



GUARDMOUNT

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

"We Take Care of Our Own"



SPRING EDITION – 2018

1968 TO 2018



TET OFFENSIVE
50TH ANNIVERSARY



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greg Cain, Life Member #62, Binh Thuy – 67-68

My Brothers and Sisters,

We are looking forward to our reunion in Tucson, AZ at Davis Monthan AB in October. Sheila and I had a wonderful meeting in February with Bill and Janice Cummings who are Tucson area residents and did the groundwork for site selection. We visited the Desert Diamond Casino/Hotel complex next to the airport. The facility far exceeded our expectations by miles when compared to other not so nice selections. The staff was very cordial and professional and catered to all our requirements. They are very experienced in Veteran reunions and met our needs remarkably well. Expect a most excellent time! You can find specific information about the site by going to their website at www.ddcaz.com

Please bring any informational items you wish to present or have presented to the business meeting and we will make a spot for you on the agenda (Sisterhood too). This would include health updates, new potential events and personnel.

This past ugly winter was as bad as it gets. Fortunately Sheila and I winter in Central Florida and escaped the snow (Buffalo in Western NY). However Hurricane Irma ruined our roof and did interior ceiling damage, but it was WARM.

Best wishes and God Bless you all.

Greg Cain, President
Binh Thuy 67-68



THE VSPA SISTERHOOD

Sheila Cain, Sisterhood President

Brothers and Sisters,

The time has come again to start making plans for the next reunion.

2018 will take us to Tucson, Arizona. The Desert Diamond Hotel and Casino will be our home for the reunion. There will be planned activities and plenty of free time to “schmooze” with your brothers and sisters.

2018 has also been a sad time as two sisters have gone to their heavenly home, Darlene Holstein wife of Brother Richard Holstein and Linda Beam, wife of Brother Robert Beam. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

With the summer season ahead it is my hope that you all have a safe and healthy summer.

As always, I am available to the Brotherhood and Sisterhood anytime. Feel free to call me at 716-480-9101.

Sheila Gervase-Cain, Sisterhood President
Wife of Greg Cain, Binh Thuy 67-68
smgervase@yahoo.com



THE NEW CLAIMS APPEAL PROCESS OFFERED BY THE VA

Jaime A. Lleras, Life Member #887, Binh Thuy AB – 1970



Last August 2017, Congress passed the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 and on November 2, the VA began the 18-month implementation of the new process called the *Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP)*. This will be the first opportunity for veterans to enter the new appeals process outlined in the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017.

Although RAMP will go into effect in February 2019, the VA has started to send letters to veterans that currently have claims in the appeal process. This letter is designed to encourage such veterans to opt into the new system. However, by February 2019, all appeals should be processed under the new system. The new system is intended to streamline the VA's current appeals process (now referred to by the VA as the "legacy" appeals process), which has received ample criticism for its inefficiency and excessive wait-times. For now, veterans who want to appeal a VA decision can choose to remain in the legacy appeals process or participate in RAMP.

There are service organizations such as the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) that are currently advising its veterans not to opt-in to the program at this time, stating that RAMP has not been tested by the VA and the implementation procedures are still in draft form and may change. Due to the lack of information from the VA, it is unclear if this program will be beneficial for you. Also, please know that if you get an invitation to participate (opt-in), you cannot go back to the old system. However, if you do, you **WILL NOT lose your Effective Date**. Although the VA letter you may receive only provides a 60-day opt-in period, VA regulations allow you to opt-in at a later date. If you haven't received an invitation letter, as of April 2018, you can request to opt-in. The one good thing is that service organizations like the DAV, VVA, MOPA, etc., are continuing the necessary oversight on the Hill, as new rules, regulations and procedures are developed before the program takes full effect in February 2019.

Remember, as your Service Officer, my goal is to give the VSPA members a heads-up and to *advise you on what's happening with the VA's Claims Process. MORE TO COME.*

Jaime A. Lleras, USAF, CCM, Ret.

Chiefjal9@gmail.com

DAV Chapter Service Officer, Myrtle Beach, SC

VSPA Service Officer

632nd SPS, Binh Thuy AB, RVN – 1970

Vietnam Campaigns

Vietnam Initial Advisory Campaign	15 NOV 1961 - 01 MAR 1965	Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969	09 JUN 1969 - 31 OCT 1969
Vietnam Air Defensive Campaign	02 MAR 1965 - 30 JAN 1966	Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970	01 NOV 1969 - 30 APR 1970
Vietnam Air Counteroffensive	31 JAN 1966 - 28 JUN 1966	Sanctuary Counteroffensive	01 May 1970 - 30 JUN 1970
Vietnam Air Offensive	29 JUN 1966 - 08 MAR 1967	Southwest Monsoon	01 JUL 1970 - 30 NOV 1970
Vietnam Air Offensive Phase II	09 MAR 1967 - 31 MAR 1968	Commando Hunt V	01 DEC 1970 - 14 MAY 1971
Vietnam Air/Ground Campaign	22 JAN 1968 - 07 JUL 1968	Commando Hunt VI	15 MAY 1971 - 31 OCT 1971
Vietnam Air Offensive Phase III	01 Apr 1968 - 31 OCT 1968	Commando Hunt VII	01 NOV 1971 - 29 MAR 1972
Vietnam Air Offensive Phase IV	01 NOV 1968 - 22 FEB 1969	Vietnam Cease-fire	30 MAR 1972 - 28 JAN 1973
Tet 69 Counteroffensive	23 FEB 1969 - 08 JUN 1969	Operation Frequent Wind	29 APR 1975 - 30 APR 1975

One bronze service star device is authorized on the Vietnam Service Medal for service in Vietnam during each campaign period.



Greeting Our Warriors

Bud Owens, Life Member #56, Binh Thuy AB – 66-67

I live in New Hampshire near Portsmouth International Airport (Pease). We have had the privilege of greeting troops who are deploying and returning from overseas assignments. To date we have greeted over 1350 arriving and departing flights at the airport since the program started 13 years ago in April 2005. The captain pictured with me recently was deploying for his 4th tour. He is with a Security Forces unit from Mississippi. The second photo is part of 30 to 40 Colorado Reserve Security Forces from Peterson AFB who recently returned from deployment.



“The Untold Story”

Jack Smith, Life Member #453, 377th SPS – 68-69

In July of 2017 Richard Holstein, one of our VSPA Native Americans, was involved in the making of a documentary video titled “The Untold Story” produced by Tom Orland and Joe Podiesek. It is the story of Native American Veterans coming together to share their stories and to seek healing. “The Untold Story” was nominated for an Emmy. This past December, Richard was invited to attend the 59th Annual Chicago Midwest Emmy Awards held at the Trickster Art Gallery. Richard carried the VSPA flag to the event. Sadly “The Untold Story” did not win. However, Richard says that just being involved with the project and the help it gave to the other Native American Veterans was worth more than the Emmy. He also said that the Native American gatherings are always open to all veterans who seek to find balance and healing by sharing their feelings. Richard makes us all proud.





2017 VSPA Reunion First Time Reunion Attendees



Carl and Julie Essig Jr.

Carl and Julie live in Perkiomenville, PA. Carl served with the 12th SPS at Cam Ranh Bay AB from April 68 to April 1969. While there, he worked security duty on the ocean side of the base. After getting out of the Air Force, he worked in public transportation in Philadelphia for 35 years.



James Garcia

James and his wife live in Apache Junction, AZ. They have 1 daughter and 2 grandchildren. James served with the 56th SPS at Nakhon Phanom AB in 1970-1971, then the 432nd SPS at Udorn AB, and finally with the 635th SPS at U-Tapao AB in 1973. After leaving the Air Force, he went to work for the Motorola Corporation.



John "Goose" Kovatch

John and his wife live in San Antonio, TX. They have 3 daughters and 2 sons. They also have 12 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. John served with the 366th SPS at Da Nang AB in 1966-1967, Cougar Flight Security & Monkey Mountain. John

is retired from the Bexar County Sheriffs Office.



