 14, 2010**



# ALL ABOUT NEMO

by Bill Cummings

Following his presentation as guest speaker for our San Antonio reunion, Lt. Col. (Ret) Robert Sullivan was presented a trophy that he and Sentry Dog Nemo (A534) originally received in 1968 while traveling the United States recruiting dogs for the Department of Defense.

The photograph depicts Captain Sullivan talking with Bill Baird who had a show called Bill Baird's Animal Kingdom. The occasion was the animal Oscars in Hollywood in 1968. Sentry Dog Nemo (one of the heroes of the December 1966 attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam) was presented the Kal-Kan (dog food) Animal Valor Award for 1968.



With the assistance of the 341<sup>st</sup> Training Squadron, the trophy had been located, cleaned, and was on display at the squadron. Working with the squadron personnel, VSPA members of the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial Committee Kelly Bateman (Ubon), Ernest Childers (Udorn), and Bill Cummings (U-Tapao) surprised the Colonel with this "blast from the past". The trophy was thought to have been lost. Needless to say, the Colonel was very pleased with the "representation" – we almost had to wrestle the trophy out of his luggage.



Kelly Bateman, Ernie Childers and Bill Cummings present the "lost" trophy to Col. Sullivan Oct. 9, 2010



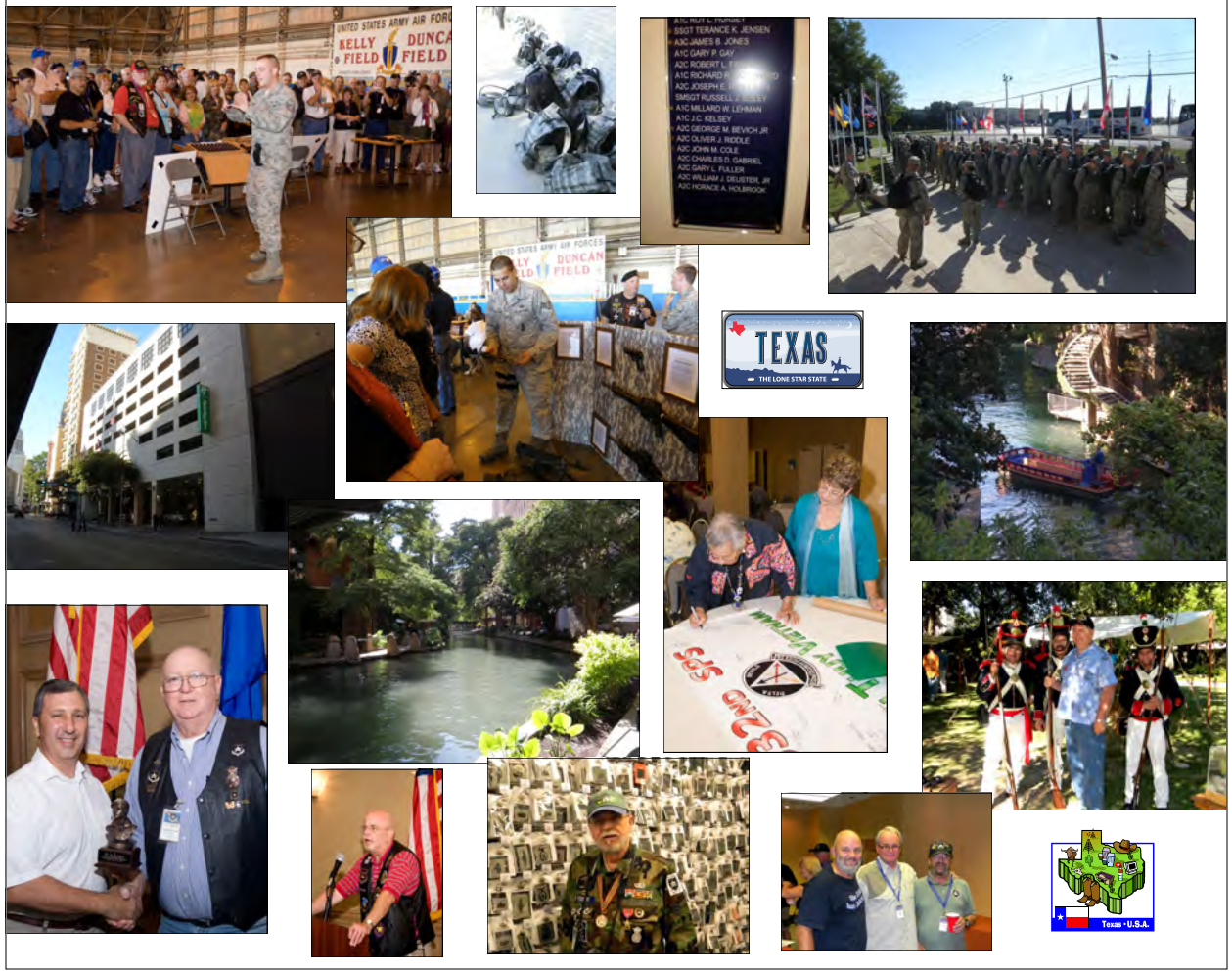
*Memorial to NEMO, AF34  
at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX*

*Photo by Janet Matthews-Wise*

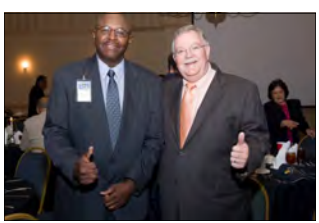
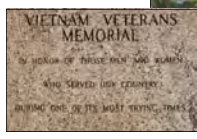
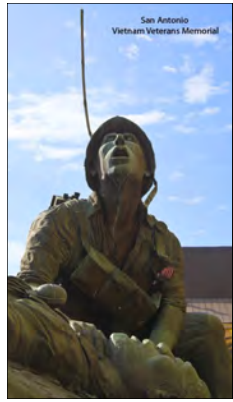




Photos on this page and pages 8 & 9 were submitted by Steve Hall, Ken Neal, Paul Shave, and Tony Morris













The USAF  
Security  
Forces  
Museum  
Lackland  
AFB,  
San Antonio  
Texas

The United States Security Police Museum (renamed the USAF Security Forces Museum in 2007) was established on November 5, 1979 to honor all Active Duty, Reserve, and Retired Air Force Security Police personnel to preserve the history and heritage of the career field. It is located on Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas and is supported by the *Security Forces Museum Foundation*.

This museum is the only one in the world that tells the Security Police historiography. The Museum’s Archival Repository contains historical documents, photographs, films, videos, audio tapes, magazines, newspapers and military memorabilia. The VSPA group made a visit to the Museum on October 7, 2010 during their annual reunion in San Antonio and were honored to have the curator of the museum, Milita Rios-Samaniego, (below) as our guest at the VSPA Banquet on Oct. 9, 2010.



Milita Rios-Samaniego  
Curator of the  
Security Forces Museum







The Defender Memorial located at the Air Force Museum currently has two memorial benches at each side of the Defender Memorial. The current benches were donated by the SAC Elite Guard and the Air Force Security Police Association. Many of our members belong to one or both of those associations, and have memorial bricks in the foundation of the memorial, but the VSPA does not have a memorial bench. The photos below depict each side of the bench donated by the SAC Elite Guard.

Members who attended our annual business meeting held during our 2010 reunion in San Antonio, voted to place a bench at the Defender Memorial that would be funded by donations from members rather than solely funded from the VSPA.

The cost would be as follows: Black Granite bench to match existing benches \$3,500.00 with multiple etchings that we choose, including the VSPA Logo. Remove and replace necessary bricks and pour a new foundation for the bench at a cost of \$1,800.00. There is also a \$1,050 perpetual care fee which must be included in the total cost. TOTAL = \$6,350 to have the bench in place for dedication at our 2011 Reunion.

While at our business meeting and immediately after approval of the bench, two of our members donated \$1,000 each for the bench. Later that evening, another member donated \$500. The balance of \$3,850 will be covered by additional donations that we hope you will make. All donations are tax deductible because we are a 501(c)(19) tax exempt military association.

As the end of the year approaches, please consider a tax deductible donation to the VSPA to help fund the placement of our bench at the Defender Memorial that honors all Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Security Forces Defenders who have served our country. Your tax deductible donation will honor our 111 who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand, all those members listed at Life Member #111 who have stood their final Guardmount, as well as all members of the VSPA. All donors will receive a tax letter from the association documenting their donation.

Please make checks payable to the Vietnam Security Police Association and include a note that the donation is for our memorial bench at the Defender Memorial. Send all donations to our Treasurer, Richard Garcia.





# We need your recipes for the VSPA SISTERHOOD COOKBOOK

By Lise Gattis and Martha Fleming

This year at the reunion, members of the VSPA Sisterhood decided to prepare a taste-tempting cookbook featuring the favorite recipes from members of the VSPA and the VSPA Sisterhood. Our cookbook will be beautifully illustrated, specifically printed for the VSPA Sisterhood and be placed in a special three-ring binder with our logo on the cover. The use of a three-ring binder will allow additional recipes to be added at subsequent reunions. The cookbook will also contain information about the VSPA and the Sisterhood along with some photos, and will be sold as a fundraiser for the VSPA.

