



GUARDMOUNT

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

"We Take Care of Our Own"



SPRING/SUMMER EDITION – 2019

DO YOU REMEMBER?



LET'S DO IT AGAIN!



25th ANNUAL VSPA REUNION



**Joint Base Andrews – Andrews
AFB, Maryland**

Washington, D.C.

OCTOBER 9-13, 2019

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Jerry Nelson, CMSGT (Retired) Life Member #668
Phan Rang, Phu Cat, Tuy Hoa 69-70

My Brothers and Sisters,

First, I want to say “Thank You” for your confidence and support during my run for the Presidency. I am truly honored to lead our Association and will work diligently to ensure we remain the premier Vietnam Association in existence. This is one of the greatest honors of my life and I want to continue to build on the outstanding Brotherhood that currently exists. We all share a common core of experience that is very seldom found in other organizations.

We held our 24th VSPA reunion in Tucson, AZ and it worked out wonderfully. The hotel was great and catered to us extremely well. I would like to extend a special thanks to Greg and Shelia Cain and Bill and Janice Cummings for scouting the hotel and ensuring they could take care of our needs. Everyone in attendance seemed to have a great time and enjoyed the events.

The 25th VSPA reunion will take place in Washington D.C. and we will be hosted by the 11th Security Forces Group, Joint Base Andrews, MD. We were in Washington D.C. in 2007 and it was a special event. Your Board of Directors are totally engaged and working very hard to ensure plans are being made to include several special events during the reunion. This promises to be a wonderful event in a very special place. I would like to encourage all members to make plans to be with us October 9-13, 2019. We will be staying at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Crystal City, VA. It was scouted and meets all our needs. The Reunion BRAT is continuing to work with them, ensuring all requests and concerns are resolved prior to arrival. Please make your reservations now, as rooms will be at a premium during our dates. There is a 35,000 member US Army 10 mile run and rooms may get short during our dates. We do have a room block; however, please make your reservations early. Registration information is in this issue of Guardmount!

During a late March 2019 on fishing trip to Toledo Bend Lake in Louisiana with VSPA Life Member Charlie Blood, I had the opportunity to present Charlie with a VSPA plaque recognizing his efforts last year to wash The Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. He drove from Pineville, Louisiana to D.C. to assist in helping pay honor to our fallen Brothers. His effort certainly lives up to our motto “We take care of our own”! Thank you, Charlie, for your selfless efforts in working for the greater good. While we did not catch many fish, the fellowship was wonderful. As you might expect, we are planning another trip to the lake.

BOD Resignation and Appointment: Due to medical conditions effecting Bill Marshall and his Bride, Karen, he felt it necessary to resign his position as Secretary of the VSPA. I talked with Bill and he does not feel he can give 100% of his time and effort to the organization and feels that he needs to manage his issues. I told him how much his leadership for many years to our Association is appreciated and wished him the very best going forward. I, personally, am very sad to see him have to leave the Board after filling several positions for many years.



After reading the bylaws, I am happy to announce

that that I have appointed Charlie Blood to be our Secretary. He volunteered to join our Board of Directors and fill the remaining tenure on the Board for Bill Marshall. Charlie was a K-9 handler at Udorn AB, Thailand in 70-71. He handled K-9 Chris, #77M3 and is Life Member #372. I am delighted to have him on the Board and very much look forward to working with him to make the VSPA even better. I have included a photo of Charlie so that I can introduce him to all of our members. Please join me in welcoming him to the BOD at cblood@suddenlink.net.

DONATION TO THE SECURITY FORCES FOUNDATION: Last year at the reunion, the Board of Directors proposed a \$1,000 donation to the Security Forces Foundation, which was established to support active duty security forces personnel and their families during a disaster or other emergency. Examples include an airman whose home was destroyed by a tornado near Tinker AFB and another who was affected by a hurricane. In previous years we have passed the hat at the banquet to either assist the local squadron or another entity like the Security Forces Academy that held the 50th Anniversary of Tet event at the Academy in January of 2018. We raised \$900 at the 2017 banquet for the Security Forces Academy to offset the cost of the 50th Anniversary of Tet. This year, rather than passing the hat at the banquet, the Board of Directors voted to recommend that we make a \$1,000 donation to the Security Forces Foundation. One of the reasons was another catastrophic event, the shooting death of the Florence, South Carolina police officer who was also a reserve Security Forces Defender from the 315th Security Forces Squadron. The donation was approved by our members at the Annual Business Meeting. The photograph below shows two VSPA Life Members handling that donation as I presented the VSPA check for \$1,000 to VSPA Life Member John Probst of the Security Forces Foundation.



I want you to know that I will be totally involved in the VSPA and will be available to discuss any concerns/issues that you may have. I can be contacted at 210-273-4777 or via e-mail at jrnell1423@aol.com. Sherry and I look forward to seeing you in Washington D.C. this year!



THE VSPA SISTERHOOD

Sheila Cain, Sisterhood President



Brothers and Sisters,

The time has come to once again plan for our annual reunion. Washington, D.C. is an exciting and historical city. The Officers and the Committee have worked very hard to plan for a wonderful time.

Please remember that membership is open to the Sisterhood.

There are no dues and all the ladies are welcome to attend our meeting.

Please keep all of our Brothers and Sisters in your thoughts and prayers especially those with illnesses and problems.

As always, I am available to you all at any time. Please feel free to call me at 716-480-9101.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Washington.

Loyally

Sheila Gervase-Cain, Sisterhood President

Wife of Greg Cain, Binh Thuy 67-68

smgervase@yahoo.com

Chaplains Corner

Bravery

I walked among heroes it's true
But the bravest person I ever knew
Was my mom as we said goodbye.
Yet at the time I did not know why.

She knew the uncertainty I would see.
I had thought to myself, I won't change, no not me.
She knew things our youth blinded us to see.
That soon her boy would cease to be.

We grew up fast it didn't take long.
We lost our innocence. We lost our song.
Yes the bravery she showed back then
I have reflected on again and again.
The day I left for Vietnam...

Steve Janke

© 2014 Poems from a Soldier

The Dogs of War in Vietnam

You who have walked with your War dogs beside
you.

You who have lived to go on.
You who remember his courage and bravery.
You who still talk of his love.

His was a bond that's forever within you.
Though decades have come and have gone.
His was a loyalty matched by no other.
But his was a fate that was wrong.

Ours is a story that no one can silence.
Ours was a past come to light.
Ours was a friendship forged by affliction.
Ours was made tight by the fight.

Dogs of war gave it all.
Dogs of war still stand tall.

Steve Janke

© 2014 Poems from a Soldier



2018 VSPA Reunion First Time Reunion Attendees



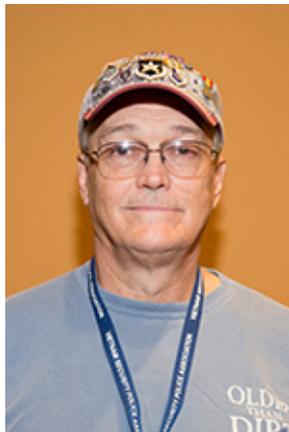
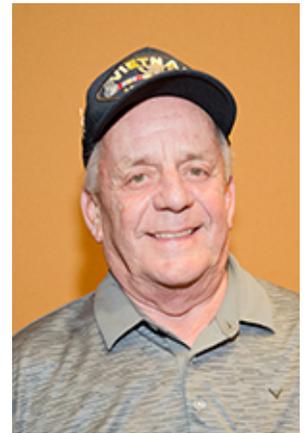
Buzz Busboom

Buzz served with the 635th SPS at U-Tapao, Royal Thai Air Force Base, 1973-1974. Prior to his overseas deployment, he was stationed at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, AZ. Following his assignment with the 635th SPS, he was stationed at Sembach, Germany. He retired in 1997 as a Colonel after serving as a Security Police officer. After retiring from the Air Force, he worked as Director of Security in Los Alamos. He and his wife Sharon have a son, a daughter and three grandchildren. They live in Albuquerque, NM.



Dennis Davis

Dennis Davis worked with the mortar crew with Devil Flight at Binh Thuy AB, 1969-1970. Before his assignment with the 632nd SPS at Binh Thuy, he was stationed at Howard AFB in the Panama Canal Zone. After his assignment at Binh Thuy AB, he received orders for Andrews AFB, Washington D.C. where he finished his enlistment. Dennis is self-employed as a Financial Advisor. He and his wife, Nancy have two daughters, Kelly and Stephanie and two grandchildren. They reside in Leominster, MA.



