

Response to: poem-catch-the-wind-don-poss-2009.pdf

William Gallant z

Author Host/IP: host-64-39-94-26.beeline-online.net / 64.39.94.26

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Thank you Don for such a beautiful story. It will not be necessary for me to take my dry eye medicine this morning.

William Gallant

Jack Smith 377th SPS 68-69 LM 453 Author Host/IP: adsl-75-60-190-130.dsl.wotnoh.sbcglobal.net / 75.60.190.130

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don: I still have tears in my eyes as I type this post. I hope that Randy can find a place for you great short story in the poetry book he is working on. My friend you have written on touching story that should be read by every Viet Nam Veteran from every service.

Thank you.

Jack The Old Cowboy Poet

Howard Erdley CRB 66-67 Author Host/IP: c-24-128-241-45.hsd1.ma.comcast.net / 24.128.241.45

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don - I only hope that your story comes true, when we can all be together again in a place better than the one we first became friends.

Howard Erdley

Joe Pizzimenti Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, I am not one for public displays of emotion, but your Catch The Wind is a heart throbbber. One day in the not so far future, one of us will be that man...whoever he may be, I hope he gets the respect of a Nation that never gave us that respect...he will be the final warrior...excellent story...THANK YOU

Joe Pizzimenti

WopCop

Richard Nucifora Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Thanks for the story Don. It's great and touching, and hard to read through tears. A great tribute to all that Crossed The Pond.

Rich Nucifora

Robert Williams Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, WOW that brought tears to my eyes. GREAT STORY.

Robert Williams

Doug Davis Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, Thank You.

Doug, 37th SPS K9

Terry Sasek Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, this tribute brought a multitude of emotions and tears to my eyes today, you are a prolific writer indeed my friend. Your account in this story is one we all could envision with great clarity and respect for the last man standing on that fateful day. Excellent story an extremely well written tribute to all Vietnam Veterans regardless of which branch we served in during that bloody war. Thanks for this emotional sharing Don.

Terry Sasek / Once A Warrior

Ted Whitlock Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, What a wonderful story!!!!!! You have touched my heart strings my friend and made the old eyeballs get moist again. Thank you so much. Don, do you need a formal request to reprint with your permission and sole acknowledgement that you are the author or is this email sufficient? I live on the Space Coast in Florida and would love to reprint this in our Vietnam and all Veterans of Brevard news letter and share with our organization. We start our 22nd annual reunion this coming week, the largest in the nation. Thanks again.

Ted Whitlock

Don Poss Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Ted Whitlock's message, "Re: Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Thu, Apr 16 2009, 8:40:29 PDT

Ted: I am glad you enjoyed the story. Reprints are fine but please include the copyright notice and a link to <http://www.vspa.com> where it is posted. Maybe another old skycop will make first-contact that way.

Don Poss

Dick Bridges Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, Very well written, very touching. I am going to be part of an Honor Guard Saturday for a WWII Veterans Funeral. There are so few of them and Korean War Vets...and getting to be less and less of us. Thank you for your article and all the work you have done for us over the years.

Sgt. Bridges,

Shadow Flight, Ubon RTAB, 1966

Dick Bridges

Rich Henderson Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, Thank you for the story and all that you do for us.

Rich Henderson

Gary Jones Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don: That was a very moving story. After you and I share that bottle of V-O, I will remember you at the Wall in 2062, when I will be 117. I caught one of your California nuances in the story. You say, "He felt like a grumpy, gnarly, barkless old tangled tree too many bears had itched against." Only in California would they say, "itched against." The rest of us would say, "scratched" or "rubbed" against because you are scratching or rubbing the itch. You Californians are almost as weird as those tree hugging Mac users in that unnamed state to the North of you.

Anyway, thanks for a well written story that brought tears to my eyes. Only those who served will understand the subtle references to things like the tape on the locker. That brought back some very sad moments.

Thanks again, Brother.

Gary Jones

Don Poss Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Gary Jones's message, "*Re: Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on Thu, Apr 16 2009, 8:51:19 PDT

Gary: Thanks...I think. Bring your care-giver to the bottle-opening to dab your drooling chin. As for the "tape on the locker" reference...the story was written for those who were there, and who would understand and once more remember what we went through.

Don Poss,
Proud Texan

Ralph Bridges 3SPS Bien Hoa Author Host/IP: hide-115.maine.gov / 198.182.163.115

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Thanks Don, For making this harden drug Cop Cry like a baby at his desk this morning, What a great story.