Gary Nelson

Life Member #86, Gary and his wife live in St. Charles, MN. They have 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren. Gary served with the 635th SPS at U-Tapao AB, Thailand. In addition to being stationed at U-Tapao AB, he was assigned to: Minot AFB, ND; Truax Field, Madison, WI; and Volk Field near Camp Douglas, WI. Gary worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife biologist and is now retired.

Edward Questell

Edward and his wife live in Cypress, TX. They have 2 daughters and 1 son (triplets). Edward served with the 377th SPS at Tan Son Nhut AB, 1968-1969 and worked in Tango Towers. After leaving the Air Force, Edward worked for airlines and was a manager at a CVS store.





The 2017 VSPA Reunion has come to a close

Jack Smith, Life Member #453, 377th SPS – 68-69

It was another wonderful time had by all. It was Roberta's and my great pleasure to host Mr. Denis Grant of London, England as our guest this year. Roberta and I first met Denis at the 2013 VSPA reunion in Charleston SC. We had arrived in Charleston 4 days before the VSPA reunion was to start. The 8th Army Air Force World War 2 was just finishing up their reunion. Roberta had some photos of my Uncle, Stewart Horton who was in the 8th AAF. We enjoyed 4 days with them and that is how we met Denis. Denis was a young lad who lived on Rattlesden base where the 477th Bomb group was stationed. His mother washed and ironed the crew's uniforms and Denis would help with the sweeping of spent .50 cal rounds and blood from inside the B-17's. After the war, Denis stayed in contact with many of the crewmembers and he has returned to the United States many times for the 8th AAF reunions.

Just before our reunion in 2013 started in Charleston, SC, Denis became stranded. He could not get back to England for 8 days. He was losing his hotel room and had no place to stay. I approached the VSPA board with Denis's problem. We as a group took Denis in and made him part of our reunion obtaining him a room and adding him to all of our activities. I have since kept in touch with Denis and even spent 3 days with him in Nashville, Tennessee at another 8th AAF reunion.

Many of you met Denis at our reunion for the first time this year. He is a very special person and it was my honor to see him receive an associate membership in our fine group. We take care of our own. I want to thank Jerry and Sherry Nelson who hosted a Texas barbeque before the reunion and for Denis (it was his first ever BBQ) and all the members who welcomed Denis and showed him a great time. A great big thank you to Steve and Lise Gattis who drove Denis to the airport in Austin for his return trip to London. I have spoken to Denis 3 times since the reunion and he is still floating on a cloud with all the memories. He said to tell everyone how much he loves us all.

Jack and Roberta Smith



2017 Reunion Memories

Steve Hall, Life Member #639, Binh Thuy AB – 68-69



2017 Reunion Memories

Continued



2017 Reunion Memories Continued



2017 Reunion Memories Continued



Vietnam Security Police Association
24th Annual Reunion
Tucson, Arizona – October 3-7, 2018
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Home of the 355th SFS
Which was our own 355th SPS at Takhli RTAFB, Thailand

The VSPA reunion will be held at the DESERT DIAMOND CASINO AND HOTEL, 7350 South Nogales Highway, Tucson, Arizona 85756. Phone toll free 1-877-777-4212 or local (520) 342-3012. The contract room rate is \$119 per night, plus tax, AND INCLUDES A FOOD CREDIT of \$10 per person (two per room) PER DAY making the final room rate for two occupants \$99 per night plus tax! The food credit may be used for breakfast, lunch or dinner in the hotel. The rooms include a refrigerator. The room rate is good for three days before and three days after the reunion. Complimentary airport transportation is available between 0700 and 2200 ONLY. Complimentary SELF-parking is available at the hotel. Use the following link to see more information about this beautiful hotel and casino: <https://www.ddcaz.com/tucson/>.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call 1-877-777-4212, ask for Reservations and refer to our Group: **Vietnam Security Police Association.** **Check-in time is 3:00 PM and check-out time is 12:00 noon. The room rate is locked in for us, but there will be a deadline for reservations of September 10, 2018. After that date, rooms will be space available only and AT THE HOTEL'S PREVAILING RATE. Make your reservations early!** If you encounter any difficulty with hotel reservations, reserve the room, obtain the confirmation number and contact the Reunion BRAT at 1-360-663-2521. Explain the problem and she will correct it for you.

AIRPORT INFORMATION: Book your flight to “Tucson International Airport” (**AIRPORT CODE: TUS**).

REUNION REGISTRATION: To be determined and posted at a later date based upon bus contracts and optional events.

AGENDA: The agenda is generally accurate, but is subject to change due to base operational requirements for the 355th Security Forces Squadron and their Op Tempo for a base visit:

- Reception dinner buffet, Wednesday evening, October 3rd
- Thursday, October 4th: Graveside memorial service for Millard Lehman, KIA Binh Thuy Air Base, RVN, and brief base tour. Lunch. Evening open.
- Friday, October 5th: OPTIONAL TOUR of PIMA Air and Space Museum and the Boneyard. Lunch at the museum. Evening open.
- Saturday morning, October 6th: VSPA Business Meeting. Afternoon open.
- Saturday morning, October 6th: VSPA Sisterhood gathering of wives and companions. Afternoon open.
- Saturday evening, October 6th: Banquet dinner with guest speaker, awards and raffle.
- Sunday morning, October 7th: Memorial service – reading of the names. End of reunion.
- Hospitality Room stocked with FREE snacks & beverages will be open as much as possible.

- VSPA BX Store will be open as much as possible.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Two different couples from the VSPA have inspected this hotel. They have attended several reunions and are very familiar with our reunion requirements, including those for the Sisterhood. They met with the Reunion BRAT and the special event staff at the hotel/casino to ask extensive questions prior to agreeing to this contract. All of the questions were based upon comments and concerns from members who attended our last reunion. After two different inspections, the inspection teams feel that the Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel will be an outstanding venue for our reunion. The food is excellent, the rooms are very nice, and the areas for the BX and Hospitality Room are both easily accessible for all members while also providing enough space for our members.

Members who attended our last reunion also expressed concern regarding fatigue and the extended day while on base. Therefore, our planning for events will reduce the time on base Thursday, and offer an optional tour of the Pima Air & Space Museum and the Boneyard on Friday. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for a reunion with less physical demands and more time to visit with each other.

Due to time concerns and gaming laws, we will not be selling raffle tickets during the awards banquet. However, the raffle is vital to paying for all of the beverages and snacks in our Hospitality Room. Raffle tickets will be sold in the Hospitality Room and the BX and, thereby, reduce the time required for our banquet, allowing us to adjourn earlier.

If you have a question or need some more info about this reunion, please contact VSPA President Greg Cain gjcain@roadrunner.com or VSPA Sisterhood President Sheila Cain smgervase@yahoo.com or, call them at (716) 771-1157. We hope to see you in TUCSON for our 24th Annual VSPA Reunion!

“We Take Care of Our Own!”

OUR HOSTS:

355th Security Forces Squadron
Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, AZ

355th Security Police Squadron
Takhli RTAFB, Thailand



2018 ELECTION OF VSPA OFFICERS CALL FOR BIOS AND PHOTOS

The VSPA's By-Laws call for elections of officers every two years, with all current members being given an opportunity to vote. Current members may vote in person by attending the business meeting at the annual reunion, or by mailing in a written ballot, which will be printed in the next issue of Guardmount. Each member may submit only one ballot.

There are six positions up for election: President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian. The other positions on our board of directors (President Emeritus, Past President and Communications Director) are permanent positions as recognized by our Constitution and By-Laws. All other positions in the VSPA are staff positions appointed by the president and board based upon expertise and willingness to serve the members of the VSPA. Elected officers will be confirmed and installed after the voting is completed at the reunion in October. The term of office of all positions is two years. The positions do not receive a salary and are entirely on a volunteer basis.