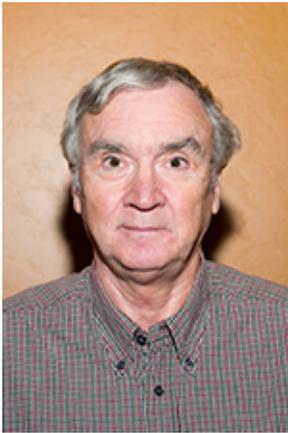
Foster Russell

Foster was assigned to the 56th SPS at Nakhon Phanom, Royal Thai Air Force Base during 1975. He was a member of the 75-man, Knife 13 Team, the ill-fated operation that was staged to retake the S.S. Mayaguez, which the Khmer Rouge had pirated off the coast of Cambodian. He was at NKP when the base was closed down in 1975 at the end of the Vietnam War. Prior to his assignment at NKP he was stationed at Sheppard AFB, TX. After leaving NKP, he received orders for Pope AFB, NC. After his discharge from the Air Force he served as a police officer with the Greensboro, NC Police Department. He was also a professor of Criminal Justice at Gilford Technical Community College. He and his wife Sandy live in Pleasant Garden, NC. They have four children and seven grandchildren.



John Gorto

John served on two bases in Vietnam, Tuy Hoa and Phan Rang. He was in-country from December 1968 to December 1969. Before being shipped to the land of heat and humidity, he was stationed at Minot AFB, the land of snow and ice. Temperate weather was not in the immediate forecast for John as his post-Vietnam duty station was K.I. Sawyer AFB in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. John is married and lives with his wife in the much warmer climate of Tucson, AZ. After leaving the Air Force he worked in the Michigan iron mines and later taught Archeology and History. He also worked as an artist and designer and served in the Army National Guard for six years.



Jerry Gables

Jerry was stationed at Nakhon Phanom, Royal Thai Air Force Base, with the 56th SPS. He was there during 1969 and 1970. Prior to his deployment to NKP he was stationed at Offutt AFB, Omaha, NE. After coming home he was stationed at Luke AFB,

Glendale, AZ. He finished out his eight-year enlistment at Vandenberg AFB, CA. As a civilian, Jerry worked as a Boiler Technician at hospitals, schools and other large institutions. He lives in Peoria, AZ.



John Inman

John served two tours of duty in Vietnam, both at Bien Hoa AB: 1965-1966 and 1968-1969. Before leaving for his first tour in Vietnam he was stationed at Mather AFB, CA. Upon return he was assigned to Offutt AFB, Omaha, NE. After his discharge John worked as

a manufacturer's rep in the water industry. He and his wife, Deanna have been married for 52 years, they have two children and seven grandchildren. John and Deanna live in Westminster, CO.

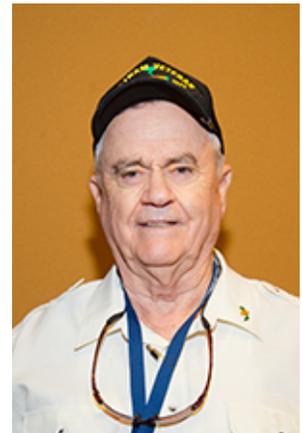
Michael Sipes

Michael served with the 12th SPS at Phu Cat AB in 1968-1969. Prior to that he was an SP at Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, NM. Upon DEROS, he was assigned to Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, AZ. He managed Fort Verde (AZ) State Historic Park as a Park Manager in law enforcement. He has been married to his wife, Cheryl for fifty-one years. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. Michael and Cheryl live in the small community of Show Low, AZ, located on the Mogollon Rim in east central Arizona.



Thomas Herlihy

From June of 1970 to June of 1971, Thomas served with the 432nd SPS at Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base. Prior to his assignment in Thailand he was stationed at Holloman AFB, NM. When he completed his tour at Udorn he was assigned to Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. After being discharged from the Air Force he worked as Director of Security at Eglin AFB, FL. While Thomas is a widower, he and his wife have five children, twelve grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He lives in Niceville, FL.



Tom Knowles

Tom served with the 56th SPS at Nakhon Phanom, Royal Thai Air Force Base from 1972 through 1975. He was stationed at F.E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne, WY prior to serving in Thailand. When he returned to the States in 1975 he was assigned to Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. Tom was a career Security Policeman, retiring as a Master Sergeant. After retiring from the Air Force he worked as Security Manager for the J.C. Lincoln Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ. He and his wife, Eileen live in Phoenix, AZ. They have three children and five grandchildren.



Honor Flight

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



The Brothers and Sisters of the VSPA Family are like *branches on a tree*, we all grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one. Welcome Home!

The Hilliard Memorial Middle School helped raise funds to send Veterans on the Honor flight. I was asked to come and speak with the Students and Teachers about the Honor Flight. It was a day to be remembered. The students were so nice and very interested.

They were eager to learn more about the Honor flight and my life as a US Air Force Police Officer. There were many questions from the students and staff. It was so heart warming to visit and meet these wonderful younger men and women. It is a day I will never forget. Thank you to the classes and staff of Hilliard Memorial Middle School.



Jack's Honor Flight Adventure in Washington, D.C.





Dear VSPA Members and Guests,

WELCOME HOME TO THE VSPA! Our 2019 reunion hotel has been inspected by VSPA Life Member Gary Jones, who planned our 2013 Reunion in Charleston. He has attended numerous VSPA reunions and knows our requirements in detail. He says that the hotel is **UBER ELEGANT** and very close to shopping and the Reagan Airport.

To plan our 25th Annual Reunion, we conducted a survey of members who attended our last reunion. Additionally, we spoke with many of our members who attended multiple reunions, specifically focusing on fatigue and the length of time for our tours. Members who attended our last two reunions expressed consistent concern regarding early start times, as well as fatigue and the extended day while on base. More and more of our members have difficulty walking; however, because this is Washington, D.C., some walking may be required. Therefore, our planning for events will reduce the time on base and some tours are optional so that you will have a choice. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for a reunion with less physical demands and more time to visit with each other.

Our registration fee increased this year because the Washington, D.C. area is our most expensive venue. For comparison purposes, our 2007 Washington, D.C. registration fee was \$195, which reflected the high cost of the area, the buses required for transportation and several meals. This year, our registration fee is \$210, a slight increase which was mandated by twelve years of inflation and the reality of conducting business in Our Nation's Capital. We worked hard to control cost and sincerely hope that the registration fee is not something that will impact your ability to attend our reunion.

For the first time ever, the VSPA will have the opportunity to wash The Wall as a group on Saturday morning, October 12. This is a very early event conducted by the National Park Service that is highly coveted, requiring an application many months in advance. It is only conducted in the early morning and must start with a briefing at The Wall at 0615 so that washing can begin at 0630. We will finish washing The Wall at 0800, pose for a group photo and return to the hotel at approximately 0900. We cannot control the start time on this event that is conducted by the National Park Service. We recognize that not all of our members will be able to attend or participate in this event. However, for those of you who elect to do so, buses will board at 0515 and leave the hotel at 0530 so that we can be on time for the briefing. **THINK GUARDMOUNT AT 0615 HOURS!** Gary Jones, Jim Stastny and Willie Squires wash the Wall Wash regularly on other dates of the year and will be on hand to answer questions. Gary will conduct the briefing and Jim will conduct our invocation.

IF YOU INTEND TO WASH THE WALL, WE NEED TO KNOW NOW SO THAT BUSES CAN BE RESERVED. THIS IS A FREE EVENT PROVIDED BY THE VSPA. PLEASE ANSWER THAT QUESTION ON THE REGISTRATION FORM.

