



GUARDMOUNT

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

"We Take Care of Our Own"



FALL EDITION – 2016



A GRAPHIC TRIBUTE TO THE TALENT OF DON POSS – Page 25

REUNION at MacDILL AFB – OCTOBER 5 – 9

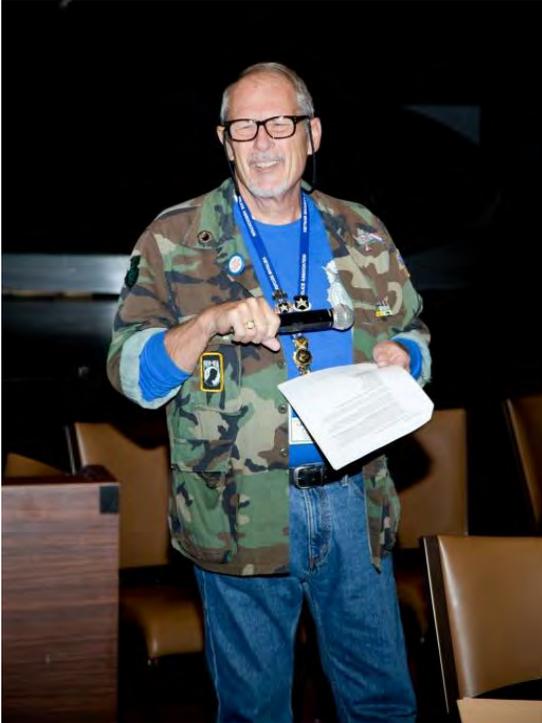
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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



My Brothers and Sisters,

Fall is coming on and we are nearly upon our annual reunion. Tampa, Florida is the site this year and San Antonio Texas next year. I am looking forward to seeing all of you that can attend and regretting that it's not possible to get everyone together.

In the past couple of months Sheila and I have had to deal with some health issues that have disrupted our lives considerably. She was in a lot of pain due to spinal stenosis and we knew surgery was necessary. She scheduled the operation for early June and during an annual prep for a mammogram found a lump in her right breast. It was biopsied and determined to be cancer. She was operated on for the cancer just four weeks after back surgery. Thank the good Lord she has recovered very well. I always thought (and still do) that I would be the one to present with cancer due to Agent Orange. Sometimes life throws you curve balls. We cannot express the thanks we have for all your support and love during this time.

I have some websites to pass along that may help you with your own research and issues:

COVVHA Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Alliance <http://www.covvha.net/>

The Vietnam War Resource Guide

Vietnam War Websources

U.S.A. Gov

Veterans Health Admin

Veterans Resources

V.V.A. and other veteran service organizations DAV, VFW, etc.



Call me if I can help. I want to repeat my request from the last Guardmount issue about "Taking Care of Our Own" Please make an effort to reach out to our Brothers and Sisters if you haven't heard from them in awhile and touch base with them.

God bless you all. Greg Cain, President



THE VSPA SISTERHOOD

By SHEILA CAIN

Sisters and Brothers,

Well, it has been a busy summer here in Buffalo, NY. For those who don't know, I had major back surgery on June 6th and then a partial Mastectomy for Breast Cancer on July 5th. I am undergoing radiation at this time and all is going well. Thank you all for the thoughts, prayers and cards sent. It means a great deal to me and Greg.

It's that time again to start to plan on seeing everyone at the annual reunion in Tampa, Florida. I would like to remind the Sisters of the giveaway gift raffle at the Sisterhood meeting on Saturday morning. If possible, please bring a gift (wrapped or unwrapped) to the meeting. As is our tradition, we will celebrate each other with Mimosas at our get together.

There is also a main fundraiser to raise funds for our Hospitality Room with donated gifts to be given away at the Awards Banquet on Saturday Evening. Unwrapped gifts are needed for that raffle as well.

At this time, I am looking for anyone who will be driving to Tampa that might have a Van or a Truck. I need 3 to 4 vehicles on Wednesday morning so that I can purchase the supplies for the Hospitality Room. If you can help, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can make the proper arrangements. My contact information is below and in the roster at the back of this issue of Guardmount.

I look forward to seeing you all in Tampa. For those not able to attend the Reunion this year, think about joining us next year in San Antonio, Texas. Don't forget the on-line reunions on the VSPA Bulletin Board and the VSPA Group on Facebook! Remember, if you are a wife, mom, sister, daughter, granddaughter, girl friend or niece, you are invited to be a member of the VSPA Sisterhood and attend our meeting. God Bless you all and Welcome Home.

Sheila

smgervase@yahoo.com

716-771-1157



DONATION FUNDRAISER

BY THE THAILAND DOG HANDLERS GROUP

Donate for chances to be eligible for one of three unique items of USAF Air Police, Security Police, Security Forces, and Air Force Security Forces Association Commemorative memorabilia. Thailand Dog Handlers attending the upcoming Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion will be conducting a donation fundraiser for these rare items during the VSPA Reunion at MacDill AFB, Tampa, Florida from October, 5th to 9th 2016. You need not be present for one of these incredible items. You do not have to be a VSPA member to donate. All donated funds raised by this project will be divided equally between:

1. **The Thailand Dog Handlers Web Site** <http://www.thailanddoghandlers.com/>

There have been some major changes to the Thailand Dog Handlers (TDH) website and servers over the past years. The original website became useless when a 3rd party provider shut down the servers for other ventures. The website was rebuilt from scratch on new servers owned by a new provider. It took a year to rebuild the site, but then a tornado hit and scattered the new servers and the backup servers to locations never to be found again. Dave Broeker's personal backup copy of the site pages enabled the web pages to be displayed, but no editing could ever be made. The site was totally rebuilt a 3rd time from scratch. The information is now stored in the 'Cloud' and is very user friendly. The new TDH website will be up and running in a few months. Dave has worked hundreds of hours and has spent a great deal of his own funds to get the site back in running order so all can see our history, messages and pictures. It has been 5 years since we have asked for your much appreciated and needed financial support to maintain the site. We hope you will donate what you can to keep it up and running for a long time to come.

2. **SARGE'S CAFÉ, INC** <http://www.sargescafe.com/>

In Memory of MSgt. Alvin W. Matthews, USAF Retired, VSPA LM #127. LM #111

This year, we will again support the SARGE'S CAFÉ project through Janet Matthews, daughter of Sarge Matthews, and her mother, Patricia Matthews. There are many students in the Birmingham, Alabama area who qualify for free breakfast or lunch at school but how to provide for them when school is not in session is of great concern. Wanting to support these needy kids in some way, Janet asked herself, "What would Sarge do?" So, in memory of Sarge's hospitality, generosity, quick with a smile, handshake and a heartfelt Welcome Home, she and Patricia set up a non-profit organization, SARGE'S CAFÉ, INC. The purpose is to provide meals to students when school is not in session, establishing or supporting food banks for that purpose and to provide meals for the elderly in need. Please help support Janet and Patricia in this worthwhile endeavor.

Thailand Dog Handler Fundraiser Items To Be Given Away

First Item: 8 Shields, Valued at \$1,200.00

- Air Police Shield with blue and white enamel Air Force crest
- Air Police 50th Anniversary Shield with blue and white enamel
- Air Force Security Police Association Millennium Shield
- Security Police 50th Anniversary 1966-2016
- USAF 60th Anniversary MP, AP, SP, SF Shield
- USAF Security Forces Global War On Terrorism Shield
- USAF Security Forces Design Shield Unnumbered Gold Tone in Color
- USAF Security Forces 9-11 Shield





Shields from Item #1 enlarged to show detail.

Second Item at right: Valued at \$125.00

- Air Force Security Forces Association Silver (25th) Anniversary Shield #76 and Pin 1986-2011 in a Presentation Box



Third Item Left: Valued at \$125.00

- Air Force Belt Buckle converts into a knife, as needed. Winner must comply with local laws and TSA regulations!

For a \$10 donation you will receive 6 chances to be eligible for the listed items. We are encouraging VSPA members to donate \$20 for 18 chances to support this project. For \$50.00 you will receive 48 chances to be eligible. For \$100 you will receive 111 chances (single purchase only). You do not have to be a VSPA member to donate. Remember, you do not have to be present at the reunion!