A committee was selected to receive your recipes and work on the cookbook so that it will be ready for distribution at our reunion next year in Dayton, Ohio. Committee members are Lise Gattis, Martha Fleming, Erlyce Pekas and Liz Shelt. Lise and Martha will type all of the recipes in the proper format for publication in the cookbook. Our cookbook will be treasured for years and is something that we can give to our children and grandchildren as they will make wonderful gifts for our friends and family. The books will not only provide wonderful recipes, they will also explain why the VSPA and the VSPA Sisterhood mean so much to us.

We would like you to submit three or four of your favorite recipes so you can be represented in our memorable collection. Your name will be printed with each of your recipes. If you are sending in your mother's or grandmother's favorite, their name will be included with your name. Each cookbook will contain helpful cooking hints, recipe category dividers, a table of contents, an index of recipes, an index of contributors and special pages of interest for the VSPA and our Sisterhood. The cookbook will be typeset in an easy-to-read format and professionally printed and bound. Proceeds from the sale of our cookbook will help fund future Sisterhood projects as we continue "Taking care of those who take care of their own." Your help in contributing recipes will ensure that our cookbook will be a success.

Please follow the instructions below and submit your recipes via email or US Mail as soon as possible so that Lise and Martha can begin typing and formatting the recipes. The committee will then make the final decisions regarding the overall design of the cookbook and forward everything to the publisher.

- If sending via US Mail, **TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY IN INK, NOT PENCIL.** If more than one page is needed, use another sheet of the same size paper and staple together.
- If sending via email, please send **ONE email for EACH recipe.**
- List all ingredients in order of use in the ingredients list and directions. If you are sending something special from long ago, **PLEASE** update your mother's or grandmother's recipes using current brands available throughout the United States.
- Include container sizes, e.g., 16-oz. pkg., 24-oz. can.
- Keep directions in paragraph form, not in steps.
- Use names of ingredients in the directions, e.g., "Combine flour and sugar." **DO NOT** use statements like, "Combine first three ingredients."



- Please use the abbreviations for measurements as they are described below.
- Be consistent with the spelling of your name for each recipe you contribute.
- Your recipes should fit into the following categories and format:

### CATEGORIES:

- Appetizers & Beverages
- Soups & Salads
- Vegetables & Side Dishes
- Main Dishes
- Breads & Rolls
- Desserts
- Cookies & Candy
- This & That



### FORMAT:

- Recipe Title
- Category (from the list above)
- Submitted By (after you give your name, please include name of VSPA member and their base of assignment in Vietnam and/or Thailand and your relationship to them, i.e. Jane Doe (daughter of John Doe, Da Nang AB and Korat RTAFB).
- **DON'T FORGET TO PROVIDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER SO THAT WE CAN CONTACT YOU IF WE HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR RECIPE(S).**
- List of ingredients using the following standardized abbreviations for measurements:  
**pt. qt. pkg. env. c. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. med. lg.**
- Directions for following and completing the recipe:

There is a category called This & That, so just about anything could go in there, including a funny recipe. Remember, these books will be sold, so please give credit to someone if they have given you the recipe. We prefer to have your own recipes or your family favorites that you have modified or made your own. Please don't send a recipe from another cookbook unless it is your own recipe. If the recipe has been previously published, we need to have the information.

We know that many of our husbands like to cook and will be submitting recipes. In fact, we have already received our first recipe from Life Member Jimmy O'Connell, who heard about the cookbook while at our reunion in San Antonio.

Please send your recipes to Lise Gattis and Martha Fleming. We are neighbors and will be working together to prepare all of the recipes.

Contact information for Lise Gattis is [lwgattis@windstream.net](mailto:lwgattis@windstream.net) 254-898-2647

Contact information for Martha Fleming is [msfleming@valornet.com](mailto:msfleming@valornet.com) 254-898-2140

If you are sending the recipes by US Mail, please mail to:

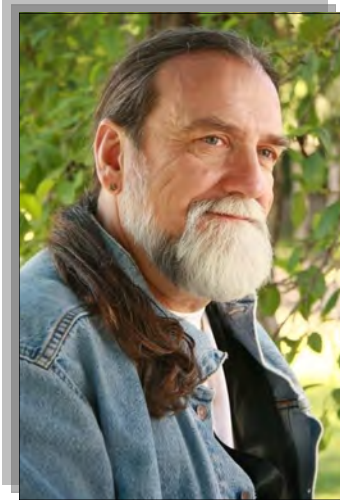
Lise Gattis  
P.O. Box 1889  
Glen Rose, Texas 76043

# "Your Stories"



## Friends of Bill W.

by John Paul Coakley



John Paul with  
village children in  
Pleiku, Vietnam  
Spring, 1966

I am more than happy to give you an idea of how the "We Take Care of Our Own" Group of Friends of Bill W. got its start in the VSPA.

I joined VSPA in 2005, and my first Reunion was at Valdosta that Fall. I flew from LAX to Atlanta and drove a rental car to Valdosta (two & half hours or so) in the rain. After just four hours or so of sleep, I got up to go to the restaurant for breakfast. As I began my meal, I saw all these guys (VSPA Members) in their jackets, hats, pins & badges indentifying them as Members of VSPA. Looking around the room, I recognized no one, and I, of course, had nothing on indentifying me as a former Security Policeman and Viet Nam Vet.

Finishing my meal, I decided to go back to my room and sleep (isolate) after my long drive in the rain (rationalization). Besides, I didn't know anyone (justification) and I was tired. As I was walking across the lobby of the Hotel, I heard this voice say, "Where are you going". I didn't know it at the time but when I turned around I was looking at Steve Gattis. He again said, "where are you going?" I told him I was tired. I had gotten in late and I was going back to the room to get come sleep. He said to me, "The folks out at the Squadron at Moody are having a Bar-B-Q lunch for us and they're putting on a demonstration for us. They have this whole day planned and we are their guests. Come on, and get on the bus." I protested once more and Steve insisted again, & I finally gave in and got on the Bus. I've been on the VSPA Bus ever since. I don't know how Steve knew I was "One of Our Own" but he did. He has the keen eye of the shepherd and knocked me off immediately. As I said earlier, I didn't have any of the VSPA regalia yet; I was a new guy! Steve made me feel a part of everything and I started to feel at home. I didn't know it then but he was the head guy of this outfit. Later on in the course of the weekend, I meet Pat Dunne "Hawk" and he asked me where I was stationed in Nam and I told him Bien Hoa & Pleiku. He said wait here and he ran out to his car and brought me back a 633rd Arc Light Defenders Patch for Pleiku. That was very meaningful for me and was the beginning of my friendship with the Hawk. These demonstrations of "Reaching out" to the newcomer by Steve & Pat made me feel welcome, at home, and was a big part of the healing process for me.



I was familiar with another kind of "Reaching Out" process in another Fellowship when I got to Valdosta that weekend, for I had been at that time twenty one years and five months Clean & Sober in a twelve step program. Today, I'm twenty six years & five months Clean & Sober. I met another fellow in Valdosta at the Reunion, who after some conversation, I discovered was sober over thirty years. I asked him if there were any meetings at the reunions, and he said not that he was aware of. He and I talked on the phone a couple of times after the reunion and discussed the feasibility of having 12-step meetings at the Reunions. This fellow wasn't planning to go to the next Reunion scheduled for Las Vegas, so I decided to try & do something about it myself.

Since Steve Gattis was President and he had been so welcoming to me, I felt very comfortable going to him with the question of could we have meetings for "Friends of Bill W." at the Reunion? Steve was very open to the idea and "Got It" right away. He asked what we needed? I assured him that I could provide the materials for a meeting. All we would need would be a meeting space and permission to announce it on the VSPA Bulletin Board. Steve, again, was very agreeable. I then made an announcement on the Bulletin Board. Shortly before the Las Vegas Reunion, Steve contacted me and said he had been in contact with a new member who wanted to come to the Reunion but was concerned about hospitality rooms & Las Vegas in general because he was sober. Steve told him about me and gave me his number. I called him before leaving for Las Vegas and told him I wanted to have meetings during the course of the weekend. Steve made an announcement from the podium at the opening night banquet and put Richard & I together and the fledgling group of "Friends of Bill W." in VSPA began. We met a third guy during the course of the Reunion and the three of us had meetings as well as going outside to meetings in the Las Vegas area. By the time of the 2007 Reunion in DC, the group had grown to about seven members. It was after that Gathering that we decided to call ourselves the "We Take Care of Our Own" Group of Friends of Bill W.

