



A Publication of the Vietnam Security Police Association

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Winter 2011 Issue



# GUARDMOUNT

## VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

*"We Take Care of Our Own"*



Photo credit Erylce Pekas



**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio** -- The Dedication of the Vietnam Security Police Association Granite Memorial Bench took place on Thursday, October 6th, 2011, with President Phil Carroll presiding and many members of the VSPA and other family members in attendance.

**2011 Reunion  
Photos  
Inside!  
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**Wright-Patterson  
AFB,  
Dayton, OH  
Oct. 5 - 9, 2011**



## President's Corner

By Phil Carroll, President VSPA

I'll start this by wishing you all a very happy, safe, healthy and joyful holiday season - with Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and Hanukkah all included in that wish. I know a couple hundred of us also had a pretty great Columbus Day, because we were still happy with the fresh memory of this year's 17th Annual VSPA Reunion in Dayton, Ohio. Those of you who missed this one ... well, I just hope you can find a way to join us next year. We had a wonderful time, and were treated like absolute royalty by the 88th SFS at Wright-Patterson AFB. Squadron Commander Lt Col Aeneas Gooding, SSgt Holly Vaught and many, many others really put on a wonderful time for us. Quite a few squadron members also attended our Awards Banquet, and they felt like family.

More recently, we were again pretty excited that Van, Joyce and Kari Digby announced the re-opening of the VSPA online BX Store. The whole family has worked incredibly hard to get it all set up again. As before, there's no login required - just go to the VSPA home page, look at the links across the top of the page, and right below the AP badge image there's a link to "Store." Click it and enjoy. Most everything is available as before, except for the custom printed mugs and stuff; that will be a little bit in the future. Thank you Digbys, for hauling the whole store to our reunion and then rushing to get it back online!

A wonderful high point of the reunion was our dedication of the brand new VSPA Memorial granite bench at the Defender Memorial at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. This permanent memorial of our service will be there and for a very long time will remind and teach people about who we are, where we went and what we accomplished in Vietnam and Thailand.

One of the most significant items to come from this year's business meeting was the Board and the general membership both voting unanimously to elevate Don Poss to the new position of "Communications Director." Don will retain all his existing countless duties as Webmaster, but in acknowledgement of the importance of the website to our Brotherhood we've elevated him to a voting position on the VSPA Board of Directors. This is an appointment of Don by name, because of his history, service, skills and specialized knowledge, and the position will cease to exist if he ever is unable to carry out the job's duties. The Board is working out the detailed changes to the Constitution & By-Laws for this well-deserved honor.

We handed out the new VSPA Life Member ID cards to all the Life Members who attended the reunion this year, and they were extremely popular. We were able to finally get these made thanks to the generosity of VSPA LM #127 Al Matthew's daughter Janet (now Janet Parker, but still Sparkplug) and the VSPA quilt she auctioned off at the 2007 reunion in Washington D.C. We'll be mailing out the rest of these nice looking, permanent plastic cards just as soon as we possibly can.

Welcome Home!

Phil Carroll - LM #336  
Takhli, Nakhon Phanom 70-71: Tina X768, Charlie 2M45



**Remarks by VSPA President Phil Carroll  
Dedication of the new VSPA Memorial Bench  
National Museum of the United States Air Force  
6 Oct 2011**

Ladies and Gentlemen – all. We are gathered here for a solemn occasion – to honor and preserve the memory of our Service in Vietnam and Thailand in the Vietnam War, and especially the memory of the 111 Air Force Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees who did not return home from Vietnam and Thailand.

*Invocation* - VSPA Chaplain Jim Stastny

Our special guests:

Mr. Jeff Duford, museum historian, who is representing the National Museum of the United States Air Force.  
Lt Col Aeneas Gooding, Squadron Commander of the 88<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, our host for the reunion.

The Vietnam Security Police Association was formed 17 years ago to bring together Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees who served in Vietnam and Thailand in the Vietnam War.

Our members represent all the sub-specialties that were within the Air Police and Security Police career field: Law Enforcement, Air Base Defense, Security, K-9, Safeside, Heavy Weapons, Customs, and Investigation.

Our mission is to reunite old friends; to preserve the memory of our comrades-in-arms who did not come home from the Vietnam War; to preserve the history of our service in that war; and to ensure that the hard lessons we learned in Vietnam and Thailand would be passed on to America's Airmen of the present and the future. One of our most rewarding activities is sharing our history in person, talking with today's Security Forces Defenders - those who are continuing our record of never allowing a U.S. Air Force base to be conquered or overrun by an opposing force. However, we know we won't be sharing with them in person forever. We know that our ability to stand tall and talk of our history will end some day. The memorial bench we're dedicating here today is permanent and in a very special place where Airmen today and far into the future will gather, or one-by-one stop and think about those who came before them.

This location, at the Memorial for all the Air Force's Defenders, on the Memorial Park grounds of the National Museum of the United States Air Force, is ideal for this enduring tribute.

The inscription on our bench reads as follows:

Vietnam Security Police Association  
Honoring the Air Police and Security  
Police who served in Vietnam and  
Thailand 1961-1975 -- 111 did not return.

Below that is a list of the bases in Vietnam and Thailand at which we served:

7th Air Force HQ, Ban Me Thuot, Bangkok, Bien Hoa, Binh Thuy, Cam Ranh Bay, Can Tho, Chu Lai, Da Lat, Da Nang, Don Muang, Dong Ha, Hon Tre Island, Khao Khieo, Ko Kha, Korat, Monkey Mountain, Mukdahan, Nakhon Phanom, Nha Trang, Phan Rang, Phitsanulok, Phu Bai, Phu Cat, Pleiku, Qui Nhon, Takhli, Tan My, Tan Son Nhut, Tuy Hoa, Vung Tau, Ubon, Udorn, U-Tapao, U.S. Embassy Saigon.

On the reverse, it displays the emblem of the Vietnam Security Police Association, the Quan Canh patch as worn in Vietnam, and an Air Force Security Police shield, followed by the motto of our Brotherhood: "We Take Care of Our Own."

Sir, at this time it is my honor to present to the museum not only this enduring monument to our legacy, but also a copy of the book, "*Vietnam Security Police Association, A History of Our Service in Vietnam and Thailand.*" We published this only last year, and believe it will be a valuable addition to your collection. We also hope you will find a suitable place to display this plaque, as a reminder of our appreciation for the work of the Museum and its outstanding preservation of the honor, history and tradition, of ourselves and every unit and every Airman in the United States Air Force.

- ◆ *Benediction* - VSPA Chaplain Jim Stastny
- ◆ *Amazing Grace* - VSPA LM #644 and Bagpiper Howard Yates
- ◆ *Taps* - Wright-Patterson AFB bugler

# DAYTON REUNION PHOTOS ~ 2011



# DAYTON REUNION PHOTOS continued ~ 2011



# DAYTON REUNION PHOTOS continued ~ 2011



PHOTO CREDITS VSPA MEMBER STEVE HALL

# DAYTON REUNION PHOTOS continued ~ 2011



## *Why the VSPA?*

*(VSPA President Phil Carroll's address to the 17th Annual VSPA Reunion Awards Banquet at the Holiday Inn Fairborn Hotel, near Dayton Ohio and Wright-Patterson AFB, Oct. 8, 2011)*

Good evening! It's my honor and extreme pleasure to be this Association's president, and I have presidentially directed myself to be your speaker tonight. This Brotherhood and all of you mean a tremendous amount to me, and I have some thoughts I want to share. I think quite a bit about why I feel so at home in this Association, and I want to talk about that, and about a few of our common memories.

A few VSPA members attended with me the 36th Annual Mayaguez Memorial Retreat Ceremony at Luke AFB last May. We were honoring the 23 Airmen, including 18 Security Police, who were killed in a special-ops helicopter crash while staging for a rescue mission out of Nakhon Phanom, Thailand.

Some who weren't at the ceremony may have read the speech I delivered there when it was published in our newsletter, Guardmount. Tonight I want to say a few words to expand on what I told the 56th Fighter Wing audience that day, about who we in the VSPA are and what brings and holds us together.

As I look around the room I see a few here tonight who may have been in the Air Force for quite a while before the Vietnam War, but I think the bulk of us enlisted in the 60's or early 70's when America's numbers were so high in Southeast Asia. Every one of you honorably served this nation and its people.

We all volunteered. We signed up, each for his own reasons, then raised our right hands and were sworn in. Then we took a plane or bus ride to a Basic Military Training Squadron at Lackland or Amarillo, and learned to march to the chow hall in the dark morning with weird little flashlights with yellow cones on the front. "ROAD GUARDS OUT!"

We got the haircuts and all the shots and the awful, baggy green clothes. Got yelled at a lot and did a lot of pushups, and then the obstacle course and classroom and rifle range and we ran and we marched and we marched and we ran. "Rainbow, Rainbow, don't be blue..."

We went on to tech school and learned a little about Air Police or Security Police work in the theoretical world, or right to a duty station and learned everything "OJT."

We branched out into Law Enforcement and directed traffic or learned to conduct an investigation; we were in Security and learned about defending base perimeters and Quick Reaction Teams and walking the red line around an alert, nuclear-armed heavy bomber or a gigantic missile; we went into K-9 and got bit, or Heavy Weapons and got deafened, or Safeside and got turned into Rangers.

We even sometimes got yanked back and forth among those specialties and got an even more thorough feel for all the things we have in common. Sooner or later we went to AZR "Combat Preparedness" training and got to do a lot more shooting and training for a couple very busy weeks. Then we were off to Air Force Bases in Vietnam or Thailand. Painfully long and boring flights, then arriving and it was HOT and drenched with humidity and it smelled bad ... weird and bad. There were strange people all around us, and so many new things to learn and do.

We did many different things in many different places over there; some of us had it pretty tough; some had it comparatively easy. Some of us survived combat, terror, wounds, or the deaths of friends. Some faced those kinds of horrors over and over again, and some were not tested in those ways. Some of us suffered invisible wounds that have haunted us our whole lives with nightmares and Post Traumatic Stress in our hearts and minds, or time bombs within our bodies from exposure to pesticides and herbicides that we weren't even aware of.

Then all of "us" came home. Some remained in military service, but most didn't. I tried, in my talk at Luke Air Force Base, to describe to the young Airmen what this country was like for active-duty military and veterans in the late 60's and the 70's. I tried to give them a picture of how a guy in an airport wearing 1505's was a target of opportunity for the scorn and hate of too many people - people whose freedoms we had been supporting by putting our lives on the line.

A little while ago I helped host a welcome-home party for a friend's son. The young Marine had been blown up one time too many in Afghanistan and after a year in Walter Reed was finally home. He was being patient that night, but really couldn't wait to get away from the family chitchat and go out with his old high-school friends. The young man, Willy, and I kind of gravitated together, as I was the only veteran at the party, and I warned him that his buddies from a couple years ago weren't going to seem like the same people to him now, and would be full of un-informed awkward questions and opinions about the war and his experiences. They won't get it, I told him, and I knew that because of what most of us experienced when we came home. He understood, and was glad to think about that before he met up with them that night. At the ceremony at Luke this year I also told the audience that a lot of us tried really hard to forget our military service and bury those memories. Some of us stopped mentioning our service at home, at work, at school, or in social gatherings, for fear of being dismissed or vilified for what we knew was honorable service to our country.