Chances can also be obtained for your donations during the VSPA Reunion at MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL. *In order to allow us to spend time with our brothers, we will be limiting donation collection times at the reunion to all day Wednesday till hospitality room closing, as well as Friday till hospitality room closing. Donation Collections will not be taken up on Thursday or Saturday.*

If you cannot attend the reunion, please mail your donations. After your donation is received, we will return your portion of the ticket and copies of your stub chances that will be placed into the drawing with your name and phone number. You must provide a return address to receive your copies. To save on costs, send us your E-mail address with your donation and we will send you copies of your ticket portion and stubs back via email.

Send in your check or money order donation (**PLEASE, NO CASH!**), to be received by September 23rd for the drawing at the VSPA reunion in October. (Donations received after the September 23rd mail in cut-off date may not have a chance to be entered into the drawing).

Again, this donation fundraiser is conducted by the Thailand Dog Handlers Group who are all members of the VSPA. However, this is not a VSPA fundraiser. Send donations with current email address if desired or with name, return address, and phone number printed clearly on a sheet of paper. Make checks or money orders Payable to:

John Homa
151 CR 556
Athens, TN 37303

Please do not write a check out to the VSPA or the Thailand Dog Handlers Group. There is no way to cash a check with those names on your check. THANK YOU!

ATTENTION THAILAND VETERANS!

Membership eligibility rules have changed for Security Policemen who served in Thailand. As of our 2015 reunion, members overwhelmingly approved a change to our Bylaws that would allow Thailand Veterans who served in Thailand after May 15, 1975 and through the end of 1976 to apply for membership in the VSPA. The change in Bylaws recognizes the highly dangerous service of Security Policemen who remained behind to protect the people and assets during the drawdown of forces. The change also recognizes that Thailand was surrounded by three countries (Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos) that had fallen to Communist control, that Thailand was accepting refugees fleeing from South Vietnam, and that Security Policemen, Thai forces and other US personnel remained vulnerable to attack while surrounded by hostile countries. Members also approved a free one year membership for those Thailand Veterans who had previously had their applications denied.

If you know someone who wore one of the following patches in Thailand, please contact them and provide the contact information for VSPA Membership Chairman, Paul Shave, at the following email address and phone number: Paul_Shave@hotmail.com 505-831-9401.



355 SPS



355 SPS

388 APS/SPS



388 APS/SPS

432 SPS



VSPA.com War-Stories.com

432 SPS

635 SP/AP



VSPA.COM - WAR-STORIES.COM

635 SP/AP

TIME TO RENEW THOSE VSPA DUES

It is time to renew your VSPA yearly dues....or, better yet, pay a one-time fee, become a Life Member and never pay dues again! It's easy to pay dues or re-up an expired or expiring membership. If you've been putting it off trying to find time, take a few minutes now and make it happen. Just go to VSPA's Homepage (<http://www.vspa.com>) and on the top menu, click the menu and select: "About/Join/Dues/Help", then select the appropriate link. You can also pay your dues when you register for the reunion



Paul Shave, Life Member #666
Binh Thuy Devil Flight 68-69
VSPA Membership Chairman
Paul_Shave@hotmail.com
505-831-9401

Some VSPA members wonder why I love my Life Member #666. Well, aside from my sense of humor, and being a Delta Devil at Binh Thuy, here is a graphic from Don Poss that explains some of my SP heritage.



The Day I Got Shot

By Ken Boyer, Life Member #922, Cam Ranh Bay 68-69



I was assigned machine gun bunker duty on the bay side of Cam Ranh Bay AB. The bunker had a mortar pit attached. The night passed and was uneventful. As morning approached on August 31st, 1968, I was waiting for my ride to take me back to the hooch where I could get something to eat, use the facilities, and get some sleep before it got too hot.

The jeep came to pick me up at approximately 5:30 AM. While riding in the jeep and before the jeep reached the paved road, I unloaded my .38 revolver and M16 rifle. I did this to speed the checking in of my weapons once I had returned to the Security Police Headquarters. I wanted to get to bed and get some sleep. When we finally reached the paved road, I got out of the jeep. I thought I could save time by

hitchhiking back to headquarters faster than staying with the jeep. The jeep then turned north to the Korean compound to pick up another Air Policeman. This area was located just a little south and west of the Cam Ranh air terminal.

I started to walk south with the idea of hitchhiking. I walked for a distance because there were no vehicles on the road at that early morning hour. Eventually I came upon an Air Force Law Enforcement E5 who had an Army six-by truck stopped. He was talking to the soldier and busy, so I passed by not wanting to interrupt his working.

After a little distance, I eventually turned around. When I did, I noticed that the Air Policeman and soldier were fighting in the middle of the road and that the soldier had taken the nightstick away from the sergeant. I watched as the Air Policeman drew his .38 revolver from his holster and pointed it at the soldier. In the middle of the road the soldier dropped the nightstick. When the soldier took a few steps backward, the sergeant was able to retrieve his nightstick and reattach it to his web belt. Having viewed this, I quickly offered my assistance.

The sergeant and I ushered the man into the back seat of his covered Air Police vehicle and the sergeant returned his .38 revolver to its holster without strapping it in. I positioned myself beside the jeep passenger door to prevent the individual from escaping. While standing there the soldier and I began to talk. He said, "What am I going to do? Both of you have guns and I don't have one." I replied, "Don't worry, we are all Americans." (We were supposed to be on the same side.)

The sergeant, who was standing beside the driver's door, reached into the jeep to retrieve the radio mike positioned on the passenger's side of the dashboard. As he did this, the soldier, who was sitting directly behind the driver's seat, reached up and grabbed the sergeant's .38 out of his holster and pointed it at me. Without any hesitation, he fired.

I knew immediately that I had been shot but didn't know where exactly. I could feel the powder burn on my face and hands. I stood there for a few seconds and decided that I needed to do something. I rolled to my right and dropped my M16 rifle. Clutching my abdomen, I fell to my knees. In the movies

most people that are shot usually lay down, so I laid down. I lay there for a few seconds when the soldier shot at me again, this time missing. I realized that if I wanted to live, I would have to do something.

I returned to my knees and pulled out my .38 revolver. As I looked over my right shoulder, I could see that the soldier had gotten out of the jeep and picked up my M16 rifle. I don't know if he realized the rifle was unloaded and that I was carrying 8 loaded magazines. The Air Police sergeant had somehow fought his .38 revolver away from the soldier and was now beating him in the head with it. The soldier used my M16 to block the hits to his temple.

I unsnapped my pouch of .38 shells and grabbed the first shells that fell out. I then opened the cylinder of the revolver and began shoving shells in. I rotated the cylinder to have a shell lined up for firing. Closing the cylinder, I turned and while still on my knees, aimed for the soldier's midsection and fired. The soldier stood there for a few seconds, then very stiffly fell backwards toward the ground dropping my M16. As he lay on the ground, he began digging his heels into the dirt, trying to get up. I made it over to him and stuck my .38 revolver in his face saying, "If you get up, I will shoot you again." With that, he stopped struggling.

As the E5 Air Policeman struggled to get the radio working, I fired several shots into the air to draw attention for help. Eventually the sergeant obtained contact on the radio and a Security Police strike team was dispatched. I lay back down on the ground and waited for the team's arrival. When the strike team arrived, I surrendered my .38 to the team's sergeant. We then waited for what seemed an eternity for the ambulance to arrive.

The Air Police Commander figured I saved the life of the Air Police E5 sergeant at the risk of my own life. For my actions I was awarded the Air Force Airman's Medal. While in the hospital several days after the shooting, the doctors took the .38 bullet out of my back and presented it to me as a souvenir. The bullet had entered just to the left of my belt buckle, which was about 2 inches below my flack jacket, and went through both belts that I was wearing (gun belt and pants belt) and lodged so close to the outside of my back that it could be felt. The doctor told me that I had 12 holes in my intestines that had to be patched. I was very lucky that no vital organs were damaged.

The soldier, who was from the Chicago area, had been in country for 13 months and AWOL from his artillery unit at Ahn Khe for 11 months.

While in the hospital intensive care unit, the soldier was located in the bed next to me. I could reach out and touch him. When we were moved to a regular gunshot ward, he was located in a bed across the isle. When we cranked up our beds, we faced each other.

I testified at his courts martial. Because he had been previously busted and was having half of his pay provided to his wife and child, there wasn't much the Army could do to him. He did receive 6 months in jail, which had to be served in-country at Long Binh near Saigon. Before he would be allowed to return to the United States, he would have to serve all of his AWOL time with his unit.

I currently receive 20% disability from the government. On February 26, 1969, the Stars and Stripes wrote an article about the shooting. They credited my survival to my extensive Air Police training. I think of my survival as a matter of wanting to live and my willingness to do anything to make that happen.