After this past week in San Antonio, we have another new member, not to recovery but to recovery in VSPA. One of the main ways to ensure one's own sobriety is to carry the message to others who want it, to "Reach Out." In recovery from alcoholism & drug abuse, the sharing of a common wound with a similarly afflicted member is indispensable. That's where the healing takes place. Likewise in veteran's groups, like VSPA, veterans find healing in the sharing of common wounds both those seen & unseen.

It would seem to me, that the "We Take Care of Our Own" Group of Friends of Bill W. within VSPA, and VSPA itself, are a natural fit. Within both groups the potential for healing for those with a common wound is awesome. I would say that our main purpose is to ensure our own sobriety and to make a new member to VSPA who has sobriety concerns, comfortable, in knowing that within VSPA there is a safe place to come, to stay sober and to be able to have a great time reuniting with old friends & new friends of a common wound.

My Best to You & Yours,

John Paul Coakley



**VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION  
MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS  
PRESENTED TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION  
FOR THEIR VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO THE VSPA AND FOR  
THEIR COMMITMENT TO OUR COUNTRY**

**2010**

**THE CALVIN “MONK” POPE BROTHERHOOD AWARD**

The award was established in Monk’s name in 2007 to honor his memory with the selection of one outstanding VSPA member each year who exemplified all that Monk believed in when he gave his personal tribute to a friend by saying that he was, “Jam up and jelly tight.” Like Monk, who worked on behalf of his VSPA brothers without ever being asked, the VSPA member would be recognized for their enduring commitment to our brotherhood, for their outstanding character and for all that they do for Vietnam Veterans and the VSPA. The 2010 award was presented to Ken Neal with our sincere appreciation for his enduring commitment to our brotherhood and his effort to preserve the honor and valor of our service in Vietnam and Thailand. Monk always said that he was “Jam up and jelly tight.”

**VSPA MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS**

The following VSPA members were recognized for being a living example of our motto *We Take Care of Our Own*:

Outgoing Vice President Hector Ramos and outgoing Secretary Bruce Hadley were both recognized with special awards for their loyalty and dedicated service from October 2004 to October 2010.

Bill Paddock, for his heartfelt caring and dedication as he maintained personal contact with Ruth Sidisin, The Waving Nurse of Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

Jack “The Old Cowboy” Smith for coordinating the collection of gifts and organizing our raffle at our reunion.

Bob Sullivan for his very humorous presentation as our guest speaker at the reunion banquet.

Brigadier General Richard Coleman for his outstanding service in and on behalf of the Security Police and Security Forces career field.

John Lochte for his effort to preserve The Wall and, thereby, preserve the memory of 111 of our brothers who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand.

Associate Member Juli Warner for her outstanding service on behalf of the VSPA and deployed Security Forces personnel throughout the world. Juli is our tenth honorary Associate Member.

**The Warriors Medal of Valor of the  
Native American Nations of the United States**

The Warriors Medal of Valor from the Native American Nations was created and crafted by a Native American Chief who served in Vietnam. The medal may be awarded to any deserving Vietnam Veteran and is not limited to Native Americans. Our ability and opportunity to award the Warriors Medal of Valor has been approved by a tribal council and made possible by Life Member Alvin Matthews, who was the first Chairman of the VSPA Committee for the selection and presentation of the Warriors Medal of Valor.



MSgt. Matthews was the first VSPA member to receive the Warriors Medal of Valor for his service in Vietnam. He received his medal from a local Chief while attending a Cherokee Powwow in 2005, and subsequently worked to make it possible for the VSPA to present the medal. “Sarge” and his daughter, Janet Matthews-Wise of our VSPA Sisterhood, made all of the arrangements to present the Warriors Medal of Valor at our reunions in 2006 and 2007, and personally financed the awards for our members. The presentation is a very moving experience and an honor for all recipients. When Sarge stood his final Guardmount on January 3, 2008, his brother VSPA members made very generous donations to the VSPA in his memory to ensure that the Medal of Valor would be continued. Sarge’s daughter Janet has honored her father by remaining as the Chairperson of the committee that receives and reviews all VSPA nominations for the medal.

**Thomas Tessier** was selected to receive the medal in 2008, but was unable to attend the reunions in 2008 and 2009 and subsequently requested that the medal be presented while he was with his brothers at the reunion this year. Tom received his medal for two years, eight Months and twenty days of outstanding service and unrecognized valor as “Tango 1” at Tan Son Nhut Air Base where he worked in a tower and called in the location of incoming rockets and mortars. Tom was also recognized for his commitment to the preservation of honor and valor associated with our service in Vietnam and Thailand through his creation and endowment of a scholarship for Vietnam Veterans at Southern New Hampshire University that has enabled many Veterans and their Children to obtain an education that would not have been possible without his assistance.

The 2010 recipients of the Medal of Valor are:

**Ray Rash** in recognition of his distinguished service in the Republic of South Vietnam and Thailand, his consistent effort to assist others throughout his career as an Air Policeman and Security Policeman, and his tireless work to sustain the memory of friends and family lost in battle. He has carried their memory forward as he assisted brothers in the VSPA and Veterans from all branches of the military without regard for his own Agent Orange related health issues.

**Randy “Ramps” Stutler** in recognition of his distinguished service as an Air Policeman in the Republic of South Vietnam and with the airborne forces of the U.S. Army. Throughout his career and well beyond, he has worked tirelessly to serve others and to maintain the honor, history and tradition of our service in Vietnam and Thailand, never failing to make certain that others always knew that when the war was over and they laid down their gun, that in that pile, “Yours ain’t the only gun” which is the title of a poem that Randy wrote while at Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

**Gary Jones** in recognition of his distinguished service on multiple tours in the Republic of South Vietnam and Thailand, including Operation Safeside, and for working on a daily basis to assist his brother Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Security Forces Defenders as they strive to maintain their history, traditions and brotherhood.

**Jerry Nelson** in recognition of his distinguished service in the Republic of South Vietnam, Operation Safeside and the U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service where he continues to work on a daily basis to assist the children of our members who desire to enter the military service, as well as assisting his brother Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Security Forces Defenders as they strive to maintain their history, traditions and brotherhood.



*Editor's note: Many of you know Kim Bayes Bautista, Associate Member, aka "Queen Mother" and a great friend to the VSPA. In addition to assisting with our reunions for many years, Kim is a Licensed Clinical Social worker. She has graciously agreed to write a repeating column for GUARDMOUNT and we gratefully present her second article below.*

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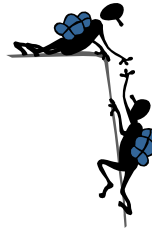


## FROM THE FIELD

*of behavioral health*

*Kim Bayes-Bautista, MSSW, LCSW*

*Honorary Member*



### **IMPACT OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) ON CHILDREN**

Part 1 of 2

**VICARIOUS TRAUMA**, also known as secondary trauma, is increasingly being examined in military families as it relates to how children are impacted by a parent with PTSD. (This is not to say that one is a bad parent, who has messed up their children for life.) Exploring the impact creates an opportunity to begin a conversation that may lead to understanding, forgiveness, and healing. Most of the research has been conducted with children of Vietnam veterans. In an article by Jennifer Price, Ph.D., she discusses various responses that children have to some of the PTSD symptoms. Below is a summary.

~The parent has a 're-experiencing' event, wherein they have sudden, intrusive and without warning, vivid daytime memories which may be so strong that the person believes the trauma is reoccurring. The event is typically accompanied by intense emotions such as grief, guilt, fear or anger. Children who witness this may be frightened as they do not understand what is happening or why it is happening and they may begin to worry about their parent's well being. They may also worry that their parent cannot properly care for them.

~Re-experiencing can be so uncomfortable that people who have been traumatized tend to use avoidance in thinking about the event. They may also avoid places and experiences that could trigger upsetting memories. As a result a veteran may self-isolate, not want to do things outside the home or go places with the family. Children may feel their parent does not care about them, when in reality it is the parent avoiding places that are just too frightening. The traumatized person may feel 'cut off' from other people. They may have trouble feeling positive emotions. Children may mistakenly interpret this as the parent not being interested in them or loving them, even though the parent may try to indicate otherwise.



~ PTSD can cause a person to have a high level of anxiety and arousal, which shows up as difficulty sleeping, impaired concentration, and being easily startled. They tend to have a high level of irritability and may experience an exaggerated concern for their own safety and the safety of their loved ones. For instance, irritability and low frustration or tolerance can make a parent seem hostile or distant, again making children question the parent's love for them. This perception is simply a misunderstanding of the reasons behind the symptoms.

It is never too late to talk with our children. Knowledge is power.

**Part 2 in the next issue of Guardmount will address:**

What are the typical patterns of how children respond to a parent with PTSD? What are the common problems children of veterans with PTSD face? More about secondary trauma.