AGENDA: The agenda is generally accurate, but is subject to change due to joint base operational requirements for the 11th SECURITY FORCES GROUP and their Op Tempo for all squadrons:

- **Wednesday, October 9:** On-site Registration at 1400; Reception Dinner: cocktails at 1700, Dinner at 1800.
- **Thursday, October 10th:** Board the buses at 1045 and depart at 1100 for a trip to the US Capitol, a memorial service for VSPA Member, J.J. Chestnut, who was KIA on duty as a Capitol Police Officer inside the Capitol in 1998. We will also have a group photo. This event will be on the grounds of the Capitol. We will not be going inside the building. We will leave the Capitol and drive to Andrews AFB for lunch with the troops and demonstrations. We should be back at the hotel by 1700.
- **Thursday, October 10th 1900 Hours:** OPTIONAL night tour of Washington, D.C. Memorials by bus with a guide (approximately four hours).
- **Friday, October 11th:** OPTIONAL TOUR: The morning is open. EAT BEFORE YOU BOARD THE BUS. We will board the buses at 1045 and depart at 1100. We will not be stopping for lunch or providing a meal. We will visit Arlington National Cemetery where we must clear security and move to trams that have been rented just for VSPA members. We will move by tram to the Tomb of the Unknown. At the conclusion of the tour of Arlington, we will board our buses and travel to The Wall. All events are in the afternoon. We will return to the hotel by 1600. Dinner and evening are open for squadron and base dinners or gatherings.
- **Saturday Morning, October 12th 0515- 0900:** VSPA members will wash The Wall. Sisterhood and family members are more than welcome to participate. Board buses at 0515 and depart at 0530 for a 0615 briefing. Buses will return to the hotel by 0930.
- **Saturday Morning, October 12th:** 1000 hours: VSPA Business Meeting. Afternoon open.
- **Saturday Morning, October 12th:** 1000 hours: VSPA Sisterhood gathering of wives and companions. Afternoon open.
- **Saturday Evening, October 12th:** 1700 cocktails and social hour. 1800 posting of the colors and banquet dinner with guest speaker, awards and raffle.
- **Sunday Morning, October 13th:** 0800 Worship Service. 0900 Memorial service – reading of the names; end of reunion.
- **As always, the Hospitality Room will be stocked with FREE snacks & beverages and will be open as much as possible. The VSPA BX Store will also be open as much as possible.**

If you have a question or need some more information about this reunion, please contact VSPA President Jerry Nelson JRNEL1423@aol.com or call him on his cell phone at (210) 273-4777.



VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION



REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

25th Annual Reunion
Washington, D.C. and Andrews Air Force Base
October 9-13, 2019

NAME
RVN or Thai base Squadron Years 19 to 19
Home Address
Mailing Address
Phone Email
Name(s) of your guests(s)
Banquet meal selection: BEEF CHICKEN VEGETARIAN
List any special needs:
In case of emergency, notify:
Is this your first VSPA Reunion? YES: NO:

REGISTRATION FEES

Are your annual VSPA dues current? Dues Renewals Only \$15 = \$
Number of persons attending the Reunion including you # x \$210 = \$
WILL YOU WASH THE WALL ON OCTOBER 12 AT 0615 HOURS? YES: NO:
How many people in your party will wash The Wall?
OPTIONAL THURSDAY NIGHT GUIDED TOUR OF WASHINGTON, D.C.
Area Memorials \$37 per person # X \$ 37 = \$
OPTIONAL TOUR FRIDAY - Arlington National Cemetery and The Wall
\$45 per person includes bus and tram transportation # X \$ 45 = \$
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED = \$

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 2, 2019

SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS, AND MADE PAYABLE TO:

THE REUNION BRAT
16817 Mountainside Drive East
Greenwater, WA 98022 (360) 663-2521 TheReunionBRAT@hotmail.com

A Confirmation of Registration and an itinerary will be mailed to you by September 9, 2019. A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be nonrefundable because money has been expended in advance on your behalf.

The VSPA reunion will be held at the HYATT REGENCY HOTEL in CRYSTAL CITY, located at 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202. The contract room rate is \$139 per night, plus tax. The rooms include a refrigerator. The room rate is good for three days before and three days after the reunion. Complimentary airport transportation will be available every 20 minutes from 0440 hours throughout the day until 0020 hours FROM RONALD REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT **ONLY**. There is a reduced hotel valet parking rate at \$10 below the prevailing rate per day. SELF-parking is available near the hotel but the fees are not subject to our hotel contract. Use the following link to see more information about this beautiful hotel:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/virginia/hyatt-regency-crystal-city-at-reagan-national-airport/wasrc>

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Call Phone toll-free 1-877-803-7534 or local 1-703-418-1234. Refer to our group: **Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion**. Check-in time is 3:00PM and check-out time is 12:00 noon. The room rate of \$139 is locked in for us for three days before and after the reunion, but there will be a **deadline for reservations of September 9, 2019**. **After that date, rooms will be space available only and AT THE HOTEL'S PREVAILING RATE. Make your reservations early!** You may also use the on-line reservation system by going to the following link:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRC/G-VSPA>. If you encounter any difficulty with hotel reservations, reserve the room, obtain the confirmation number and contact the Reunion BRAT at 1-360-663-2521. Explain the problem and she will correct it for you.

AIRPORT INFORMATION: Book your flight to “Ronald Reagan National Airport” **(AIRPORT CODE: DCA)**.

The Reunion Event Registration Table at the hotel will open at approximately 1400 hours on Wednesday, October 9th so that you can pick up your Welcome Packet and Reunion ID. Your Reunion ID must be worn during the reunion.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE REGISTRATION FORM

1. The information that you provide on this form is critical for a successful reunion. All name and base information will be placed on your reunion identification badge. Guests will also receive reunion identification. The reunion ID will serve as your identification throughout the reunion and must be worn, especially while we are in all military or government facilities.
2. **PLEASE PRINT** or type all information **clearly**. Do not use abbreviations on any portion of the registration form.
3. **RVN OR THAI BASE INFORMATION:** Please list only those bases where you served in Vietnam or Thailand. When listing bases, **do not abbreviate**. When listing squadrons, please indicate Air Police, Security Police, or specific detachments. The information will be used on your reunion ID.
4. **HOME ADDRESS and MAILING ADDRESS:** to mail your confirmation letter. **THE CONFIRMATION LETTERS WILL BE MAILED BY SEPTEMBER 9, 2019.**
5. **ANDREWS AFB ENTRY ACCESS FORM: NEW REQUIREMENTS!!!** Please make sure we have your full name as it appears on your **Driver's License** for yourself and all guests. **PLUS** we will need your **DOB, Social Security Number and Country of Citizenship**. This information is **MANDATORY** for access to ANDREWS AFB where Air Force One & Two are located. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON BASE IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION.**
6. **TELEPHONE AND EMAIL ADDRESS:** Your contact information is vital to a successful reunion. You will also receive a copy of the attendee roster upon arrival at the hotel.
7. **NAMES OF YOUR GUESTS:** Please provide the first name, middle initial and last name of your guest(s) on the Registration Form as it appears on their **Driver's License, plus their DOB, Social Security Number and Country of Citizenship on the Entry Access Form**. Guests under the age of 18 only need be listed by their legal name and DOB.
8. **RENEWAL OF ANNUAL DUES: For existing VSPA members only** - you can renew your dues at the time of registration if they are not current. VSPA membership must be current in order to attend the reunion or bring a guest. Life Members have paid their dues for life.
9. **VSPA MEMBERSHIP:** If you are not a member of the Vietnam Security Police Association, please do not send \$15 with this registration form. For information on how to become a member, contact Paul Shave at 505-831-9401 or email him: Paul_Shave@hotmail.com . You will have to submit a completed application form and a DD-214 showing service in the USAF as an Air Policeman, Security Policeman or an Augmentee in Vietnam or Thailand 1958 to 1976, and a discharge under honorable conditions.
10. **REUNION COST:** The registration fee is \$210.00 per person.



Entry Authorization List Procedures 11th Security Forces Group Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland

SUBJECT: VISITOR ACCESS – ENTRY AUTHORIZATION LIST

THERE ARE NEW AND ADDITIONAL BASE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS!! The following comes directly from the 11th Security Forces Group of Andrews AFB: **Failure to provide the information will cause denial of entry. THIS IS NOT A SCAM! IT IS A SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT OF ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE WHERE AIR FORCE ONE & TWO ARE LOCATED!!!** “Guests must use their LEGAL information. Nicknames, missing information or incorrect information are not authorized. People will be removed from the list due to not providing valid information for entry onto a Federal installation. List all personnel who require base access. Only use LEGAL personal information (i.e. Legal name, DOB, SSN and DL# or passport, for individuals 18 years of age or older. Guests under the age of 18 only need to be listed by name and DOB.”

AAFB must have your complete, full name as it appears on your state driver’s license; NO NICKNAMES OR MILITARY ID CARD NUMBERS. NEW AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS SHOWN IN YELLOW. WE MUST PROVIDE THAT INFORMATION TO THE BASE SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON PASS & ID SECTION so that you can be allowed onto ANDREWS AFB with our VSPA Entry Authorization List (EAL). The FULL Social Security Number is required – NOT THE LAST FOUR. Please follow the example below.

<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>Country of Citizenship</u>
Doe, John D	(210) XXX-XXXX	TX./00000000	01/15/45	123-45-6789	United States
<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>Country of Citizenship</u>
<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>Country of Citizenship</u>
<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>Country of Citizenship</u>

- 2. Visitors in private vehicles must have current proof of insurance, proof of registration and a current/valid driver's license. Additionally, all personnel and the property under their control are subject to search.
- 3. We understand that failure to provide any of the information requested WILL result in the denial of an installation access pass. Disclosure of information is voluntary, however; this information is necessary for validation of identity and may result in a non-issuance determination by the issuing authority.