The Stars and Stripes carried articles about the shooting in the February 26, 1969 edition. I was awarded the Airman's Medal and the bullet that was taken out of my back. Steve Gattis was there when I was presented the medal.

Ken Boyer



Korean Soldier at the 12th USAF Hospital Cam Ranh Bay, Republic of South Vietnam By Ken Boyer

On August 31st, 1968 I was wounded at Cam Ranh Bay at approximately 6:15 am. I was taken to the Air Force Hospital emergency room. The bullet entered in front near my belt buckle below my bulletproof vest and eventually lodged in my back on the right side of my body. I was operated on and afterwards placed in a gunshot ward for recovery. In the beginning, I had several tubes placed in my body including the veins of each arm. Because it was an abdominal wound, I had a tube draining the contents of my stomach. I stayed in the ward for approximately 30 days. Eventually, the tubes were removed and I was placed on a very light diet. I was served Jell-O and a soup that tasted really salty. I tried to eat but I couldn't get the light food down. I asked for a regular meal and was provided one and ate what I could. I was discharged from the hospital and assigned recovery time in my hooch, which provided me the opportunity to once again adjust to the heat and humidity.

I was eventually put back to work. At first, the work was light and I stuck around the air police control room and handed out C rations to the guys. After a little time I was assigned back to my normal security duties on the parameter bunkers.

After some time, I started getting ill and felt hot and burning up, then cold and freezing. I eventually discovered I had contracted pneumonia. I was placed back in the 12th Air Force Hospital at Cam Ranh Bay for another 30 days of treatment.

While in the hospital this time, I met a Korean soldier. He had been there for a while and looked miserable. He was being fed regular American food like everyone else. He looked famished and really unhappy.

I made a note of this and the next time I saw Steve Gattis, who was an air policeman and assigned to work with the Koreans at their camp North of the air base, I asked him if there wasn't something we could do for this Korean soldier. Steve provided me with two cases of Korean C rations.

A friend helped me transport these rations to the hospital. When I walked into the ward where the Korean was being treated, he immediately saw the Korean food and lit up like a Christmas tree. He was so happy and thanked me over and over again. By the time I left his hospital ward, he had set up a sterno lighter and started warming up some food more to his liking. This sure made his day and mine also. I had helped a fellow allied troop.



ENCOURAGEMENT – From Janet



This time of year, we turn our attention to our Annual Reunion. Unbelievable that this is the 22nd. Every year, I recall the reunions I was fortunate to attend. At my count, that is 10 since my first in 2003.

It was in 2003 that Sarge brought me with him to a reunion. I was interested but I also wanted to come back to San Antonio, where I grew up. I expected to have a good time and see familiar things. I was not quite expecting to leave with a new family.

Little did I realize what was about to happen. I was welcomed and then adopted. I know each of you who have attended a reunion left with that same feeling. At least I hope you did.

I consider that first reunion a highlight of my life. I was so impressed by the brotherhood, sisterhood, the respect, the reflections... I can say that it changed my life.

Not only did I leave with new family, a new respect for Security Police, Security Forces and Viet Nam Veterans, I left with a new connection with my Daddy. Each reunion we attended connected the two of us in a different way as we connected and reconnected with the VSPA.

I will never forget Sarge being on the lookout for a new member, to shake a Brother's hand and say Welcome Home. He loved being there, loved this Association and loved being an SP.

I will be with you all this year to connect, reconnect, and remember. It is a privilege to be with you. I so appreciate the way you all help me to honor my dear Sarge's memory through you care and support for both me and Mama and your support of our non-profit in Sarge's honor: "Sarge's Café, Inc."

Whether this is your first reunion or your 22nd, when I see you in October, I hope that I can extend on Sarge's behalf the hand of welcome and friendship and that when you leave, you will know you were with family. And, I can't wait to regale you with stories about my Daddy.

Love and Hugs to you all, Janet

Come see us at www.sargescafe.com.

2016 ELECTION OF VSPA OFFICERS

VSPA members who attended our 2007 reunion in Washington D.C. voted to modify our by-laws and the election process so that the election would no longer be conducted only at the reunion business meeting. A committee was appointed to determine whether electronic voting could take place via our web site and to develop a process. The committee included Don Poss, Newell Swartz, Sam Lewis and Don Hamilton.

Don Poss thoroughly investigated electronic voting via the Internet and found that it could not be done in an efficient, cost effective manner. He looked at the process as both our Web Master and as a VSPA member who fully supported the idea of voting on-line. Other organizations that had attempted the process had numerous problems that far exceeded our ability to resolve, including multiple votes from different computers and the inability to accurately identify voters who emailed ballots. We simply do not have the manpower to search our records to verify current membership based upon multiple email addresses (like pullmyfinger@email.com) that have changed without notice to the VSPA, which is something we experience on a daily basis. Multiple votes on-line are a reality, not because people are dishonest, but because computers can be very confusing for some people who might worry that their ballot has not been received and they send it again, or they send it from another computer which could make them appear to be a different person. The only other alternative is to have a mail-in ballot that you can print from our web site, or receive in the mail and return.

For those members who are reading this on-line, you must be a current member in order to vote. You must print the ballot and mail it to **STEVE GATTIS, WITH A POSTMARK NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 26, 2016.** Steve is not running for office, whereas many of the other officers are running for office again. Your membership status will be verified to make certain that only one vote is submitted. All votes will be counted and verified by an election committee at the reunion.

There are SIX positions up for election this year: President, Vice President, 2ND Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian. All other positions in the VSPA are staff positions appointed by the president and board based upon their expertise and willingness to serve the members of the VSPA. Elected officers will be confirmed and installed at our reunion in Tampa, Florida in October. The term of office is two years. The positions DO NOT receive a salary and work on a volunteer basis.

The following VSPA members have declared their intention to run for an elected VSPA position. Each person has been a member in good standing for at least TWO YEARS. They are **all Life Members.** They have the ability to attend future business meetings that are held at our annual reunions. They communicate via the Internet on a regular basis and have made the commitment to provide the time necessary to serve in the respective positions that they seek.

Please note that there are five candidates for two Vice President positions. The candidate with the most votes will become the Vice President. The candidate with the next highest number of votes will become the 2nd Vice President.

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN OR TURN THE PAGE FOR BIOS.

THE BALLOT FOLLOWS THE BIOS.

For President: Greg Cain Life Member #62, Binh Thuy 67-68



I would be honored to be considered for a second term as your President in the upcoming election in Tampa, Florida. After two years as your President and two terms as your Vice President, I will support the Constitution, the staff and the membership to the best of my abilities and work on increasing membership.

I have been involved with the VSPA since 2002 and have attended every reunion since then with my wife, Sheila Gervase-Cain (President of the Sisterhood). I was awarded the Warrior's Medal of Valor in 2007 and the Monk Pope Brotherhood Award in 2008.

I entered the Air Force in August of 1965. My first duty station was Niagara Falls AFB with TDY'S to Selfridge, Wurtsmith and Alpena in Michigan before being assigned to Binh Thuy Air Base, RVN, for the period of May 1967 to May 1968 (Tet Offensive).

I have been retired since 2005, being awarded 100% disability service connected. I became involved in Veteran's Affairs in 1980 and am a charter member of VVA Chapter 77 and was their second President. I continued to serve in other offices and the Board of Directors until recently so I can devote my full energy to the VSPA.

We have a few issues I would like to have brought to the forefront in the GUARDMOUNT or the Bulletin Board online as information updates to members and to the Sisterhood, including: The continuing saga of Agent Orange, the Children's National Registry for disabilities related to A/O, and the Toxic Chemicals Bills being considered in D.C. We still have an unacceptable number of homeless veterans.

I have the dedication, knowledge and experience to serve you well.

WELCOME HOME! gjcain@roadrunner.com

THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES HAVE DECLARED THEIR INTENTION TO RUN FOR VICE PRESIDENT. THERE ARE FIVE CANDIDATES FOR TWO POSITIONS: VICE PRESIDENT AND 2ND VICE PRESIDENT. YOU MAY VOTE FOR TWO OF THE CANDIDATES. THEY ARE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN OR TURN THE PAGE FOR BIOS

For Vice President: Jaime A. Lleras Life Member #887, Binh Thuy 1/1970 – 12/1970



It would be an honor to be considered as your next Vice President in the upcoming election. I will support the Constitution, the staff and the membership of the VSPA to the best of my abilities. I have been a member of the VSPA since 2012 and have attended two of the last three reunions with my wife, Patricia Lleras, member of the VSPA Sisterhood.