Kim Bayes-Bautista aka 'Queen Mother'  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Photos by Ken Neal



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THE VSPA HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

By Steve Gattis

[SGattis-LM49@vspa.com](mailto:SGattis-LM49@vspa.com)

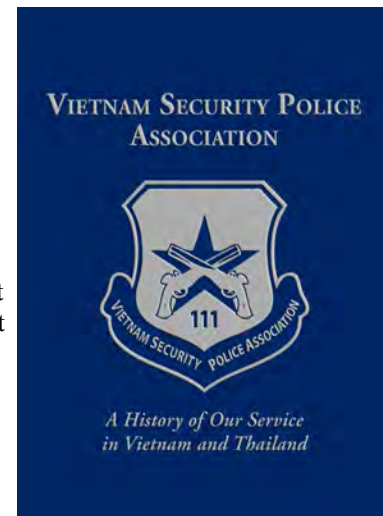
The book is done! The books have been printed and sent from the printer to the publisher. The publisher is packing them individually to ship to those who purchased a book in advance.

For those of you who have moved since you ordered the book: IF you notified the VSPA of your change of address, I have advised the publisher to ensure that the correct addresses are matched to each book ordered. If you have not updated your address with the VSPA or with the publisher, please contact me immediately via the above email address, otherwise you may not get your book before Christmas.

Additional copies of the book are available. We originally thought that we would place them in the BX; however, the extras are being sent to me so that people can ask me questions about the book rather than having Don and Larry Poss field questions and then forward them to me anyway.

If you would like to purchase a book, please make a check payable to the Vietnam Security Police Association for \$54 per book, plus \$6.95 shipping. If you order more than one book, please include \$3 shipping for each additional book. This is the original book price and shipping rate charged by Turner Publishing. Please mail the check (made payable to the VSPA) to the following address:

Steve Gattis  
P.O. Box 1889  
Glen Rose, Texas 76043



Merry Christmas!!

**The article below is the second in a series that speaks to the process of grieving. Some of us are grieving now, or maybe still. All of us have or will grieve in our lifetimes. It's a fact of life. HOW we manage it is another story. In this issue, VSPA Sisterhood Vice President Janet Matthews-Wise offers her insights and reflections after suffering the loss of her husband, father and grandmother in the space of 5 short months. We welcome other contributors as well.**



Janet Matthews-Wise

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## **Surviving Grief, part 2, by Janet Matthews Wise**

As the journey of grief unfolds, anniversaries, holidays and the year of “firsts” present some of the most difficult times to face. These just seem to be an exclamation point that something is wrong, someone is missing or everything has changed.

Obvious anniversaries, birthdays, first dates, marriage proposals, wedding anniversaries, the last trip to the hospital, dates of death, and so on are often recognized by family and friends. There are those really personal events the rest of the world doesn't remember. There are holiday traditions that are permanently altered or completely eliminated. This may be the result of the death of a family member, friend or loved one, a serious illness, loss of a job or home. Anything that suddenly and permanently changes the way you live your life.

For so many weeks, during the first Christmas season without Daddy I could not stand the sights or sounds of Christmas. In mid December 2008, I attended a Blue Christmas Service at what would become “my church”. In a quiet, safe place, surrounded by others who were in a similar situation, I was able to assess where I was in my grief and how my life changed. I came away with a different perspective about Christmas on the whole. This time I started thinking about the delivery on a promise, not an event. I thought about Christmas as the celebration of a savior. Something I needed to celebrate. I personally found that the void filled up a little bit.

Ultimately, what worked for me, was not doing anything the way we had in the past. If it was going to be different, it was going to be so completely different that it was unrecognizable.

The next year, was another series of firsts and more drastically different holidays. This time, I was a little bit better armed but not so much that it did not bring me to my knees again. What I did learn is that the anticipation often is worse than the date or the event. Just knowing that you have to face “one more” event in grief is overwhelming. But, is a birthday or holiday really any more painful than the random Tuesday when you know your whole life changed?



New traditions eventually emerge. There is no right way or wrong way to prepare yourself for any of them. But, you will certainly be depriving yourself of healing if you don't at least acknowledge them, in the way that suits you best. Remember that it is NORMAL to react, to have emotional eruptions, to feel cheated, to feel lost.

These suggestions, certainly not comprehensive, may help make the Season more bearable.

1. Know that this is going to be a new experience
2. It will be a difficult time;
3. Don't be too hard on yourself or expect too much;
4. Don't fight memories or the feelings that erupt;
5. Don't over do or under do – pace yourself and know your limits;
6. Don't be too hard on others;
7. Give yourself credit for making it this far;
8. and, Enjoy the happy moments – there will be some.

As I have talked with others who are on this path, no two people handle surviving the holidays the same. One common thread was the support, whether from family, friends, church family, support group, or counseling. Finding the right support is key.

For example, the support group I am working with is GriefShare. More information is available at [www.griefshare.com](http://www.griefshare.com). There are many other helpful websites and books available.

Please give yourself the time and patience you need as you make this journey. Reach out to others and for others. Remember that shared burdens are lighter to carry and there are places to look for support. Not the least of which you will find right here as we take care of our own and take care of those who take care of their own.

Peace and love be with you.

sparkplugvspa@gmail.com

Janet Matthews-Wise  
Daughter of LM # 127  
Sisterhood VP  
Membership Assistant  
Friend of K9



# Poet's Corner

## Featuring Jackie Kays

### I Marched with Heroes

*Once I was young and foolish  
and thought my life would forever  
shine in the sun.*

*I sang and danced to my own tune,  
little did I know that jungle war  
would be calling me soon.*

*Across the Pacific I flew to a land  
of war and strife, with young men  
I knew, who became friends for life.*

*Now, many years later as the horror  
of that war still haunts our souls,  
We will forever be brothers of that  
jungle war until the bells toll.*

*There was Warren, Stan, and Olbert,  
and other names forlorn.  
They were men of honor, and men  
of trust.*

*Here and now and forever more,  
I am honored to say...  
"I marched with Heroes!"*

*Jackie R. Kays ©05*

*Dedicated to all the young men and women that served in South East Asia during the Vietnam war.*

Jackie R. Kays was born in Sedalia, Missouri in 1933. He was a member of the USAF for seventeen years. He was injured in Vietnam in 1965 and was medically discharged. He has been writing poetry for over forty years. He is now seventy years old. He has little knowledge of poetic technical skills. He writes from his heart, soul and life experiences.

He presently has a novel; "The Stone Throwers"  
in publication at Barnes and Noble and at several other on-line bookstores.



Jackie Kays  
1963



Jackie Kays  
2007



# Poet's Corner

## Featuring Howard Yates

### The Ghost of Christmas Past

The Ghost of Christmas past was here  
With memories of yester-year.  
I felt his presence Christmas Eve  
And hoped in earnest he'd not leave

From childhood the visions came  
As through a magic window pane.  
The tree, the lights, the nervous wait  
And how I tried to stay awake

To catch a glimpse of 'ole Saint Nick  
When down the chimney he would slip.  
But long before the sleigh arrived  
My vigil lost to heavy eyes.

Then in the hours of pre-dawn  
A blink, a stretch and then a yawn  
I scrambled from my bed to see  
What Santa Claus had left for me.

With every slow but anxious step  
Down creaky wooden stairs I crept  
But I tread lightly as a mouse  
So not to wake our sleeping house

Then from the staircase I could see  
The treasures Santa left for me.  
A wind up train and cowboy hat,  
A pair of skates and baseball bat.

Ah yes, the ghost of Christmas past  
Stirs memories that seem to last.  
They take us back to yester-year  
And Christmases that we hold dear.



Howard G. Yates



Howard G. Yates  
©12/22/2007

Howard G. Yates, (Life Member #644, Bien Hoa 67-68), served one tour of duty at Bien Hoa Air Base in Vietnam from July '67 to July '68 as an Augmentee with the 3rd Security Police Squadron. Additionally, he is part of a Highland Bagpipe group that plays at memorials and funerals, and his other interests include writing poetry and working with boy scouts.

*Editor's note: On Saturday, July 24th, the town of Prescott Valley, AZ, hosted a Freedom Rally. Quang Nguyen, a US citizen originally from Vietnam, was asked to speak on his experience of coming to America and what it means. He spoke the following in dedication to all Vietnam Veterans. I thought you might enjoy hearing what he had to say. It's very powerful, and illuminates one of the better reasons why you fought that war so long ago. (reprinted with the author's permission)*

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## ***Thank you, Vietnam Veterans by Quang Nguyen***



35 years ago, if you were to tell me that I was going to stand up here speaking to a couple thousand patriots, in English, I'd laugh at you. Man, every morning I wake up thanking God for putting me and my family in the greatest country on earth.

I just want you all to know that the American dream does exist and I am living the American dream. I was asked to speak to you about my experience as a first generation Vietnamese-American, but I would rather speak to you as an American. If you hadn't noticed, I am not white and I feel pretty comfortable with my people.

I am a proud US citizen and here is my proof. It took me 8 years to get it, waiting in endless lines, but I got it and I am very proud of it. Guess what, I did it legally and it ain't from the state of Hawaii.

I still remember the images of the Tet offensive in 1968, I was six years old. Now you might want to question how a 6 year old boy could remember anything. Trust me, those images can never be erased. I can't even imagine what it was like for young American soldiers, 10,000 miles away from home, fighting on my behalf.