VSPA members have until **August 1, 2018** to declare their intention to run for an elected VSPA position and must submit a bio and photo for publication in Guardmount. Each person who runs must have been a regular member or life member in good standing for at least two years prior to the election. Board members must have the ability to attend future business meetings that are held at our annual reunions. They must communicate via the Internet and by phone on a regular basis, and must make the commitment to provide the time necessary to serve in the position - none of these are ceremonial positions.

If you want to run for an office on the VSPA Board of Directors, you'll need to submit a photo and one-page biography. Send your materials to VSPA's Guardmount Editor, Mike Kennedy, electronically (mike3sps@verizon.net) or by surface mail (14766 Foxfield Lane, Fontana, CA 92336) soon enough so that he receives your information by **August 1, 2018**. These materials and a ballot will be made available in the next issue of Guardmount (or mailed to those who do not have a computer and are current VSPA members) in time to allow everybody to chose their favorite candidates and submit votes.

The duties of the elected board positions below are from the VSPA By-Laws:

PRESIDENT - The duties of the President shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Act as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- B. Cause to be called all regular and special meetings of the organization.
- C. Preside over all regular and special meetings of the organization.
- D. Enforce the Constitution and By-Laws.
- E. Direct and supervise the operation of the organization.
- F. Prepare and present the Board of Directors Annual Report at the annual business meeting.
- G. Coordinate the confirmation of all appointed staff members with the Board of Directors.
- H. Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care and turn over the folder to his successor.
- I. Be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the "Nominations Committee."

VICE PRESIDENT and SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - The duties of the Vice President and the Second Vice President shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Assist the President in the discharge of his duties.
- B. Assume the duties of the President in the event of his absence, illness, or call to eternal Guardmount.
- C. Execute the powers and authority of the President, when required, in the absence of the President.
- D. Serve as elected members of the Board of Directors.
- E. Serve as Chairman and member of the Public Relations Committee if a committee is necessary.
- F. Serve as a member of the Scholarship Committee.
- G. Prepare and present annual reports relative to the operation of their respective office at the annual business meeting.
- H. Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to their care and turn over the folder to his successor.
- I. The Second Vice President shall provide oversight for all record keeping activities and assist the President by maintaining hard copy records when necessary.

SECRETARY - The duties of the Secretary shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Officiate when required in the absence of the President and Vice President.
- B. Serve as an elected member of the Board of Directors.
- C. Serve as a member of the Membership Committee.
- D. Be the clerk of the organization.
- E. Be the custodian of all business-related non-financial records and materials, with the exception of: those records which are created and maintained by the VSPA Historian, the VSPA Membership Chairman, the VSPA Treasurer and VSPA Communications Director Don L. Poss; or those records which are required for performance of the duties of the registered agent and liaison with VSPA's tax accountant and tax attorney. All such records shall remain property of the organization.
- F. Take minutes and keep permanent records of the proceedings of all annual Business Meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors.
- G. Prepare and distribute election ballots, if necessary and as required.
- H. Ensure that only members in good standing vote on organizational business. The Secretary will be assisted by the Membership Chairman and the Sergeant-at-Arms.
- I. Serve as official organization correspondent.
- J. Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care and turn over the folder to his successor.

TREASURER - The duties of the Treasurer shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Serve as an elected member of the Board of Directors.

- B. Act as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee if the committee is necessary.
- C. Be the Chief Financial Officer of the organization.
- D. Be the custodian of all financial records of the organization.
- E. Receive and be responsible for the collection of all monies due and payable to the organization.
- F. Have custody of all organization funds, and shall provide for the safekeeping, retention, disbursement, and investment in a manner acceptable to the Board of Directors.
- G. Receive donations on behalf of the organization.
- H. Issue letters in acknowledgement of all donations as required by tax codes.
- I. To work with the President to make such reports and returns as are required by Federal, State and local governments, the Articles of Incorporation, the Constitution, and these By-Laws, including the disbursement of appropriate taxes and fees.
- J. Maintain accounts appropriate to the structure and activities of the organization and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and principles.
- K. Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care and turn over the folder to his successor.

HISTORIAN - The duties of the Historian shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Serve as an elected member of the Board of Directors.
- B. Serve as Chairman of the Historical Committee if a committee is necessary.
- C. Prepare and present a report at the annual business meeting regarding the history projects completed during the preceding year.
- D. Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care and turn over the folder to his successor.

Honoring Vietnam Veterans

Retired Senior Master Sergeant Pete Piazza was the featured guest speaker at a special event at the Tinker Main Exchange Mar. 29 to honor Vietnam veterans. The Army and Air Force Exchange Services partnered with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration to mark the war’s 50th anniversary and to give the pins to the veterans as a way to say, “thank you.” The commemorative pins are still available at the Customer Service desk at the Tinker Main Exchange for any Vietnam-era veteran who served between Nov. 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975.



Reprinted from The Tinker Take Off, the official newspaper for Tinker AFB.

Just for fun



What is it?

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PERSON?

Have you seen this person? Security Forces units at bases across the country have reported contacts with a suspicious person at military installations. According to the reports, the subject has penetrated and/or attempted to penetrate military installations to “relive” memories from the past.

A number of sources have provided body camera and surveillance photos of the subject at military installations when Security Forces personnel challenged him. The subject has been challenged by regular uniformed Security Forces personnel and even a few undercover operatives.

The subject is usually wearing a baseball cap and dressed in an old fatigue shirt and shorts. However, there are reports that he has even been seen wearing an old 60's era Air Police uniform.

While the subject exhibits some authority issues, he does not appear to be a danger. He instead just appears to be a dedicated old veteran looking to have some fun and celebrate his service.

ALERT
USAF SECURITY FORCES

PERSON OF INTEREST

Subject has been encountered by Security Forces personnel at several military installations under questionable circumstances. The encounters typically occur during the month of October each year. Subject is a practical joker and appears to have a problem with authority. Approach with caution.

Jack "The Old Cowboy" Smith

The poster features two mugshot-style photos of the subject: one wearing a baseball cap and another in profile. Below the photos is a grid of 12 fingerprint impressions.



Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc. (USAF) JJ CHESTNUT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

(<http://www.vspa.com/t-rip-chestnut-1998.htm>)

Jim Lebowitz, Life Member #241, Bien Hoa AB – 66-68

The VSPA (USAF) has established a scholarship fund in memory of J.J. “Jacob” Chestnut. J.J. was a career USAF Security Policeman and served two tours in the Republic of Vietnam, with the 12th Combat Security Police and the 633d Combat Security Police. After completion of his military career, J.J. Chestnut became a member of the U. S. Capital Police. In 1998, during an attack, which shocked the nation, J.J. Chestnut was killed in the line of duty defending the U.S. Capital Building against a deranged individual attempting to gain access to sensitive areas. J.J. Chestnut is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

All VSPA members, spouses, children, grandchildren, stepchildren/step-grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are eligible to compete for this scholarship. Normally one \$1,000.00 award is given annually. The award will be granted to those seeking education beyond the high school level and may include trade schools, community colleges, junior colleges or four-year college or university and graduate degrees.

The deadline for submission of scholarship applications is the first day of October each year. The basis for the award will be recommendation(s), Grade Point Average (GPA) and the applicant’s response to one of the below listed questions.

VSPA members may request applications on behalf of applicants via the public bulletin board on the VSPA Web Site, email, or telephone. Applications may also be requested by survivors of a deceased VSPA Member.

Please complete the biographical data and recommendation. On a separate piece of paper, please respond to one of the following questions, in 500 words or less:

1. In what instances, if any, do you feel that the United States is justified in taking military action?

Or

2. Many people feel the military today is alienated from the general population. How can such alienation be eliminated or prevented?