I was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, on 11 March 1950, where I lived until 1953, when my family moved to the United States. I grew up in Brooklyn, NY and after graduating from a private High School, I enlisted in the US Air Force in August 1968. My first duty station was at Hamilton AFB as a Law Enforcement officer with the 78th Security Police Sq. After 1½ years in ADC, I was assigned to the 632nd SPS at Binh Thuy Air Base, RVN, as a Security Policeman during the period of January 1970 to December 1970. After one year in Vietnam, I was assigned to SAC's Griffiss AFB, Rome, NY, with the 416th SPS, where I was honorably discharged in August 1972. After a 10 year break, I joined the DC Air National Guard as an E4 SPS for 3-years, followed by 21 years with the 175th Airlift Wing in the Maryland Air Guard. During my tenure with the MDANG, I served a First Sergeant, a Human Resource Adviser and retired as the Wing Command Chief, in May of 2004.

I also worked at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington, DC, as Director for Shared Services and Mail Operations and retired in 2012, after 23 years of federal service. I currently live in Surfside Beach, SC with my wife Patricia (Pat) and have been married for 33 beautiful years. We have three grown children and three grandchildren. I've served as neighborhood community vice president in Maryland and was involved with the production and layout for the church's newsletter for several years.

After joining the VSPA, I have been involved with many Vietnam veterans and their benefit issues, which has allowed me to better cope with my own Vietnam experience. I am currently a Chapter Service Officer and the Jr. Vice Commander for the DAV in Myrtle Beach, SC (Chapter 30) and I have also held other volunteer positions such as:

- A member of the Church Council as the Communications Committee Liaison and; Program Coordinator and teacher of their English as a Second Language (ESL).
- Big brother in the Big Brother Big Sister of Southern Maryland program for 10 years.
- Volunteered at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland, for 3-years doing veteran visitations and managing the Clothing Store, where resident vets could come to pick up free clothing donated by the community.

My strong leadership and managerial skills; exceptional customer service experience; strong organizational and interpersonal skills and attention to details orientation, I believe provide me with the necessary qualifications to serve as one of your leaders. Welcome Home Brothers & Sisters.

Jaime Lleras chiefjal9@gmail.com

For Vice President: Bill Marshall Life Member #85, Phu Cat 68-69



I was born and raised in rural Van Wert County, Ohio where I worked on the family farm. I attended Ft. Wayne International Business College for one year prior to entering the United States Air Force in 1965. My assignments were primarily in SAC as an Air Policeman / Security Policeman with my first assignment at Grand Forks AFB. I was assigned to “missile facility top-side security.” I learned to endure harsh winters and hot summers. I lived inside a camper vehicle, eating T.V. dinners and providing security for Minuteman Missile silos near the farmlands of North Dakota. I was fortunate enough to be selected for a position with the SAC Elite Guard in 1967 to provide internal security for the headquarters building at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. The assignment included a specially designed uniform with a blue beret. I worked at entry

control points within a building with 23 assigned Generals plus one Admiral, thousands of Colonels, Lieutenants, Captains and Majors. Additional responsibilities included: honors and ceremonies, funeral details and standboards for visiting dignitaries. This assignment was the best duty one could ask for; however, the Vietnam build-up in 1968 created a large demand for Security Policemen. I was assigned to Phu Cat Air Base and am very proud that I was able to serve my country. My greatest pleasure was serving with other airmen who, in the spirit of duty and brotherhood, protected their base as well as each other.

I was discharged in 1969 as a Staff Sergeant. I worked for the Hanes Knitwear Corporation for 25 years; first as a sales representative, then as a sales manager where I was responsible for 25 sales representatives covering six western states. I took early retirement in 1996 and started my own executive recruitment company, from which I recently retired. I am now fully retired and would like to give back to organizations like the VSPA which have been instrumental in bringing closure to my Vietnam experience while allowing me to initiate many new friendships throughout the USA. Because of this, I ask that I be considered for the position of Vice President. I believe very strongly in the VSPA and its motto **“We Take Care of Our Own.”** I have been a member since 2001 and have repeatedly seen this expressed for a fellow brother. While we are all different, we share a brotherhood that can only be understood by those who have stood in harm’s way and who have risked their lives to protect their base and brothers. This bond, forged by a war 50 years ago, cannot be broken and will continue to the last man standing.

I am a life member of the VSPA. I am a past Membership Chairman and have been the Second VP for the last four years and monitored the web site bulletin board for seven years. I have attended as many of the reunions as circumstances permitted. One of the most special moments of my life was to march with 400 VSPA brothers at the 25th Anniversary celebration of “The Wall” in Washington D.C., paying tribute to those who served and to those who paid the ultimate price. Additionally, this past fourteen years, I created a web site that paid tribute to all the men who served on the SAC Elite Guard. From this initiative grew the SAC Elite Guard Association (SEGA) 501(c)(19), which now numbers over 700 former members and over 100 past members who have turned in their shield for the final time. I served as the first President of SEGA and presided over its incorporation during the first four years, acted as its webmaster the past two years and was re-elected in May, 2010 as the SEGA President. Upon finishing my term as president, I am currently the secretary.

In 2015, I was appointed to the Van Wert County Veteran Commission as a Commissioner, responsible for the 3000 Veterans currently residing here. My duties are to insure their needs are met and

to promote veterans rights as their advocate to the Veterans Commission. I am currently serving as the Finance Officer of my local American Legion Post 178. I am in charge of the Honors and Ceremonial guard that renders graveside honors services that average approximately 100 per year and Honor details as required.

I believe the experiences I have gained with the SEGA organization and the American Legion, along with my county veteran commission experience, would be beneficial in assisting the President of the VSPA. It would be my honor to be elected as the Vice President of the VSPA.

Welcome home! BillMarshallVSPALM85@gmail.com

For Vice President: Ken Neal

Life Member #80, Ubon K9 68-69, Udorn K9 74-75



I am seeking your consideration for the Office of Vice President of the Vietnam Security Police Association. I served in various capacities while on active duty in the Air Force as a Sentry Dog Handler in Thailand, Okinawa and Michigan, and as a Dental Lab Tech in Thailand, Michigan, Arizona and Japan. My SEA tours as a dog handler were Ubon and Udorn Thailand.

In my tenure with VSPA I have been involved in a number of important events such as the design of the organizational flag, the re-design of VSPA member coin, the current unit coin used to recognize troops as well as the new sisterhood / member coin. I was an active supporter of the Defenders Bench project and the Pease Greeters VSPA Welcome Home sign. I served as an appointee as a photographer and currently act as a member of the Security Forces Museum Foundation Board of Trustees. You may also know me for my participation in the Dog Handlers fundraisers that support various organizations of interest to the VSPA.

When joining the VSPA it was as a Life member, #80. I also hold life membership in the following Veterans organizations: Vietnam Veterans of Manitoba Canada #28, Vietnam Veterans of America, Vietnam Dog Handler Association #1486, Air Force Sergeants Association, Air Force Security Forces Association, DAV and serve as the Ambassador at Large for the Feed the Dawgs Project. I work hard within these organizations to make the VSPA and its membership known. I am greatly honored to have been honored with The Warriors Medal of Valor.

Ken Neal maxk000@aol.com

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN OR TURN THE PAGE FOR BIOS

For Vice President: Junious (Bud) Owens Retired, USAF, Life Member #56, Binh Thuy 66-67



I first learned of the VSPA in 2001 when it was in the AF Times. I sent in my dues for one year but was too late to attend the reunion in Virginia. I attended my first reunion in 2002 in Dayton, Ohio. I decided at this reunion that this was an organization I could connect with and not get involved in politics. After returning from the reunion in Dayton, I sent in my life membership fee. I was Life Member #56. I have attended many but not all reunions in the last 14 years.

I was deeply involved with the Disabled American Veterans, Department of New Hampshire and did not consider an office in the VSPA at that time. I have been recognized and honored by the VSPA on many occasions and have served as Service Officer for many years. As Service Officer I urged the members that were in Thailand to submit their claims for Agent Orange exposure to the VA. At the time the Thailand Veterans were not considered eligible but were rewarded with back pay from the VA when the Thailand Veterans were approved. Several members have obtained their compensation from the VA due to my urging. My wife, Bette and I have been members of the Pease Greeters for over 10 years and have greeted many flights of military and civilian personnel passing thru Pease International Airport in New Hampshire. The Greeters are approaching the 1,000th flight since 2005. I received the Mike Daoust Bayonet Award in 2008 and the Warriors Medal of Valor in 2014. I am submitting my name for consideration of the position of Vice President of the VSPA.