All the anger and scorn directed at us was just too hard to understand, especially after the close, close comradeship we had shared with the guys that we used to check out weapons with, ride to post with, train dogs with, patrol perimeters with, or jump into bunkers on top of. It was tough to hear that the country that had sent us to fight was now blaming us for the decisions of the voters and politicians who gave the military its orders. Blaming us for some perceived failure that was so far over our heads it was a sick joke.

A couple years ago I was visiting the mother of a young Army corporal who had been killed in action in Iraq. I was with a local member of the Patriot Guard Riders, delivering to the kid's mom some memorial materials from VSPA, the Vietnam Dog Handlers and the PGR. She needed to talk, so we stayed with her for quite a while. One thing she wanted us to tell her was whether her boy's death had been worthwhile. We talked about that at length. I told her that the exact same question was frequently asked about more than 360,000 who were killed, wounded or missing in action in our war. I said that the historians and political experts were still arguing and changing their minds about whether America's long and costly involvement in the Vietnam War had stopped or substantially changed the advance of communist takeover in Asia. And I told her that it didn't matter what those historians and experts said, now or twenty or a hundred years from now. What matters is that the United States of America still stands today because young men and women were then, and still are, willing to stand up when called to war by their duly elected government. She hadn't heard it that way before, but I know she found some comfort in the thought. She got it. I don't know if the youngsters at Luke got it or not, but it was a huge release for me to talk to them about why we stood up for our country and the prices we paid for doing it. It was a first time for me to talk about it in so much detail to anybody other than one of you.

It was actually my young son who first got me started on this path. I found the VSPA after a couple years of trying to remember things and searching on the Internet for details to refresh my memory so I could answer his questions. A bonus of that search, and a surprise one at that, was that I discovered quite a number of associations of Vietnam War veterans. It took me a while to get up the guts to join any, though, because I'd already had enough of the scorn from other Vietnam War veterans who didn't think much of the Air Force, or of guys like me who weren't "in country," or somebody they could label a REMF (uh ... that's a "Rear Echelon something or other - trust me, it's derogatory).

I guess everything among men is relative and competitive. Wartime bragging rights are no exception. Guys who spent their tour out in the bush in Vietnam in small units figure they had it about as bad as it gets, and they'll tell you that a guy who sat in a little, remote, isolated forward firebase was a REMF. Those artillerymen, in turn, figure that the real REMFs were the ones at the big bases in the so-called "rear." Well, the guys on the perimeter at those bases figured that the admin, supply and support dudes were the REMFs, and THEY think that anybody outside the geographic boundary of Vietnam was a REMF - whether he carried a typewriter to work every day or an M-16 every night.

But in VSPA I found a group of guys who had too much in common to look down on each other because of those kinds of differences. Every one of us has had different experiences, some horrible and some beautiful, some hilarious and some heartbreaking, but what I found here is men who look at the things we shared during the war, things we shared since the war, and things we share today.

I found a group of men, and a group of their wives, who seek only to help and support one another and share what they have and who they are with each other and with the active duty troops who are walking in our footsteps and defending America today. Something else I discovered along the way, which really matters, is that there's still a population of Vietnamese who embrace us as heroes for fighting for their freedom.

It was a VSPA member who first said to me, "Welcome Home," and it's in the VSPA that I finally felt that I had come home. The poem I'm going to read now, in closing, was stolen and somewhat adapted - by me - from one written by the Reverend Charles R. Fink (a Sgt with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, Vietnam March 1969 - March 1970).

I've played a lot of roles in life;  
I've met a lot of men,  
I've done a lot of things I'd like to think  
I wouldn't do again.  
And though I'm young, I'm old enough  
To know someday I'll die.  
And to think about what lies beyond,  
Beside whom I would lie.

Perhaps it doesn't matter much;  
Still if I had my choice,  
I'd want a grave amongst Airmen when  
At last death quells my voice.  
I'm sick of the hypocrisy  
Of lectures of the wise.  
I'll take the man, with all the flaws,  
Who goes, though scared, and dies.

The troops I knew were commonplace  
They didn't want the war;  
They fought because their fathers as  
Their fathers had before.

They cursed and killed and wept  
God knows they're easy to deride  
But bury me with men like these;  
They faced the guns and died.  
It's funny when you think of it  
The way we got along,  
We'd come from different worlds  
To live in one where no one belongs.

I didn't even like them all,  
I'm sure they'd all agree.  
Yet I would give my life for them  
I know some did for me.  
So bury me with Airmen, please.  
Though much ignored they be.  
Yes, bury me with Airmen, for  
I'll miss their company.





Vietnam Security Police Association  
Annual Business Meeting Minutes  
October 08, 2011



1. At 0905 hours: VSPA President Phil Carroll called the annual business meeting of the 17th Annual VSPA Reunion to order. The President noted that a quorum was present in accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws, therefore calling the annual business meeting of the Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc., to order. The President requested that non-members in attendance either leave or agree not to interrupt, ask questions or vote on any issues taken to a vote in this meeting.
2. The President requested a moment of silence for those who did not come home and for those VSPA brothers who have departed and are listed at LM 111.
3. **Invocation:** given by VSPA Chaplain Jim Stastny.
4. **The Pledge of Allegiance:** led by Vice President Greg Cain.
5. **Introduction of Officers and Appointed Positions:** by President Phil Carroll. All officers serve as volunteers without any pay or compensation for their time and work. The officers are elected for two years; therefore elections will be held at the 2012, 18th Annual Reunion at Eglin AFB in Valparaiso, Florida.
  - 5.1. Phil Carroll, President; LM 336; Gladstone, OR; Takhli and Nakhon Phanom K9, 1970-71.
  - 5.2. Greg Cain, Vice President; LM #62; West Seneca, NY; Binh Thuy 1967-68.
  - 5.3. Bill Marshall, Second Vice President; LM #85, Dana Point, CA; Phu Cat, 1968-69.
  - 5.4. Dennis Evans, Secretary; LM 531; Austin, TX; Binh Thuy, 1969-70.
  - 5.5. Richard Garcia, Treasurer; LM #82; Massapequa, NY; Binh Thuy, 1969-70.
  - 5.6. Kelly Bateman, Historian; LM #118; Wimberly, TX; Ubon K-9, 1970-71.
  - 5.7. Newell Swartz, Past President; LM #262; Phoenix, AZ; Phan Rang and Phu Cat, 1966-67.
  - 5.8. Steve Gattis, President Emeritus; Life Member #49, Glen Rose, TX; Cam Ranh Bay, 1968-69.
6. **Guardmount Editor's Report:** Erlyce Pekas, Associate Member, introduced herself and encouraged members to send in articles for review and possible use. Articles should be no more than two typed pages in length. Guardmount will be posted on the VSPA website for all to download. There are approximately 150 members who receive theirs by mail due to not having a computer or slow dial-up Internet access.
7. **Introduction of Staff Appointed Positions:** The President noted that all staffers are appointed by the President with approval of the Board, and serve without compensation or pay for their time and work.
  - 7.1. Web Master, Don Poss, LM #37, Hemet, CA; Da Nang K-9, 1965-66) Appoints and supervises the following:
    - 7.1.1. Web Server Administrator, Larry Poss; Associate Member; Las Vegas, NV.
    - 7.1.2. K-9 Web Master, Monty Moore, LM #500, Livingston, Texas; Da Nang and Phu Cat K-9, 1968-70. Unable to attend.
    - 7.1.3. BB Flight Chief, Bill Marshall; LM #85; Dana Point, CA (*Note: Bill has since moved to Ohio*); Phu Cat, 1968-69.
    - 7.1.4. QRT Flight Chief, Gary Jones, LM #363, Ladson, SC, Da Nang, Phan Rang, Tan Son Nhut, Udorn Safeside 1965, 1968-69 and 1971-72.
    - 7.1.5. Tech Support, Greg Dunlap, LM #361, Santa Rosa, CA; Da Nang K-9, 1968-69. Unable to attend.
  - 7.2. Chaplain Steve Janke, Carlstadt, NJ; Cam Ranh Bay K-9 1969-70. Unable to attend.
  - 7.3. Chaplain Jim Stastny, LM #442, Gaithersburg, MD; Korat K-9, 1970-71.
  - 7.4. Chaplain Bill Cooley, LM #350, Canyon Lake, Texas (Cam Ranh Bay K-9, 1971-72. Unable to attend.
  - 7.5. Chaplain Jeff Kerkhoff, West Covina, CA; Tan Son Nhut 1972-73. Unable to attend.
  - 7.6. Guardmount Newsletter Editor, Erlyce Pekas: Associate Member, Phoenix, AZ.
  - 7.7. Photographer Tony Morris, LM #70, Shererville, IN; Cam Ranh Bay 1969-70.
  - 7.8. Photographer Lou Reda, Norwalk, OH; Phan Rang 1968-69. Unable to attend.
  - 7.9. Photographer Steve Hall, Orange, CA; Binh Thuy 1968-69.
  - 7.10. BX Sales Manager Van and Joyce Digby; LM #59, Bay City, MI; Phan Rang 1967-68.
  - 7.11. VSPA Service Officer, Bud Owens, LM #56, North Hampton, NH; Binh Thuy 1966-67.
  - 7.12. K-9 Kennel Master, Jim Stastny, LM # 442, Gaithersburg, MD; Korat K9, 1970-71.
  - 7.13. Sergeant-at-Arms Keith Young, LM #175, Angola, NY; Binh Thuy and Phu Cat 1970-71.
  - 7.14. Safeside Liaison, Dave Pierson, LM #229; Carson City, NV; Binh Thuy 1969-70.
  - 7.15. VSPA Legal Services, Para-legal Paul Sigler, Bartlesville, OK; Cam Ranh Bay 1965-66. Unable to attend.