Submit the completed application via e-mail to jlz9107@earthlink.net or regular mail to:

Jim Lebowitz
2144 Ronda Granada
Unit G
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

Vietnam Security POLICE ASSOCIATION, INC. (USAF) JJ Chestnut Memorial Scholarship Application

APPLICANT'S BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Name of VSPA member: _____

Relationship: _____

Name and address of school currently attending or last attended:

Current degree/education level: _____

Name and address of school currently or planning on attending:

Grade point average: _____

- Note:** 1. Please attach a copy of your most current transcripts.
2. Recommendation of school official, principal, university administrator, department chair, or guidance counselor.

Name of applicant: _____

Comments concerning applicant's qualifications and potential:

Signature/Title of person making recommendation

Date

A MESSAGE FROM JANET MATTHEWS, CHAIR OF THE WARRIORS MEDAL OF VALOR COMMITTEE, TO THE 2017 RECIPIENTS OF THE WARRIORS MEDAL OF VALOR:

Congratulations to the 2017 recipients of the Warriors Medal of Valor. Sarge would be proud to have you included in this special group. For the new members of the VSPA, be assured that Sarge would seek you out just so he could say, "Welcome Home, Welcome to the VSPA." Not all of you had the chance to meet Sarge, though I hope you have heard about him. Alvin W. Matthews, MSgt, USAF retired, served in the 483rd Security Police Squadron at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam from January 1971 to January 1972. He was an instructor at the Security Police Academy before he retired from the Air Force in 1980. He found the VSPA on the Internet and like many of you, he kind of watched from a distance before deciding to join or attend a reunion. It is an honor to say that he is Life Member #127. Sarge posted his last Guardmount on January 4, 2008, his 66th birthday. His resting place is plot number 111 at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Scottsboro, Alabama, a plot he specifically selected to honor his Brothers. We have some wonderful memories of our Sarge. I am so glad that he found the VSPA. He loved this association, he loved his Brothers, and I know he is proud of the continued commitment and growth. He would definitely tear up at the thought that you continue his dream of honoring his VSPA Brothers with this medal.

The Warriors Medal of Valor Request for Nominations

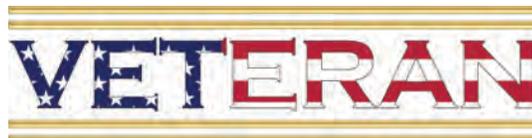
Sarge and the Nominations Committee established the following criteria for consideration: The nominee must be a member in good standing of the VSPA plus any one or combination of the following:

- a. Valor (recognized or unrecognized by the Air Force) for service as an Air Policeman, Security Policeman or Augmentee in Vietnam or Thailand.
- b. Outstanding service to the members of the Vietnam Security Police Association.
- c. Outstanding service to the military and/or Veterans.



You may submit the nomination by including his name and your justification for why this member deserves the medal. Please include as many **details** on his service as you can. Nominations must be submitted to me at the following email address: janetmm62@gmail.com no later than **August 1, 2018**. The Warriors Medal selection committee must have time to review the nominations, make the selections, engrave the medals and prepare the certificates. The medals and certificates will be presented at the VSPA Reunion Banquet in October. Thank you for your service and WELCOME HOME!

Janet Matthews, Daughter of VSPA Life Member #127





**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
23rd ANNUAL VSPA REUNION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017**



1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 0905 hours by President Greg Cain
 - 1a. **LEOSA – A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY APRIL HAMILTON.** The presentation was moved to the beginning of our meeting so that Ms. Hamilton could leave and not sit through the lengthy VSPA Annual Business Meeting. The presentation addressed the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, the rules and regulations, the application process and the qualifications required. Ms. Hamilton provided the web site address of LEOSAonline.com and provided her phone number for anyone who might have questions about the application process. Her phone number is 210-925-5065. Applicants may combine civilian and military law enforcement experience to meet the ten-year requirement for experience. All experience must have included apprehension authority. Fingerprints, if submitted, are \$18 and will take about three months to process. LIVESCAN print transmission is \$45 and will be processed the moment they are received. The fee for the LEOSA identification and authorization is \$160 and will be valid for five years. They are working to make the authorization indefinite. If an applicant fails to qualify, the \$160 application fee will be refunded.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR DEPARTED BROTHERS INCLUDING:**
 - A. The 111 Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand.
 - B. All VSPA members listed at Life Member #111, which was established as a tribute to those who did not survive the war, and those members of the VSPA who died as members in good standing.
3. **INVOCATION** – Chaplain Jim Stastny
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – VSPA Historian Steve Shelt
5. **INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICERS** by name, squadron and place of residence:
 - Greg Cain, President; LM #62; West Seneca, NY; Binh Thuy 1967-68.
 - Hector Ramos, Vice President; UNABLE TO ATTEND – FAMILY ISSUES.
 - Bill Marshall, Second Vice President; UNABLE TO ATTEND – DEATH OF SISTER.
 - Jerry Nelson, Secretary; LM #668; San Antonio, TX; Safeside Phu Cat 821CSPS, Phan Rang 821CSPS, Tuy Hoa 821CSPS, 69-70
 - Richard Garcia, Treasurer; LM #82; Massapequa, NY; Phan Rang, 1969-70.
 - Steve Shelt, Historian; LM #157; Evans, Georgia; Pleiku 67-68
 - Don Poss, Communications Director; LM #37; Hemet, CA; Da Nang K-9 1965-66.
 - William Piazza, Past President; LM #141; Del City, OK, Cam Ranh Bay 66, Bien Hoa 67-68, Phu Cat 70-71.
 - Steve Gattis, President Emeritus; LM #49; Glen Rose, TX; Cam Ranh Bay, 1968-69.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM BY PRESIDENT CAIN WITH SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of the previous annual business meeting. Rather than taking the time to read them during this meeting, we published the minutes in Guardmount. Motion to approve by Van Digby; 2nd by Mike DeTucio. Approved.

7. **REPORTS BY THE PRESIDENT, BOARD MEMBERS, APPOINTED STAFF AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

7.1 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT** – By President Greg Cain. A Board of Directors meeting was held at 0730 hours, this date. We discussed items of concern to the Board and have included applicable items under **NEW BUSINESS**.

7.2 **GUARDMOUNT REPORT** – By Steve Gattis. Steve expressed the appreciation of our new Guardmount Editor, Mike Kennedy, who was unable to attend, for everyone who submitted stories and articles for Guardmount. Erlyce and Steve will continue as Assistant Editors to Mike Kennedy who served in the 3rd SPS at Bien Hoa. Erlyce will continue handling her administrative duties with the coordination of printing and all mailing. She will also receive all returned copies of Guardmount. If you do not have a computer, PLEASE UPDATE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS.

Don Poss stated that if someone has a cell phone but does not have a computer, they can still access Guardmount via their cell phone, thereby saving publication and mailing cost for the VSPA.

As in the past, we will always mail a hardcopy of Guardmount to those who have written something that was published in Guardmount. Steve asked the members to continue sending stories, photos and articles for publication in Guardmount because it is their opportunity to preserve a piece of their history. Motion to Approve by Jack Smith; 2nd by Bob Hegele. Approved.

7.3 **TREASURER'S REPORT** – By Richard Garcia. Report attached to the file copy of the minutes. Amount in checking account: \$9,030.71. Amount in savings account \$60,551.76.

Motion to Approve by: Tony Morris; 2nd by: Mike DeTucio. Approved.

DONATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

7a. **HURRICANES AND OTHER DISASTERS AFFECTING VSPA MEMBERS OR ACTIVE DUTY SECURITY FORCES PERSONNEL.** We received no reports of catastrophic damage to homes or individuals. Jerry Nelson contacted BG Coleman regarding the Security Forces Foundation. They supported one active duty airman who was affected by the hurricanes. The base Security Forces squadron also supported the airman. No further assistance was needed. One VSPA member offered \$1,000 to assist any member in need in South Texas. Charitable entities who assist during hurricanes like the Red Cross, have drawn negative comments from our members regarding the very high salaries paid to their executives. Prior to the reunion, Hector Ramos suggested making a donation to some entity to help hurricane victims.