Yours in Comradeship,
Junious B. Owens betbudowe@comcast.net

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN OR TURN THE PAGE FOR BIOS

For Vice President: Hector Ramos Life Member #165, Binh Thuy 69-70



I was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in Brooklyn, NY where I graduated high school and then joined the US Air Force. I served four years as an Air Policeman in the Panama Canal Zone, Vietnam and finally in Bangor, Maine. After my discharge, I completed a two-year AAS degree program to allow myself a choice between the NYPD, which was recruiting me, and the engineering field. Once I succeeded with school, the obvious choice and new challenge was engineering. I retired from PSE&G in Newark, New Jersey as a Supervising Engineer in the Electric Sub & Switch Station Group. Upon retirement, Yolanda and I moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where I remain active in the Veteran's community. Yolanda and I are so happy to receive & give love to our beautiful granddaughters, Gianna and Isabella.....they are truly keeping us forever young!

I'm nearing 17 years as a VSPA member & have had the honor of serving as a three term (2003-2008) Vice President. It was my honor to lead the planning effort for our 2007 march in the Washington, D.C. parade to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of The Wall. I received the Mike Daoust Bayonet Award in 2007 and the Warrior's Medal of Valor in 2013. I would like to declare for one of the VP positions to be elected in 2016 and contribute my time and services to the VSPA for the coming two-year term of office.

MILITARY HISTORY & ASSOCIATIONS – Hector Ramos, Continued

Military History & Training

BASIC TRAINING

Amarillo AFB Texas 4/67
3333 BMTS Flt 132

AIR POLICE TRAINING

COMBAT PREPAREDNESS COURSE AZR
Lackland AFB Texas 5/67 thru 6/67

PANAMA 6/67 thru 12/68

5700TH SECURITY POLICE HDQ
24th SEC POL SQD, HOWARD AFB
& ARMED FORCES POLICE, FT. CLAYTON
USARCO JOTC Jungle Survival Training 8/68

BINH THUY AB VIETNAM 1/69 thru 1/70
632 SEC POL SQD, DEVIL FLT

BANGOR, MAINE 2/70 thru
3/71 DET 1 60TH FIS

3/71 Honorable Discharge, rank E4

Associations

Vietnam Veterans of America Eastern NJ Chapter 779 – former Vice President

Vietnam Veterans of America Myrtle Beach Chapter 925

Vietnam Security Police Association (USAF National Organization) – Life Member and Former VP

Hector Ramos

hramos926@verizon.net

For Secretary: Jerry Nelson
Life Member #668, Safeside, Phan Rang,
Phu Cat, Tuy Hoa 69-70



I am Jerry Nelson and have served as the Secretary for the Vietnam Security Police Association for the last 3 ½ years. I have been a VSPA member since 2006. I retired from our Air Force, after 27 years, as a Chief Master Sergeant in 1995 and currently live in San Antonio, TX. Upon retirement, I was employed by Primerica and, after 21 years, still continue that job as a VP in the Field Audit Department. I also serve as President of the Safeside Association.

I truly enjoy being involved with the VSPA and have formed many, many lasting relationships as a result. We enjoy a common bond that was developed through a shared experience in Southeast Asia. I have also enjoyed being on the Board of Directors, helping to ensure that our organization stays focused and dedicated to our ideals. After serving 3½ years, I have decided to pursue another full term as Secretary. I truly have dedicated myself to serving our Association in any way possible and feel that I can continue to serve our membership in making sure that we “take care of our own”.

I knew that I wanted to be part of VSPA the first night in the Hospitality Room while talking with Al “Sarge” Mathews. He told me about this great organization and about the Brotherhood that existed. He was totally correct and I have seen that Brotherhood at work every day as a member of this Association.

I received the Mike Daoust Bayonet Award in 2007 and the Warrior’s Medal of Valor in 2010. I am asking for your support and vote in allowing me to continue my service to you as the Secretary.

Thanks for your Brotherhood! See you in Tampa! WELCOME HOME! Jrnel1423@aol.com

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN OR TURN THE PAGE FOR BIOS

For Treasurer: Richard Garcia Life Member #82, Phan Rang 69-70



I have served as the Treasurer of the VSPA since 2009 (eight years).

I enlisted in the United States Air Force in April 1967. Basic Training, Security Police School, Combat Prep Course at Lackland AFB 04/67-07/67. After Lackland, I went to Francis E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne, WY 07/67-01/69, guarding Minuteman Missiles/Nuke Warheads.

I served at Phan Rang AB, RVN with the 35th Security Police Squadron in heavy weapons, Tiger mortar pit. I completed my service commitment with the 370th SPS

Bangor, Maine, and was honorably discharged in April, 1971.

I retired two years ago as a Billing/Collections manager with the Episcopal Church, responsible for over 4,000 accounts payable and accounts receivable with an estimated monthly premium cash value of over \$20,000,000.00.

I received the “Vietnam Security Police Association Mike Daoust Award” in 2011 and the Warriors Medal of Valor” in 2014.

Associations:

Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA) Life Member #82, VFW, American Legion, Massapequa Post 1066, DAV Life Member, Vietnam Veterans of America

It would be an honor and a privilege to continue serving this great association of USAF Air/Security Police brothers.

Welcome Home!

Richard Garcia

cal400@optonline.net

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN OR TURN THE PAGE FOR BIOS

For Historian: Steve Shelt Life Member #157, Pleiku 67-68



I have had a very diverse career within the federal government as well as private business and industry. My career began in 1966 when I enlisted in the Air Force. As a Security Policeman, I was assigned to the 410th Bombardment Wing, 410th Combat Defense Squadron, K.I. Sawyer AFB, Michigan; 633rd Combat Support Group, 633rd Security Police Squadron, Pleiku AB, Vietnam; and the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing, 81st Security Police Squadron, Bentwaters RAF, England. My most memorable experience in the Air Force was defending Pleiku Air Base during the 1968 Tet Offensive in Vietnam.

I separated from the Air Force in 1970 and pursued my college education while working as a warehouse manager for a pharmaceutical and hospital supply company. After graduating from Tiffin University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, I made the decision to rejoin the military and entered the Army as a Military Policeman. I was assigned to the 554th Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, Patch Barracks, Germany; Headquarters U.S. European Command, Protective Service Detachment, Germany; and Forces Command, Law Enforcement Activities, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. My most memorable experience in the Army was leading protective service missions with the Multinational Peace Keeping Force in Beirut, Lebanon.

In 1987, I started my civilian career in federal service with the Department of Army, assigned as the Director/Physical Security Officer, Physical Security and Crime Prevention Division, Office of the Provost Marshal, Ft Sheridan IL. My responsibility included facilities and installations in six mid-western states assigned to the 4th Army. In 1989 I was recruited by the U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR). During my tenure at the DOE-SR, I was assigned as a Team Leader, Branch Chief, Program Manager, and Division Director. I managed and directed a wide range of programs to include: Physical Security, Protective Force Operations, Intelligence/Counter-intelligence, Fire Protection, Aviation, and Emergency Management. I also directed the security mission for nuclear spent fuel being transported via ocean vessels from foreign country reactors to the U.S. as part of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. After 9/11, I was assigned a collateral duty to the FBI's Southeast Joint Terrorism Task Force, CSRA Joint Agency and Midlands Weapons of Mass Destruction Working Groups representing DOE Savannah River Operations Office.

I retired from federal service in 2007 and became a consultant to both private industry and the federal government on nuclear and petroleum security, terrorism, emergency services, and aviation safety and management. I completely retired from the work force in 2012. Post retirement I have volunteered with the Augusta Historical Society working on the National Veterans History Project collecting (videotaping) personal accounts of American war veterans for a better understanding of the realities of war. Those accounts are sent to the National Archives so that future generations may hear directly from the veterans. I am a member of the county Community Emergency Response Team and volunteered 3 years at the Charlie Norwood Veterans Medical Center, Augusta, GA. I have also provided lectures to the current Air Force Security Forces on the emergence and tribulations of Air Base Defense in the Vietnam War. My favorite activity is backpacking on the Appalachian Trail and singing karaoke with friends. I am active with veterans organizations such as the American Legion, Post 192, Vietnam Veterans of America, Vietnam Security Police Association (Life Member #157), and the Pleiku Air Base Association.

steve@visoweb.com



VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION BALLOT

PRINT AND MAIL TO:
STEVE GATTIS
P.O. BOX 1889
GLEN ROSE, TEXAS 76043



PRINT OR TYPE CAREFULLY
SO THAT WE CAN VERIFY YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND ADDRESS

NAME: _____
Last First M.I. Nickname

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY and ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

INSTRUCTIONS

If you are attending the reunion, you may mail your ballot, or you may wait to meet the candidates and submit your ballot at the reunion. You may only vote one time.