- 7.16. Binh Thuy Liaison, Lew Goldberg, Life Member #150, Battlefield, Missouri; Binh Thuy 1968-69. Unable to attend.
- 7.17. Cam Ranh Bay Liaison, Trent Nentrup, Hope, Indiana; Cam Ranh Bay 1968-69. Unable to attend.
- 7.18. Phu Cat Liaison, Ron Arthur, LM #107, Chilhowee, Missouri; Phu Cat 1967-68. Unable to attend.
- 7.19. Tan Son Nhut Liaison, Charles Penley, Kingsport, TN; Tan Son Nhut K-, 1967-69. Unable to attend.
- 7.20. Ubon Liaison, Jim Watson, LM #520, Covina, CA; Ubon K-9, 1968-69; Unable to attend.
- 7.21. Pleiku Liaison, Pat Dunne: LM #40; Hollywood, FL; Pleiku, 1968. Unable to attend.
- 7.22. Nakhon Phanom Liaison, George Conklin; Fort Benton, MT; Nakhon Phanom, 1970-71. Unable to attend.
- 8. Approval of the 2010 Business Meeting Minutes recorded by the Secretary Bruce Hadley.** Without reading the full text of the minutes based upon prior electronic distribution via the VSPA web site, and the published minutes in the Guardmount newsletter, motion made to accept the minutes by Van Digby; seconded by Ken Neal; motion carried by majority show of hands.
- 9. Reports:**
- 9.1. BX Report Introduction** by VSPA President, Phil Carroll.
- 9.1.1. BX Manager Larry Poss decided to retire in early 2011 and VSPA was very fortunate to be able to recruit the previous BX Managers (Van & Joyce Digby) to return to run the operation once again.
- 9.1.2. They are operating under a new, renewable one-year contract, spelling out in much greater detail than any earlier BX operating agreements what record-keeping and reporting requirement shall be, and how reporting will be accomplished.
- 9.1.3. The personal connections of the Digbys have already resulted in VSPA receiving our store inventory from Las Vegas to Bay City, Michigan at no cost to the Association.
- 9.1.4. The new agreement was signed on 6/15/11. The on-line BX store will be in operation as soon as possible, although customized items may not be immediately available.
- 9.2. BX Report** New BX Manager Van Digby
- 9.2.1. The Digbys have worked through the summer getting the inventory completed and have been labeling all the items so that their daughter Kim and her husband Brent who will be filling the orders can learn the products that the BX is carrying. There is a new process called “sublimation printing” which Larry and Don Poss had introduced that they will need time to become familiar with and learn how to do. They were hoping to have the BX available to the membership by approximately the 1st of November. The report is attachment #1. Motion was made to accept and seconded with the motion being carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.3. Historian’s Report:** Vice President Greg Cain presented the report from Historian Kelly Bateman, who was unable to attend. The report provided is attachment #2. The motion was made to accept and seconded, the motion carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.4. VSPA Website Report:** Webmaster Don Poss, motion was made to accept by Randy Nagy and seconded by Ray Rash; motion carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.5. Membership Report:** Second Vice President and Membership Chairman Bill Marshall: the report is attachment #3 through 3B. Motion was made to accept by Ernie Childers and seconded by Terry Sasek; motion carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.6. Scholarship Committee Report:** Vice President Greg Cain presented the report on behalf of Scholarship Committee Chairman Jim Lebowitz who was unable to attend. The motion was made to accept by Tony Morris and seconded by Jim Lassiter; motion carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.7. Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Richard Garcia presented the report, which is available to members for review as necessary. Discussion included informing members that any donations to VSPA of more than \$500 would be automatically acknowledged by a letter from the Treasurer to confirm the tax-deductible donation. Those who donate an amount of less than \$500 may request such a letter but it will not be automatic. These donations may be general or targeted to VSPA projects such as the J.J. Chestnut Memorial Scholarship fund, Old Dawgs & Pups, Feed the Dawgs or gift Life Memberships. A motion was made to accept by Howard Yates and seconded by Bruce Ross; the motion was carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.8. VSPA Service Officer’s Report:** VSPA Service Officer Bud Owens. A motion was made to accept by Keith Young and seconded by Duke Windsor; motion was carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.9. K-9 Report:** K-9 Kennel Master Jim Stastny. A motion was made to accept by Terry Sasek and seconded by Ken Neal; the motion was carried by majority voice vote.

- 9.10. “Nemo’s War Dog Heroes Memorial” and “Old Dawgs and Pups Program” Reports:** VSPA Member Bill Cummings. The Old Dawgs & Pups report is attachment #4. A motion was made to accept by Hector Ramos and seconded by Bud Owens; motion was carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.11. “Feed the Dawgs” Report:** VSPA Member Ken Neal, the report is attachment #5. A motion was made to accept and seconded; motion was carried by majority voice vote.
- 9.12. Safeside Report:** VSPA Safeside Liaison Dave Pierson. A motion was made to accept by Ken Neal and seconded by Dave Maltzan; motion was carried by majority voice vote.

## **10. Old Business**

- 10.1. VSPA History Book:** President Emeritus Steve Gattis. The VSPA Board of Directors (BOD) voted to have an additional 200 books printed. Members need to contact Steve Gattis to place an order for one of these books. The cost will be the same as for the original printing of the books, \$54.00 plus \$6.95 for shipping.
- 10.2. VSPA Meorial Bench:** VSPA President Phil Carroll. The bench has been installed with the final cost being \$4,900.00 including a contract for perpetual maintenance. The entire cost was paid for by donations from VSPA members.
- 10.3. Reunion Site Selection for 2012:** The site for 2012 was selected by show-of-hands vote during the business meeting at the 2010 Reunion. The base that was selected was Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field in Florida. The backup site, in the event of operational changes at the primary site, will be Charleston AFB, South Carolina.
- 10.4. Reunion Site Selection for 2013:** The nominations of sixteen (16) bases were made by the membership. Through a process of votes, bases were eliminated by hand votes from the membership. The base that was selected for the 2013 Reunion is Charleston AFB, Charleston, South Carolina. The backup site, in the event of operational changes at the primary site, will be Nellis AFB, Nevada.
- 10.5. Stolen Valor Act:** In accordance with direction from the membership at the 2010 business meeting, a resolution regarding two appellate court cases involving the “Stolen Valor Act” was written by President Phil Carroll. The resolution was published in the Winter 2010 Guardmount and mailed directly to the two veterans organizations that had publicly denounced the initial rulings which indicated that the law was unconstitutional (AMVETS and VVA). VSPA Paralegal Paul Sigler also distributed it to numerous other veterans groups. Updates on the cases have periodically been posted on the BB.

## **11. New Business:**

- 11.1. A change to the VSPA Constitution and By-Laws has been suggested to the Board, and unanimously, approved by the Board. It will require a 2/3 vote of the members present to enact. The proposal is as follows:**
- 11.1.1. To include a new position on the VSPA Board of Directors titled “Communication Director”, to be filled by VSPA Webmaster Don Poss.**
- 11.1.2. Presently, Article IX, Section 7.1 of the By-Laws states that the Webmaster is a support staff position; this change to Section 1.B eliminates that staff position and moves its duties to the new position.**
- 11.1.3. The new Board position created by this change is not an elected position, but specific to Don Poss and permanent unless changed in accordance with the VSPA Constitution and By-Laws. This change reflects the vital importance of the VSPA website to the operation and continuation of the Association; the expertise and long hours of hard work that Don Poss has donated to the Association. For many years, and the unique mix of talents, ability, skills, training and personal history that Don Poss provides to the Association.**
- 11.1.4. The duties of the webmaster have included advising the Board on Internet and communication issues, selecting and supervising a technical staff and providing on-going in-service training to the VSPA Admin staff personnel necessary to the operation of the website and membership data base. These duties as currently described in the Webmaster staff position will move to the new “Communication Director”, this Board position will sunset, and be removed from the VSPA Constitution and By-Laws without further action by the Board of Directors or further votes by the membership. At that time the webmaster position will revert to an appointed staff position under Article IX, Section 7.1 of the By-Laws and be filled in accordance with Article IX, Section 7 of the Constitution and By-Laws.**
- 11.1.5. If the Membership approves this position, VSPA President Phil Carroll will work with the Board to draft the exact changes needed in the Constitution and By-Laws.**
- 11.1.6. Motion to accept was made by Terry Sasek and seconded by Jack Smith. The vote was taken and was unanimous to accept this new position.**

**11.2. Affirmation of the VSPA Board of elected officers;** and for banking purposes, the authorization to sign checks for the association during the coming year. The President and Treasurer will ensure that only those persons so noted below are authorized to sign checks:

- 11.2.1. President Philip W. Carroll (authorized to sign checks)
- 11.2.2. Vice President Gregory J. Cain (authorized to sign checks)
- 11.2.3. 2nd Vice President Bill Marshall
- 11.2.4. Secretary Dennis E. Evans
- 11.2.5. Treasurer Richard Garcia (authorized to sign checks)
- 11.2.6. Historian Kelly Bateman
- 11.2.7. Communications Director Don Poss
- 11.2.8. Immediate Past President Newell Swartz
- 11.2.9. President Emeritus Steve Gattis

**11.3. Affirmation of Appointed Positions:** VSPA President Phil Carroll. The previously read existing appointed positions, with the exception of Don Poss, who is now a member of the Board of Directors as Communications Director per the unanimous vote of the membership noted in item 11.1.6, are hereby re-appointed for the next year.

11.4. Election for VSPA President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian will be held at the business meeting at the 2012 reunion. Members interested in running for any office should begin preparation of their required biographies, which will need to be published in the Spring 2012 issue of Guardmount.

11.5. VSPA LM #174 Bruce Ross suggested that we arrange for the playing of taps at the close of our reception dinner, business meeting and awards banquet as a tribute to those we lost in Vietnam and Thailand and those VSPA members who have stood their final Guardmount and are listed at LM 111. He also suggested that the equipment and the music maintained and be transported to each reunion by the BX Manager. Discussion and Questions: It was brought up that the moving of the items necessary to perform Taps would increase the items that the BX Manager would have to transport. BX Manager Van Digby stated that there was no problem, just another box. If all members agreed, Bruce volunteered to buy the equipment and music to make it possible. Members immediately expressed their agreement by loud applause.

**12. Announcements for the Good of the Order:**

- 12.1. The members were reminded that the banquet dinner begins with a no-host bar at 1800 hours, posting of colors at 1900, followed by dinner, speech, awards and raffles.
- 12.2. A Reminder was given that the Memorial Service will begin at 0900 hrs. Chaplain Jim Stastny will be available at 0800 hours for a worship service.

**13. Questions or Business From Members:**

- 13.1. Members addressed various issues that they or another Veteran have had with the VA and reminded all members to be aware of the problems.
- 13.2. Vice President Greg Cain discussed his personal experiences with medical issues and the VA Claims Process. He distributed VA printed benefit books and encouraged members to follow up with the VA on medical problems, especially the newly recognized Agent Orange connection with Ischemic Heart Disease. He then focused specifically on the effects of Agent Orange that have been documented to be passed on to children and grandchildren of a person who was exposed. He urged that all members be pro-active when handling Agent Orange issues.
- 13.3. No individual or group pictures will be formally taken at the reception; however photographers will be walking through the reception to take photos.

**14. Announcement of events after adjournment of the Business Meeting:**

- 14.1. There will be a sign-up for the next printing of the VSPA History Book.
- 14.2. Membership Chairman Bill Marshall will distribute the new VSPA Life Member ID Cards to all Life Members who are present.
- 14.3. Members who submitted photos and documents for the VSPA History Book, should meet with Steve Gattis for return of those documents.

15. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Sullivan and seconded by Russ Colombo. The motion was carried by majority voice vote. President Phil Carroll adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.

## **VSPA BX REPORT AT THE DAYTON REUNION** **by Van (LM #059) & Joyce Digby**



First of all, Joyce and I would like to let everyone know how grateful we are for the warm welcome we have received from everyone at the reunion as we return as BX Managers.

We have worked the summer getting the inventory completed and have been labeling all the items so our daughter Kim, and her husband, Brent (who will be filling orders) can learn the different products we carry. There will be some items that will not be available when the BX again goes live. There is a process called sublimation which Larry and Don have introduced that we will need time to become familiar with and learn how to do. We do not know at this time when those items will be available. As they do, you will see them on the web site.

We hope to have the BX ready to go live in about 2 weeks. With a computer crash it was delayed, but we are working hard to get it ready.

The BX will be open after the meeting until 4:30 this afternoon. We will be open for a short time after the banquet, and our closing time will be announced. This will be the last chance you have to make your purchases because we will have to get it packed for the return home. I would suggest that you visit the BX this afternoon before the banquet.

On Sunday morning after the Memorial Service, we will need help loading the trailer. If you can assist us, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. (Attachment #1)



## **VSPA HISTORIAN REPORT 2011** **by Kelly Bateman LM #118—(attachment #2)**

Welcome members to the 2011 VSPA Reunion. I hope everyone is having a great time and enjoying themselves. The last year has been a busy one. I would like to announced that we now have a completed index for each VSPA base archive including all Vietnam and Thailand bases. Each index lists the item submitted and contained within each Base Archive Book. Included is the item identifier number and the name of the person or submitting organization. In addition, a brief description of the article is included. We have also catalogued our photo, DVD, VHS and CD media collection. If any member is interested in a copy of their Base Archive index, they can contact me by the phone or email address listed on our VSPA website.