Ralph Bridges

Ralph Bridges 3rd SPS Bien Hoa Author Host/IP: hide-115.maine.gov / 198.182.163.115

In reply to: Scott Goeckerman's message, "Re: Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Thu, Apr 16 2009, 9:01:19 PDT

Scott, I have been advised by the VA that my type 2 D. has been cause by Agent orange exposure. I also have lost most of my hearing in one ear and 50 percent in the other due to working posts on the flight Line. The benefit jury is still out, but I can't imagine what you are going through with you Kidneys. My prayers are with you my brother.

Ralph Bridges

Michael Nawrath, Americal Division Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don: That was great! As is your site as a whole. It gave me an idea. How about a section on your site for Memorial Day speeches, Viet Nam related or otherwise, if you see fit? I've heard some good ones in my day, and some that perhaps could have been improved by having some good examples to build on. Just a thought.

Mike Nawrath

Americal Division,

1970-1971

Scott Goeckerman Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Thank You for sending this, I do not know about you but it sure rings true with me. I have agent orange cancer, type 2 diabetes, a kidney disease and liver disease, and I have to attend classes on living and dying with kidney disease...all this from agent orange...and yes I now get my full disability from the VA and SSI for unemployability and a rating of 70%. Again thank you!!!!

Scott Goeckerman

Bill Marshall L/M 85 Author Host/IP: wsip-64-147-1-138.oc.oc.cox.net / 64.147.1.138

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, what a moving story you have written that awakens in each of us our own mortality and the pride we feel now that alluded us when we left SEA. You have a wonderful gift in your ability to write and express emotions that bring tears to grown men's eyes, mine included! I could not help but reflect on our D.C. Veterans Day gathering where we marched with our brothers to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Your descriptions of standing at the wall in presence of these fallen heroes touched a very deep emotion that only a VV can fully appreciate.

Thank you for sharing "Catch the Wind" Outstanding!

Bill Marshall

Jackie r. Kays Author Host/IP: customer121_76.grm.net / 216.139.121.76

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, One word...Brilliant!

Jackie Kays,

I am forever honored for I have marched with heroes.

Wendell Wallace Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, your story hit home with passion. I remember the 25th Wall Anniversary Parade, riding in the duce and a half with the others unable to march the route. I know I won't be one of the two having the last drink, but I'll be with the others welcoming the last man home. Blessings on all who served. And thanks.

Wendell Wallace

377th SPS, A Flight Security '68-'69

Jay Gearhart, 299th Combat Engineers Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

WHEW!! That's all she wrote. Hell of a tear jerker. Damn good reflection.

Jay Gearhart,

299th Combat Engineers

Charles Penley Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, The story, "Catch The Wind," is such good writing. I can just see you there now, coming up with a sentence and then after giving it time to seep in, you feel proud and continue writing more. After several sentences, you re-read and re-type

certain words to get the exact feeling that you want to portray from your heart. That you imagine you are that last man. To feel what in reality the last man will feel.

Please consider submitting that story to "Reader Digest." They might print it and pay you some money. If they turn you down, consider the "Vietnam Magazine." If they turn you down, consider a major newspaper. In my case, when I sit down to write something about Vietnam, I play a certain version of "Amazing Grace."

Your friend,

Charles Penley

Don Poss Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Charles Penley 's message, "Re: Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on *Thu, Apr 16 2009, 12:05:52 PDT*

Thanks Charles. I wrote Catch The Wind for Vietnam War vets. If they like it then they'll share it with friends.

Don Poss

Harry Larsen Author Host/IP: 75.172.74.8 harrylarsen@yahoo.com

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on *Wed, April 15 2009, 22:09:12*

Don, Well said. It had to be an emotional challenge to put that well-written piece together. I know it aids in the healing process too. As an aside, I'd have put the Memorial date at 2055, though. We may be tough old birds, but I doubt any Vietnam vets will last until 2062. The part that REALLY got to me was: "They waited as he knew they would, while his eyes found the name that was more than just a name to him. He thought, You're still here...in my place...just as you have been all these many decades." It makes me wonder, will it ever get any better? Will I always break down and cry when I remember my radioman buddy who left the safety of our bunker to find our duty replacements and consequently died in my place when the mortar barrage suddenly started? Probably. I also appreciate your mention of Jesus' name. He's another who died in my place, only he died for all my sins. And I'm so grateful.

Semper fi,

Harry Larsen

Fire Direction Controlman (0844)

3rd 175mm (SP) Gun Battery (1969-70)

11th Marine Regiment

1st Marine Division

Don Poss Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Harry Larsen, USMC, 11th Marine Regiment 's message, "Re: Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on *Thu, Apr 16 2009, 12:45:25 PDT*

Thanks Harry: I hope you understand how much the USAF Security Police respected and appreciated the marines

at Da Nang and the other Vietnam Air Bases. Spent many a night BS'n with marines (mostly trying to keep them from trying to pet my K-9, Blackie).