PRINT THIS PAGE

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS BALLOT AND MAIL TO STEVE GATTIS
WITH A **POSTMARK NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 26, 2016.**
CIRCLE THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE BELOW

FOR PRESIDENT

Greg Cain

VOTE FOR TWO: FOR VICE PRESIDENT (listed alphabetically)

Jaime Lleras Bill Marshall Ken Neal Bud Owens Hector Ramos

FOR SECRETARY

Jerry Nelson

FOR TREASURER

Richard Garcia

FOR HISTORIAN

Steve Shelt

A GRAPHIC TRIBUTE TO OUR HISTORY

AND THE TALENT OF DON POSS

The mission of the Vietnam Security Police Association is to preserve the history of our service in Vietnam and Thailand and to share the hard lessons learned while serving as Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees during the war from 1958 through 1976. Don Poss, as our awarding winning web master and Director of Communications, has created a number of graphics using our history and his skill in computer graphics to tell our story. The following are just a few of the many graphics that can be found at the following link:

<http://www.vspa.com/vspa-slideshow/vspa-slideshow-menu-don-poss.htm>





BUNKER HILL 10
TET 1968, Bien Hoa Airbase
3rd Security Police Squadron
 A1C Marshall Gott takes cover beneath old French Fire Truck
 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, UH-1 Huey and AH-1 Cobra helicopters
 (c) 2015, by Don Poss



BUNKER HILL 10
TET 1968, Bien Hoa Airbase
 (c) 2015, by Don Poss
 Bunker Hill 10 (Interior view): SSgt. Piazza and A1C Marshall Gott move unknown body (Capt. Maisey) onto steps.







LIGHTNING

Vietnam ~ Thailand

Tower photo (c) Copyright 2009 by,
Graphic (c) Composite 2012, by



Take Our Brother Home!

PTSD is about what happened to you; what you can no longer forget; and did not invite to return.
22 veterans kill themselves every day, according to a 2012 Department of Veterans Affairs study
(c) 2015 by Don Poss



USAF K-9, AIR/SECURITY POLICE **FIRST IN VIETNAM**
FIRST IN THAILAND



31 SPS



31 SPS

35 APPS / SPS



VSPA.com - War-Stories.com

35 APPS / SPS

366 APPS/SPS



366 APPS/SPS

377 APs/SPs



377 APs/SPs

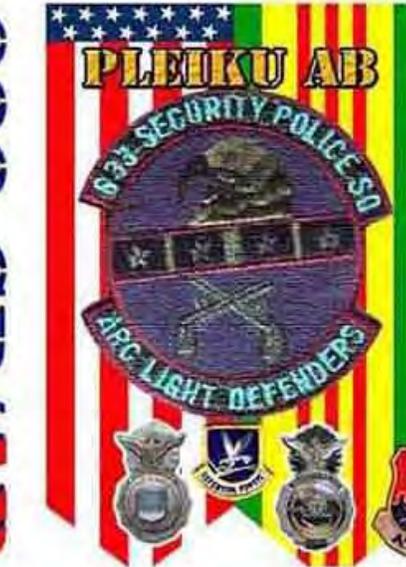
483 SPS



483 SPS

VIETNAM Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc.

633 SP/AP

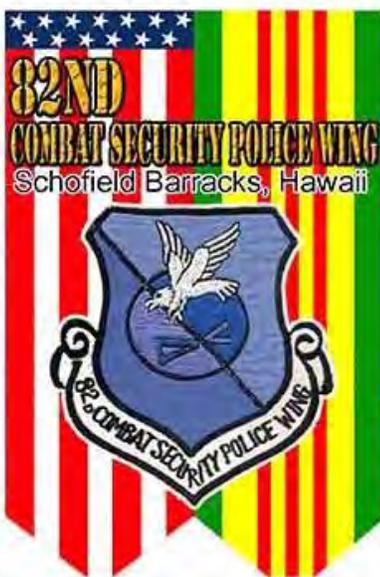


633 SP/AP

VIETNAM Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc.

VSPA.COM - WAR-STORIES.COM

82 CSP WING



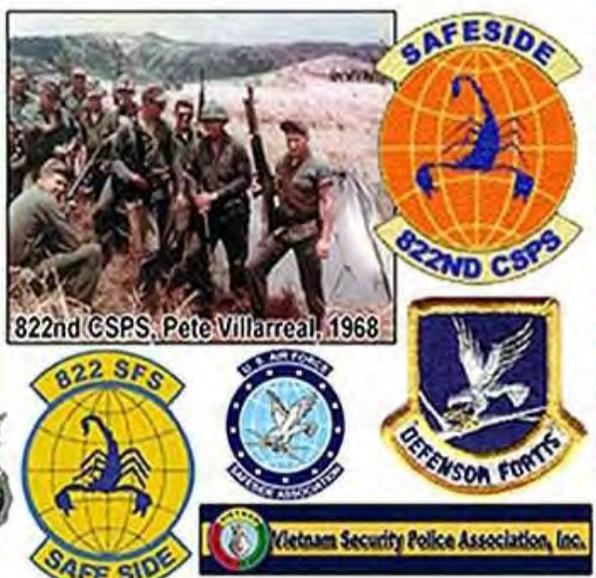
82 CSP WING

821 CSPS



821 CSPS

822 CSPS



822 CSPS



1041st (T)



**BUSINESS MEETING
21st ANNUAL VSPA REUNION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 0905 hours by President Greg Cain
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR DEPARTED BROTHERS INCLUDING:**
 - A. The 111 Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand.
 - B. All VSPA members listed at Life Member #111 which was established as a tribute to those who did not survive the war and those members of the VSPA who died as members in good standing. Also, approximately 50 other Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Security Forces Defenders who died in the past year, including those who recently perished in Afghanistan when the C-130 they were flying in crashed.
3. **INVOCATION** – Chaplain Jim Stastny
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Vice President Jack Smith.
5. **INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICERS** by name, squadron and place of residence:
 - Greg Cain, President; LM #62; West Seneca, NY; Binh Thuy 1967-68.
 - Edwin “Jack” Smith, Vice President; LM#453; West Jefferson, Ohio; Tan Son Nhut 68-69

 - Bill Marshall, Second Vice President; LM #85; Westerville, OH; Phu Cat, 1968-69.
 - Jerry Nelson, Secretary; LM #668; San Antonio, TX; Safeside Phu Cat 821CSPS, Phan Rang 821CSPS, Tuy Hoa 821CSPS, 69-70
 - Richard Garcia, Treasurer; LM #82; Massapequa, NY; Phan Rang, 1969-70.
 - Steve Shelt, Historian; LM #157; Evans, Georgia; Pleiku 67-68 - Unable to attend
 - Don Poss, Communications Director; LM #37; Hemet, CA; Da Nang K-9 1965-66.
 - William Piazza, President; LM #141; Del City, OK, Cam Ranh Bay 66, Bien Hoa 67-68, Phu Cat 70-71.
 - Steve Gattis, President Emeritus; LM #49; Glen Rose, TX; Cam Ranh Bay, 1968-69.

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

6. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of the previous annual business meeting. Rather than taking the time to read them during this meeting, we published the minutes in Guardmount.

Motion to approve by Duke Windsor. 2nd by Robert Hegele. Approved.

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

- 7.1 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT** by President Greg Cain – A Board of Directors meeting was held on Wednesday evening. We discussed items of concern to the Board and have included applicable items under NEW BUSINESS.