We have had several VSPA member information requests this past year for particular items and subject matter which have been successfully fulfilled from our archives. These requests were not difficult due to the new indexing system.

Last year I was asked by the VSPA Board of Directors to attend meetings of the Security Forces Museum planning committee at Lackland AFB, San Antonio as a liaison representative of the VSPA. Ms. Terri Bedore, museum curator, and the committee have been planning an upgrade of the Vietnam Era AP/SP and K9 exhibits. The entire Vietnam Era section will be upgraded with new weapons, AP/SP items, exhibits, and photos into existing exhibits. Interactive touch screens will also be placed throughout the museum to better explain what the museum visitor is viewing. The dedication date for the new upgrade is January 31, 2012. This will coincide with the Air Force Security Forces Association Convention scheduled for the same date. The traveling Vietnam Wall will also be at the Museum for the dedication.

This concludes my report, and once again thank you for allowing me to serve as your VSPA Historian.

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY BILL MARSHALL (attachment #3)

Membership Chairman—LM #085

1. My First Annual Membership speech to the Business Meeting: A. “Welcome Home.”
2. The numbers

	Oct. 2011	Oct. 2010	Change
ACTIVE MEMBERS	1,388	1,314	+74
LIFE MEMBERS	712	668	+44
ENTIRE DATABASE	2,808	2,734	+74



\* Active includes a few Honorary, Associate & Sisterhood members, and a handful of guys covered by The “Brotherhood” Fund.

3. Change since October 2006: +481 active members; +370 LMs: +671 in Database.
4. Having a designated liaison for some of the bases, similar to the K-9 and Safeside Liaisons has been working very well. Currently we are still looking for more volunteers; all we have is the following:
  - A. Lew Goldberg—Binh Thuy
  - B. Charles Penley—Tan Son Nhut
  - C. Trent Nentrup—Cam Ranh Bay
  - D. Ron Arthur—Phy Cat
  - E. Pat Dunne—Pleiku
  - F. Jim Watson—Ubon
5. The big news for membership this year WAS TO HAVE BEEN the new software running our membership database, which is what’s tied to the VSPA Website. It’s a little delayed, but will bring welcome new capabilities to searching and sorting our membership data for VSPA Staff and Members alike. Please, everyone, thank Don and Larry Poss for their hard work replacing the old outdated software, making this new system possible.
6. **Welcome Home!**

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## ACTIVE MEMBERS WHO SERVED AT EACH BASE (attachment #3b)

1. Tan Son Nhut	234	11. Tuy Hoa	68	21. Ko Kha	5
2. Bien Hoa	186	12. Ubon	67	22. Vung Tau Airfield	3
3. Phan Rang	185	13. Korat	59	23. Ban Me Thuot	2
4. Da Nang	139	14. Nha Trang	47	24. China Beach	2
5. Cam Ranh Bay	130	15. Udorn	38	25. Dao Phu Quoc Island	2
6. Phu Cat	112	16. Takhli	31	26. Mukdahan	2
7. Nakhon Phanom	85	17. Dong Ha	14	27. Qui Nhon	2
8. Pleiku	80	18. Don Muang	11	28. Da Lat	1
9. Binh Thuy	76	19. Monkey Mountain	10	29. US Embassy, Saigon	1
10. U-Tapao	72	20. Hon Tre Island	5	30. Phu Bai	1

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY BILL MARSHALL (attachment 3a)

## ACTIVE MEMBERS WHO LIVE IN EACH STATE

CALIFORNIA	127	CONNECTICUT	16
TEXAS	108	KANSAS	16
FLORIDA	90	OREGON	16
PENNSYLVANIA	77	INDIANA	16
NEW YORK	70	MINNESOTA	13
OHIO	60	ARKANSAS	11
ARIZONA	50	IOWA	11
MICHIGAN	42	MISSISSIPPI	10
VIRGINIA	36	NEW MEXICO	10
MASSACHUSETTS	38	MAINE	9
NORTH CAROLINA	35	NEW HAMPSHIRE	9
MISSOURI	35	WEST VIRGINIA	9
NEW JERSEY	33	MONTANA	8
TENNESSEE	30	NORTH DAKOTA	8
KENTUCKY	29	SOUTH DAKOTA	7
WASHINGTON	28	NEBRASKA	5
GEORGIA	25	WYOMING	4
MARYLAND	27	DELAWARE	3
ALABAMA	25	IDAHO	3
SOUTH CAROLINA	25	ILLINOIS	3
WISCONSIN	26	VERMONT	3
LOUISIANA	21	ALASKA	2
NEVADA	21	RHODE ISLAND	2
OKLAHOMA	20	D.C.	0
COLORADO	18	HAWAII	0
		UTAH	0

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### **Attachment #4**

#### **Old Dawgs & Pups Update**

**More than \$67,000.00 worth of supplies shipped down range**

**1,461 pieces of equipment to 283 teams at 70 kennels**

**Services: 1 - Civilian, 15 - Army, 2 - Navy, and 249 - Air Force**

**Deployed from 71 Home stations in the U.S., Europe, and the Far East**

**348 Supporters have paired up with the teams the following countries:**

**Qatar, Iraq, Africa, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates**

**Four VSPA Members who wish to remain anonymous have donated \$6,370.00**

**Raffles proceeds from the VSPA members and other friends have total \$3,700.00 over the last 4 years**

**Thank you to everyone who has supported our deployed Dog Teams**

**Also – Major Kit Johnson & MSgt Brian LaMasney – both of whom made possible the dedication of the Millard Lehman Security Forces Complex at Davis-Monthan are deployed on Outside the Wire Missions in Kandahar, Afghanistan – If you would like to have their addresses to send a CARE Package please see me or check the hospitality room.**



VSPA LM #173  
Bill Cummings  
Attachment #4

**FEED THE DAWGS REPORT (attachment #5) BY**  
**JON HEMP LM #599 & KEN NEAL LM #080**

Breakdown of expenses, “Special Ops” and major donors for one year (July 2010-June 2011)

Food and Event Incidentals:	\$4,620.88
Shirts ‘n Caps:	\$1,231.51
K9 Heritage Exhibit:	\$ 511.89
Website:	\$ 49.00
Postage/Shipping:	\$ 91.85
Photo/Print/Office:	\$ 172.47

**ANNUAL TOTAL: \$6,677.61**

Special Ops Donations (facilitated by FTD)

Osan Kennels: Ray Allen - \$ 540.00

1/23 IDD IIMEF AFG: Ray Allen \$ 890.00

Det. 29 Wounded Warriors:

Employer’s Support Group \$2,500.00 (Rehab equipment)

**Major Financial Donors**

Anderson’s True Value, Phelan, California

Employer’s Support Group, Montclair, California

ISU Insurance Services—ARMAC Agency, Victorville, CA

Monster Memory, San Clemente, CA

Primary support is from VSPA, VDHA, and VVA MCA members (see sponsors page on website)

We are serving 16 camps, forts, ports and bases in the 2011 calendar year, four more than in 2010. As of 17 September 2011, we have served 1,623 individual steaks since the first official Feed The Dawgs Event on 6 April, 2009.

The Feed the Dawgs project will once again host the 2012 War Dog Memorial, the 3rd Annual ALL SERVICES FEED, and the Dawgs Project Iron Dog Competition on 18-19 February 2012 at March Field Air Museum, Riverside, CA.

Jon Hemp  
Co-Founder

“There’s Dawgs.....then there’s everybody else!”

<http://FeedtheDawgs.com>

There are millions in America today that have never paid for one second of their freedom. No wonder some place so little value on it. They certainly have no idea what it cost. SUPPORT OUR TROOPS....stay out of their way.

# Fifty years apart

by Jack "The Old Cowboy" Smith LM #453

It was my extreme pleasure and honor to escort Jackie Kays and his wife Wanda to the USAF Museum on the 6th of Oct, 2011 during the VSPA reunion in Dayton, Ohio. Jackie will turn 80 years old in April 2012.

There is a World War 2 hangar located on Wright Patterson AFB. This hangar is not located at the USAF Museum. Jackie, Wanda and I had to show ID and sign papers to obtain entry to this area of the base. We were loaded onto a shuttle bus, and our names were checked again on the bus. We were then transported to the old hangar. We were told that we were not to take any photos outside of the hangar but could take some inside. The main reason that I wanted to take Jackie to this hangar was the fact that they had the aircraft that was used by then-General Eisenhower when he was the Supreme commander of Nato in 1951. The next several minutes were very exciting! I took a photo of Jackie standing under the wing of the General's aircraft. You see, I also have a photo of Jackie standing under the same plane in 1951 as the Air policeman who guarded the General and the plane. We were able to enter the aircraft and Jackie showed me where he sat when they traveled. He also told that he was told NEVER speak to the General. If the General needed anything he would send his aide to get him. Jackie told me that his only interaction with the general was to salute him everyday.

It was amazing to see Air Policeman Jackie Kays 1951 and Jackie Kays 2011, fifty years apart. My heart swelled when Jackie stood there on a bright Thursday afternoon under that wing and a tear ran down his cheek.



Jackie Kays 1951 by the "Colombine"



Jackie Kays 2011 by the "Colombine"

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## *VSPA Scholarship Fund*

The VSPA has a scholarship fund established for members and their families for furthering their education beyond high school. Members, spouses, children, grandchildren, step children and grandchildren are eligible. .

For applications/information please contact me via e-mail at [jlz9107@earthlink](mailto:jlz9107@earthlink) or call me at 949-855-8901.

The cutoff date for submission is October 1, 2012.

VSPA LM #241 Jim Lebowitz



# 2011 Reunion Award Presentations

by VSPA President Phil Carroll

**Granite “Thank You” for VSPA Bench donors:** Tim Clifford, Steve Gattis, Bruce Hadley, Alan Hendry, Ken Neal, Bud Owens, Larry Poss, Willie Squires (others were sent to each of the other donors who were not present).

**Meritorious Service Pins** *(In some cases where awards were given in the past and the member continued or repeated the thing they were recognized for, these pins are the same as “Battle Stars” signifying repeat awards)*

**John Paul Coakley** - Previously recognized for his helping members with alcohol issues during & between VSPA reunions, & has continued that work every year. John Paul also found and repeatedly visited an Air Force SP Vietnam War Veteran and his family as the man was dying of Agent Orange related cancer in a VA hospital.

**Steve Hall** - Works every VSPA event he can possibly attend as a very professional and generous photographer, and also was with John Paul on all those visits to the sick veteran and his family at the VA hospital.

**Lew Goldberg** - Continuing as the most aggressive and successful unit liaison we’ve ever had. Lew’s having a really difficult health issue right now, so everybody please send him some good vibes.

**Jim Stastny, Willie Squires, John Tudor, Gary Jones** - For continuing to go wash The Wall, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that means so much to so many of us who can’t be there.