35 years ago, I left South Vietnam for political asylum. The war had ended. At the age of 13, I left with the understanding that I may or may not ever get to see my siblings or parents again. I was one of the first lucky 100,000 Vietnamese allowed to come to the US. Somehow, my family and I were reunited 5 months later, amazingly, in California. It was a miracle from God.

If you haven't heard lately that this is the greatest country on earth, I am telling you that right now. It is the freedom and the opportunities presented to me that put me here with all of you tonight. I also remember the barriers that I had to overcome every step of the way. My high school counselor told me that I could not make it to college due to my poor communication skills. I proved him wrong. I finished college. You see, all you had to do is to give this little boy an opportunity and encourage him to take it and run with it. Well, I took the opportunity and here I am. This person standing tonight in front of you could not exist under a socialist/communist environment.

By the way, if you think socialism is the way to go, I am sure many people here will chip in to get you a one way ticket out of here. And if you didn't know, the only difference between socialism and communism is an AK-47 aiming at your head. That was my experience.

In 1982, I stood with a thousand new immigrants, reciting the pledge of allegiance and listening to the National Anthem for the first time as an American. To this day, I can't remember anything sweeter and more patriotic than that moment in my life. Fast forwarding, somehow I finished high school, finished college, and like any other goofball 21 year old kid, I was having a great time with my life. I had a nice job and a nice apartment in Southern California. In some way and somehow, I had forgotten how I got here and why I am here. One day I was at a gas station, I saw a veteran pumping gas on the other side of the island. I don't know what made me do it, but I walked over and asked if he had served in Vietnam. He smiled and said, "Yes". I shook and held his hand. The grown man began to well up. I walked away as fast as I could and at that very moment, I was emotionally rocked. This was a profound moment in life. I knew something had to change in my life. It was time for me to learn how to be a good citizen. It was time for me to give back.



Quang and Mai Nguyen

You see... America is not place on the map; it isn't a physical location. It is an ideal, a concept. And if you are an American, you must understand the concept, you must buy into this concept and most importantly, you have to fight and defend this concept. This is about Freedom... and not free stuff. And that is why I am standing up here. Brothers and sisters, to be a real American, the very least you must do is to learn English and understand it well. In my humble opinion, you cannot be a faithful patriotic citizen if you can't speak the language of the country you live in. Take this document of 46 pages... Last I looked on the internet, there wasn't a Vietnamese translation of the US constitution. It took me a long time to get to the point of being able to converse and until this day, I still struggle to come up with the right words. It's not easy, but if it's too easy, it's not worth doing. Before I knew this 46-page document, I learned of the 500,000 Americans who fought for this little boy. I learned of the 58,000 names inscribed on the black wall at the Vietnam memorial. You are my heroes. You are my founders. At this time, I would like to ask all the Vietnam veterans to please stand. .... I thank you for my life. I thank you for your sacrifices, and I thank you for giving me the freedom and liberty I have today. I now ask all veterans, firefighters, and police officers, to please stand. On behalf of all first generation immigrants, I thank you for your services and may God bless you all."

Quang Nguyen

*Quang is the founder and Creative Director of Caddis Advertising, LLC in Prescott Valley, Arizona.*



## Veterans Day 2010 Around the Nation

**Veterans Day** is an annual United States holiday honoring military veterans. As a federal holiday, it is observed on November 11. In other parts of the world, it is celebrated as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day. The date of November 11 was chosen for the holiday as it marks the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. (Major hostilities of World War I ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice.).

Friends and family, in support of all veterans, look for ways to express their appreciation and gratitude to the veterans and active duty military that served without hesitation for our freedom. Oftentimes, those expressions of gratitude are shown by sending cards, attending parades, writing a letter, or simply telling a Veteran “thank you for your service.” From veterans of World War I and II, to the Korean conflict, the Vietnam War, to the War in Iraq and the War in Afghanistan, loved ones show their support for our military. These photos tell the story from around our nation on this Veterans Day.



A flag flies over the Veterans Cemetery in Baudette, MN  
Photo by Erlyce Pekas



Bill Marshall, Newell Swartz, Bruce Ross and Randy "Ramps" Stutler pay tribute to lost friends at The Wall on Veterans Day, November 2007



VSPA member Greg Cain supports Al “Sarge” Matthews at his first visit to The Wall, Washington, DC—November 2007  
Photo by Janet Matthews-Wise



Members of the Texas Association of Vietnam Veterans carry a large American flag in the annual Veterans Day Parade on Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas on Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010.  
Photo credit Jay Janner  
American -Statesman  
Reprinted with permission





## VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

### ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 9, 2010, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



On October 7, 2010, the VSPA Board of Directors convened its meeting at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk, 217 North St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205.

President Newell Swartz called the meeting to order at 1710 hours. In attendance were Steve Gattis, Past President; Richard Garcia, Treasurer; Phil Carroll, Second Vice President designee; Bruce Hadley, Secretary, and Kelly Bateman, Historian. Hector Ramos, Vice President, was unable to attend.

Guest attendees were Bill Marshall, Second Vice President candidate; Greg Cain, Vice President candidate; Don Poss, Web Master; Larry Poss, BX Manager, and Ed Cottrell and John Risse, both VSPA members representing the Veterans War Memorial of Texas Fund.

The following agenda was discussed and acted on:

1. A presentation by Ed Cottrell and John Risse on the Veterans War Memorial of Texas under construction in McAllen, Texas. Mr. Cottrell explained that he was soliciting donations for the memorial on behalf of Col. Frank Plummer from the Steering Committee of the memorial. Mr. Cottrell, VSPA LM 222, requested that the VSPA donate a tax deductible contribution of \$265 that would entitle the VSPA to a 16" X 16" paver including an engraved message that would be placed among other pavers at the memorial site. Additionally, he requested that the VSPA membership be made aware that for \$25, they would be entitled to an individual 4" X 8" paver including an engraved message that would be placed at the site.

After a question and answer period with Messrs. Cottrell and Risse, after which they departed, the board decided that the President candidate, Phil Carroll, should take the matter under advisement with the incoming board of directors to clarify the purpose of the donations requested, and whether the matter should be brought to the general membership for a vote. Information submitted to the board by Messrs. Cottrell and Risse is herewith submitted as attachment no. 1.

2. A briefing on the BX operations by BX Manager Larry Poss. A copy of his report to the board is attached herewith as attachment no. 2. After a question and answer period with Messrs. Don and Larry Poss concerning BX operations, its inventory, and computer equipment invoices, the board decided that unresolved issues on these matters required a coordination meeting among Treasurer Garcia, Past President Gattis, Second Vice President designee Phil Carroll, and Messrs. Don Poss, Web Master, and Larry Poss, BX Manager. The Poss brothers then departed the meeting.

3. Requests received to coordinate VSPA annual reunions with that of other organizations, such as, Air Force Security Forces Association, and Tan Son Nhut Association. After discussion about the history behind past reunions around the Columbus Day weekend, and other organizations mentioned, the board decided to continue to hold VSPA reunions around the Columbus Day weekend.

4. The coordination of tours and events within the VSPA reunion calendar for other smaller group associations of members other than arranging for a meeting room for Safeside, and K-9. After discussion, the board decided that any individual group association plans need to include courtesy coordination with the VSPA president in advance of the reunion to facilitate better coordinated planning of events, and to prevent conflicts of timing.

5. Disbursement of monies for a bench at the USAF Security Forces Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. Past President Gattis completed a study on the project and a copy of his report is submitted herewith as attachment No. 3. The board decided to bring the project to the general membership supporting it with the expenditure of \$5,800 to have the bench constructed, engraved, and placed at the monument site for dedication at



the VSPA 2011 reunion at Wright-Patterson AFB. Additionally, the general membership will be solicited for donations to recover the outlay of funds by the VSPA, and each donor will be provided with a tax-deductible receipt in light of the VSPA's tax-exempt status having been approved by the IRS.

6. Raising the scholarship fund award from \$500 to \$1,000 was approved unanimously by the board with a recommendation to the general membership for approval.

7. Creating VSPA formal sympathy cards for deaths of members, and formal invitation cards for invited guests to VSPA reunion events. The board agreed this was a worthwhile project, however, decided that the next President take this under advisement with the incoming board as a viable project.

8. The extent to which the VSPA president can make multiple expenditures of \$1,000 in one calendar or fiscal year. The board agreed unanimously that there should be no change in current policy on this matter. It shall remain within the discretion of the VSPA president with subsequent notice to the Board.

9. The assemblage of all of our critical paper documents in one location accessible to the VSPA president. The board agreed that repository should reside with the Second Vice President necessitating amending the VSPA constitution and its by-laws.

10. The conduct of a physical property accountability inventory with photographs of items of value, such as, computer hardware, flags and banners, BX stock and equipment. The board agreed unanimously, and that the inventory include copies of receipts/invoices of items of value.