- 7b.** VSPA Service Officer Jaime Lleras and Treasurer Richard Garcia have been appointed to help develop information on Rubicon Industries, an entity that enables Veterans to help Veterans during a disaster, as well as the American Legion Disaster Fund.
- 7c.** Donation to 50th Anniversary of Tet at Lackland in January: Leftover hospitality room product will be donated to the Security Forces Academy to assist with their hospitality room for the event January 30/31, 2018. We will pass-the-hat for donations during our Awards Banquet to assist the Security Forces Academy in their effort to honor those we lost during Tet as they host the 50th Anniversary of Tet. (NOTE: \$900 was raised and presented to the Academy staff present at the banquet).
- 7d.** VSPA member Sam Williams and his employer have each donated \$500 three years in a row (total of \$3,000) to hopefully assist a VSPA member in financial need so that they can attend a reunion. He is asking that members confidentially identify those in financial need who might benefit from this fund. Please contact any member of the Board to provide information. Treasurer Richard Garcia will chair this committee and a mass email will be sent by Communications Director, Don Poss.

7.4 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – By Paul Shave. Report attached to the file copy of the minutes. Total number of VSPA members 1278, including 948 Life Members who have paid their dues for life. He thanked members for their donations of \$15 to support members who cannot afford to pay their dues.

Motion to Approve by Mike DeTucio; 2nd by Dennis Evans - Approved.

7.5 BX SALES REPORT – By Van Digby. Van spoke about the items in the inventory, including the new VSPA AGENT ORANGE pin, the VSPA History Book, several challenge coins, including the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Coins. The cookbook by the VSPA Sisterhood is a fundraiser for the association. The cookbook is \$15 at the reunion and will make a great Christmas gift. After the reunion, the cookbook will be available in the BX for \$20, including shipping. Motion to Approve by Mike DeTuccio; 2nd by Ken Neal. Approved.

7.6 WEB SITE REPORT – By Don Poss, Communications Director. Don updated the members on his recovery from eye surgeries. He has several planned projects, including a major review of photos, articles and stories on the Tet 68 attack at Bien Hoa. He has several other projects in the mill and is looking forward to completing them, including several graphic representations of our history. Don also reminded member to follow the Rules of Use for the VSPA Bulletin Board. His report is attached to the minutes.

Steve Gattis added the following to the web site report, reminding all present that our status as a Tax Exempt Military Organization of War Veterans requires that we follow IRS Rules and Regulations regarding the prohibition of political activity in support of or against specific candidates for office. The VSPA does not pay income tax and all donations to the VSPA are tax-exempt for donors. Our exempt status is the equivalent of the government and the public paying us to conduct our business on behalf of our membership. We cannot receive the benefit of tax exemption if we engage in political activity as an organization. Therefore, the VSPA and other organizations like the VVA cannot advocate for or against candidates for political office, especially during highly contested elections. The VSPA must demonstrate compliance by removing political comments from our bulletin boards when members attempt

to organize votes or begin speaking for or against candidates. Members are free to engage in whatever political activity they desire as long as it is not in conjunction with the VSPA and our tax exempt activities which include the web site, the bulletin boards and the VSPA private group on Facebook. Motion to Approve by Sam Pyle; 2nd by Jim Lebowitz. Approved.

7.7 HISTORIAN'S REPORT – By Steve Shelt. Steve presented information on a future project to transfer VHS tapes to DVD format for our archives.

Motion to Approve by Jack Smith; 2nd by Ken Neal. Approved

7.8 SECURITY FORCES MUSEUM UPDATE – By Ken Neal, VSPA Liaison to the Security Forces Museum and Member of the SF Museum Foundation.

Ken presented information regarding the Museum Foundations efforts to upgrade displays in various area of the museum, i.e., upgraded display in the Southeast area, new K-9 kennel display being built upstairs, transportation area and a new Raven display. The Foundation is also funding new display cases to upgrade display cases throughout the museum. Additionally, new improvements/artwork in the Hall of Honor and updated artwork in museum entrance was completed. There were 41 updates for decorations for the Hall of Honor. Plans are being completed for the 50th Tet Anniversary for Jan 2018.

Motion to Approve by Bob West; 2nd by Mike DeTuccio. Approved.

7.9 KENNEL MASTER – By Kennel Master Jim Stastny:

As kennel master I have nine months of light activity where I simply contact, from time to time, various canine handlers. Then, for three months, I spend a lot of time preparing for the reunion and the kennel tour.

One of the things I arrange is a luncheon with the Squadron handlers and kennel personnel. I will assess and collect the cost for the luncheon and transportation. (This year we rented two 15 passenger vans, some years we carpool). I will then contact the KM, and send him money. Then he or one of his subordinates will procure the food. We will then go out and have a nice time with the handlers of today. At the luncheon will like to give the handlers gifts. Every year we give them challenge coins. This year we added something new. We found out that they like those mini, Security Forces shields. So, this year we purchased one for everyone at the Kennels and passed them out.

When we are at the Kennels the handlers will often put on a demo for us. Those of us who are veteran handlers, who want, can put on the attack sleeve, or attack suit and play with the puppies. It's always an adrenaline rush. Jerry Nelson says, next year at Tucson, he will put on a suit and let a dog attack him.

Another thing I do is arrange to have kennel personnel and their significant others at the VSPA banquet. (I have to tell you how proud I am of my handlers. Those dinners cost us \$65, each. My handlers are so excited about having the K9 personnel dine with us that they don't blink an eye, and willingly donate funds).

One, in recognition of his work and help at the Kennels and squadron the K9 training area has been renamed the Ken Neal training area.

Two, when the canine memorial was built, the night before the 12 foot foundation was poured, handlers took the ashes of Deceased K9 partners and put the ashes in the bottom of the foundation pit. Now the canine memorial rests upon the ashes of dogs who have gone before.

K9 walks alone, where others fear to go.

Motion to Approve by Jim Garcia; 2nd by Ed Questell. Approved.

OLD DAWGS & PUPS REPORT – By Bill Cummings. Since 2005, VSPA members have donated \$27,935 to the program. The Old Dawgs and Pups Program has sent over \$154,539 in equipment, including toilet paper, dog beds, rectal thermometers, light bulbs and dog supplies to support handlers, dogs and kennels down range. The total amount of support sent down range includes a cumulative donation of over \$75,000 in equipment donated by the Leatherman Knife Company.

Motion to Approve by Bruce Curtis; 2nd by Bill Wigginton. Approved.

7.10 SAFESIDE LIAISON REPORT – By Safeside Liaison David Pierson:

The next Safeside reunion will be at Moody AFB, Georgia the week of November 10, 2017. Dave reported that the Safeside Association had completely funded the Safeside Memorial Bench through donations from VSPA members, Safeside members and active duty personnel in the Safeside squadrons. The plans have been approved by the Air Force, the Air Force Security Forces Association (AFSPA) and the Air Force Museum for the placement of the memorial bench across from the VSPA bench at the Defender Memorial located at the Air Force Museum. The dedication ceremony will be held in July 11, 2018.

Motion to Approve by Ken Neal; 2nd by Dennis Evans. Approved.

7.11 SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT – By Jaime Lleras. Information was presented on LIVER FLUKES and related medical problems being experienced by those who ate fish in Vietnam and Thailand. Jamie also discussed VA benefits for early-onset Peripheral Neuropathy and research on Peripheral Neuropathy and herbicides. He also presented information regarding the VA appeals process and using lawyers in the appeals process. President Greg Cain presented information regarding Agent Orange and pending legislation.

Motion to Approve by Ken Neal; 2nd by Bud Owens. Approved.