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 8012, 44 U.S.C. 3101.

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: The date of birth is used for further identification of the individual and for retrieving information from files. Routine use could include disclosure to other investigative authorities.

DISCLOSURE IS VOLUNTARY: Failure to provide the information to include date of birth, Social Security Number and country of citizenship will result in an individual being denied entry onto ANDREWS AFB.

ATTENTION VSPA MEMBERS WHO HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED WITH THE REUNION BRAT:

Please remember that the addition of social security numbers is a **NEW** requirement as of last year. We apologize for the inconvenience; however, if you have already registered for the reunion, please select one of the following options:

- 1. Print the new form, complete it and mail to the Reunion BRAT. OR,
- 2. Call the Reunion BRAT and provide the information via telephone so that she can complete the Entry Authorization List (EAL) for the VSPA. Your information will be secure as she is in the process of completing this information for a reunion being held at another Air Force base.

THE REUNION BRAT
16817 Mountinside Drive East
Greenwater, WA 98022
(360) 663-2521 TheReunionBRAT@hotmail.com Monday thru Friday 0900 - 1700.
If you receive voice mail, please leave your name and phone number. She will return your call.

**GROUP SEATING AND
TABLE RESERVATION REQUESTS
VSPA AWARDS BANQUET SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019**

The list below comprises volunteer seating coordinators who have indicated that they will attend the reunion and coordinate seating for their bases which have had ten or more at their banquet tables in the past. They will have forms to submit to the Reunion BRAT to organize seating. Every effort will be made to accommodate those who request to be seated with their base or squadron. However, if you want to sit with your base or squadron buddies, you must contact the coordinator for your group listed below in order to be placed on the seating request. Wives and family are welcome at those tables. VSPA Board members may sit with their families and their base and squadron buddies. The listed people below will be the only people who coordinate seating with the Reunion BRAT.

Coordinators, please submit your seating requests to the Reunion BRAT **BEFORE** the night of the banquet. Tables will be set in groups of ten. Empty seats will be filled by other attendees, including active duty personnel from the Security Forces units that are supporting our reunion.

Bien Hoa – Jim “Buddha” Lebowitz jlz9107@earthlink.net

Binh Thuy – Jaime Lleras chiefial9@gmail.com 1-301-848-3399

BX Operation – Joyce Digby jad403@att.net 1-989-686-3639

Da Nang – dp-LM37@vspa.com 1-951-264-1263

K9 Kennel Master – Jim Stastny K9stastny@gmail.com 301-412-0981

Nha Trang – Larry Fleming ldfleming569@gmail.com 254-396-4091

NKP – Mike Regan mregan2709@gmail.com 817-903-0870

Phan Rang – Richard Garcia cal400@optonline.net 516-799-9205

Phu Cat – Bob Sullivan surfrider1096@gmail.com 1-850-654-9972

Pleiku – John Paul Coakley JohnPauL1845@gmail.com 818-749-1749

Safeside – Dave Pierson swampur@att.net 775-883-7647

Tan Son Nhut – Jack Smith skycop6768@gmail.com 1-614-879-6835



Rachel Helen "Mom" Lehman



November 11, 1921 to June 12, 2019

Our Gold Star Mom, Rachel Helen "Mom" Lehman, has passed away. She left us at 97 years of age to be with her husband Millard Lehman Sr. and her son, Millard Lehman Jr. (KIA Binh Thuy, 6 July 1966) this morning at 1030. She passed away peacefully, knowing that she meant so much to all of us. Our Gold Star Sweetheart, Erlyce Pekas, visited with her yesterday to let her know how much we loved her. Mom was a courageous woman, with a calm sense of dignity that came with a wonderful sense of humor. She was tough, too, and had attended 15 of our reunions with Erlyce. In 2007, Mom stood on The Mall with us in Washington, D.C. in the cold staging area waiting to march in the parade so that she could honor our 111, and especially her son. As our Gold Star Mom, she marched up front with the 400-member VSPA formation, the largest unit in the parade to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of The Wall. I am so thankful for her and that we brought the reunion to her last year in Tucson. She will be missed. May God bless her and her family. Memorial Service for Rachel Helen "Mom" Lehman was scheduled for Saturday, June 29th, 2019, at 9am at the Chapel at South Lawn Cemetery, Tucson, AZ.







“Mom” Lehman, You will never be forgotten!



MY FATHER

Tis with a sad heart I take up pen
To write about the life of one man
A simple person, self taught in life
From birth till death his was that of strife
Born of farmers and workers not set with wealth
Blessed with love and happiness till failing health
A man who believed life was worth it all
He worked, he played, sometimes stumbled but never to fall
As a man boy so young he went off to war
Till his death he wore scars from 1944
This man so tall and so proud was a giant to me
Teaching, loving, showing the way with rides on his knee
He led me down the path of faith and what is right
He comforted me when the fear came from dark of night
With loving hands gentle but firm so strong
I learned to follow the road that lead to do no wrong
He's gone now to that heavenly reward he won
If I could but be half the man he was
Then I know that heavenly reward waits for me
When we can be together once more
On God's great beautiful shore

Edwin J. Smith
Jack The Old Cowboy Poet

Ribbon of Stone

Hearts fill with pain, from eyes tears fall
When one gazes upon the Black Wall
See the names of our fallen, one and all

That black stone wall so solemn it stands
A sobering tribute to military women and men
The dark wall that makes us all kin

Brothers and Sisters of a long ago war
Of a time when we were young and tried to soar
Giving all we had and then more

Honor those who did not return
Share the lessons we have learned
Knowing that a heavenly reward, our fallen earned

So stand before that Black Ribbon of Stone
Read the names engraved of our own
Who died to keep this great land our home

Edwin J. Smith
Jack The Old Cowboy Poet
Nov 2007



The Story of A State Flag and Its Travels

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

In 1968 I came home on leave to get married to the love of my life Roberta. We are in our 51st year of marriage. We were only together after the wedding for less than a month and then I left for Vietnam. So what's the story of the flag?

My hometown is Charleston the capital of the great state of West Virginia. My father had a friend who worked at the state capital. Dad contacted him (unknown to me) to obtain a flag that was flown over the Capital building. The flag was flown for 1 day and then given to my father. The day before I flew to Vietnam, my father gave me the state flag. He told me the story about the 1 day it was flown and that I should always be proud of the flag of our state and the flag of the USA. I carried this wonderful gift to Vietnam and proudly displayed it on the wall next to my bunk.

I have carried the flag with me since that day in 1968. It has been to my last 5 duty stations while serving my country in the United States Air Force for 8 years. Now it is a family treasure that will be handed down through the family with its history.

Jack the Old Cowboy Poet



A MESSAGE FROM JANET MATTHEWS, CHAIR OF THE WARRIORS MEDAL OF VALOR COMMITTEE, TO THE 2018 RECIPIENTS OF THE WARRIORS MEDAL OF VALOR:

Congratulations to the 2018 recipients of the Warriors Medal of Valor. Sarge would be proud to have you included in this special group. For the new members of the VSPA, be assured that Sarge would seek you out just so he could say, "Welcome Home, Welcome to the VSPA." Not all of you had the chance to meet Sarge, though I hope you have heard about him. Alvin W. Matthews, MSgt, USAF retired, served in the 483rd Security Police Squadron at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam from January 1971 to January 1972. He was an instructor at the Security Police Academy before he retired from the Air Force in 1980. He found the VSPA on the Internet and like many of you, he kind of watched from a distance before deciding to join or attend a reunion. It is an honor to say that he is Life Member #127. Sarge posted his last Guardmount on January 4, 2008, his 66th birthday. His resting place is plot number 111 at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Scottsboro, Alabama, a plot he specifically selected to honor his Brothers. We have some wonderful memories of our Sarge. I am so glad that he found the VSPA. He loved this association, he loved his Brothers, and I know he is proud of the continued commitment and growth. He would definitely tear up at the thought that you continue his dream of honoring his VSPA Brothers with this medal.

The Warriors Medal of Valor Request for Nominations

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

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



You may submit the nomination by including his name and your justification for why this member deserves the medal. Please include as many **details** on his service as you can. Nominations must be submitted to me at the following email address: janetmm62@gmail.com no later than **August 5, 2019**. The Warriors Medal selection committee must have time to review the nominations, make the selections, engrave the medals and prepare the certificates. The medals and certificates will be presented at the VSPA Reunion Banquet in October. Thank you for your service and WELCOME HOME!