I gave some thought to what year to set the story in, and here was my logic: On March 29, 1973, the last U.S. combat troops left Vietnam. If one of those troops was then age twenty, his birth year would have been 1953.

According to Wikipedia (the free encyclopedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Buckles) the last living WWI veteran, Frank Buckles, was born in 1901, and is currently 108 years of age (2009). "Frank Buckles served with the US Army from 1917-1920 (born February 1, 1901) is, at age 108, the last identified living American veteran of World War I."

Incidentally, Frank Buckles was turned down by the USMC because of his weight. "When asked about the secret of his long life, Buckles replied, Hope. He chuckled, "When you start to die...don't."

So, considering Frank Burns at this writing is 108 and still kicking, I figured if the WWI mustard gas (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Use_of_poison_gas_in_World_War_I) hasn't finished him yet, then it is not unreasonable to expect the last Vietnam War Veteran to survive Agent Orange (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agent_Orange) and surpass Frank by at least one year, and make it to 2062.

One follow up observation regarding Catch The Wind, and your bulletin board response: "It makes me wonder, will it ever get any better? Will I always break down and cry when I remember my radioman buddy who left the safety of our bunker to find our duty replacements and consequently died in my place when the mortar barrage suddenly started? Probably."

I got to thinking about that and it reminded me of the news a few years ago. TV crews were at Normandy beach with several of the old WWII veterans who landed there 60 years earlier on June 6, 1944. The vets were pointing out their landing, that many were sea sick, the floating bodies, and running ashore past wounded and dead. One described how they took a terrible pounding by German machine gunners, and how finally they overran them. The vet was very strong voiced and descriptive, and when he pointed to where he went passed the dead Germans he described his buddies, whose spirits remain at Normandy to this day. His voice suddenly froze with emotion, and you could see in his tearful eyes that he was seeing that battle before him as it once was, with his friends lying dead.

I realized that if the WWII veteran, sixty years after the war, could not talk about the war without publicly grieving without shame, then Vietnam will never "get any better" for us, just as his memories of war would never "get any better" for that WWII veteran. I did not feel comfortable with that realization, and begin trying to find the answer, the solution, for "making it get better." My thoughts on that prompted writing a story called "Airplane Hill" (<http://www.vspa.com/dn-poss-airplane-hill-1966.asp>), which in part brought me to remember my returning home after DERSOS, and the realization "Vietnam was driving me crazy. I couldn't let it go -- It wouldn't let go of me. I realized if I didn't get hold of Vietnam -- Vietnam would indeed get hold of me... forever." Nothing has convinced me otherwise from that understanding. In part, that is why I started War-Stories.com and VSPA.com in 1995, and continue with both to this day.

Don Poss

Author: Harry Larsen Author Host/IP: 75.172.74.8

Subject: Re: Follow up thought...

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Follow up thought..." on *Thu, April 16 2009, 13:49:16*

Thanks Don. Yeah, I realize that 40 years later, those imprints on my mind won't change. I remember that TV presentation about the Normandy vets, I saw a video of it six months ago. War vets experienced life and death in ways that are hard to talk about. It sets us apart. It makes us "special" though that sounds a little corny.

It took me awhile, but I figured things out in the late 70's. The world I'd left in 1969 to serve my country had not really changed all that much by 1970. Support for the war and returning troops had waned in the general populace, and mini-skirts were the rage, but things were pretty much the same. People were busy with furthering their

careers, raising their families, attending school, paying their mortgage, and cutting the grass on Saturday morning.

I thought that America had dramatically changed when I got back. It was hard to fathom how those "petty" little issues could be so important. During my eleven plus months overseas there was only ONE thing worth focusing on--survival. When I returned to the world I felt frustrated and sorry for all those people who were focused on their trivial pursuits. They were clueless about what was happening overseas.

As humans, we base expectations largely on prior experiences. Those without compelling life experiences have little basis for understanding who we are. They're not stupid, just ignorant. You can't gain experiences by reading about them. No one can relate to terror unless the hand of terror has gripped his heart and clammy fear has cloaked him. That's what makes this website valuable for many vets. Someone else out there understands.