7.12 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – By Jim Lebowitz. Eight applications were mailed to applicants; however, there were no responses to the applications. Please encourage your children, grand children and great grandchildren to apply. The \$1,000 Annual J.J. Chestnut Memorial Scholarship was not awarded this year due to lack of response. Motion to Approve by Mike DeTuccio; 2nd by Dave Pierson. Approved.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 REUNION SITE SELECTION FOR 2019:

- a. Sites are selected two years in advance so that planning by the VSPA and the host Security Forces Squadron can begin early and they have the time necessary to adapt to active-duty operational requirements. Lackland AFB, Texas was selected in 2015 as the site for the 2017 reunion. Peterson AFB, Colorado was selected as the backup location in case the Security Forces Squadrons at Lackland AFB could not host our reunion due to the impact of other operations and deployments.
- b. **The 2018 reunion site was selected in 2016 and will be held at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona October 3 thru 7, 2018. The alternate site is Luke AFB, Phoenix, Arizona.**
- c. As in the past, the 2019 reunion will be held in October, the Wednesday through Sunday before the Columbus Day holiday (which is always the second Monday in October). **The dates are October 9 – 13, 2019.** The site selection process will be conducted by VSPA President Greg Cain and Secretary Jerry Nelson and Historian Steve Shelt.
- d. President Greg Cain explained past reunions and the bylaw requirement to choose by alternating regions in the CONUS: WEST, CENTRAL and EAST and **THAT WE MUST CHOOSE A LOCATION IN THE EASTERN CONUS FOR 2019.**

USAF ACTIVE DUTY BASES IN THE EASTERN CONUS ARE - (The dates of previous reunions held at a base are shown in parenthesis):

**Hanscom AFB, MA
JB McGuire-Dix, NJ
Wright-Patterson, OH (2002, 2011)
Dover AFB, Delaware
JB Langley-Eustis, VA (2001)
JB Andrews, D.C. (2007) (Bolling 1998)
Arnold AFB, TN
Seymour Johnson, NC
Shaw AFB, SC
JB Charleston, SC (2013)
Moody AFB, GA (2005)
Robins AFB, GA
Maxwell/Gunter AFB, AL
Keesler AFB, MS
Columbus AFB, MS
Tyndall AFB, FL
Eglin/Hurlbert AFB, FL (2012) (1997 Pensacola)
Patrick AFB, FL
MacDill AFB, FL (2016)**

BASES NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO LOCATION OR WEATHER

Pope Field, North Carolina

PAST REUNION SITE INFORMATION FOR REFERENCE ONLY:

- Atlanta, Georgia 1995 East
- San Antonio, Texas 1996 Central
- Pensacola, Florida 1997 East
- Washington D.C. 1998 East
- Las Vegas, Nevada 1999 West
- San Antonio, Texas 2000 Central
- Hampton, Virginia 2001 East
- Dayton, Ohio 2002 Central
- San Antonio, Texas 2003 Central
- Tucson, Arizona 2004 West
- Valdosta, Georgia 2005 East
- Las Vegas, Nevada 2006 West
- Washington D.C. 2007 East
- Albuquerque, NM 2008 West/Central
- Phoenix, Arizona 2009 West
- San Antonio, Texas 2010 Central
- Dayton, Ohio 2011 Central
- Destin, Florida 2012 East
- Charleston, SC 2013 East
- Shreveport, LA 2014 Central
- Las Vegas, NV 2015 West
- Tampa, Florida 2016 East
- San Antonio, Texas 2017 Central
- Tucson, Arizona 2018 West

e. Presentations and voting process – Explained by VSPA President Greg Cain

- 1. Primary Site for 2019 is JB Andrews, Maryland and Washington, D.C.**
- 2. Secondary Site for 2019 is Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio**

8.2 ELECTION OF OFFICERS – THE NEXT ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN 2018 at the 2018 Reunion in Tucson, Arizona.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS – These are non-voting, non-dues paying honorary memberships in the VSPA in recognition of specific service to the VSPA. Since 1995, we have awarded 13 honorary, non-voting, non-dues paying memberships in the VSPA. We have always considered them a very high honor. As you know, Mom Lehman, Erlyce and Myron Pekas, Larry Poss, Tim Waage, Scott Foley and Kim Bayes-Bautista are Associate Members who attend our reunions. Your Board has voted to recommend two more to receive this honor for their selfless commitment to the VSPA and for being a living example of our motto: “We take care of our own”.

DENIS GRANT has lived our motto by providing gifts for our raffles and by photographing bases and cemeteries in England for our members who have relatives who served in England during World War II.

JERI GLASS has been our on-site reunion hostess for several years, beginning in 2001 and continuing for the last several years after Associate Member Kim Bayes-Bautista retired to pursue her doctorate degree. Jeri was given this award as an individual who has devoted countless hours to our members as she serves Tuesday through Sunday at our reunions, always arriving early and leaving late after the reunions have concluded.

Motion to Approve by Bill Cummings; 2nd by Bill Wigginton. Approved.

9a. REUNION HOTEL ISSUES: Complaints received by President Greg Cain. Numerous complaints have been received regarding issues with the hotel, access to the BX and Hospitality Rooms, and running out of food at the Reception Dinner so that one table received their food late after others had finished.

10. AFFIRMATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The following is a legal requirement as a Tax Exempt entity and a major requirement for banking purposes with the authorization to sign checks for the Association during the coming year.

10.1 THE OFFICERS ARE:

- President Gregory J. Cain (authorized to sign checks)
- Vice President Hector Ramos (authorized to sign checks)
- Treasurer Richard Garcia (authorized to sign checks)
- Second Vice President Bill Marshall
- Secretary Jerry Nelson
- Historian Steve Shelt
- Past President William “Pete” Piazza
- President Emeritus Steve Gattis
- Communications Director Don L. Poss

10.2 AFFIRMATION OF APPOINTED POSITIONS – By VSPA President Greg Cain. The existing appointed positions are hereby re-appointed for the next year, subject to future changes per the Constitution & By-Laws.

11. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

11.1 Steve Gattis led a discussion on Agent Orange related prostate cancer. The discussion included comments by several members regarding their claims and various available treatments to consider after being diagnosed with Agent Orange related prostate cancer.

12. EVENTS BEING HELD WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS:

12.1 Safeside Reunion at Moody AFB, Georgia the week of November 4, 2017.

12.2 Safeside Memorial Bench Dedication at the Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio the week of July 11, 2018.

13. REMINDERS

- 13.1 The Awards banquet on this evening will begin with a with a no-host bar at 1700, posting of the colors at 1800, followed by dinner, guest speaker, awards and raffles.
- 13.2 Reminder that a Worship Service will be conducted at 0800 Sunday by Chaplain Jim Stastny.
- 13.3 Reminder that our annual Memorial for our 111 begins at 0900 Sunday. The names of all Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand will be read at that time.

14. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 14.1 REMINDER: There will be a collection during the banquet dinner for the Security Forces Academy to assist them with the 50th Anniversary of Tet that will be held at Lackland. We have all been invited to attend the ceremonies on January 30/31, 2018.
- 14.2 The Air Force Security Forces Association is accepting bios, photos and stories for their 3rd history book. All VSPA members and AFSFA members are eligible to submit. They would like to pre-sell as many books as possible.

15. CLOSING OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AT 1202 hours.

Motion to Approve by Art Cook. 2nd by Ed Questell. Approved.

MINUTES BY:

APPROVED BY:

Jerry Nelson, Secretary

Greg Cain, President



**377th SPS L/E
Tan Son Nhut AB
Dinner**
Jack Smith, 377th SPS

I am setting up a 377th Dinner at the VSPA Reunion. I have contacted a few places. I might just have the right place for us. I will keep every one up to date. If you are going to Tucson for the reunion in Oct, I would like to get your name on my list. A few of you have contacted me but I know there are more out there, so let me know.

Save the Date: Bien Hoa AB Veterans Reunion

San Antonio, Texas
September 11-14, 2019
Holiday Inn Northwest, SeaWorld

Room rate \$119, includes a breakfast buffet. Room choice of 1 King or 2 Queen beds. The hotel will begin booking rooms in September 2018.