## **Security Forces Defender Busts**

**JB Clark** - For your contribution of our own brand of music at VSPA Reunions both this year and last year. *“We Take Care of Our Own.”*

**Gary Bunney** - For purchasing, on your own, several of our VSPA History Books to donate to members who were down on their luck at the time and couldn’t afford to pick one up before they were all gone. *“We Take Care of Our Own.”*

**Chris Boley** - For surprising everybody by stepping up from out of nowhere to arrange for your company to purchase six very specific Garmin handheld GPS units, and having them sent to an Army unit in the field in Afghanistan. As it happens, VSPA member Howard Yates had a son in that unit, and his squad had been counting on an old unreliable GPS to keep them on track in a very dangerous place. *“We Take Care of Our Own.”*

**Deke Decubellis** - For your outstanding contribution of effort and personal photographs representing the Security Police perspective for Vietnam Veterans portion of the multi-million dollar Veterans Memorial of Murrietta, California. *“We Take Care of Our Own.”*

**Dennis Evans** - For two years now you’ve fielded and been the trouble-shooter for all the innumerable phone calls from our guys who are having any kind of trouble getting their arrangements made for attending the annual VSPA reunion. They thank you, and I thank you. *“We Take Care of Our Own.”*

**Tony Morris** - For years of assistance to Sheila Cain in getting and keeping our Hospitality room running - and for years of work as one of our “staff photographers” making sure that our failing memories would have some good photos to keep us honest. *“We Take Care of Our Own.”*

**Howard Yates** - For dragging your full regalia and your bagpipes to this reunion, and adding some beautiful and very appropriately traditional police music to the dedication of our most permanent VSPA Memorial, the bench we dedicated at the National Museum of the United States Air Force Thursday. *“We Take Care of Our Own.”*

**World Color** - The company that treats VSPA like family because Van and Joyce Digby and their family ARE part of the World Color family. Most recently, they treated us to free shipping for all our VSPA BX Store merchandise from Las Vegas to Michigan when we changed store managers.

## **Meritorious Service Engraved Wood Plaque**

**Gary Bogart** - With sincere appreciation for your effort to preserve The Wall, and thereby, preserve the memory of 111 of our Brothers who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand. Your dedication and commitment are living examples of our motto: *“We take care of our own.”*

**Ms. Frene Melton** - For outstanding commitment to the preservation of honor and history for the USAF Air Policemen and Security Policemen who served in Vietnam and Thailand. Your personal efforts to do the best possible job on our book *“Vietnam Security Police Association, A History of Our Service in Vietnam and Thailand,”* will allow all who read our history to know that no air base protected by Air Policemen or Security Policemen has ever been overrun or captured by the enemy.

**SSgt Holly Vaught** - With sincere appreciation for your outstanding commitment and extraordinary effort to coordinate the host activities of the 88<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron during our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual VSPA reunion. Your dedication is a living example of our motto, *“We Take Care of our own.”*

**88th SF Squadron** - With sincere appreciation for being the host organization for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the Vietnam Security Police Association. Your service to your country duplicates the outstanding tradition of bravery and courage established by the Air Policemen and Security Policemen who served in Vietnam and Thailand in the Vietnam War. *“We Take Care of our Own.”*

**Ms. Jane Leach** (National Museum of the U.S. Air Force) - With sincere appreciation for your outstanding commitment and extraordinary effort to coordinate multiple activities related to our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion and the dedication of the VSPA Memorial Bench. Your dedication is a living example of *“We Take Care of our own.”*

**National Museum of the United States Air Force** - With sincere appreciation for outstanding accomplishments in preserving the honor, history and tradition of the Air Policemen and Security Policemen who served in Vietnam and Thailand. All who see the Defender Memorial or enter the museum have the opportunity to walk among heroes, to see our history and know

that no air base protected by Air Policemen, Security Policemen or Security Forces Defenders has ever been overrun or conquered by an enemy force.

**Mrs. Roberta Smith** (Sisterhood Chaplain; wife of VSPA LM #453 Edwin Jack Smith) - With sincere appreciation for your outstanding commitment to the members of the VSPA and their families. Your heartfelt dedication as the Chaplain of the VSPA Sisterhood has had year-round positive impact on the lives of our members and has healed wounds that cannot be seen. Your dedication is a living example of our motto, "We Take Care of Our Own."

**Mrs. Erlyce Pekas** (VSPA Gold Star Sweetheart, Associate Member) - In recognition of your dedication and outstanding commitment as the editor and publisher of our quarterly newsletter *Guardmount*. Your dedication and commitment are sterling examples of our motto, "We Take Care of Our Own."

### **Mike Daoust Bayonet Award**

**Richard Garcia** - With sincere appreciation for your heartfelt commitment and tireless dedication to the VSPA, our members and their families. Your exactly precise and professional approach to the job of VSPA treasurer is critically important to our organization, and to our continuing to do the things that comprise our mission as an Association. Like Mike Daoust, you gave of yourself continuously on a daily basis, year after year.

**Newell Swartz** - With sincere appreciation for your heartfelt commitment and tireless dedication to the VSPA, our members and their families. After years of being an influential and very thoughtful voice on our Bulletin Board, you stepped up and undertook the job of President of the Association when there were a number of difficult tasks that needed to be accomplished. You not only took them on, you managed to make the Association thrive while getting the tough jobs done. Like Mike Daoust, you gave of yourself continuously on a daily basis, year after year.

### **Monk Pope Brotherhood Award**

Ronald C. "Monk" Pope served at Tan Son Nhut Air Base RVN in 1967-68. He was VSPA Life Member #158, and he was one of the most jovial, friendly and full-of-Brotherhood members we've ever had in the VSPA. Monk Pope went on to his final Guardmount in 2007, and in remembering him the VSPA created the Monk Pope Brotherhood Award, to honor the one member each year who seems that year to have followed Monk in embodying that "We Take Care of Our Own" Brotherhood ethic. We've only awarded this four times.

**Bill Cummings** - With sincere appreciation for your enduring commitment to our brotherhood, your generous unwavering and far-reaching support of deployed members of the USAF Security Forces, and your extraordinary effort to preserve the history and valor of our service in Vietnam and Thailand. You were more than instrumental in making an enduring legacy happen, one that deeply honors and remembers one of our own. I don't believe the fantastic dedication ceremony for the Lehman Security Forces Complex would have been nearly so personal and special for VSPA without your constant, direct and always well-advised involvement. And I'm not the only person who thinks that, a number of the Binh Thuy guys contacted me about making some recognition happen for you because of what you did for them, for Lee Lehman and his family, and for us all, in making that such a lasting and wonderful memory for us and one of our own. Monk always said that you were "Jam up and jelly tight." "We Take Care of Our Own."

### **Warriors Medal of Valor**

Marshall Tall Eagle Serna, a Native American Vietnam Veteran from Oregon, designed this medal in 2002 to pay tribute to all military veterans regardless of cultural background. We obtain our medals directly from Tall Eagle, and award them with his personal blessing. The Native American Nations of the United States of America recognized the medal. Our VSPA tradition of presenting the Warriors Medal of Valor was introduced and nurtured by VSPA Life Member #127 Alvin W. Matthews, "Sarge," who served with the 483rd Security Police Squadron at Cam Ranh Bay in 1970-71. Sarge was awarded his medal at the Cherokee Nations Pow Wow in 2004, and then established the criteria and process we use today. He funded the purchase of the medals for us until his death in 2008, and many contributions were made to continue the tradition in his honor. Up to now, 19 Warriors Medals of Valor have been awarded to members by the VSPA for valor; for an action or actions in Vietnam or Thailand that were never recognized by the Air Force; for outstanding service to the VSPA, or for outstanding and consistent or ongoing service to or for deployed troops or veterans. A committee of five convenes to consider applications and select a few deserving VSPA members for this award every year. This year the committee has selected five.

**David W. Summerfield** (Presented to his family members in attendance)

David Summerfield, LM #186, served at Tan Son Nhut and Binh Thuy in 1967-68, and passed away in 2008. He joined VSPA in 2005 and submitted a story for the VSPA website about building an orphanage in Binh Thuy, RVN. He had many other photos from Vietnam, but didn't find quite enough time to submit them. Fortunately, he was not only a good photographer, but had been meticulous in scanning the old photos and naming the digital files with the names of people and places in the photos.

His photos were recently discovered by his family and made their way to us. Through his photos we discovered that he was not only involved in building a home for war orphans, but also extended his humanitarian efforts wherever he traveled in Vietnam - and his duties required him to travel to villages, air bases, and allied compounds. He never missed an opportunity to visit local war orphanages and contribute what help he could for the welfare of the children and support of the nuns and nurses. He took time to befriend ARVN troops, and include some of them and their families in local visits to markets and beach areas. Many of his photos show him with small children swarming all over him. David Summerfield not only served his country well, he enriched our history, and the public record, with more than 100 excellent photographs of his time in Vietnam. He has shown us all 20 that he was living the ideal of winning the hearts of the Vietnamese people in the middle of a War that was tearing their country apart. Don Poss presented the Warriors Medal of Valor to David Summerfield's son Robin.

**John Homa, VSPA LM #599**

John Homa served at Korat RTAFB in 1968-69 & U-Tapao AB in 1970-72. Along with other members of the Thailand Vietnam Vets for Equity in Treatment he's been instrumental in the search for & dissemination of information about the use Air Force's of herbicides in Thailand. Agent Orange and other defoliants were used extensively in Thailand during the Vietnam era but it was the VA's position that no such chemicals were used on USAF bases in Thailand. John and others collected photographs, documents and personal statements that ultimately, after years of work and appeals, resulted in acknowledgement by The Veterans Administration that herbicides were, in fact, used there. Now, Security Police, K-9 handlers, and others working on the base perimeters are eligible for new or reconsideration of old VA medical claims with the presumption that any Agent Orange-related diseases were caused by their service there. Today, because this group's work, our members who served in Thailand now can receive the same benefits accorded our brothers who served in Vietnam.

John also in instrumental in the annual raffle that raises funds for Old Dogs and Pups, Nemo's War Dog Hero's Memorial Fund, Feed the Dawgs, The Alabama War Dog Memorial, and various other programs of interest to the VSPA Brotherhood. He has given Security Police Shields from his personal collection to VSPA members from who otherwise are unable to afford or find them on their own, and returned them to former Security Police Officers whose social security numbers he found engraved on the back.

For these and many, many other significant and generous actions, VSPA awards the Warriors Medal of Valor to John M. Homa Jr. (Bill Cummings presented the medal.)

**Ken Neal, VSPA LM #80**

Ken Neal served in at Ubon RTAFB in 1968-69 and Udorn RTAFB in 1974-75. He has donated many thousands of hours of time and skilled artistic labor and given generously of his own funds to many VSPA and veterans' charities. He's up to his eyeballs in the Feed the Dawgs program, providing Active Duty K-9 troops a BBQ on Base. He works hard to promote and support the March Field Air Museum Military K-9 Display, the Security Forces Museum Foundation, the Packages From Home Program, the Alabama Military Working Dog Memorial, the Old Dogs and Pups and the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial.

Ken helped significantly in the design of the VSPA flag, our challenge coin, and the VSPA Welcome Home sign at the Pease Air Force Base "Pease Greeters" location. He's a generous supporter of our Memorial Bench, the Texas Veterans Memorial pavers, gift VSPA life memberships, yearly memberships, and the personal lives of VSPA members and their families.

For these and many, many other significant and generous actions, VSPA has awarded the Warriors Medal of Valor to Kenneth Neal. (Bill Cummings presented the medal.)