Janet Matthews, Daughter of VSPA Life Member #127



Vietnam Security Police Association
J.J. CHESTNUT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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

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

Deadline: October 1, 2019

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

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

The deadline for submission of scholarship applications is **OCTOBER 1, 2019**. The basis for the award will be recommendation(s), Grade Point Average (GPA) and the applicant’s response to one of the below listed questions.

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

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

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

Or

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

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

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



**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
24th ANNUAL VSPA REUNION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018**



1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 0800 hours by President Greg Cain
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS INCLUDING:**
 - A. The 111 Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand.
 - B. All VSPA members listed at Life Member #111 which was established as a tribute to those who did not survive the war and those members of the VSPA who died as members in good standing.
3. **INVOCATION** – Chaplain Jeff Kerkhoff
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – VSPA Vice President Hector Ramos
5. **INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICERS** by name, squadron and place of residence:
 - Greg Cain, President; LM #62; West Seneca, NY; Binh Thuy 1967-68.
 - Hector Ramos, Vice President; LM #165, Myrtle Beach, VA, Binh Thuy 69-70.
 - Bill Marshall, Second Vice President; UNABLE TO ATTEND.
 - 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; UNABLE TO ATTEND LM #157; Evans, Georgia; Pleiku 67-68.
 - Don Poss, Communications Director; LM #37; Hemet, CA; Da Nang K-9 1965-66.
 - William Piazza, Past President; LM #141; Del City, OK, Cam Ranh Bay 66, Bien Hoa 67-68, Phu Cat 70-71.
 - Steve Gattis, President Emeritus; LM #49; Glen Rose, TX; Cam Ranh Bay, 1968-69.

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

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

Motion to approve by James Garcia; 2nd by Ed Questell. Approved.

7. **MEETING AGENDA** – The agenda has been updated and prioritized for critical issues because our dog handlers have a Feed the Dawgs event at the kennels to support the handlers and their families. The handlers will be leaving sometime between 1000 and 1030. Therefore, we will be selecting the location for our 2020 reunion as the first item on the agenda. We will also finalize and validate our election of new officers for the Board of Directors. The remaining items on the agenda will follow site selection and election validation.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 REUNION SITE SELECTION FOR 2019:

- a. Sites are selected two years in advance so that planning by the VSPA and the host Security Forces Squadron can begin early and have the time necessary to adapt to active-duty operational requirements. Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona was selected in 2016 as the site for the 2018 reunion. Luke AFB in Phoenix was selected as the backup location in case the Security Forces Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB could not host our reunion due to the impact of other operations and deployments.
- b. The 2019 reunion site was selected in 2017 and will be held at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland in the Washington, D.C. area. The alternate is Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. **The dates are October 9 – 13, 2019.**
- c. As in the past, the 2020 reunion will be held in October, the Wednesday through Sunday before the Columbus Day holiday (which is always the second Monday in October). **The dates are October 7 – 11, 2020.**
- d. The site selection process will be conducted by VSPA President Greg Cain, Vice President Hector Ramos, Secretary Jerry Nelson and Treasurer, Richard Garcia.
- e. 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 2020.**

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

BASE

Peterson AFB, CO (alt 2017)

USAF Academy, CO

F.E. Warren AFB, WY

Kirkland AFB, NM (2008)

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 (2014)

JBSA San Antonio, Randolph, TX

JBSA San Antonio, Lackland, TX (2017)

Dyess AFB, TX

Sheppard AFB, TX

Laughlin AFB, TX

Scott AFB, IL

AIRPORT/DISTANCE

Colorado Springs - 6 miles

Colorado Springs - 6 miles

Cheyenne - 1 mile

Albuquerque - 1 mile

Clovis - 7 miles

Las Cruces - 50 miles

Omaha - 8 mile

Wichita - 6 miles

Oklahoma City - 12 miles

Little Rock - 18 miles

Kansas City - 60 miles

Shreveport - 5 miles

San Antonio - 16 miles

San Antonio - 15 miles

Abilene - 11 miles

Wichita Falls - 5 miles

Del Rio - 6 miles

Saint Louis - 25 miles

8.2 ELECTION OF OFFICERS – The slate for Board of Directors is:

For President - Jerry Nelson

For Vice President: Larry Fleming and Jaime Lleras

For Secretary - Bill Marshall

For Treasurer - Richard Garcia

For Historian - Steve Shelt

All candidates except for Vice President ran unopposed. There were two candidates for Vice President. 20 ballots were mailed in and verified. The remaining 34 ballots PLUS ONE DISQUALIFIED BALLOT WITH NO MEMBER NAME INFORMATION were cast at the reunion. A TOTAL of 54 valid ballots were cast. The Vice President candidate selected with the most votes for Vice President was LARRY FLEMING (35 VP vs. 19 2nd VP, a total of 54 votes). The Vice President candidate selected with the most votes for 2nd Vice President was JAIME LLERAS (17 VP vs. 34 2nd VP, a total of 51 votes).

Motion to approve the election of the new Board of Directors for the term of office which will be for the next two years by: Scott Baker 2nd by: Ed Questell. Motion approved by acclamation.

There will be an installation at the awards banquet this evening.

THE NEXT ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN TWO YEARS AT THE 2020 REUNION.

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

9.1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT by President Greg Cain – A Board of Directors meeting was held at 1530 hours on Thursday, October 4. We discussed items of concern to the Board and have included applicable items in the specific reports or under **NEW BUSINESS**.

9.2 KENNEL MASTER: Presented by Kennel Master Jim Stastny: Jim thanked the Board of Directors for changing the agenda so that all of the handlers could attend the very last Feed the Dawgs Program where they fed the handlers and their families while interacting with the military working dogs. Rearranging the agenda for this meeting allowed them to be present for the critical items of 2020 reunion site selection and the affirmation of the new Board of Directors. He reported that the Wednesday visit to the kennels was outstanding and that they had pizza with the handlers. He also thanked the Board and the Reunion BRAT for reducing the price of the Saturday night Awards Banquet meals for the active duty personnel MWD handlers.

Motion to Approve by: Ed Warr; 2nd by Ed Questell. Approved.

OLD DAWGS & PUPS REPORT by Bill Cummings. Since 2005, VSPA members have donated \$29,005 to the program. The Old Dawgs and Pups Program has sent over \$167,211.00 in equipment, including toilet paper, dog beds, rectal thermometers, light bulbs

and dog supplies to support handlers, dogs and kennels down range. The total amount of support sent down range includes a cumulative donation of over \$75,309.00 in equipment donated by the Leatherman Knife Company. Bill reported that the Old Dawgs and Pups Program was terminated as of August 2018 and that they hoped it would resume under the leadership of active duty military working dog handlers who have expressed interest in continuing the program.

Motion to Approve by Ed Warr; 2nd by Ed Questell. Approved.

- 9.3 GUARDMOUNT** – By Steve Gattis on behalf of our Guardmount Publisher, Mike Kennedy, who was unable to attend due to family concerns. Steve expressed the appreciation of Mike Kennedy for everyone who submitted stories and articles for Guardmount. Erlyce Pekas and Steve Gattis will continue as Assistant Editors to Mike Kennedy. Erlyce will continue handling her administrative duties with the coordination of printing and all mailing. She will also receive all returned copies of Guardmount. We only print and mail copies of Guardmount to those who do not have a computer. The cost for printing makes it impossible to print and mail to everyone. Therefore, due to cost, for the last several years, all other members receive their issue of Guardmount in PDF format through our VSPA web site. Don Poss sends mass email messages when Guardmount has been posted. If you do not have a computer, PLEASE UPDATE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS. If you do have a computer, you can receive Guardmount online. Please give Paul Shave your updated email address for our database. As in the past, we will always mail a hardcopy of Guardmount to those who have written something that was published in Guardmount. Steve asked the members to continue sending stories, photos and articles for publication in Guardmount because it is their opportunity to preserve a piece of their history.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING CELL PHONES: If you have a cell phone but do not have a computer, you can still access Guardmount via cell phone, thereby saving publication and mailing cost for the VSPA. Additionally, for those of you who might not be familiar with PDF files and the Internet, if your children or grandkids have a cell phone, they can get Guardmount online for you.

Motion to Approve by Ed Warr; 2nd by Bill McGraw. Approved.

- 9.4 TREASURER'S REPORT** by Richard Garcia. Report attached to the file copy of the minutes. Amount in checking account: \$8,929.20. Amount in savings account \$50,580.58. TOTAL as of September 30, 2018 = \$59,509.78.