Contact: Rick Martinchalk
133 Blue Grouse Drive
Canon City, CO 81212
719-285-8724 (h) - 719-371-4845 (c)

We Are Here For You!

By Roberta Smith,
Sisterhood Chaplain



I am Roberta Smith, Sisterhood Chaplain. I began this job in 2009. Since assuming this position, I have started a project to send condolence and get well cards to VSPA and Sisterhood members. I also send birthday cards to the Sisterhood. Our sister Nancy Young and I also started creating special gifts for those in the Sisterhood who have had or are currently suffering from cancer. Nancy pays for the yarn and I make the special gift scarves that we send to those brave individuals as an expression of our support. If anyone in Sisterhood has been diagnosed with cancer, let me know who they are and what type of cancer, if known. We will take it from there.

I am listed on Facebook as Roberta Jackie Smith and I also started the VSPA Facebook group and I am the group administrator. I have created a "Birthday" list and post Happy Birthday messages to VSPA and Sisterhood members on their "Special Day." Recently, I also started a new "Anniversary" list to recognize our brothers and sisters of this special occasion. If anyone would like to be added to the "Anniversary" or "Birthday" lists, you can post a request on the VSPA Facebook page.

It would also be a great help if everyone would make sure that VSPA and the Sisterhood have their correct mailing address, email and phone numbers. We often find the information on file with VSPA and the Sisterhood has not been updated when changes occur. It is very important that the organization has correct contact information so that it can keep members informed and provide needed services.

I enjoy very much being a part of the Sisterhood. ***We are the ones who take care of those who take care of their own.***

This is for all my brothers from Vietnam who still have these long sleepless nights.



Still Walking the Perimeter

*An old Sky Cop am I
Checking windows door locks letting out a sigh
Years of sleepless nights take their toll
I search deep down into my soul
This old body now weak and frail
Why do I endure this senseless hell
Wondering are there others or just me alone
Living out memories long ago sown
Still walking the perimeter
Suffering these endless bouts with fright
I dread most of all the dark of night
Peering out the window at the dark road
Again I am in security mode
Long long years now back home
The feeling of insecurity never gone
How many others who suffer as I
Always standing guard with a watchful eye
Still walking the perimeter
An old Sky Cop am I*

*Edwin Jack Smith
The Old Cowboy
© Sept 2007*

NOTE: All Officers and Staff are unpaid VSPA members who volunteer to serve their brothers in the association. Officers were elected in 2016 for a two-year term. Staff members were appointed to assist and advise the officers of the association as needed. Elections will be held this year in Tucson, Arizona.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Greg Cain; Binh Thuy 67-68; gjcain@roadrunner.com; 716-771-1157

Vice President: Hector Ramos; Binh Thuy 69-70; hramos926@verizon.net; 732-713-3466

2nd Vice President: Bill Marshall; Phu Cat 68-69; billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com; 614-623-3568

Secretary: Jerry Nelson; Safeside Phan Rang, Phu Cat, Tuy Hoa 69-70; jrmel1423@aol.com; 210-273-4777

Treasurer: Richard Garcia; Phan Rang 69-70; cal400@optonline.net; 516-799-9205

Historian: Steve Shelt; Phu Cat & Pleiku 67-68; sshelt1102@gmail.com; 706-231-5056

Communications Director: Don Poss; Da Nang 65-66; Blackie 129X; DonPossLM37@vspa.com; 951-325-7244

Past President: William "Pete" Piazza; Cam Ranh Bay 66, Bien Hoa 67-68, Phu Cat 70-71; WPIAZZA@aol.com; 405-670-3101 or 405-921-8900

President Emeritus: Steve Gattis; Cam Ranh Bay 68-69; SGattis-LM49@vspa.com; 254-898-2647

APPOINTED STAFF:

Membership Chairman: Paul Shave; Binh Thuy 68-69; Paul_Shave@hotmail.com; 505-831-9401

K-9 Kennel Master: Jim Stastny; Korat 70-71; Boots 645M; jimstastny@verizon.net; 301-482-2659

Sergeant-At-Arms: Keith Young; Binh Thuy, Phu Cat 70-71; kcy9540@aol.com; 716-549-0715

Service Officer: Jaime Lleras; Binh Thuy 1970; chieffal9@gmail.com; 301-848-3399

BX Store Managers: Van and Joyce Digby, assisted by daughter and son-in-law Kim & Brent Budzinski — MAIL ORDER available by phone 989-667-9117 or email: jad403@att.net or vad403@att.net (** Please note these are new email addresses for Van and Joyce **)

Chaplain: Steve Janke; Cam Ranh Bay 69-70; Kobuc X448; Jank953208@aol.com; 201-507-9038

Chaplain: Jim Stastny; Korat 70-71; Boots 645M; jimstastny@verizon.net; 301-482-2659

Chaplain: Bill Cooley; Cam Ranh Bay 71-72; Mingo 30A0; BCAJ@gvtc.com; 830-899-7542

Chaplain: Jeff Kerkhoff; Tan Son Nhut 72-73; (no email); 626-338-6846

Guardmount Editor: Mike Kennedy; Bien Hoa 69-70; mike3sps@verizon.net; 909-563-0107

Guardmount Assistant Editor: Erlyce Pekas; erlyce@msn.com; 602-574-7089

Safeside Liaison: Dave Pierson; Binh Thuy 69-70; swampur@att.net; 775-883-7647

Paralegal: Paul Sigler; Cam Ranh Bay 65-66; parazig169@att.net; 918-336-3595

Web Administrator: Larry Poss; Associate Member; larry@larryposs.com; 702-501-7677

Web Master: Don Poss; Da Nang 65-66; Blackie 129X; DonPossLM37@vspa.com; 951-325-7244

K-9 Web Master: Monty Moore; Da Nang, Phu Cat 68-70; Kobuc X448, Giant A905, Blackie 129X; vspa.k9@vspa.com; 512-639-0005

Web QRT Troubleshooter: Gary Jones; Udorn, Safeside Phan Rang, Da Nang, Tan Son Nhut; 1965; 68-69; 71-72; gjones003@sc.rr.com; 843-851-7427

Web Adobe PDF Tech: Greg Dunlap; Da Nang 68-69; Blackie 129X; blackey@sonic.net; 707-576-9683

BB Flight Leader: Bill Marshall; Phu Cat 68-69; billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com; 949-388-5664

Photographer: Tony Morris; Cam Ranh Bay 69-70; htmorris@gmail.com; 219-322-4418

Photographer: Steve Hall; Binh Thuy 68-69; hallstudio@att.net; 714-634-1132

Photographer: Terry Hall; Nha Trang 67-68; TerryHallPhotography@Icloud.com; 856-981-5071

Photographer: Lou Reda; Phan Rang 68-69; loureda202@gmail.com; 419-668-7591

VSPA Scholarship: Jim "Buddha" Lebowitz; Bien Hoa 66-68; jlz9107@earthlink.net

Reunion Hospitality: Sheila Gervase-Cain; Sisterhood President; smgervase@yahoo.com; 716-771-1157

BASE LIAISONS:

Binh Thuy Liaison: Lew Goldberg; Binh Thuy 68-69; ojdidoit@yahoo.com; 417-877-7888

Cam Ranh Bay Liaison: Trent Nentrup; Cam Ranh Bay 68-69; trent.nentrup@gmail.com; 812-341-2235

Nha Trang Liaison: Larry Fleming; Nha Trang 68-69; Ldfleming569@gmail.com; 254-898-2140 Home; 254-396-4091 Cell.

NKP Liaison: George Conklin; NKP 70-71; K-9 Ango 0K31; nkpk970@gmail.com; 406-781-2269

Phan Rang Liaison: Donald Dinubilo; Phan Rang 66-67; donalddinubilo@verizon.net; 310-371-0978 Home, 310-753-4317 Cell.