I'm no longer the happy-go-lucky guy I started out as, but I'm still thankful, because my Vietnam experiences cemented my faith and my values more than anything else I've experienced to date. God knows all and works all according to His plans and for the good of those who place their trust in Him. That is one the thing I can bank on.
Semper fi,
Harry

Newell Swartz [<mailto:roaddog2007@yahoo.com>]

In reply to: Don Poss's message, "[Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....](#)" on Wed, April 15 2009, 22:09:12

To: A great piece of work Don. I wonder how many times you had to stop and dry your eyes toward the end. Starting with Jackie Kays immortal words, "I am forever honored for I have marched with heroes" to the very end, your words read like the end of a hero's war story or the end of a good book.

Newell

Larry Hill [<mailto:pamlarry2@yahoo.com>]

To: DonPoss-LM37@VSPA.com

Subject: Catch the Wind

Don, Thanks Brother for being inspired to write such a tribute to Honor Our Veterans. Makes the days of Boredom and Sheer Terror seem worth it now. I am truly proud to live in a Nation where I can serve my Country with Pride.

TSgt. Larry D. Hill, Ret.

"A" Flt Heavy Weapons

821st Combat Security Police Squadron

Life Member #490 VSPA

Rick Beggs richardbeggs@bellsouth.net [<mailto:richardbeggs@bellsouth.net>]

To: DonPoss-LM37@VSPA.com

Subject: Catch the Wind

Don Poss, What a thought-provoking story. In reading it I had long moments of getting lost in my own thoughts, the visual pictures "F-4's wing-tip-to-wing-tip, Hueys thumping overhead..." The young men at China Beach, I have those pictures in my album. I'm back now. I try not to get stuck there. There is profound sadness in the Vietnam War and the memory of it. I think you got that dead on. Your description of the last man standing, well, I can see that too.

If you can, read *The Centennial Comment* by Robert Edmond Alter about a Confederate Veteran. Your story reminded me of this one and the old veteran who outlives his comrades and is left to explain it all. In the end, words fail him but he comes up with an interesting solution.

I had given some thought to writing about the Vietnam Memorial in contrast to the WW II memorial on the mall. How one is a "memorial" and one is a "celebration of triumph." There is a lot of anger that I can't fully explain.

I thought the last line in the entry was very insightful and captures for me the dilemma of the Vietnam Veteran, indifference. From the Writer's Almanac:

"It was on April 11 in 1945 that American troops entered the Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar, Germany. About 56,000 prisoners died there. Even though many of the American soldiers had fought in the worst battles of WWII, they were unprepared for the horrors they saw there. Edward R. Murrow was one of the reporters covering the event, and he was so disturbed that he couldn't even talk about it for days. One of the inmates in the camp that day was a teenager named Elie Wiesel, ([books by this author](#)) who went on to write more than 50 books, including his memoir, *Night* (1958). In 1986, he won the Nobel Peace Prize. He said: The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference."

Rick Beggs

Don Poss Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Rick Beggs's message, "[Re: Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....](#)" on Thu, Apr 16 2009, 17:33:36 PDT

Thanks Rick. I can understand Edward Murrow being struck speechless upon seeing the holocaust up close and personal. I can no longer watch such movies as Schindler's List because of the disturbing dreams and answerless questions as to how mankind can do such to one another. Likewise, Murrow's "indifference" definitions fit in with Edmund Burke's remarks, "...all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Edmund Burke's insight does not define nor excuse the "Why" the "good men" did nothing, whether from indifference or fear. Considering Murrow and Burke's analogies together, one might conclude the person who ignores an "act" out of fear for safety of self/family, may have a legitimate and even moral reason for inaction...or may simply be a coward. The person who ignores an "act" out of indifference, does not yet believe that action impacts himself or family, or the recipient deserved the "act," or it simply is not a problem of concern. In both cases they are indifferent for different reasons evolving around personal interest.

Don Poss

Bill Cummings [mailto:usafbrutus@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 3:40 PM

To: DonPoss-LM37@VSPA.com

WOW! I'd sure love to be the one sharing it with you! Great job Don - as we have all come to enjoy and expect.
bc

Pete Piazza. WPIAZZA@aol.com [mailto:WPIAZZA@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 5:19 PM

To: DonPoss-LM37@VSPA.com

Very well written, Don.

Pete

Duncan Copland [mailto:dkcopland@prodigy.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 5:45 PM

To: DonPoss-LM37@VSPA.com

Well done, Don! Truly outstanding.

Duncan Copland

Ramps (TEN STARS !!!) abn97e@aol.com

♥ In reply to: Don Poss's message, "[Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....](#)" on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00

PDT

The BEST EVER! Thank You!

Randy "Ramps" Stutter

Don Hamilton, LM 201 Author Host/IP: ip68-231-100-32.ph.ph.cox.net / 68.231.100.32

♥ In reply to: Don Poss's message, "[Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....](#)" on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00

PDT

Don- Best I have ever read! There are few words to describe my feelings.