11. A request from the Lackland AFB Security Forces Museum Board that a VSPA member Vietnam War veteran serve on its board of directors. Historian Kelly Bateman volunteered to serve in that capacity, and was unanimously approved by the board. Additionally, the board approved the VSPA president having the authority to appoint other VSPA members in the future to serve on that board as necessary.

12. A resolution by VSPA supporting the efforts of other military organizations attempting to have the Department of Justice appeal the decisions of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Courts of Appeal striking down the Stolen Valor Act as unconstitutional. The board approved supporting such a resolution. The language of the resolution is to be crafted and presented to the board by Phil Carroll.

13. A change of Article X, Section 2. of the VSPA constitution, and Article X, Section 1.B. of the VSPA By-Laws, to include a new position on the VSPA Board of Directors titled "President Emeritus." Steve Gattis was named President Emeritus in 2008 and remained on the board as immediate past president. Presently, the bylaws state that the immediate past president shall be a member of the board. With the election of Phil Carroll as the new president, Newell Swartz will become the immediate past president. The bylaws and constitution do not include the president emeritus on the board. However, due to the ages of both Newell Swartz and Steve Gattis, it is critical that we maintain continuity of the organization, and therefore both should remain on board as the immediate past president and the president emeritus. The board agreed unanimously and will recommend the change to the general membership.

14. The presentation of awards to supporting commanders and superiors of Security Forces Commanders that host VSPA reunions and events. The board agreed unanimously that this was a necessary step in networking for support of future reunions and events.

President Swartz adjourned the meeting at 1925 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Hadley, Secretary

**VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 9, 2010, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

1. The meeting was called to order at 0905 hours by President Newell Swartz at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk, 217 North St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, Texas. The President requested that all non-members leave the meeting.
2. The President requested that everyone observe a moment of silence for those who did not come home from the war, and for our departed VSPA brothers listed at LM #111.
3. Chaplain Jim Stastny gave the Invocation; it included a prayer for VSPA member William Harris, who had fallen ill.
4. Second Vice President Phil Carroll led the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. It was announced that the VSPA Sisterhood meeting would begin at 1100 hours.
6. Introduction of Elected Officers and Appointed Staff By President Newell Swartz. All officers are elected for two years. A quorum of the elected officers must be declared after introducing the elected officers.
  - 6.1. Elected Positions
    - 6.1.1. President: Newell Swartz, LM #262, Phoenix, AZ (Phu Cat and Phan Rang 66-67)
    - 6.1.2. Vice President: Hector Ramos, LM #165, Carteret, NJ (Binh Thuy 69-70). (Unable to attend.)
    - 6.1.3. 2nd Vice President: Phil Carroll, LM #336, Gladstone, OR (Takhli and NKP K-9 70-71)
    - 6.1.4. Secretary: Bruce Hadley, LM #71, Forest Hills, NY (Bien Hoa 61-62)
    - 6.1.5. Treasurer: Richard Garcia, LM #82, Massapequa, NY (Phan Rang 69-70).
    - 6.1.6. Historian: Kelly Bateman, LM #118, Wimberley, TX (Ubon K-9 71-72)
    - 6.1.7. President Emeritus: Steve Gattis, LM #49, Glen Rose, TX (Cam Ranh Bay 68-69)
  - 6.2. Appointed Positions - All positions appointed by the president with approval of the board.
    - 6.2.1. Webmaster: Don Poss, LM #37, Hemet, CA (Da Nang K-9 65-66). The VSPA Webmaster appoints and supervises the following positions:
      - 6.2.1.1. K-9 Web Master, Monty Moore, LM #500, Livingston, Texas (Da Nang and Phu Cat K-9 68-70). Unable to attend.
      - 6.2.1.2. Bulletin Board Flight Chief, Bill Marshall LM #85, Dana Point, CA (Phu Cat 68-69).
      - 6.2.1.3. QRT Flight Chief, Gary Jones, LM #363, Ladson, SC (Da Nang, Phan Rang, Safeside Tan Son Nhut, Udorn 1965, 68-69 and 71-72).
      - 6.2.1.4. Tech Support Greg Dunlap, LM #361, Santa Rosa, CA (Da Nang K-9 68-69). Unable to attend.
    - 6.2.2. Membership Chair: Phil Carroll, LM #336, Gladstone, OR (Takhli and NKP K-9 70-71).
    - 6.2.3. Membership Assistant: Janet Matthews-Wise, Alabaster, AL (Daughter of LM #127 Al Matthews, and VSPA Sisterhood member).
    - 6.2.4. Guardmount Editor: Erlyce Pekas, Phoenix, AZ (VSPA Sisterhood member).
    - 6.2.5. Chaplain: Steve Janke, Carlstadt, NJ (Cam Ranh Bay K-9 69-70). Unable to attend.
    - 6.2.6. Chaplain: Jim Stastny, LM #442, Gaithersburg, MD (Korat K-9 70-71).
    - 6.2.7. Chaplin: Bill Cooley, Life Member #350, Canyon Lake, TX (Cam Ranh Bay K-9 71-72). Unable to attend.

- 6.2.12. BX Sales Manager: Larry Poss, VSPA Associate Member, Las Vegas, NV.
  - 6.2.13. VSPA Service Officer: Bud Owens, LM #56, North Hampton, NH (Binh Thuy 66 - 67).
  - 6.2.14. K-9 Kennel Master: Jim Stastny, LM #442, Gaithersburg, MD (Korat K-9 70-71).
  - 6.2.15. Safeside Liaison: Dave Pierson, LM #299, Carson City, NV (Binh Thuy 69-70).
  - 6.2.16. Binh Thuy Liaison: Lew Goldberg, LM #150, Battlefield, MO (Binh Thuy 68-69).
  - 6.2.17. Cam Ranh Bay Liaison: Trent Nentrup, Hope, IN (Cam Ranh Bay 68-69) Unable to attend
  - 6.2.18. Phu Cat Liaison: Ron Arthur, LM #107, Chilhowee, MO (Phu Cat 67-68). Unable to attend.
  - 6.2.19. Tan Son Nhut Liaison: Charles Penley, Kingsport, TN (Tan Son Nhut K-9 67-69). Unable to attend
  - 6.2.20. Ubon Liaison: Jim Watson, LM #520, Covina, CA (Ubon K-9 68-69). Unable to attend.
  - 6.2.21. Pleiku: Pat Dunne, LM #40, Hollywood, FL (Pleiku 68).
  - 6.2.22. Sergeant-at-Arms: Keith Young, LM #175, Angola, NY (Binh Thuy and Phu Cat 70-71).
  - 6.2.23. VSPA Legal Services: Para-legal Paul Sigler, Bartlesville, OK (Cam Ranh Bay 65-66). Unable to attend.
7. Approval of the 2010 Minutes: By Secretary Bruce Hadley – Minutes approved by acclamation and without reading the full text of the minutes based upon prior electronic distribution via the VSPA web site and the published minutes in the Guardmount newsletter. Motion made by Wendell Windsor, seconded by Bill Cummings, motion carried.
8. Reports
- 8.1. BX Manager Larry Poss presented the BX report (copy attached). Motion made by Jim Stastny to accept the report, seconded by Lew Goldberg, motion carried.
  - 8.2. Past President Steve Gattis presented a report on the federal and state taxes, and related matters. He stated that VSPA's tax-exempt status extended back to incorporation in 2005, and that all donations could be supported by a letter to the donor from VSPA verifying that the donation was tax-deductible (noted that this does not include annual dues, or the costs involved in travel to and participation in the annual reunions). Motion made by Bud Owens to accept the report, seconded by Lew Goldberg, motion carried.
  - 8.3. Historian Kelly Bateman reported, including a report on the Lackland AFB Security Forces Museum Memorial Wall Project. Motion made by Greg Cain to accept the report, seconded by Lew Goldberg, motion carried. At this point, Past President Steve Gattis announced that the Lackland AFB Security Forces Board was seeking a VSPA veteran to serve on its board of directors, and that Mr. Bateman had volunteered to serve. At the earlier meeting of the VSPA Board of Directors President Newell Swartz appointed Mr. Bateman to represent the VSPA on that board and he accepted.
  - 8.4. Webmaster Don Poss reported on the current status of VSPA.com and related matters. Motion made by Ted Whitlock to accept the report, seconded by Bud Owens, motion carried.
  - 8.5. Past President Steve Gattis cautioned that because VSPA is a tax-exempt corporation and subject to strict IRS rules and regulations, the association will continue monitoring the web site and bulletin board, and take down anything resembling political action, criticism or commentary
  - 8.6. Membership Chairman Phil Carroll reported the increases in each membership category for 2010 over 2009, and since he took office in 2006. A copy of the report is attached. VSPA has 1,317 active members, and 671 life members. Motion made by Col Robert De Cubellis to accept the report, seconded by Ray Rash, motion carried.
  - 8.7. The Guardmount report was accepted by acclamation of the membership present.
  - 8.8. President Newell Swartz gave the Scholarship Committee report; a copy is attached. Motion made by Ted Whitlock to accept the report, seconded by Ken Neal, motion carried.
  - 8.9. President Newell Swartz announced that the board had voted to bring to the membership for a vote (with a positive recommendation) an increase in the VSPA Scholarship from \$500 to \$1,000 due to inflation and current economic conditions. Motion made by Ken Neal to raise the current amount of the scholarship from \$500 to \$1,000, seconded by Lew Goldberg, motion carried.