- 7.2 **GUARDMOUNT REPORT** – Out of sequence by Erlyce Pekas and Steve Gattis so that Erlyce can attend the VSPA Sisterhood meeting. Erlyce expressed her appreciation for everyone who submitted stories and articles for Guardmount. This is her fifth year as Editor and she is now moving to Assistant Editor with Steve Gattis. She will continue handling her administrative duties with the coordination of printing and all mailing. Steve will handle layout, editing and publishing for print and the VSPA website. Erlyce will always mail a hardcopy of Guardmount to those who have written something that was published in Guardmount. She thanked the VSPA members present for the honor of being the Guardmount Editor for the last five years because her relationship with the VSPA since 2004 has changed her life. She expressed special thanks to Steve Gattis for his efforts to edit and proof read each issue of Guardmount. Steve Gattis asked the members to continue sending stories, photos and articles for publication in Guardmount because it is their opportunity to preserve a piece of their history.

Motion to Approve by Russ Stabler. 2nd by Dave Pierson. Approved.

- 7.3 **TREASURER’S REPORT** by Richard Garcia. Report attached to the file copy of the minutes. Amount in checking account: \$18,596.53. Amount in savings account \$70,523.04.

Motion to receive the financial report by Phil Block. 2nd by Jack Smith. Approved.

- 7.4 **MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN’S REPORT** by Paul Shave. Report attached to the file copy of the minutes. Total number of VSPA members 1373, including 907 Life Members who have paid their dues for life. He thanked members for their donations of \$15 to support members who cannot afford to pay their dues.

Motion to Approve by Duke Windsor. 2nd by Robert Wedding. Approved.

- 7.5 **BX SALES REPORT** by Van Digby. Van spoke about the new items in the inventory, including the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Coins and the cookbook prepared last year by the VSPA Sisterhood as a fundraiser for the association. The cookbook is \$15 at the reunion and will make a great Christmas gift. After the reunion, the cookbook will be available in the BX for \$20, including shipping.

Motion to Approve by Bob Nichols. 2nd by Duke Windsor. Approved.

- 7.6 **WEB SITE REPORT** by Don Poss, Communications Director.

Don updated the members of his on-going issues with eyesight. He has already had one surgery and will be completing the second one shortly. As could be expected, he is somewhat behind on some projects; however, he is close to completing the Safeside project initiated by John Webster, 1041SPS (T). This will update the history with many pictures and history. He is also working on several other projects.

Steve Gattis added the following to the web site report, reminding all present that our status as a Tax Exempt Military Organization of War Veterans requires that we follow IRS Rules and Regulations regarding the prohibition of political activity in support of or against specific candidates for office. The VSPA does not pay income tax and all donations to the VSPA are tax exempt for donors. Our exempt status is the equivalent of the government and the public paying us to conduct our business on behalf of our membership. We cannot receive the benefit of tax exemption if we engage in political activity as an organization. Therefore, the VSPA and other organizations like the VVA cannot advocate for or against candidates for political office, especially during the coming highly contested Presidential elections of 2016 and with all of the current campaigns in 2015-2016. The VSPA must demonstrate compliance by removing political comments from our bulletin boards when members attempt to organize votes or begin speaking for or against candidates. Members are free to engage in whatever political activity they desire as long as it is not in conjunction with the VSPA and our tax exempt activities which include the web site and bulletin boards.

Motion to Approve by Jim Stastny. 2nd by Robert Wedding. Approved

7.7 HISTORIAN'S REPORT Steve Shelt was unable to attend. His report was presented by Greg Cain.

Steve assumed the position of VSPA Historian in 2014. The VSPA archives were received 1/26/15 and 3/6/15 from Kelly Bateman, our previous Historian. Kelly had organized the archives in an outstanding manner. I will continue to build on what he had already structured in documenting archives received from members and research. With respect to the status of the archive, Tan Son Nhut, Phu Cat and Phan Rang, as an example, have provided extensive documentation in the form of photos, official documents and media. I would urge members (especially new members) from all bases to compile documents, photos, stories, or what they feel is important to our history and send them to me to be included in the archives. I can be reached via email at sshelt1102@gmail.com or by phone 706-231-5056. Additionally, my address is 1211 Hardy Point Drive, Evans, GA 30899. This calendar year, I have added to the Pleiku AB archives and have conducted research for two individuals asking for information. I look forward to hearing from anyone who needs me to research the archives for information.

Motion to Approve by Pat Dunne. 2nd by Art Cook. Approved

SECURITY FORCES MUSEUM UPDATE: Presented by Ken Neal, VSPA Liaison to the Security Forces Museum and Member of the SF Museum Foundation. The Museum has reopened.

Motion to Approve by Pat Dunne. 2nd by Art Cook. Approved

7.8 KENNEL MASTER: Presented by Kennel Master Jim Stastny:

FEED THE DAWGS REPORT: by Jim Stastny. A Feed the Dawgs event will be held at Nellis AFB on Saturday morning at 1100. K9 Handlers will gather there to feed steaks to current handlers and their families. As a tradition, the highest ranking member of the Security Forces Squadron who is present will serve the newest and lowest ranking Military Working Dog Handler.

OLD DAWGS & PUPS REPORT by Bill Cummings. My heartfelt thanks to all VSPA members who have supported this great program. We have shipped \$132,231 in supplies and equipment downrange to our pups and their military working dogs. We are truly thankful to VSPA members (Individual & raffles) for over \$19,400 in donations. Also, we extend a special thanks to Don and Larry Poss for creating and maintaining Old Dawgs & Pups website.

Motion to Approve by Bob Curnick. 2nd by Deke Decubellis. Approved.

7.9 SAFESIDE LIAISON REPORT: Presented by Safeside Liaison David Pierson:

Safeside has redesigned our website at www.safesideassociation.org. It has been updated with additional pictures and history of Operation Safeside and the 820th Base Defense Group at Moody AFB, GA. We encourage VSPA members to visit the site. Additionally, the 2015 Safeside Reunion at Moody AFB was a great success. We had the largest number of members attend the reunion in our history. We were hosted by Col Mike Ross, 820 BDG Commander and the 824th BDS Jesters, which left on deployment within two weeks after our visit. We were treated to great demonstrations of their capabilities and a wild Combat Dining Out. Our next reunion is 2017, again at Moody AFB, TX.

Motion to Approve by Bill McGraw. 2nd by Van Digby. Approved

7.10 SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT - Bud Owens was unable to attend due to some health issues. Bud remains available to assist our members with VA claims.

7.11 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT by Jim Lebowitz. Three applications were mailed to applicants. All were returned. The \$1,000 Annual J.J. Chestnut Memorial Scholarship is awarded to:

Justin Orr, the grandson of VSPA Member Mike Daoust.

Motion to Approve by Dave Pierson. 2nd by Russ Stabler. Approved.

8. OLD BUSINESS -

8.1 REUNION SITE SELECTION FOR 2017:

- a. Sites are selected two years in advance so that planning by the VSPA and the host Security Forces Squadron can begin early and they have the time necessary to adapt to active-duty operational requirements. MacDill AFB, Florida was selected in 2014 as the site for the 2016 reunion. Joint Base Andrews, Maryland was selected as the backup location in case the Security Forces Squadron at MacDill AFB could not host our reunion due to the impact of other operations and deployments. **Our 2016 reunion will be October 5 - 9 at MacDill AFB, Florida which is located near Tampa, Florida.**
- b. As in the past, the 2017 reunion will be held in October, the Wednesday through Sunday before the Columbus Day holiday (which is always the second Monday in October). The 2017 reunion will be held **October 4 thru 8, 2017.** The site selection process will be conducted by VSPA President Greg Cain and Vice Presidents Jack Smith and Bill Marshall.
- c. President Greg Cain explained past reunions and the bylaw requirement to choose by alternating regions in the CONUS: WEST, CENTRAL and EAST and THAT WE MUST CHOOSE A LOCATION IN THE CENTRAL CONUS FOR 2017.

USAF ACTIVE DUTY BASES IN THE CENTRAL US;

Peterson AFB, CO

USAF Academy, CO

F.E. Warren AFB, WY

Kirkland AFB, NM

Cannon AFB, NM

Holloman AFB, NM

Offutt AFB, NE

McConnell AFB, KS

Tinker AFB, OK

Little Rock AFB, AR

Whitman AFB, MO

Barksdale AFB, LA

JBSA Randolph, TX

JBSA Lackland, TX

Dyess AFB, TX

Sheppard AFB, TX

Laughlin AFB, TX

Scott AFB, IL

BASES NOT AVAILABE DUE TO LOCATION OR WEATHER

Minot AFB, ND

Grand Forks AFB, ND

Ellsworth AFB, SD

Vance AFB, OK

Altus AFB, OK

Goodfellow AFB, TX

PAST REUNION SITE INFORMATION FOR REFERENCE ONLY:

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

d. Presentations and voting process - VSPA President Greg Cain, and VPs Jack Smith and Bill Marshall.