Thank you for what you have done.

Don Hamilton, LM 201

Tuy Hoa 69-70

Charles Penley [mailto:cepenley@chartertn.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 8:18 PM

To: *Robert Valentine; William Trimble; Robert Throneburg; Jim Stewart; Wayne Salisbury; Steve Rivers; Maria Rios-Samaniego; Gary Redlinski; Bill Price; Joe Potter; 'George Plunkett'; Skip Miller; Lonni Leroux; Bob Laymon; Neil Kessler; William Johnson; Lynette Johnson; Jeffrey Johnson; Frederick Johnson; Johnnie Jernigan; Michael Hurley; Chuck Henry; Mel Grover; Charles Gray; Art Garcia; Richard Gamache; Robert Gales; Larry Fry; David Dowdell; Mike DeTuccio; Carl Denisio; Bill Cummings; Rich Carvell; Dale Bryan; Larry Blades; Carl Bender; Kelly Bateman; Wilbert Arrant; Chuck Akins; Fred Adriance*

Subject: Don Poss, author of "Catch The Wind"

Hello Everyone, My good friend, Don Poss has posted one of the greatest stories that I have ever read. The story is at URL: <http://www.vspa.com/aspprotect/catch-the-wind-don-poss-2009.asp>. It can be read within a few minutes and the story will tug at your heart and your emotional strings. I am going to post it at:

1. Tan Son Nhut Association, View Message web page at URL: <http://www.tsna.org/view/index.html>
2. 377th Security Police Squadron web page at URL: <http://webpages.charter.net/cepenley/2009.html>

It will take me approximately five minutes to do so.

Your friend,

Charles Penley

Wayne Salisbury TanSonNhut@aol.com [mailto:TanSonNhut@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 9:41 PM

To: DonPoss-LM37@vspa.com

Subject: Catch The Wind

Don: I just read *Catch The Wind*. Absolutely breathtaking. Thank you for writing it.

Warm regards,

Wayne Salisbury

Tan Son Nhut Association, President Emeritus

Erlyce Pekas Author Host/IP: 97-124-101-151.phnx.qwest.net / 97.124.101.151

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Stunning, Don....so very good. Thank you for writing with your heart and soul!

Erlyce

Robert De Cubellis dehollylu@verizon.net [<mailto:dehollylu@verizon.net>]

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2009 2:07 AM

To: DonPoss-LM37@VSPA.com

You sir, have truly captured that future moment in time. Many thanks.

Deke LM347

Buck Innerebner repd@bellsouth.net [<mailto:repd@bellsouth.net>]

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 10:18 AM

To: DonPoss-LM37@VSPA.com

Great job Don, thank you.

Buck Innerebner.

Michael White michael-white318@att.net [<mailto:michael-white318@att.net>]

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2009 6:09 AM

To: DonPoss-LM37@VSPA.com

Don, This is a great piece of writing and I believe it deservedly belongs at the Wall. Please consider sending it to the VVMF for inserting into the museum which is to be built.

Mike

Joe Potter josephpotter@eastlink.ca

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2009 8:21 AM

Subject: Re: Don Poss, author of "Catch The Wind"

That was very powerful. I'd challenge anyone to recite that without chocking up. Thanks for rinsing my tear ducts.

Joe Potter

Rios-Samaniego, Maria E Civ USAF AETC 37 TRW/SFMU <Maria.Rios-samaniego@LACKLAND.AF.MIL>

Subject: RE: Don Poss, author of "Catch The Wind"

Thank you for this story. I appreciate you sending this and will put it into the files.

Milita Rios-Samaniego . YA2/DAF

Museum Director/Curator

USAF Security Forces Museum

1300 Femoyer Street

Lackland AFB, TX 78236-5404
DSN: 473-0809 COMM: 210-671-0809

Jim Willis [mailto:jim.willis@state.or.us]

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2009 10:32 AM

To: DonPoss-LM37@VSPA.com

Don, Very well written. Thank you for sending it along.

Best regards,

Jim Willis, Director

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

"Where EVERYDAY is Veterans Day"

Phan Rang '66-'67 366th APS 35th SPS

Howard Yates howardgyates@gmail.com

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "[Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....](#)" on *Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT*

Don, I just read your story, Catch the Wind. I was moved to tears. I am speech less. After reading it, I just sat and stared into space while the memories came rushing back. This is an "A" number one piece of work.

Thank you so much for sharing.

Howard

Michael Herrera [mailto:intrepidmike_h@hotmail.com]

To: webmaster@war-stories.com

That was quite imaginative and creative, Don. Thanks!