**Ernie Childers, VSPA LM #184**

Ernie Childers served at Udorn RTAFB in 1970-71. He has been instrumental in efforts to install a Military Working Dog Memorial at Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Alabama, and contributed extensively to the K-9 Exhibit at the Enlisted Men's Museum there. Ernie is currently assisting the National Museum of the Air Force in obtaining artifacts for a Vietnam-era K-9 display here at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Ernie is one of the founders of the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial Committee, having given thousands of hours, personal funds, and his own blood, sweat and tears to preserving Air Force K-9 history at Lackland AFB where generations of Military Working Dog handlers in the future will be able to physically and accurately connect to their history. He also works extensively with the Old Dawgs & Pups and Feed the Dawgs programs supporting active duty K-9 handlers at home and in the war zones.

Ernie has for several years, and continues today, to personally research, prepare, and distribute hundreds of MWD records to handlers who served with a canine partner in Southeast Asia and other campaigns where K-9s were trained and deployed. He serves as a Vice President of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association, and also coordinates for them as the Unit Director for the 423nd SPS K-9 Unit.

For these and many, many other significant and generous actions, VSPA has awarded the Warriors Medal of Valor to Ernest H. Childers Jr. (Bill Cummings presented the medal.)

**Kelly Bateman, VSPA LM #118**

Kelly Bateman served at Ubon RTAFB in 1970-71; he was not able to attend the reunion this year to receive this, but he has been selected to receive the Warriors Medal of Valor. Kelly currently serves as VSPA Historian, and in that capacity also is on the Board of Directors of the Lackland AFB Security Forces Museum. In addition to giving the Board the unique perspective of a Vietnam War Veteran, he has cataloged and processed thousands of Vietnam era documents submitted by VSPA members concerning their service in Southeast Asia. He assisted in the efforts to install a Military Working Dog Memorial at Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Alabama, and contributed to the memorial to honor the Military Working Dogs of Ubon.

As an active supporter and member of the "Old Dawgs & Pups" and "Feed the Dawgs" programs, Kelly has supported K-9 teams in war zones for five years. He has been very active in fundraising for the program and involved his VFW Post to monthly provide deployed service men and women with care packages.

Kelly is a founding member of the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial Committee, and has volunteered thousands of hours of his time and donated generously. He handles all the Committee's finances and distribution of funds, raises funds, builds chain-link fences, plants landscaping, and works with active-duty military personnel to research related historical information.

Kelly is personally researching, preparing, and cataloging historical information concerning more than 30,000 MWD records *by hand*, so that veteran handlers will be able to obtain the records of their canine partners from stateside and overseas during military conflicts from 1956 to 1978. This is such a monumental task that it can only be described as a labor of love for his Brothers and Sisters who served their country in peace and war.

For these and many, many other significant and generous actions, VSPA has awarded the Warriors Medal of Valor to Kelly S. Bateman. Unfortunately he was not able to attend the reunion this year, so we will ask him if he would like to have it presented at a future reunion or shipped to him.

## Ramblings of an Air Force Brat...by Janet “Sparkplug” Parker

*\* Editors note: Janet, Sisterhood Vice President and daughter of Sgt. Al Matthews, USAF and VSPA LM 127, has been a contributing writer at GM for a little over a year. After writing four articles on surviving grief, Janet offers us a beautiful tribute through memories of her father who passed away in 2008.*



Not too long ago, I was filling out some paperwork and the date hit me...not the day but the year. As I was calculating something to complete this form, I realized that 1971 was 40 years ago. Well, that just can't be. I mean, really?

You know how the thoughts can run amuck when left unchecked. One thing leads to another and before I knew it, I realized that I am not too far from the 9 year old girl whose Daddy was on the other side of the world in Cam Rahn Bay. Actually, I was 8 when he left. I remember it like it was this morning. As usual, our Sarge looked so handsome in his dress blues. He was all Air Force, but you know that. I was terrified but so proud. My hero was off to be somebody else's hero too. This is the picture I took when he was on his way out the door.

Let me give credit where credit is due...growing up in the Air Force was a blessing. I would not change a thing. Mama and Daddy were always honest and very up front with me about life and life in the Air Force. I knew what my Daddy did for a living and I, for one, loved it. I may have been more proud than he was when he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. (You will hear me use proud a lot when I talked about my Daddy.) The reality is that I also knew at 8 years old the implications of serving in Viet Nam. I remember the news reports, the names of the drafted, the wounded, and KIA. I knew that anything was possible.

His letters told me about normal things. Grilling, hanging out in the hooch, Mama San, Snoopy the sniffer dog, the various “wild life” he encountered. Pretty vanilla stuff that would not alarm a child. Still, in my heart, I knew there was danger at any turn. But, Sarge was a responsible, all Air Force Security Policeman. I didn't worry too much, just missed him awfully. When he came home, he was different. Maybe better because he seemed to enjoy things more and let less get under his skin. But still different. There were times when he was focused on something in background. Memories that were seared in him and reared their ugly head when he did not want them to. We did not talk about it much.

One evening when it was just me and my Daddy for supper, (I was twenty something by then, living in Atlanta and home to help Mama take care of her Mama.) We were talking and Viet Nam came up. I remember telling him “it must have been hard”. He choked up and looked really touched that I had made that assessment. Then I told him, what I had never told him before, how I remembered when he left and what I realized about his service in-country. That was the beginning for us that culminated in our association with the VSPA.

We talked often and he opened up to me as much as he could. Eventually, as we attended more VSAP reunions, he told me that he thought Mama and I were veterans too. That it was a part of our lives as well.

I will never forget when he and I listened to the tapes of the bombing of the ammo dump that were so generously sent to me by our very own Steve Janke. It was the first time Daddy had heard the whole thing. I know you can imagine how he felt. For me, it was an incredible honor to be with him in that moment. One of many honorable moments we spent together.

Then, there was The Wall. In 2007, we saw The Wall, together. It was a powerful experience in my life. I am so grateful we shared that moment. The attached photo truly shows us the meaning of the VSPA Brotherhood.

I still share moments with him...every time I think about him or remember my childhood.

I hope that you share your memories and experiences with your children and, dare I say, grandchildren. It so important that we, your progeny, remember your sacrifice and contribution to our Country.

Still, it could not have been *that* long ago, could it?

Defensor Fortis and WELCOME HOME!



Sgt. Al Matthews, 1971



Sgt. Al Matthews, 2007, at “The Wall” with VSPA member Greg Cain



# HELP! WE NEED 200 MORE RECIPES VSPA SISTERHOOD COOKBOOK

By Lise Gattis and Martha Fleming



THIS IS A REMINDER that members of the VSPA Sisterhood want to raise funds for the VSPA by preparing a taste-tempting cookbook featuring the favorite recipes from members of the VSPA and the VSPA Sisterhood. So far, we have received about 100 recipes.

Several VSPA members and their wives have promised recipes but have not sent them. PLEASE share Guardmount with your wives. The format for submitting recipes has been printed in the last three issues. We are not including the format here due to space limitations.

WE NEED 200 MORE RECIPES TO MAKE THE MINIMUM OF 300 RECIPES TO FILL THE BOOK. PLEASE SHARE GUARDMOUNT WITH YOUR WIVES.

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

We know that many of our husbands like to cook and will be submitting recipes. In fact, our first recipe came from Life Member Jimmy O'Connell, who heard about the cookbook while at our 2010 reunion in San Antonio.

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

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

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

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

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



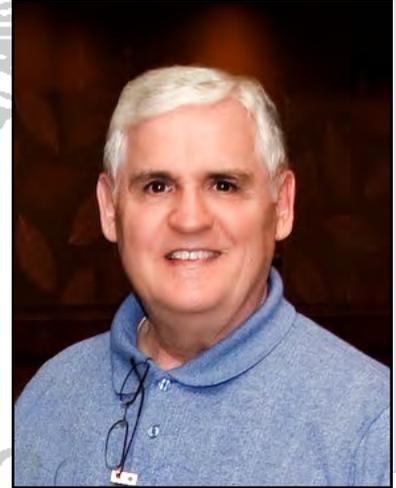
Honor your husband, wife, child, grandchild, mother or father with their favorite recipe. Your name and their name will be in the book with the recipe. Base and squadron assignments will be included.

**DO IT NOW** while you're thinking of your favorite *Bien Hoa Beer Bread*, *Binh Thuy Burgers*, *Cam Ranh Casserole*, *Da Nang Dump Cake*, *Phan Rang Pie*, *U-Tapao Chicken with flaming NK Peanut Sauce*, something that brings back memories of the meal you shared with your K-9 partner while on post, or the dog that stole your favorite cut of meat while it was marinating in your husband's Ubon Brew, or the long lost the recipe for your Mom's maple ice cream. It can even be something hot and evil like **HAND GRENADE TAMALES PIE, POP-FLARE CHILI** or **STUFFED C-RAT JALAPENOS - XM148 STYLE** (with a guaranteed blast radius if 5 meters).

# *Your Poems.... “PTSD”.....by Don Poss*

Copyright © 2011, by: Don Poss

I thought I was stronger than that.  
I thought I could put it in a box.  
I thought I didn't need anyone.  
I thought no one understood.  
I thought I could handle it.  
I thought no one cared.  
I thought it would go away.  
I thought I could forget.  
I thought I could forgive.  
I thought I wouldn't be missed.  
I thought I couldn't stand it anymore.  
I thought I was alone.  
I thought about asking for help.  
I thought they would think me weak.  
I thought I would say goodbye.



Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, with friendship and counseling can be overcome. Like the most severe physical wound, it is a wound deeper than heartfelt and can consume the soul.

You are strong but not invincible.  
You can put it in a box ... for a time.  
You may not need anyone, but we need you.  
You can meet hundreds who understand.  
You can handle it ... let us help.  
You know we care ... we've been there.  
You know it will never go away ... we can face it together.  
You can forgive but you needn't forget.  
You still miss those who fell ... as do we.  
You can stand with us.  
You are not alone. There are no dust offs for wounds of the soul ... but we are here waiting.  
You can ask us at any hour for as long as we live.  
You are not weak ... just human ... and have seen what mankind was not meant to see.  
You can say 'I need to talk' and we will say, 'Welcome Home'.

We will make it, together.

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



## FROM THE FIELD

*of behavioral health*

*Kim Bayes-Bautista, MSSW, LCSW*

*Honorary Member VSPA*



## Reflections of Honor

On Veteran's Day I caught an exchange between two combat vets. Dave, whose heart remains heavy with the pain and anger of survivor's guilt, reminded me how important it is to render support to those who continue to live with the hurt.

### ***Dave***

"I see a lot of people saying Happy Veteran's Day. To some of us, Veteran's Day is a reminder of friends that we have lost and the families that are still grieving their loss. To me Veteran's Day is not a happy day, but a day of remembrance, reflection and grieving for friends that did not return."

### ***Jaime***

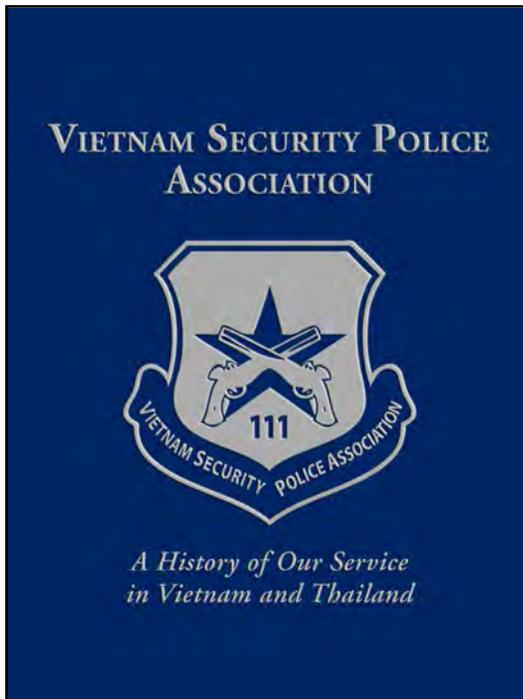
"Celebrate the lives they "did" live, my friend...celebrate their sacrifice in honor "of" them and "to" them...for the brothers of mine who have passed, I will live the life they so graciously sacrificed themselves for. With them they took a piece of me; with me I celebrate the pieces of "them" that I will cherish forever. They live on "in" me and "with" me in spirit.