1. **Primary Site for 2017 is Lackland AFB, Texas**

2. **Secondary Site for 2017 is Peterson AFB, Colorado**

8.2 ELECTION OF OFFICERS – ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN 2016. The term of office is two years.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS – These are non-voting, non-dues paying honorary memberships in the VSPA in recognition of specific service to the VSPA. Since 1995, we have awarded 12 honorary, non-voting, non-dues paying memberships in the VSPA. We have always considered them a very high honor. As you know, Mom Lehman, Erlyce Pekas and Larry Poss are Associate members who attend our reunions. Another one of them is our point of contact at Nellis AFB, retired MSgt Tim Waage, who designed our commemorative badge and the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Coin. Your Board has voted to recommend one more to receive this honor for their selfless commitment to the VSPA for being a living example of our motto: “We take care of our own” as well as for providing extraordinary support for the Sisterhood and their motto of “Taking Care of Those Who Take Care of Their Own.”

MYRON PEKAS - For living our history and motto “We take care of our own” through his incredible love and selfless support for his wife, Associate Member Erlyce Pekas. Erlyce was engaged to Millard Lehman when he was KIA at Binh Thuy in 1966. Since then, she has maintained a very close relationship with Millard’s mother, Rachel Helen Lehman who is also an Associate Member. Erlyce was our Guardmount Editor for five years and continues as an Associate Editor, all of which require time literally stolen from her family. That time, so willingly given to the VSPA by Erlyce, is fully supported by Myron as well as the time that he also gives to Mom Lehman along with Erlyce.

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

10.1 THE OFFICERS ARE:

- President Gregory J. Cain (authorized to sign checks)
- Vice President Jack Smith (authorized to sign checks)
- Treasurer Richard Garcia (authorized to sign checks)

- Second Vice President Herbert W. “Bill” Marshall
- Secretary Jerry Nelson
- Historian Steve Shelt
- Past President William “Pete” Piazza
- President Emeritus Steve Gattis
- Communications Director Don L. Poss

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

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

11.1 President Greg Cain presented information regarding Agent Orange

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

12.1 Luke AFB will hold a memorial event in May, 2016, for the 18 Security Policemen we lost on the Mayaguez Operation.

13. REMINDERS

13.1 50th ANNIVERSARY of the VIETNAM WAR - A DOD Partnership. Steve Gattis reported that the VSPA has been recognized by the DOD as a Commemorative Partner. We have received a Commemorative flag that will be at Nellis AFB with our VSPA flag for a group photo. This is a 13 year program based upon a Presidential proclamation and Department of Defense Program to honor our service in Vietnam and Thailand. The photograph of our members will be placed on the DOD 50th Anniversary Web Site.

At the request of Jack Smith, we will also have a Happy Birthday banner that we will display for a special photo that will be sent to our good VSPA friend, Dennis Grant, who lives in England and was a squadron mascot for the 8th Air Force Bomber Group that was stationed near his home. We met and adopted him in 2013 during our reunion in Charleston, South Carolina when his 8th Air Force reunion was also held at our hotel.

13.2 Reminder that the buses for Nellis AFB will leave at 0845 SHARP.

13.3 The Awards banquet on Saturday will begin with a with a no-host bar at 1700, posting of the colors at 1800, followed by dinner, guest speaker, awards and raffles.

13.4 Reminder that a Worship Service will be conducted at 0800 Sunday by Chaplains Jim Stastny and Jeff Kerkhoff.

- 13.5** Reminder that our annual Memorial for our 111 begins at 0900 Sunday. The names of all Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand will be read at that time.

14. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 14.1** There will be a collection for the 99th SFS Defenders and their families on Saturday night.
- 14.2** Senior Airman Spencer Stone was stabbed four times in the chest while disarming and restraining an Islamic terrorist on a train in France.

15. CLOSING OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AT 11::55am

Motion to Approve by Hector Ramos. 2nd by Lowell Knapp. Approved

MINUTES BY:

Jerry Nelson, Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Greg Cain, President



NOTE: All Officers and Staff are unpaid VSPA members who volunteer to serve their brothers in the association. Officers were elected in 2014 for a two-year term. Staff members were appointed to assist and advise the officers of the association as needed. Elections will be held this year in Tampa.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: Greg Cain; Binh Thuy 67-68; gjcain@roadrunner.com 716-771-1157
VICE PRESIDENT: Jack Smith; Tan Son Nhut 68-69; skycop67@yahoo.com 614-879-6835
2nd VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Marshall; Phu Cat 68-69; billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com 614-623-3568
SECRETARY: Jerry Nelson; Safeside Phan Rang, Phu Cat, Tuy Hoa 69-70; jrmell1423@aol.com 210-273-4777.
TREASURER: Richard Garcia; Phan Rang 69-70; cal400@optonline.net 516-799-9205
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PAST PRESIDENT: William “Pete” Piazza; Cam Ranh Bay 66, Bien Hoa 67-68, Phu Cat 70-71; WPIAZZA@aol.com 405-670-3101 or 405-921-8900
PRESIDENT EMERITUS: Steve Gattis; Cam Ranh Bay 68-69; SGattis-LM49@vspa.com 254-898-2647

APPOINTED STAFF:

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SERVICE OFFICER Bud Owens; Binh Thuy 66-67; betbudowe@comcast.net 603-7781990
BX STORE MANAGERS: Van and Joyce Digby, assisted by daughter and son-in-law Kim & Brent Budzinski—MAIL ORDER available by phone 989-667-9117 or email: jad403@att.net or vad403@att.net (**
*Please note these are new email addresses for Van and Joyce **)*
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WEB QRT Troubleshooter Gary Jones; Udorn, Safeside Phan Rang, Da Nang, Tan Son Nhut; 1965; 68-69; 71-72; gjones003@sc.rr.com 843-851-7427
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NKP LIAISON George Conklin; NKP 1970-71; K-9 Ango 0K31; nkpk970@gmail.com
 406-781-2269
PHAN RANG LIAISON Please contact Paul Shave if you are interested in being the liaison.
PHU CAT LIAISON Ron Arthur; Phu Cat 67-68; cobranam68@aol.com 660-678-3501
PLEIKU LIAISON Pat Dunne (Hawk); Pleiku 1968; hawk51044@aol.com 954-923-9001
TAN SON NHUT LIAISON Charles Penley; Tan Son Nhut 67-69; Rebel A531 cpenley@chartertn.net 423-245-6863
UBON LIAISON Jim Watson; Ubon 68-69; Fritz X704; jimwatk9@ca.rr.com 626-806-8463

WASH "THE WALL" IN WASHINGTON D.C. COORDINATORS: Gary Jones (See WEB QRT Troubleshooter Above) and Jim Stastny (See K-9 Kennel Master Above)

VSPA SISTERHOOD:

PRESIDENT Sheila Gervase-Cain; smgervase@yahoo.com 716-771-1157
VICE PRESIDENT Janet Matthews-Parker; janetmm62@gmail.com 205-602-8522
SECRETARY Erlyce Pekas; erlyce@msn.com 602-574-7089
CHAPLAIN Roberta Smith; rps.jackie@yahoo.com 614-879-6835
CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY Pam Talbot; lilacroller1@comcast.net 815-935-2139



DONATIONS AND ESTATE PLANNING BEQUESTS TO THE VSPA

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

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

Your attorney or financial planner can make the arrangements for your estate planning bequest.

Our Treasurer, Richard Garcia, will provide you, your employer, and/or your estate with a letter of acknowledgement for tax purposes.

DATES TO REMEMBER: The 307th Bomb Wing, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, is hosting a Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran's celebration on November 11, 2016.

When: 11 Nov 16 / Cocktails 5:00 PM / Event 5:30 PM

Location: Bossier City Civic Center, Louisiana

REUNION REMINDERS: 2016 - MacDill AFB, Tampa, Florida October 5-9, 2016

2017 – Our reunion will be held at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas October 4-8, 2017

2018 - We will select the location for our 2018 reunion while we are in Tampa.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We are looking for a volunteer to edit and publish Guardmount. If you have experience handling newsletters, layouts and graphics, please contact Steve Gattis using the enclosed roster or the emails below. Erlyce and Steve have both had personal and family medical problems that have made the production of Guardmount very difficult. Thank you for your interest and commitment to the Brotherhood and Sisterhood of the VSPA. We hope to see you in Tampa!

Erlyce Pekas, Assistant Editor
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