Michael "Doc" Herrera

Steve Gattis SGattis-LM49@vspa.com Author Host/IP: h72.5.172.72.ip.alltel.net / 72.172.5.72

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "[Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....](#)" on *Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT*

Don, Thank you for taking the time to write, for having the courage to expose your heart, and for sharing your words with our brotherhood of warriors. You have given all of us the unique opportunity to look into the future while we cherish friends both alive and dead. And with that opportunity came your quite challenge to look back on our memories, to touch The Wall once again and remember what it was like so long ago when we were young.

I am proud of all the work you have done for the VSPA and thankful to have you as a brother.

My best to you and your family.

Steve

Ronald A. Spreckels Sr. ralvins@hotmail.com Author Host/IP: 72-160-244-152.dyn.centurytel.net / 72.160.244.152

In reply to: Steve Gattis 's message, "[Re: Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....](#)" on *Fri, Apr 17 2009, 17:35:46 PDT*

Very moving Don, Thank You!

Ron Spreckels

Tony Morris LM 70 htmorris@gmail.com

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on *Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT*
Don, You have touched all of us. Wonderfully written, with great emotion and affection. Something this good, written from the heart can only come from someone who was there and lived it and not only knew the men, but knew them as brothers. I'm 'Proud Beyond Words' to be a small part of an organization like this...Thank you, Thank you.

Tony Morris

Joe Baden Author Host/IP: ip98-183-153-167.hr.hr.cox.net / 98.183.153.167

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on *Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT*
My Brother, In my sixty-five years on God's good earth I've read a few things. However, it took me several tries to read "Catch the Wind". There are many things that could be said, but words are a very poor substitute for feelings. Thank you my Brother.

Joe Baden

VSPA LM; Phu Cat AB, RVN

Bud Owens [mailto:betbudowe@comcast.net]

Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2009 5:44 AM

To: Don Poss

Subject: Article, Catch The Wind

Don, I would like to have your permission to publish your article in our DAV Convention Book for New Hampshire.

Thanks, Bud Owens

Jim Costello LM 552 JHaileysGP@aol.com

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on *Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT*
Don, You have a gift that can only come from above. God has greatly blessed you. "Catch The Wind" will touch the hearts of many for generations to come.

Jim

Jim Burke 366 SPS LM 466, Tan My bubbas-retired@att.net

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on *Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT*
Don, thanks for Catch the Wind. It was great and you have done yourself proud with this story. I hope that maybe this story could be given to all the new members when they sign on.

Thanks again,

Jim

Bud Owens betbudowe@comcast.net

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "*Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....*" on *Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT*

Don, I would like to have your permission to publish your article in our DAV Convention Book for New Hampshire.

Thanks, Bud Owens

Jim Kelter [mailto:kelters@hotmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2009 5:56 AM

To: donposs-lm37@vspa.com

Dear Don, WOW, that was powerful. Excellent. Thank you for sharing your story with us. We hope you'll be able to share it with all of America.

Sincerely, Jim Kelter

Toby Weir [mailto:toby_weir@hotmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2009 9:47 AM

To: Don Poss

Don what a great piece of writing! I must admit that I was a little afraid to read it at first. It brought back a lot of memories for me. A lot to think about. Thanks for all you do for your fellow Nam Vets.

God Bless You and Yours! K-9 Forever!!!!

Toby Weir

Pat Dunne "Living On the Edge" and "Catch the Wind", Too!

Got to hear "Living on the Edge" by Aerosmith twice yesterday. First when I viewed the USAF tribute that Chief Gary recommended. It was part of the sound track to the slide show tribute and very effective. Later, as I cruised on my day job, I got a booster-dose as the Aerosmith ode came up on the classic rock station. The song has new meaning as it will trigger the images from the tribute. I been sublimanitized (SACisized).

Same-same effect as when I view the 822nd CD I got in '05. I can't help to imagine what Suth (Sutherland) would' a done with this media at his disposal. Ya gotta wonder? Goes to show the power of music to enhance life experiences. A song will take you back to where you were then, or fix this moment to memory. Awesome! As in Don's reference to Donovan's "Catch the Wind" in his awesome speculative reflection. I got to catch up with his narrative yesterday as well. Very well done--like the man said, I read the book and it told more about the author, than the subject. And so, it will help in my counseling, cause I will just show it to my counselor, and say "What he said...."

Thanks Don, for articulating the feelings in such a way, for maximum effect.

Hawk

Dave Broeker davebroeker@comcast.net

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, What a wonderful, sensitive, and caring tribute, to our brothers! Very well written and touching!

Thank you so much for sharing this with us all, Don!