I know darn well if one of my brothers could resurrect himself to find me in such a state, I would feel a quick boot to my butt and a whisper in my ear ... "Quit being a sour puss and pour a glass in my name."

This is NOT meant to call YOU a sour puss, but I know in my heart my brothers of passing would not tolerate the fat bottom lip service for very long. If "I" passed in combat, I would certainly want my brothers to carry on ... lest I died for nothing.

The love you have for your fellow man, partners, friends, family, and life itself is honorable and I admire every aspect of this trait ... but you simply CANNOT allow the loss to cut away what the sacrifice was for. We may not ever know the answers to most of our questions until we are seated before God himself; until then, live life in the manner that those who care for YOU desire so much for you to do.

***Survivor's Guilt ... it's like a cancer ... FIGHT IT!!!***



## 2<sup>ND</sup> PRINTING - BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE!

THE VSPA HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

By Steve Gattis

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

“THE BOOK” *Vietnam Security Police Association ~ Our History in Vietnam and Thailand* is back in print! As many of you know, the first printing of our history book sold out within three months. Your Board of Directors approved the advanced purchase of 200 additional books and made the recommendation to our members present in the annual business meeting at the reunion in Dayton that they approve the purchase. Your brothers approved the purchase and several members immediately placed their name on a waiting list for the book that already included several who had missed out on the last opportunity to buy the book.

The order was placed and the required advance payment paid to the publisher at the conclusion of the reunion. The publisher estimated that it would take eight to ten weeks for printing based upon the existing print queue and the need to prepare the press and binding operation for our book. The books have been printed and have been received by the publisher. They are being prepared for shipment to me and will be shipped on Monday, December 19.

Of the 200 books ordered by the VSPA, 88 books have already been reserved by members at the reunion and those who missed the first printing and subsequently requested to be placed on the waiting list months ago. There are 112 books available for our members. If you would like to purchase a book, the cost will be the same as the original price of \$54 plus \$6.95 for shipping. Please send an email to me stating that you would like to reserve a book. Then, make a check payable to the Vietnam Security Police Association for \$54 per book, plus \$6.95 shipping. If you order more than one book, please include \$3 shipping for each additional book. This is the original book price and shipping rate charged by Turner Publishing.

Please mail the check (**made payable to the VSPA**) to the following address:

**Steve Gattis**

**P.O. Box 1889**

**Glen Rose, Texas 76043**

Many members have asked about a second book, or a Volume II with new bios and stories. A Volume II is not possible at this time due to the limited staff at the publisher where they must transcribe every bio and story and then log every single photograph, bio and story. There were thousands of photos sent for our first book. The publisher returned all of the photos to me and I have started to return the photos to our members. I send my heartfelt thanks to all of you who participated in the book or ordered a book. We own a wonderful piece of our history. My best to all of you for a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

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## **Thailand Dog Handlers Group Raises \$3,200.00 In Funds For K-9 Organizations And Programs**

Prizes won at the VSPA Reunion at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, OH went to Tony Morris and Steve Gattis. Tony won the first place prize of Historical AP and SP Shields but elected to take the second prize of Commemorative Shields. Steve accepted the first prize Historical Shields but immediately turned around and indicated he would donate the display to the National Museum of the Air Force at Wright-Patterson in Dayton. \$2,000.00 was raised from both the VSPA and VDHA membership. \$1,000.00 each went to Nemo's War Dog Heroes and the Old Dawgs and Pups programs.

Prizes won at the VDHA Reunion in Orlando, FL went to Jerry Nelson and Marty McCauley. Jerry won the first prize set of Military Brassards and Shields and Marty received the second prize K-9 Badge and Pin set. \$1,200 was raised from both the VDHA and VSPA membership. \$600.00 each went to the Thailand Dog Handlers Web Page Operation and Dixie Whitman's Military Working Dog Team Support Group. Dixie replied in a email of the amount collected for the program, "Bless You All, this will go a long way in helping send packages this Christmas to our troops."

Thank you all for your efforts in supporting this year's fundraiser. As is indicated by Steve's donation, it is not winning the prizes that count but what you are donating your hard earned dollars for. Be assured that the much needed funds will go a long way for each of the charitable programs.

# Your Stories.....

By Steve Janke -

483rd SPS, Cam Ranh Bay, 1970-71,  
VSPA Member

On May 23, 1971 I went to my assigned Kilo post #6 along with my friend, George Reavis, and a new fella we called Ski. We quartered our post and took our positions. George and I were next to each other and walked between our posts to talk. These posts were about 150 yards out in front of the POL tanks in a cleared area just in front of an open wood line.



We had just received our new orders that day and were excited about going home in a few months. The new man, Ski, came over and said he had an alert and asked if we were walking around in the woods a few minutes previously. "New guys always have animal alerts," were our thoughts. Reavis and Ski started walking down Kilo 5's post, and I followed. George left his web belt with ammo on the ground, but had one clip in his weapon. Soon all three dogs hit an alert as we entered the woods, and shots rang out as we were taking small arms fire. I was yelling for George to get down when a suitcase-satchel was thrown at us. Before it hit the ground, it exploded.

Silhouetted by lights at our back, I stood to fire at the muzzle flashes, only to find my weapon was jammed. A second satchel was thrown at our direction and my dog, Kobuc, started pulling me toward my post up a small hill. I followed him, and at the top of the hill I saw about eight enemy soldiers coming toward us. I could not get through on the radio, so I called in on law enforcement frequency; they were surprised to hear from me. It was at this point that I saw my first sapper up close. He looked younger than me. With the lights in his face, I put him in my sights. Questions were going through my mind; "Do I give away my position by firing?" ... "am I in someone's sights also?" ... "do they have grenades?" A lot of things were going through my mind. As I looked at him, he spotted me and jumped behind some bushes. I immediately fired three rounds into the bushes and then heard a volley of gunfire going over me into the woods as our men were firing at movement.

A helicopter came in and opened fire into the woods. The chopper pilot put a spotlight on me and Kobuc. I said a prayer and made sure he saw the dog. George and Ski had pulled back already, and I had thrown my radio away in anger when talking to an officer on it who asked if I was sure it wasn't some animal out there. After being pinned by "Friendly Fire" for a while, I was able to be identified by the chopper and was able to pull back.

As we were sweeping the tanks out past the woods in the direction of the Army POL area, the sky lit up. This sapper squad, or a similar team, had hit them also. We were feeling kind of lucky when Cam Ranh started taking rockets---not your average night here at Cam Ranh. The next day an enemy camp site was found not far away with a stash of weapons, and some swim gear. There was also a pool of blood found in the bushes that I pointed out. (Notice I said pointed---you couldn't get me back in those woods so soon.)



The Air Force wanted my lost radio, which is actually why I was there. And yes, we found it. It seemed just when you felt safe, stuff happened to straighten out your thinking. I didn't feel short for some time.

I also want to thank Eugene Blaskowski, the "New Guy", for probably saving our lives and others: Wherever you are Ski, thanks! I also want you to know about Sgt. Steve Keife who responded with another K-9 team to give me cover-fire so I could pull back. Sgt. Keife was with Billy Klinger and his dog, Bingo. We called him Skull and he always carried a shotgun. He served two tours and we always felt safer knowing he was around.

# A Blast from the Past! Your History....

By Kelly Bateman, VSPA LM #118

I hope everyone that attended the VSPA Reunion enjoyed themselves and arrived back home safely. This month we have two items from our archives. The first is "Airman's Pay Guide" reminding us that the good old days were just OK. The second is a group photo of Cobra Flight, Phu Cat Air Base RVN taken summer 1966 and submitted by Keith Young. Both should bring back many memories for everyone.

## AIRMAN'S PAY GUIDE



**PAY AND ALLOWANCES, REENLISTMENT, RETIREMENT, AND OTHER BENEFITS**

EFFECTIVE 1 OCTOBER 1967

### MONTHLY RATES OF BASIC PAY

Pay grade	YEARS OF SERVICE			YEARS OF SERVICE						
	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12		
E-9 Chief Master Sergeant										
E-8 Senior Master Sergeant										
E-7 Master Sergeant	\$284.40	\$340.80	\$353.40	\$366.00	\$378.50	\$390.50	\$402.60	\$415.20	\$427.50	
E-6 Technical Sergeant	245.10	297.60	309.90	322.80	335.10	347.10	359.70	372.50	385.50	
E-5 Staff Sergeant	211.50	260.70	273.00	285.00	297.00	310.50	323.50	336.50	349.50	
E-4 Sergeant	177.90	222.20	235.50	254.10	266.70	284.70	297.00	310.50	323.50	
E-3 Airman First Class	126.70	179.70	192.30	204.60	216.60	234.60	246.60	264.60	276.60	
E-2 Airman	106.20	148.80	161.20	173.20	185.20	203.20	215.20	233.20	245.20	
E-1 Airman Basic	102.30	136.20	148.20	160.20	172.20	190.20	202.20	220.20	232.20	
E-1 (under 4 months)	95.70									

### HAZARDOUS DUTY PAY

Airman performing in certain assignments other than as an aircrew member, such as demolition, altitude or pressure chamber, and jump duty are authorized hazardous duty pay at the rate of \$55.00 per month.

#### FLYING PAY (Aircrew Member)

E-9 \$105.00 for all years of service  
E-8 \$105.00 for all years of service

Over 2	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14
E-7 \$85	\$85	\$90	\$95	\$100	\$105	\$105
E-6 75	80	85	90	95	95	100
E-5 70	80	80	85	90	95	95
E-4 65	70	75	80	80	80	—
E-3 60	60	—	—	—	—	—

### PROFICIENCY PAY

Proficiency pay is authorized to airman performing highly skilled jobs which are critically important to Air Force missions. Only proficiency ratings P-1 and P-2 are presently authorized, except for the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force who is authorized P-3, with the maximum allowable rate of proficiency pay—\$150 monthly. The rate of pay for P-1 is \$30 and for P-2 is \$60. P-3 will not be used except as specifically authorized by Headquarters United States Air Force.

### FAMILY SEPARATION ALLOWANCE

A \$30 family separation allowance is payable when an airman (E-4 with over four years and E-5 through E-9) is separated from his family by PCS where dependents are not authorized, or by TDY (more than 30 days) and unaccompanied by dependents. This allowance is paid monthly.

### FOREIGN SERVICE PAY

Airman are entitled to additional pay, the amount determined by grade, for service in certain selected overseas areas.

E-1, E-2	\$ 8.00
E-3	9.00
E-4	13.00
E-5	16.00
E-6	20.00
E-7, E-8, E-9	22.50

### SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE

When rations in kind are not available, the rate is \$2.87 per day. This includes instances where it is impracticable for subsistence in kind to be furnished even though messes are operating or that Air Force Base. Station commanders are responsible for determination.