Motion to Receive the report by: Al Habercorn; 2nd by Scott Baker. Approved.

DONATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- 9.4a THE SECURITY FORCES FOUNDATION WAS ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT ACTIVE DUTY SECURITY FORCES PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES DURING A DISASTER OR OTHER EMERGENCY:** Examples include an airman whose home was destroyed by a tornado near Tinker AFB and another was affected by a hurricane. In past years we have passed the hat at the banquet to either assist the local squadron or another entity like the Security Forces Academy that held the 50th Anniversary of Tet event at the Academy in January. Last year, we raised \$900 for the

Security Forces Academy. This year, rather than passing the hat at the banquet, the Board of Directors voted to recommend that we make a \$1,000 donation to the Security Forces Foundation. One of the reasons was another catastrophic event, the shooting death of the Florence, South Carolina police officer who was also a reserve Security Forces Defender from the 315th Security Forces Squadron.

Motion to approve by: Jim Rasco; 2nd by: Jim Lebowitz. Approved

9.4b FUND TO ASSIST VSPA MEMBERS WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO ATTEND A REUNION: VSPA Life Member Sam Williams and his employer have each donated \$500 FOUR years in a row. We now have a total of \$4,000 to hopefully assist a VSPA member in financial need so that they can attend a reunion. Sam would like to speak to you today about this fund for taking care of our own. As he is walking forward, please consider confidentially identifying those in financial need who might benefit from this fund and then contact any member of the Board to provide information. Treasurer Richard Garcia will chair this committee.

9.4c INFORMATION ONLY REGARDING A POTENTIAL MAYAGUEZ MEMORIAL AT LUKE AFB, ARIZONA: by VSPA Member Tom Knowles who served at Nakhon Phanom (NKP). Tom lives in the Phoenix, Arizona area and has been in contact with Luke AFB regarding their Memorial Park and the Mayaguez Memorial services that they hold each year in May on the anniversary of the loss of Knife 13, the helicopter that went down carrying four crew members and 18 Security Policemen from the 56th Security Police Squadron at NKP. (The 56th Security Forces Squadron is now stationed at Luke AFB and hosted our 2009 reunion). He stated that while they do conduct memorial services each year to honor the memory of those lost, there is no physical memorial with the names of the crew and Security Policemen from NKP who were killed when the helicopter went down while enroute to the staging area for the Mayaguez Rescue. He stated that a granite memorial with engraved names would cost approximately \$4,500 and that if the members could raise the money, he would work with Luke AFB to coordinate the purchase and installation of the memorial. He asked that members consider future donations and that he be approved to acquire additional information regarding the process for obtaining the memorial. His request was approved and tabled pending additional information. (NOTE: Tom stood his final Guardmount on November 22, 2018. If anyone would like to continue this program as suggested by Tom, please contact President Jerry Nelson).

9.5 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN’S REPORT by Paul Shave. Report attached to the file copy of the minutes. Total number of VSPA members 1,310, including 973 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.

TOP TEN BASES/GROUPS, INCLUDING K9 HANDLERS WHO SERVED AT MOST BASES:

U-TAPAO	183	CAM RANH BAY	304
PHAN RANG	185	BIEN HOA	342
PLEIKU	190	DA NANG	343
NAKHON PHANOM	202	K9 HANDLERS	459
PHU CAT	283	TAN SON NHUT	552

We have 267 Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees listed at Life Member #111, including the 110 who died in Vietnam and Thailand. Life Member #111 is symbolic and also represents those VSPA members who have stood their final Guardmount as members of the Vietnam Security Police Association, many due to Agent Orange related illnesses.

Motion to Approve by Bill Cummings; 2nd by Scott Baker. Approved.

- 9.6 BX SALES REPORT** by Van Digby. Van spoke about the items in the inventory, including the new VSPA AGENT ORANGE pin, the VSPA History Book, several challenge coins, including the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Coins. The cookbook by the VSPA Sisterhood is a fundraiser for the association. The cookbook is \$15 at the reunion and will make a great Christmas gift. After the reunion, the cookbook will be available in the BX for \$20, including shipping. The new Brother T-shirt with the names of all that we lost on the back of the shirt.

Motion to Approve by Keith Young; 2nd by Bob Curnick. Approved.

- 9.7 WEB SITE REPORT** by Don Poss, Communications Director. Don updated the members on several planned projects, including the new Safeside History Project that was several years in the making with the help of VSPA Life Member John Webster who served in Operation Safeside. He also posted a major review of photos, articles and stories on the Tet 68 attack at Bien Hoa. He has several other projects in the mill and is looking forward to completing them, including several graphic representations of our history. Don also reminded members to follow the Rules of Use for the VSPA Bulletin Board. His report is attached to the minutes.

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

Motion to Approve by: Duke Winsor; 2nd by: Lloyd Wilson. Approved.

- 9.8 HISTORIAN'S REPORT** from Steve Shelt who could not attend this year. Last year, Steve presented information on a future project to transfer VHS tapes to DVD format for our archives. That project was successfully completed with the help of our past Historian, Don Graham, who continues to volunteer his time to preserve our history.

Motion to Approve by: Scott Baker; 2nd by Don Graham. Approved.

9.9 SECURITY FORCES MUSEUM UPDATE: Presented by Jerry Nelson, VSPA Incoming president and member of the Board of Directors of the Security Forces Museum Foundation. Ken Neal is now the Vice President of the Security Forces Museum Foundation Board of Directors.

Jerry presented information regarding the Museum Foundation's efforts to upgrade displays in various area of the museum, including the Hall of Honor area for the induction of VSPA Member, BG Richard Coleman.

The museum curator would like for the VSPA to LOAN...NOT DONATE...our squadron Guidon flags for the squadrons that served in Vietnam and Thailand for display inside the Southeast Asia section of the museum. The flags would be on loan only and NOT donated to the museum, making them retrievable for any VSPA event. Since Jerry and Ken are both on the Board of Directors of the Museum Foundation and will have the ability to control the Guidons, the Board of Directors voted to approve the LOAN provided that a "LOAN ONLY AGREEMENT" document between the Museum and the VSPA is prepared for our new president, Jerry Nelson.

Motion to Approve by Van Digby; 2nd by Al Barnett. Approved.

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

Dave reported that the Safeside Association dedicated the Safeside Memorial Bench in Dayton, Ohio that is located in the Memorial Park at the Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. He thanked everyone for the donations that were made by many VSPA members, Safeside members and active duty personnel in the Safeside squadrons. Approximately 200 people attended the dedication on July 11, 2018, including MG Brad Spacey who spoke at the VSPA reunion last year.

The next Safeside Reunion will be at Moody AFB, Georgia on November 7 – 10, 2019.

Motion to Approve by Bill Cummings; 2nd by Ken Smerecki. Approved.

9.11 SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT – By Jaime Lleras. Information was presented regarding the new VA RAMP Program (program designed for quicker resolution time from claim initiation) will start in February 2019. Also, he discussed diabetic issues and neuropathy for Vietnam and Thailand Veterans. He announced that the Blue Water Navy bill has passed the House of Representatives and is sitting in the Senate at this time. President Greg Cain presented information regarding Agent Orange and pending legislation.

Motion to Approve by Bob Nichols; 2nd by Dave Pierson. Approved.

9.12 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT by Jim Lebowitz. Several applications were mailed to applicants; however, there were only two submissions. BOTH submissions were the best ever received. They were outstanding! The Scholarship Committee recommends that we approve both scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each for Dylan M. Coltrane, grandson of Foster Russell, and Madison Ritscher, the granddaughter of Erlyce Pekas.

Please encourage your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to apply. The \$1,000 Annual J.J. Chestnut Memorial Scholarship was not awarded in 2017 due to lack of response.

VSPA member Robert Dennis has issued a matching challenge to match any and all donations up to \$500 for a hopeful total of \$1,000 for the coming year. Please see our Treasurer, Richard Garcia, if you would like to make a donation to support our scholarship fund.

Motion to Approve by Rick Gano; 2nd by Ed Questell. Approved.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS – There are no candidates this year.