Dave Broeker

VSPA Life member 264,

War-Stories Life Member 15.

Phil Carroll - K9Nightfighter [mailto:k9nightfighter@msn.com]

Subject: Hey Brother, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...."

Don, I finally took a little block of time to sit down and read "Catch the Wind." That's absolutely beautiful, buddy, absolutely beautiful. I hope you know how many deep notes you touched on, and for how many of your Brothers.

Welcome Home.

Phil

Phil Carroll - VSPA Life Member #336

VSPA Membership Chairman

Takhli RTAFB, 355th SPS K-9, Charlie 2M45, 1970

Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, 56th SPS K-9, Tina X768, 1971

Ramps (Go For It!!!) abn97e@aol.com



Catch The Wind -- THE BOOK

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind..." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, I don't know how you could possibly squeeze more 'production' out of yourself..., BUT, it sure would be a wonderful adventure if you could begin with the "Catch The Wind" short-story and allow the Old Vet recall memories from his (our) past..., Kind of a "Back Pages" thing that we can all see very clearly when we have had one too many. It would not have to be 'pure history'..., I know the events from the tours of a few of our Brothers would certainly compile a very exciting novel..., Heck, you could be the 'hero' (since you would be writing it (LOL))

I see a Tom Hanks movie here! The way you write, you could make bird watching an exciting thing!

Ramps

Pat Dunne/Hawk



Catch The Wind, More from Hawk

In reply to: Pat Dunne 's message, "Living On the Edge" and "Catch the Wind", Too!" on Sat, Apr 18 2009, 7:44:54 PDT

More impressions on "Catch the Wind" by Donovan, of course! Everybody wanted to talk to the last Nam Vet, yet, there was a time when he, as 'Every Vet' had no one to talk to or listen. We spread out into the hinterland and felt alone in the crowd. 'Til such time as we found each other. Even sharing with other Nam Vets was not easy, until my first VSPA reunion. *Me no bic USMC, me habla SP!*

Hawk

Donald Graham [<mailto:tuyhoa68@worldnet.att.net>]

To: dlp@war-stories.com

Subject: Memorial day 2062

Hi Don, would it be possible for you to send me this in an email. Won't share with anyone.

Thanks, Don Graham

DPoss [<mailto:dposs@dposs.com>]

To: 'Donald Graham'

Subject: RE: Memorial day 2062

Don: Attached is the first copy of Catch The Wind, in PDF format for easy printing. Thank you for asking for it, and of course you may share it with anyone. I have had so many requests for prints that I will include a link to print

copies from the story.

Don Poss

Catch The Wind, print requests -- Don Poss, Sun, Apr 19 2009, 11:58:37 PDT (cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com/75.82.158.38)

Gents & Ladies:

I have received hundreds of personal emails from members and families, and Vietnam Veterans from all services, concerning my recent story, "Catch The Wind." It is gratifying to know that what I feel in my heart is also felt by many, when thinking of the war and the cost of that war then and now. In a way, I think that is one reason our association shares an unbreakable bond of brotherhood, because we are all standing together in support of one another. That is a gift worth giving and receiving, and treasuring for a lifetime...which began decades ago in Vietnam, and Thailand, and will endure to the last man standing.

Because of the many requests for copies of "Catch The Wind" I have added a PDF download link at the story. If you want, you can copy, paste, and print from this url:

<http://www.vspa.com/asprotect/pdf/Catch-The-Wind-Don-Poss.pdf>

Thank you all for such touching comments.

Don Poss

George L. Logan georgejeanlogan@comcast.net

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind..." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, What a great story. Just as I would imagine it.

George L. Logan

277th SPS 71-72

56th SPS 72-73

David Thatcher thatchlaw@yahoo.com

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Catch The Wind, print requests" on Sun, Apr 19 2009, 11:58:37 PDT

Damnit Don . . . I hadn't planned on getting so weepy today. An enormously beautiful piece of work; one I'll share with many. Can't thank you enough.

David Thatcher

Phil Carroll - LM #336

♥ Re: Catch The Wind, print requests

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Catch The Wind, print requests" on Sun, Apr 19 2009, 11:58:37 PDT

Thank you, Don. This is simply beautiful. What a gift to all your Brothers and many, many more to follow.

Phil Carroll

Don Hamilton Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Catch The Wind, print requests" on Sun, Apr 19 2009, 11:58:37 PDT

Don, thank you. It's very moving and I wanted to keep a copy. Take care and keep the faith...

Don Hamilton

VJ Anderson [mailto:oneijak2@bresnan.net]

Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2009 3:36 PM

To: DonPoss-LM37@VSPA.com

Subject: RE: Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....