- 8.10. Treasurer Richard Garcia reported on the financial status of the VSPA; a copy of his report is attached. VSPA began 2010 with a balance of \$104,000 and as of September 30<sup>th</sup> had \$90,000. Motion was made by Bud Owens to accept the report, seconded by Robert Griffith, motion carried.
- 8.11. Service Officer Bud Owens made his report to the membership. Motion made by Randy Stutler to accept the report, seconded by Ed Wilson, motion carried.
- 8.12. Kennel Master Jim Stastny made the K-9 report. Motion was made by Bud Owens to accept the report, seconded by William Paddock, motion carried. Mr. Stastny then called on Bill Cummings to update the membership on activities of the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial Committee, and the Old Dawgs & Pups Program.
- 8.13. Dave Pierson made the Safeside Report. Motion made by Bill Cummings to accept the report, seconded by Tony Morris, motion carried.
- 8.14. Due to the absence of Paul Sigler for a family emergency, President Newell Swartz reported briefly on VSPA legal services available to the membership for wills, powers of attorney, and other matters. Motion made by Col Robert De Cubellis to accept the report, seconded by Ted Whitlock, motion carried.
9. Old Business
- 9.1. Past President Steve Gattis reported on the status of the VSPA history book. He stated that it contains 184 pages of detailed, verified information, and that each unit is listed in a table of awards and decorations. Copies of original photographs and newspaper articles furnished to the publisher are to be returned to senders. He also mentioned that some of the book's material has already been used to help substantiate veterans' claims made to the Veterans Administration of being in country at particular dates in time of attacks and combat service. Motion made by Ken Neal to accept the report, seconded by Bud Owens, motion carried.
- 9.2. President Newell Swartz brought a proposal to the membership for a vote discussed at the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Directors. The proposal was to create a position of "President Emeritus," to be added to the VSPA Board of Directors. He said the current board believed this would provide for continuity of operations, and that Past President Steve Gattis be so designated, with no time limit on this designation. The board gave a positive recommendation on this proposal, because Past President Steve Gattis is so well aware of the history and operations of the VSPA, having served several terms as its president, and guided the efforts to clarify our corporate and tax status. This will require amending the VSPA constitution and its by-laws with the following language:
- 9.2.1. Article X, Section 2 of the Constitution and Article X, Section B of the By-laws shall be amended to read, "The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the elected officers, and for purposes of maintaining continuity, the immediate past president and the president emeritus. Each member of the board shall have voting privileges.
- 9.2.2. Motion made by Ken Neal to amend the By-Laws and Constitution, seconded by Bud Owens, motion carried unanimously.
- 9.3. President Newell Swartz then gave an update of H.R. 3358 introduced by Oregon Representative Peter DeFazio in the U.S. House of Representatives. Last year VSPA life member Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, asked for and received a resolution of VSPA support for this bill which would authorize GIs returning from deployment to a combat zone to continue to receive full pay and benefits for 90 days. This would give them time to decompress from their combat experience, find employment and reintegrate with their families before returning to work or school. The compromise reached in the House was 45 days of full pay instead of 90, and the bill is moving through Congress as of the end of September.
- 9.4. President Newell Swartz reminded members that the VSPA reunion site selected for 2011 is Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. This was decided at the 2009 VSPA business meeting.

9.5. Past President Steve Gattis, Secretary Bruce Hadley, Treasurer Richard Garcia, and Membership Chairman Phil Carroll conducted the reunion site selection process for the 2012 VSPA reunion. Based on members' voting the primary site for 2012 will be Eglin AFB-Hurlburt Field, Florida; the back up site, in the event of operational changes at the primary site, will be Charleston AFB, South Carolina.

#### 10. New Business

10.1. A resolution will be crafted with language to address the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals decision to strike down the Stolen Valor Act as unconstitutional. Motion was made by Col. Bob DeCubellis, seconded by Ted Whitlock, motion carried.

10.2. Affirmation of the newly elected Board of Directors for banking purposes and the authorization to sign checks for the coming year. Elections were conducted by mail-in ballot and ballots that were cast at the reunion prior to the business meeting. The term of office is two years. Elections will take place again in 2012. The newly elected officers are:

10.2.1. President Phil Carroll

10.2.2. Vice President Greg Cain

10.2.3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bill Marshall

10.2.4. Secretary Dennis Evans

10.2.5. Treasurer Richard Garcia

10.2.6. Historian Kelly Bateman

10.2.7. Past President Newell Swartz

10.2.8. President Emeritus Steve Gattis

10.2.9. The president and treasurer will ensure that only the following persons are authorized to sign checks: Phil Carroll, President elect, Greg Cain, Vice President elect, and Treasurer Richard Garcia. The names of Newell Swartz, Hector Ramos and Dennis Cook will be removed as authorized signatures on all VSPA accounts.

10.3. Appointed positions (listed at 6.2 above) have been affirmed by the President elect to assist the elected officers with the management of the various functions of the VSPA during the next two years.

#### 10.4. BX Operations

10.4.1. Our former BX Manager Van Digby, assisted by his wife Joyce and daughter Kari, submitted a letter of resignation at the board meeting last year. We had three options: (1) find a volunteer replacement; (2) do away with the BX or (3) run the BX as a business.

10.4.2. Option (1) It seemed impossible to find another volunteer to take on the work that Van and his whole family have so generously been doing entirely for free, especially considering the vast ongoing growth of the BX, its inventory and its business.

10.4.3. Option (2) given the popularity of the merchandise the BX store offers to members, most of which is not available anywhere else, it was decided that doing away with the BX was not going to happen.

10.4.4. Option (3) Larry Poss, who runs a similar business in addition to his other ventures, agreed to take over the VSPA BX and operate it as a business. In January 2010 Larry signed a two-year contract with VSPA.

10.4.4.1. All of the merchandise, all equipment such as the hat press and t-shirt press and other equipment used in customizing VSPA merchandise remains the property of VSPA. The operating funds cash is also the property of the VSPA.

10.4.4.2. In January 2012 either party can choose not to renew the contract. Larry submits a monthly accounting to the treasurer and president. There has initially been a return to the VSPA of several hundred dollars a month, which will be used to repay the treasury for the

return to the VSPA of several hundred dollars a month, which will be used to repay the treasury for the expenses related to new equipment – which total several thousand dollars so far. Once that is repaid, if the profit continues to accrue, we can decide whether to use the money to increase our scholarship fund or finance some other project.

10.4.4.3. By the time of the 2011 reunion the board will have enough experience to know how the new plan for the BX is working and will make a presentation to the membership on the progress of the BX, its financial impact on the VSPA and its benefit to members. Then members will have the opportunity to consider whether to continue to operate the BX in this manner, or under some other plan as recommended by the Board.

10.5. The VSPA Board of Directors has researched and discussed a proposal to fund a permanent VSPA bench at the Wright-Patterson AFB, Security Forces Defender Memorial located at the Air Force Museum. The SAC Elite Guard Association and the Air Force Security Forces Association each have a bench at the monument, and there is room for one more directly in front of the statue. The board brought the proposal to the membership with a positive recommendation. Past President Steve Gattis gave the details of the cost and associated logistical and management details; a copy of that report is attached. The bench will cost \$5,800 for construction, engraving, placing at the foot of the monument in front of the Defender statue, and ongoing maintenance. It is expected to be in place by the 2011 reunion at Wright-Patterson AFB. Motion made by Rick Adams to expend the \$5,800 for the VSPA bench to be placed at the monument with funds to be solicited from member donations to repay the treasury, seconded by Durbin Keeney, motion carried.

10.5.1. Two VSPA members who were present in the meeting immediately donated \$1,000 each for the construction of the VSPA Memorial Bench.

10.6. Veterans War Memorial of Texas. VSPA Member Ed Cottrell presented information to the Board regarding the placement of a VSPA paver at the Veterans War Memorial of Texas, located in McAllen, Texas, when the Vietnam Memorial Section is constructed. The cost will be \$265. The board recommended future approval and will monitor the construction of the memorial with information to be provided by member Ed Cottrell.

## 11. Announcements for the Good of the Order

11.1. Durbin Keeney will donate \$2,500 to have a VSPA plaque placed on a new Veteran's home in Minnesota. Approved by the board and the membership.

11.2. Presentation of information by John Homa seeking support for the K-9 sponsored programs of "Old Dawgs & Pups," and "Feed the Dawgs."