10.2 REUNION HOTEL SELECTION FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.: The Board of Directors met with the owner of The Reunion BRAT Company to review and discuss hotel selection for our reunion in 2019. There are some unique issues with Washington, D.C. We know that it is the most expensive reunion location based upon our own history. Hotels do not want to allow hospitality rooms, **OFTEN ASKING FOR EXTRA HIGH CASH RENTAL FEES, CLEANING FEES AND INSURANCE BONDS.** The Reunion BRAT has successfully found two hotels that will allow us to have a Hospitality Room **WITH THE ADDITIONAL FEES EITHER SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED OR WAIVED.**

The hotels under review in Washington, D.C. that met our requirements for space and banquet size, including a hospitality room, have been **INSPECTED BY VSPA MEMBER GARY JONES**, who was the on-site VSPA representative for the 2013 reunion in Charleston, South Carolina. Based upon his information and other information submitted by the Reunion BRAT, the Board of Directors has selected a hotel and authorized the Reunion BRAT to begin final contract negotiations and to execute the contract on behalf of the VSPA. The name of the hotel will be announced after the contract has been executed and when they are ready to accept reservations.

11. 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. This information must be included in the minutes of the annual business meeting.

11.1 THE OFFICERS ARE:

- President Jerry Nelson (authorized to sign checks effective January 1, 2019)
- Vice President Larry Fleming
- Second Vice President Jaime Lleras
- Treasurer Richard Garcia (authorized to sign checks)
- Secretary Bill Marshall
- Historian Steve Shelt
- Past President Gregory J. Cain (authorized to sign checks)
- President Emeritus Steve Gattis
- Communications Director Don L. Poss

11.2 AFFIRMATION OF APPOINTED POSITIONS – By VSPA Incoming President and Past President Greg Cain: The existing appointed positions are hereby re-appointed for the next

year, subject to future changes per the Constitution & By-Laws.

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

12.1 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DOD PROGRAM TO HONOR THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR: It was suggested that the VSPA contact the DOD Program for the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War to obtain commemorative pins from the DOD for our reunion in Washington, D.C. The VSPA is a DOD recognized sponsor of the 50th Anniversary Program and will make that inquiry.

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

13.1 Safeside Reunion at Moody AFB, Georgia - November, 7 – 10, 2019.

14. REMINDERS

14.1 The Awards banquet this evening will begin with a with a no-host bar at 1700, posting of the colors at 1800, followed by dinner, guest speaker, awards and raffles. ALL BANQUET SEATING COORDINATORS FOR THE VARIOUS BASES MUST MEET WITH THE REUNION BRAT PRIOR TO 1700 FOR TABLE ORGANIZATION. WHEN THE TABLES ARE READY, THE DOORS WILL BE OPENED. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE ROOM AND TAKE SEATS UNTIL THAT ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

14.2 Reminder that a Worship Service will be conducted at 0800 Sunday by Chaplain Jeff Kerkhoff.

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

15. CLOSING OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AT 1050 hours.

Motion to Adjourn by Scott Baker; 2nd by Jamie Lleras. Approved.

MINUTES BY:

APPROVED BY:

Jerry Nelson, Secretary/President Elect

Greg Cain, President/Past President



The Safeside Bench

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

Roberta and I were honored to have Chief Master Sergeant Jerry Nelson invite us to attend the Safeside Bench dedication at the US Air Force Museum on July 10-12, 2018. On the 1st evening we had a get together with all the Safeside members. Many of them Roberta and I know from the VSPA and many we did not, but we do now. That evening Major General Bradley D. Spacy arrived to spend the 3 days with all of us. I first met the General in Texas last year at the VSPA reunion. General Spacy is a very down to earth General Officer who really cares for the troops. The next two days were filled with many old memories told and many new memories made. All in all it was an event to be remembered. I photographed as much as I could as you can see from my photos. My favorite is the photo of General Spacy and me. He asked that we have our picture taken together. He in the new USAF fatigues and me in my 1968 fatigues.

Roberta and I want to whole heartily thank all of the Safeside Troops for the wonderful welcome and the honor of being with them.

Jack and Roberta Smith



The Safeside Bench Continued





Air/Security Police Grandfathers

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

I am Jack Smith 377th SPS 1968-69. I have been in contact with one of our real Air/Security Police Grandfathers. His name is Colonel Darrell Schlotterback and this is his story in his own words in a letter he sent me. The Colonel is home bound and cannot hear well. If anyone would like to drop him a card or letter contact me for his information. Troops meet our Grandfather:

America the Beautiful

ROBERTA AND JACK SMITH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARD AND INTEREST. VIETNAM WAS MY SECOND WAR. I WAS IN KOREA FOR AN EXTENDED TOUR WITH THE 8th FIGHTER BOMBER WING 1953-1954. I WAS IN VIETNAM ALL OF 1965 AS CHIEF, SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT, TAN SON NHUT, SAIGON, AS A MAJOR. IN JANUARY 1965 I HAD ONLY 40 MEN PLUS 60 TDY MEN WHICH INCLUDED EARL CARY WHOM YOU MAY KNOW AS ACTIVE IN VSPA. IN FEBRUARY 1965 THE BASE WAS TOTALLY INVADDED BY A COUP FORCE OF A ARMORED DIVISION SEEKING TO TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM FROM GENERAL KY. FORTUNATELY NOT A SHOT WAS FIRED BY ANYONE AND AFTER 2 DAYS THE INVADER MARCHED OFF THE BASE AS QUIETLY AS THEY HAD ENTERED. THEIR COMMANDER WAS FOUND AND SHOT BY GENERAL KY.

America the Beautiful

AFTER THE COUP TANKS AND INFANTRY HAD DEPARTED, I WAS VISITED BY A PACAF GENERAL, EARNEST BEVERLY, WHO FORTUNATELY HAD BEEN MY WING COMMANDER IN KOREA. I BRIEFED HIM ON THE CURRENT SITUATION i.e. 40 MEN ARMED WITH 38 CAL. PISTOLS AND WORKING 12 HOUR SHIFTS 7 DAYS A WEEK AND 60 TDY WHICH I WAS ABOUT TO LOSE. THEN I TOLD HIM WHAT I NEEDED WAS A LOT MORE MEN AND THE EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS FOR WAR LIKE WE HAD IN KOREA. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND I WOULD BE HEARING FROM HIM.

ABOUT A WEEK LATER I GOT A CALL FROM PACAF AND THE CALLER SAID THE GENERAL SAID TO GIVE YOU EVERY THING YOU ASK FOR. I ASK FOR 320 MEN, THE BEST AVAILABLE RIFLES, MACHINE GUNS, AND RECOILES 40MM OR LARGER RECOILES WEAPONS (ANTI-TANK).

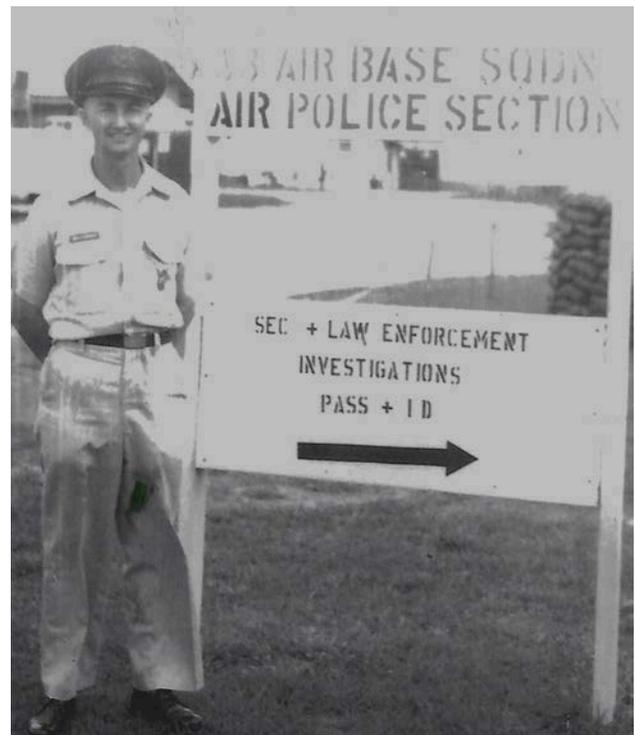
America the Beautiful

EVERYONE AND EVERY THING CAME POURING IN. I ALSO ASKED THAT WE BECOME A SQUADRON WHICH ULTIMATELY BECAME THE 377th. I WAS ESSENTIALLY THE GRANDFATHER OF THE 377th AND AM VERY PLEASED THAT EVERY YEAR THEY INVITE ME TO THEIR REUNION ALTHOUGH I AM NOT ABLE TO ATTEND.

THE PHOTO ENCLOSED WAS TAKEN AT SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS BUILDING, TAN SAN NHUT, JANUARY 1965. SINCE IT IS 53 YEARS OLD IT MAY OR MAY NOT PRINT OUT AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE IT.