Thanks Don. Words cannot describe how it Makes one feel.

God Bless

Vernon J Anderson

MSgt USAF Retired T81170A

VDHA Secretary/BX Manager

Shadow 170F Prince 323H Thor S497

Terry Lukanic terry@seabee-rvn.com

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don: I'm writing to ask permission to post your story "Catch the Wind" on the Seabee message board at

<http://boards2go.com/boards/board.cgi?&user=seabee>

www.seabee-rvn.com

Terry Lukanic

NMCB-74

Quang Tri '69-'70

Tom Baker's family - tcbaker1916@sbcglobal.net [mailto:tcbaker1916@sbcglobal.net]

Subject: Re: Tom Baker ... Memorial Day, Catch the Wind

Don: The story was beautiful.... Everyone says hi, and hopes you are all in good health. We are all chuggi along day to day...same as everyone else. Tell everyone hi for us, and we will try to keep in touch more tha have. The boys were just reminding Mom and I the other day that the weather was probably pretty good in California. I'm pretty sure it was a strong hint to go see Grandad's tile again. Until then take care.

Tonya

Herman Paul

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, "Catch the Wind" ...is "EXCELLANT".....and when my time comes, and words are spoken over me....maybe you would write them...

Your Friend and Brother

Herman Paul

Tim Clifford tjcliff@consolidated.net

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don: Unbelievable words can not describe what a great story I have read it 4 times already and so has my wife it is great thank you for taking the time to write the story I can not wait to show it to my kids once again thank you.

Tim Clifford

Vance L. McCrumb dogman2@gmail.com

Subject: VVA National chapter newsletter - Permission to publish "Catch The Wind..."

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don: Last Vietnam Veteran (Catch the Wind) is a great read. Very well done, Don. Looking for permission to use your Last Vietnam Veteran in our VVA Chapter's newsletter, with credit of course. It is making the rounds on the Internet as I got my copy via a VVA list server.

Attached is a copy of our Chapter's nationally recognized newsletter. We were recognized as the Chapter of the Year, Newsletter of the Year and national Veteran of the year in 2007.

Arf...!

Vance L. McCrumb

Ramps

Author Host/IP: cache-mtc-aa12.proxy.aol.com / 64.12.116.16

 **Re:** Catch The Wind, print requests

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Catch The Wind, print requests" on Sun, Apr 19 2009, 11:58:37 PDT

Thank you Don!..., The Best just keeps getting better. I just know there is a #1 Best Seller there. You have such a masterful way with words, you make 'little details' meaningful.

Ramps

John Homa

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, Excellent.

John Homa

Steve Ray steve.ray@lmco.com

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Truly outstanding Don. You outdid yourself with this one. Thanks for writing it and sharing it with us. God bless.

Steve Ray

Jack Jobes, LM 542 Author Host/IP: NoHost / 75.10.220.246

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, don't really know what to say that hasn't already been said about this remarkable piece. Took copies of it for everyone at my PTSD group and left copies at the Vet Readjustment center for them to pass out. Looking forward to meeting you and the other talented authors from our brotherhood in Oct at my first Re-union. Jack Jobes, Phan Rang, 67-68, Panther Flight.

Jack Jobes

Barry McLean, LM53

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Catch The Wind, print requests" on Sun, Apr 19 2009, 11:58:37 PDT

Don, What a tremendous writing. There are no words to describe what you have written.

Barry McLean

Safeside, 822nd (Phan Rang, Tuy Hoa, Ban Me Thuot)
Takhli 1967-68

Tim Clifford Author Host/IP: cpe-75-82-158-38.socal.res.rr.com / 75.82.158.38

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don: Unbelievable words can not describe what a great story I have read it 4 times already and so has my wife it is great thank you for taking the time to write the story I can not wait to show it to my kids once again thank you.

Tim Clifford

Ron Harlost Author Host/IP: cache-mtc-aa12.proxy.aol.com / 64.12.116.16

In reply to: Don Poss 's message, "Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind...." on Wed, Apr 15 2009, 22:08:00 PDT

Don, believe it or not, but the thought had passed my mind several years ago, about how old would the last VSPA member be when we were all gone. It appears you have written a great short story. I do wonder about the age.

Thanks

Michael White michael-white318@att.net

Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2009 5:22 PM

Subject: Re: Memorial Day Story - Catch The Wind....

I have sent a couple of items to this address:

Vietnam Veterans Memorial
1023 15th St NW, 2nd Floor
Washington DC 20005

Enclose a note telling them your intention to have this placed in the museum when it is completed. You know, they might even put it on the Web Site or reprint it in their newsletters.

Mike