11.3. There will be a Safeside meeting following this meeting from 1200 hours to 1400 hours.

11.4. For the evening: Social Hour begins at 1800 hours. Attendees should have seats selected by 1855. The presentation of colors will be at 1900. We will retire the colors and end by 2300 hours.

11.5. Reminder regarding the Worship Service on Sunday that begins at 0800 hours, location: a portion of the banquet room. The Memorial Service to be held starting at 0900 hours in the same location.

1 1.6. The President adjourned the meeting at 1213 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Hadley, Secretary





## VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

PHILIP W. CARROLL, PRESIDENT

VSPA LIFE MEMBER #336

P.O. BOX 8

GLADSTONE, OR 97027



### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE "STOLEN VALOR ACT"

#### *Whereas:*

1. Two cases concerning violations of the "Stolen Valor Act" (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 704) are currently before U.S. courts: United States v. Strandlof, Case No. 10-1358, an appeal of Case No. 09cr-00497 from the United States District Court of Colorado, to the United States Court of Appeals For The Tenth Circuit; and United States v. Xavier Alvarez aka Javier Alvarez, Case No. 08-50345, United States Court of Appeals For The Ninth Circuit.
2. In these cases a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, have ruled the "Stolen Valor Act" to be unconstitutional on separate grounds, respectively: 1) that it violates the defendant's right of free speech under the First Amendment and; 2) that it is overbroad as to content that is not narrowly tailored to serve a compelling State interest.
3. Defendants in these cases falsely claimed service in the Armed Forces during wartime. Further, Mr. Alvarez claimed to have been awarded the "Medal of Honor," the highest military award given to any individual, and Mr. Strandlof claimed to have been awarded a Purple Heart and Silver Star.
4. The "Stolen Valor Act" authorizes fines, imprisonment or both for anyone who "*falsely represents himself or herself, verbally or in writing, to have been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces of the United States...*"
5. When General George Washington created what is now known as the Purple Heart, he wished to honor those who performed "*singularly meritorious action*" with the figure of a heart and a purple cloth. He wrote in his General Orders of August 7, 1782, "*should any who are not entitled to these honors have the insolence to assume the badges of them they shall be severely punished. On the other hand it is expected those gallant men who are thus designated will on all occasions be treated with particular confidence and consideration.*"
6. Such decorations are often the only tangible honor that a Veteran can carry on to later life.
7. A number of Vietnam Security Police Association members, and former members now deceased, are among "*those gallant men thus designated,*" who earned their badges of honor in wartime military service to the United States of America.
8. Two National, Congressionally chartered American military veterans organizations, AMVETS and the Vietnam Veterans of America, are on record denouncing the courts' decisions and encouraging the U.S. Department of Justice to appeal both.

The decisions, declaring the "Stolen Valor Act" unconstitutional, stain and degrade the honor of all members of the Vietnam Security Police Association, and all others who have served in the U.S. military and sacrificed for the freedoms that all Americans enjoy. Further, the two decisions soil the meaning of all military decorations, and insult those families who have lost loved ones in America's conflicts and wars.

***Therefore Be It Resolved:***

1. The Vietnam Security Police Association joins with AMVETS and the Vietnam Veterans of America in urging the Department of Justice to make all possible efforts to defend The Stolen Valor Act, even to the U.S. Supreme Court.
2. The Vietnam Security Police Association urges all other Veterans associations and organizations to put forward similar resolutions to urge continued statutory protection for the honor of those heroes whom we hold in highest regard.
3. The Vietnam Security Police Association urges all members of Veterans organizations, other private individuals, relatives of those who have served in the Armed Forces, and all Americans with like feelings to contact their elected representatives at all levels and urge them to speak out in support of the Stolen Valor Act.

Signed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2010.

/s/ Philip W. Carroll

Philip W. Carroll, President  
Vietnam Security Police Association  
Life Member #336  
Takhli RTAFB, K-9 Charlie 2M45, 1970  
Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, K-9 Tina X768, 1971

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**K-9 Memorabilia Donation Fundraiser Update from VSPA Reunion, San Antonio, TX**

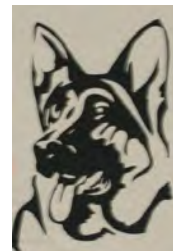
Thank you for your efforts and support of our Fundraiser in San Antonio for “Feed The Dawgs” and “Old Dawgs and Pups.” Through your generous contributions, we were able to raise a total of \$3,000.00 that was split between the two groups.

Winner of the first prize was SrA. Samuel Lerman, Unit Historian, 459th Security Forces Squadron, Andrews Air Force Base.

Winner of the second prize was our new President, Phil Carroll.

John Risse, K-9, donated two hand carved diamond willow walking sticks that were won by two VSPA members at the Saturday night Awards Banquet.

John Homa Thailand K-9 Handler of the VSPA  
Ken Neal Thailand K-9 Handler of the VSPA



# Nemo goes to the ball game

By Col. Robert Sullivan, ret.



In November of 1969, Nemo was invited to appear at the half time show at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin during a game between the Packers and the NY Giants. All we had to do was walk on to the field as the stadium announcer told Nemo's story and asked people to donate or sell their German Shepherds to the military. 50,852 people rose to their feet applauding. A truly humbling moment for me, but Nemo didn't seem to be fazed by it at all!

That was just the beginning of this story.

We'd flown into Green bay from O'Hare on an Air Guard C130. After the game, we were to go back to Chicago on a Lake Central Flight out of Green Bay airport because we had a TV appearance scheduled for early the next morning. We got to the airport, I put Nemo in his crate and we went out to load him. The crate would not fit through the cargo hold door. Now what?

Back in the terminal office, we discussed our options. The crew of a chartered Boeing 707, there to take the Giants back to New York, was in the office listening our conversation. They would be deadheading back to Chicago and volunteered to take Nemo's crate with them and we could pick it up when we were ready to leave Chicago. Okay, problem solved! I would just take Nemo on the plane.

"Wait a minute," said the airport manager. "Dogs can't fly in the passenger compartment!"

The Lake Central pilot said, "Well hell, they let seeing eye dogs do it!" "Okay," I said, "I have an idea." I put on my sunglasses took Nemo on a short leash and said, "let's go do it." I was in dress blues and as I walked stiffly to the back of the plane where they were going to seat us, I could see and hear people making sad "ohh" and "ahh" noises. After we were airborne, a woman came back to use the restroom. She stopped by our aisle, Nemo had the window seat, (actually he was on the floor), so the lady leaned over and asked me how my accident happened. I took off my glasses, looked her in the eye and said, "Oh, I'm fine lady, it's the dog who's blind!" The look on her face was "priceless!"

Word spread throughout the plane, and as we walked into the Chicago terminal, Nemo got another big round of applause!

By the way, the Packers won, 20-10!

## **A little background on Nemo, the War Dog**

On 4 December 1966, Sentry Dog NEMO engaged the enemy during an attack on Tan Son Nhut AB, Republic of Vietnam. Although severely wounded, he saved the life of his wounded handler and helped to prevent a successful attack on that installation.



*NOTE: All Officers and Staff are unpaid VSPA members who volunteer to serve their brothers in the association. Officers were elected in 2010 for a two-year term. Staff members were appointed to assist and advise the officers of the association as needed.*

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**VICE PRESIDENT** Janet Matthews-Wise; [sparkplug\\_vspa@charter.net](mailto:sparkplug_vspa@charter.net); 205-663-7662  
**SECRETARY** Erlyce Pekas; [erlyce@msn.com](mailto:erlyce@msn.com); 602-574-7089  
**CHAPLAIN** Roberta Smith; [lizianthus1@yahoo.com](mailto:lizianthus1@yahoo.com); 614-879-6835  
**CORRESPONDENCE SEC.** Pam Talbot; [lilacroller1@comcast.net](mailto:lilacroller1@comcast.net); 815-935-2139



Those were the days, my friend,  
 We thought they'd never end!

Erlyce Pekas, Editor  
Associate Member  
Vietnam Security Police Association  
P.O. Box 22035  
Phoenix, AZ 85028

**Happy Holidays!**



## **USAF Security Police Vietnam Veterans—Welcome Home!**

If you served in the USAF Air Police, Security Police, K-9, Safeside, or as a Security Police Augmentee in Vietnam or Thailand between 1958 and 1975, there's a great brotherhood looking for you. With more than 1,300 currently active members, the Vietnam Security Police Association is where you belong.

VSPA was formed for many reasons; to reunite friends, to preserve the memories of our fallen brothers and the history of our service in Vietnam and Thailand, and to ensure that the hard lessons learned in that war would not be forgotten. Lessons of life and death, forged in war, tempered in battle, that when remembered provide inspiration to Airmen who are yet to taste combat defending the fortress, and pride for those of us who have fought and bled together.

If you're qualified and interested in membership, read more about the VSPA and how to join at our website: [www.vspa.com](http://www.vspa.com). WELCOME HOME TO VSPA!

**GET READY FOR NEXT YEAR'S REUNION AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, DAYTON, OH!**