Phu Cat Liaison: Ron Arthur; Phu Cat 67-68; cobranam68@aol.com; 660-678-3501
Pleiku Liaison: Pat Dunne (Hawk); Pleiku 1968; hawk51044@aol.com; 954-923-9001
Tan Son Nhut Liaison: Charles Penley; Tan Son Nhut 67-69; Rebel A531; cpenley@chartertn.net; 423-245-6863
Ubou Liaison: Jim Watson; Ubou 68-69; Fritz X704; jimwatk9@ca.rr.com; 626-806-8463

Wash "The Wall" In Washington D.C. Coordinators: Gary Jones (See WEB QRT Troubleshooter Above) and Jim Stastny (See K-9 Kennel Master Above)

VSPA SISTERHOOD:

President: Sheila Gervase-Cain; smgervase@yahoo.com; 716-771-1157
Vice President: Janet Matthews; janetmm62@gmail.com; 205-602-8522
Secretary: Erlyce Pekas; erlyce@msn.com; 602-574-7089
Chaplain: Roberta Smith; rps.jackie@yahoo.com; 614-879-6835
Correspondence Secretary: Jean Logan; jeanwattlogan@aol.com; 530-790-7482

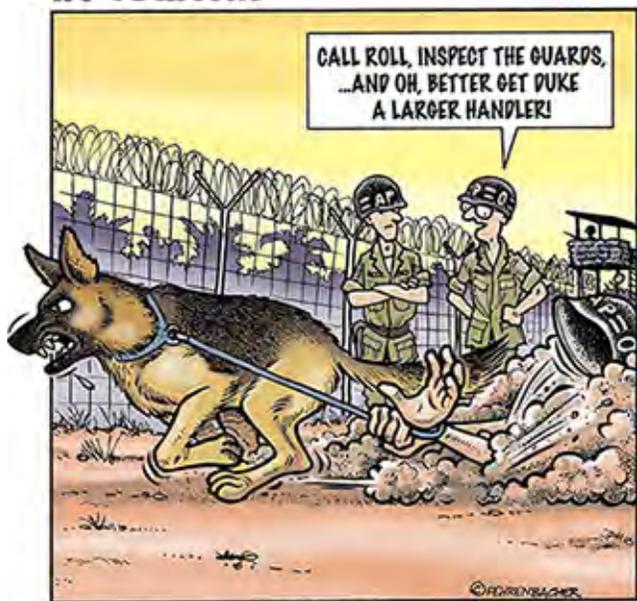
DONATIONS AND ESTATE PLANNING BEQUESTS TO THE VSPA

The VSPA is an IRS recognized 501(c)(19) military association whose membership is over 95% War Veteran. Therefore, all donations are tax deductible. Donations, Employer Matching Funds and Estate Planning are an essential part of our lives that provide for our families as well as the entities that have meaning in our lives. Donations and Employer Matching Funds provide resources to support our VSPA daily activities and annual operations. Planned giving in the form of a bequest to the VSPA in your will or trust ensures the future of our mission while also expressing your commitment to that mission and our brotherhood. Because the VSPA is a tax-exempt charitable association, your bequest may also reduce estate taxes. As an alternative, you may also make a gift that may avoid probate by naming the VSPA as a beneficiary on an IRA, insurance policy, other retirement plans or securities.

When making your donation or bequest, you may designate that the funds be used by our general fund in support of our mission, or you may specifically designate that the funds be used by one of our programs like the Jacob J. Chestnut Memorial Scholarship Fund to provide educational scholarships to our members and their descendants, or to assist a member in need. You and your employer can make the arrangements for your donation and their matching donation by sending your donations in a check made payable to the Vietnam Security Police Association.

Your attorney or financial planner can make the arrangements for your estate-planning bequest. Our Treasurer, Richard Garcia, will provide you, your employer, and/or your estate with a letter of acknowledgement for tax purposes.

IN-COUNTRY



DOGGONE!

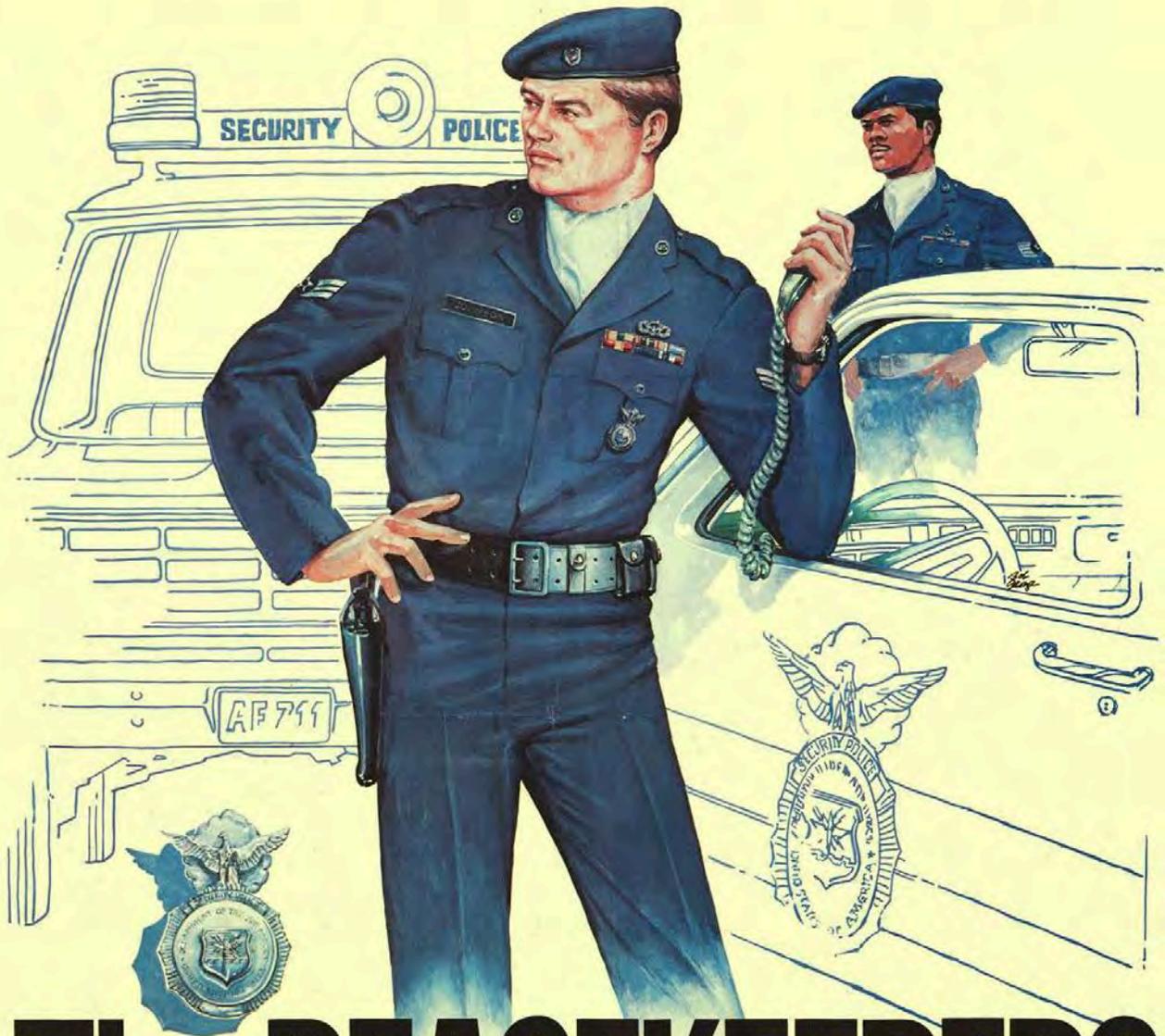
IN-COUNTRY



STARLIGHT SCOPE-INDUCED HEART ATTACK!

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Ready, Able & Aware



The PEACEKEEPERS

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