P.S. IN JUNE 1965 I WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE NEWLY FORM 2d AIR FORCE STAFF AS STAFF OFFICER FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST. DARRELL





FROM YOUR SERVICE OFFICER

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



By the time you read this article, we hope that the legislative bills (HR-203 & HR-299) have passed both the House & the Senate and signed into law by the President.

1. Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans – HR-203 & HR-299
2. Burn Pit Accountability Act – HR-663 & S-191

We also hope that the following legislation has been passed by both the House & the Senate and signed into law by the President. This legislation will strongly help our brothers that served in Thailand during the Vietnam War, especially those who suffer from Peripheral Neuropathy, but because they are not diabetic, they cannot be awarded their entitled benefits.

HR-566 & S-332

AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE FAIRNESS ACT

Three illnesses believed to be caused by contact with Agent Orange, under VA rating regulations, must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of contact of herbicides.

1. Chloracne - skin condition, skin rash, looks like acne, appears anywhere on the body anytime, lesions often found behind the ears, armpits, groin region are itchy and get red hot.
2. Peripheral Neuropathy - illness of the nervous system that causes numbness, tingling of hands, feet and legs, weakness of muscles, loss of coordination and loss of reflexes.
3. Porphyria Cutanea Tarda - a rare illness that can make your liver stop working correctly, can cause your skin to thin, blister & scar, changes in pigmentation when in the sun and excessive hair growth.

Congress of the United States, the National Institutes of Health and the President of the United States to amend the 38 CFR, 3.309 and USC116 to eliminate onset dates for the presumptive diseases. Certain limitations were placed on the aforementioned diseases, establishing unreasonable and punitive onset dates resulting in loss of earned disability compensation. Therefore we ask our elected and appointed officials to remedy this wrong and award earned benefits through the Department of Veteran Affairs.

How could we request treatment when we didn't even hear about Agent Orange until after 1978, when most of us had been discharged by then? How can the Government put an end date on an illness?

Call or contact your house & senate representatives and ask them to co-sponsor this bill and bring justice to our veterans! Go to congress.gov type in S332 &/or HR-566 to see the bill.

Jaime A. Lleras, VSPA Service Officer

Chiefjal9@mail.com

301-848-3399

NOTE: All Officers and Staff are unpaid VSPA members who volunteer to serve their brothers in the association. Officers were elected in 2018 for a two-year term. Staff members were appointed to assist and advise the officers of the association as needed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Jerry Nelson; Safeside Phan Rang, Phu Cat, Tuy Hoa 69-70; jrnel1423@aol.com; 210-273-4777
Vice President: Larry Fleming; Nha Trang 68-69; Ldfleming569@gmail.com; 254-396-4091 Cell
2nd Vice President: Jaime Lleras; Binh Thuy 1970; chieffjal9@gmail.com; 301-848-3399
Secretary: Charlie Blood; Udorn 70-71; Chris 77M3; cblood@suddenlink.net; 318-640-2073
Treasurer: Richard Garcia; Phan Rang 69-70; cal400@optonline.net; 516-799-9205
Historian: Steve Shelt; Phu Cat & Pleiku 67-68; sshelt1102@gmail.com; 706-231-5056
Communications Director: Don Poss; Da Nang 65-66; Blackie 129X; dp-LM37@vspa.com; 951-325-7244
Past President: Greg Cain; Binh Thuy 67-68; gjcain@yahoo.com (new email address); 716-771-1157
President Emeritus: Steve Gattis; Cam Ranh Bay 68-69; SGattis-LM49@vspa.com; 254-898-2647

APPOINTED STAFF:

Membership Chairman: Paul Shave; Binh Thuy 68-69; Paul_Shave@hotmail.com; 505-831-9401
K-9 Kennel Master: Jim Stastny; Korat 70-71; Boots 645M; jimstastny@verizon.net; 301-482-2659
Sergeant-At-Arms: Keith Young; Binh Thuy, Phu Cat 70-71; kcy9540@aol.com; 716-549-0715
Service Officer: Jaime Lleras; Binh Thuy 1970; chieffjal9@gmail.com; 301-848-3399
BX Store Managers: Van and Joyce Digby, assisted by daughter and son-in-law Kim & Brent Budzinski — MAIL ORDER available by phone 989-667-9117 or email: jad403@att.net or vad403@att.net (** Please note these are new email addresses for Van and Joyce **)
Chaplain: Steve Janke; Cam Ranh Bay 69-70; Kobuc X448; Jank953208@aol.com; 201-507-9038
Chaplain: Jim Stastny; Korat 70-71; Boots 645M; jimstastny@verizon.net; 301-482-2659
Chaplain: Bill Cooley; Cam Ranh Bay 71-72; Mingo 30A0; BCAJ@gvtc.com; 830-899-7542
Chaplain: Jeff Kerkhoff; Tan Son Nhut 72-73; (no email); 626-338-6846
Guardmount Editor: Mike Kennedy; Bien Hoa 69-70; mike3sps@verizon.net; 909-641-1002 (new phone number)
Guardmount Assistant Editor: Erlyce Pekas; erlyce@msn.com; 602-574-7089
Safeside Liaison: Dave Pierson; Binh Thuy 69-70; swampur@att.net; 775-883-7647
Web Administrator: Larry Poss; Associate Member; larry@larryposs.com; 702-501-7677
Web Master: Don Poss; Da Nang 65-66; Blackie 129X; dp-LM37@vspa.com; 951-325-7244
K-9 Web Master: Monty Moore; Da Nang, Phu Cat 68-70; Kobuc X448, Giant A905, Blackie 129X; vspa.k9@vspa.com; 512-639-0005
Web QRT Troubleshooter: Gary Jones; Udorn, Safeside Phan Rang, Da Nang, Tan Son Nhut; 1965; 68-69; 71-72; gjones003@sc.rr.com; 843-851-7427
Web Adobe PDF Tech: Greg Dunlap; Da Nang 68-69; Blackie 129X; blackey@sonic.net; 707-576-9683
BB Flight Leader: Bill Marshall; Phu Cat 68-69; billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com; 949-388-5664
Photographer: Tony Morris; Cam Ranh Bay 69-70; htmorris@gmail.com; 219-322-4418
Photographer: Steve Hall; Binh Thuy 68-69; hallstudio@att.net; 714-634-1132
Photographer: Terry Hall; Nha Trang 67-68; TerryHallPhotography@Icloud.com; 856-981-5071
Photographer: Lou Reda; Phan Rang 68-69; loureda202@gmail.com; 419-668-7591
VSPA Scholarship: Jim "Buddha" Lebowitz; Bien Hoa 66-68; jlz9107@earthlink.net
Reunion Hospitality: Sheila Gervase-Cain; Sisterhood President; smgervase@yahoo.com; 716-771-1157

BASE LIAISONS:

Binh Thuy Liaison: Jaime Lleras; Binh Thuy 1970; chieffjal9@gmail.com; 301-848-3399
Cam Ranh Bay Liaison: Trent Nentrup; Cam Ranh Bay 68-69; trent.nentrup@gmail.com; 812-341-2235
Nha Trang Liaison: Larry Fleming; Nha Trang 68-69; Ldfleming569@gmail.com; 254-396-4091 Cell
NKP Liaison: George Conklin; NKP 70-71; K-9 Ango 0K31; nkpk970@gmail.com; 406-781-2269
Phan Rang Liaison: Donald Dinubilo; Phan Rang 66-67; donalddinubilo@verizon.net; 310-371-0978 Home; 310-753-4317 Cell
Phu Cat Liaison: Ron Arthur; Phu Cat 67-68; cobranam68@aol.com; 660-678-3501
Pleiku Liaison: Pat Dunne (Hawk); Pleiku 1968; hawk51044@aol.com; 954-923-9001
Tan Son Nhut Liaison: Charles Penley; Tan Son Nhut 67-69; Rebel A531; cpenley@chartertn.net; 423-245-6863
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; janetmm62@gmail.com; 205-602-8522
Secretary: Erlyce Pekas; erlyce@msn.com; 602-574-7089
Chaplain: Roberta Smith; rps.jackie@yahoo.com; 614-879-6835
Correspondence Secretary: Jean Logan; jeanwattlogan@aol.com; 530-790-7482

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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.

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IN-COUNTRY



REMEMBER YOUR FIRST GUARD DUTY?

IN-COUNTRY



STARLIGHT SCOPE-INDUCED HEART ATTACK!

In-Country Cartoons are printed by permission of the creator Phil Fehrenbacher, an Army in Vietnam, 68-69. His cartoons depict the experiences and memories of veterans who served in South Vietnam. We may not have experienced all of the situations depicted, we can all relate to the memories.