When permission to ration separately is given, rates are \$1.50\* per day. This applies generally to airmen who are married and are authorized to subsist independently. This allowance is also paid to airmen on leave or delay orders.

\*Subject to minor fluctuations.

### CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Between 6 and 36 months continuous service—\$4.80 (men)  
Between 6 and 36 months continuous service—\$5.70 (women)  
More than 36 months continuous service—\$7.20 (men)  
More than 36 months continuous service—\$8.70 (women)

### HOSTILE FIRE PAY

Airman are paid \$65.00 per month for service in designated hostile fire areas.



VSPA MEMBER KEITH YOUNG LM #175



Cobra Flight, Phu Cat Air Base RVN, summer of 1966

# What Did You Do On Veteran's Day?

Met with members of VVA Chapter 1046 at 0800 hours to prepare for a parade with estimated starting time of 1101 hours on 11/11/11. My first-ever parade. Enjoyed the camaraderie. Enjoyed signing booklets for Cub Scouts in the staging area. Walked the entire route (wasn't sure I could make it on foot). Overall a very positive and rewarding experience on Friday, but everything hurt Saturday. Life is good!

Walt Myers LM# 601



Offutt AFB, Omaha, NE—Veteran's Day, 2011  
(U.S. Air Force photo/Josh Plueger)

I was lucky enough to spend it with Mom Lehman at her 90th birthday party. Mom looked absolutely beautiful and she was the belle of the ball.

Bill Cummings LM #173



I met up with another AF Security Policeman at 6:00 that morning at the Washington Monument. He and his friend who was an Army MP came up from Tennessee. They came to Washington for the Veteran Defenders Rally at the Monument. We had never met before and had only communicated by email on the AF TWS site. After getting to know each other we went looking for some hot coffee as it was rather cold that morning. We walked down to the Vietnam Memorial Wall where I left some buttons at the Wall with the names of the VSPA members who have recently passed. We stayed at the Wall until it was time for the rally to start and walked back to the monument. We listened to the speakers for a couple of hours and my new friends left to go visit Arlington National Cemetery. I went back to the Wall to attend the 2011 Veterans Day Ceremony. I try to visit the Wall each Veterans Day. The day before I visited the cemetery (where I have many relatives buried) and placed US flags on their graves as well as one of my best friends who had been a Marine, and I put a Marine Corp flag on his. Every Veterans Day is special but none will ever be like Veterans day 2007. That one I will never forget. Another thing that happened that morning was at the WWII Memorial where a lovely older lady after seeing that we were all Veterans reached in a bag and gave each of us an autographed copy of a book she had written. Her name is Kathleen Searless Ermini. It is a work of fiction about life during WWII and titled "Their Shadows Remain". Washington DC is a wonderful place to be on Veterans Day.

Willie Squires LM #305

Alaska National Guard Armory, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska—November 11, 2011.

(U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Cynthia Spalding)



On 11-11-2011 I attended a Veterans Day Celebration at Louisburg High School, in Louisburg, NC with my fellow American Legionnaires. Then on Saturday I spent the day down in Fayetteville NC at the Heroes Welcome Home Parade for all Vietnam Veterans and their families. The Parade was an hour and a half long. Also Viewing the Army Spec Ops Museum and the Traveling Wall, The Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall. Thanked a lot of Veterans for their service. Hoooooah!!!! Danny Vinson, LM #66

Spent my time at Universal Studio; they had a parade for veterans. Got myself 2 tee shirts, that say Support our Troops, Red shirt Fridays. Got to love those sayings!

Warren Maynard LM #234

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

### **Board of Directors**

**PRESIDENT:** Phil Carroll; Takhli, Nakhon Phanom 70-71; Tina X768, Charlie 2M45; [k9nightfighter@msn.com](mailto:k9nightfighter@msn.com); 503-353-0443  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Greg Cain; Binh Thuy 67-68; [gjcain@roadrunner.com](mailto:gjcain@roadrunner.com); 716-771-1157  
**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:** Bill Marshall; Phu Cat 68-69; [billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com](mailto:billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com); 949-388-5664  
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**TREASURER:** Richard Garcia; Phan Rang 69-70; [cal400@optonline.net](mailto:cal400@optonline.net); 516-799-9205  
**HISTORIAN:** Kelly Bateman; Ubon K-9 70-71; Baron 279M; [texask-9@swbell.net](mailto:texask-9@swbell.net); 512-847-9805  
**COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR** Don Poss; Da Nang 65-66; Blackie 129X; [DonPossLM37@vspa.com](mailto:DonPossLM37@vspa.com) 951-325-7244  
**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:** Newell Swartz; Phan Rang, Phu Cat 66-67; [roadog2007@yahoo.com](mailto:roadog2007@yahoo.com); 602-437-2677  
**PRESIDENT EMERITUS:** Steve Gattis; Cam Ranh Bay 68-69; [SGattis-LM49@vspa.com](mailto:SGattis-LM49@vspa.com); 254-898-2647

### **Appointed Staff**

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN** Bill Marshall; Phu Cat 68-69; [billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com](mailto:billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com); 949-388-5664  
**MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANT** Janet Matthews-Wise; Sisterhood VP; [sparkplugvspa@gmail.com](mailto:sparkplugvspa@gmail.com); 205-663-7662  
**K-9 KENNEL MASTER** Jim Stastny; Korat 70-71; Boots 645M; [jimstastny@verizon.net](mailto:jimstastny@verizon.net); 301-482-2659  
**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** Keith Young; Binh Thuy, Phu Cat 70-71; [kcy9540@aol.com](mailto:kcy9540@aol.com); 716-549-0715  
**SERVICE OFFICER** Bud Owens; Binh Thuy 66-67; [betbudowe@comcast.net](mailto:betbudowe@comcast.net); 603-778-1990  
**BX STORE MANAGERS:** Van & Joyce Digby; Phan Rang 67-68; vad403@sbcglobal.net; 989-667-9117  
**CHAPLAIN** Steve Janke; Cam Ranh Bay 69-70; Kobuc X448; [Jank953208@aol.com](mailto:Jank953208@aol.com); 201-507-9038  
**CHAPLAIN** Jim Stastny; Korat 70-71; Boots 645M; [jimstastny@verizon.net](mailto:jimstastny@verizon.net); 301-482-2659  
**CHAPLAIN** Bill Cooley; Cam Ranh Bay 71-72; Mingo 30A0 [BCAJ@gvtc.com](mailto:BCAJ@gvtc.com); 830-899-7542  
**CHAPLAIN** Jeff Kerkhoff; Tan Son Nhut 72-73; (no email); 626-338-6846  
**"GUARDMOUNT" EDITOR** Erlyce Pekas; [erlyce@msn.com](mailto:erlyce@msn.com); 602-574-7089; Associate member  
**SAFESIDE LIASON** Dave Pierson; Binh Thuy 69-70; [swampur@att.net](mailto:swampur@att.net); 775-883-7647  
**PARALEGAL** Paul Sigler; Cam Ranh Bay 65-66; [parazig169@att.net](mailto:parazig169@att.net); 918-336-3595  
**WEB ADMINISTRATOR** Larry Poss; Associate Member; [larry@larryposs.com](mailto:larry@larryposs.com); 702-501-7677  
**K-9 WEB MASTER** Monty Moore; Da Nang, Phu Cat 68-70; Kobuc X448, Giant A905, Blackie 129X [k-9@vspa.com](mailto:k-9@vspa.com); 512-639-0005  
**WEB QRTroubleShooter** Gary Jones; Udorn, Phan Rang, Da Nang, Tan Son Nhut; 1965; 68-69; 71-72; [gjones003@sc.rr.com](mailto:gjones003@sc.rr.com); 843-851-7427  
**WEB ADOBE PDF TECH** Greg Dunlap; Da Nang 68-69; Blackie 129X; [blackey@sonic.net](mailto:blackey@sonic.net); 707.576.9683

**BB FLIGHT LEADER** Bill Marshall; Phu Cat 68-69; [billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com](mailto:billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com); 949-388-5664

**PHOTOGRAPHER** Tony Morris; Cam Ranh Bay 69-70; [htmorris@gmail.com](mailto:htmorris@gmail.com); 219-322-4418

**PHOTOGRAPHER** Steve Hall; Binh Thuy 68-69; [hallstudio@att.net](mailto:hallstudio@att.net); 714-634-1132

**PHOTOGRAPHER** Lou Reda; Phan Rang 68-69; [loureda202@gmail.com](mailto:loureda202@gmail.com); 419-668-7591

**VSPA SCHOLARSHIP** Jim "Buddah" Lebowitz; Bien Hoa 66-68; [jlz9107@earthlink.net](mailto:jlz9107@earthlink.net)

**REUNION HOSPITALITY** Sheila Gervase-Cain; Sisterhood P; [smgervase@yahoo.com](mailto:smgervase@yahoo.com); 716-771-1157

**BINH THUY LIAISON** Lew Goldberg; Binh Thuy 68-69; [ojdiddoit@yahoo.com](mailto:ojdiddoit@yahoo.com); 417-877-7888

**CAM RANH BAY LIAISON** Trent Nentrup; Cam Ranh Bay 68-69; [trent.nentrup@gmail.com](mailto:trent.nentrup@gmail.com); 812-341-2235

**PHU CAT LIAISON** Ron Arthur; Phu Cat 67-68; [cobranam68@aol.com](mailto:cobranam68@aol.com); 660-678-3501

**PLEIKU LIAISON** Pat Dunne (Hawk); Pleiku 1968; [hawk51044@aol.com](mailto:hawk51044@aol.com); 954-923-9001

**TAN SON NHUT LIAISON** Charles Penley; Tan Son Nhut 67-69; Rebel A531

[cpenley@chartertn.net](mailto:cpenley@chartertn.net); 423-245-6863

**UBON LIAISON** Jim Watson; Ubon 68-69; Fritz X704; [jimwatk9@ca.rr.com](mailto:jimwatk9@ca.rr.com); 626-806-8463

**NKP LIAISON** George Conklin; NKP 1970-71; K-9 Ango 0K31; [nkpk970@gmail.com](mailto:nkpk970@gmail.com)

406-781-2269;

### Sisterhood

**PRESIDENT** Sheila Gervase-Cain; [smgervase@yahoo.com](mailto:smgervase@yahoo.com); 716-771-1157

**VICE PRESIDENT** Janet Matthews-Wise; [sparkplugvspa@gmail.com](mailto:sparkplugvspa@gmail.com); 205-663-7662

**SECRETARY** Erylce Pekas; [erlyce@msn.com](mailto:erlyce@msn.com); 602-574-7089

**CHAPLAIN** Roberta Smith; [lizianthus1@yahoo.com](mailto:lizianthus1@yahoo.com); 614-879-6835

**CORRESPONDENCE SEC.** Pam Talbot; [lilacroller1@comcast.net](mailto:lilacroller1@comcast.net); 815-935-2139

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## Troops in Afghanistan recognize VSPA Support



The first photo is of Kyle Yates, USAF Security Forces, and other members of the Security Forces team in Afghanistan. They are involved in training and evaluating Afghan police and security forces.

The second photo is of Ian Yates and fellow members of his US Army Military Police Company, currently in Afghanistan. They also interact with members of the Afghan police and military.

They proudly display their VSPA Flags in recognition of our support to their service and mission.

By Howard Yates  
VSPA LM# 644



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

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



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

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

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

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

**VSPA'S NEXT REUNION—ELGIN AFB AND HURLBURT FIELD IN FLORIDA, FALL 2012**