

# VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWSLETTER

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION  
(VLOA)

January—March 1st Quarter 2010

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## NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Frank Estes

This edition of our *VLOA Newsletter* has a variety of information aimed at keeping you informed on our activities over the last three months, plans for the future, and information that might benefit you. Such topics as how the VLOA began, finding lost Outlaws and searching for new ones, the 2010 Outlaw Nashville Roundup, selecting the reunion shirt and hats, dues reminder, reunion Silent Auction, a message from our Chaplain, and our financial report can be found herein.

Al Iller has crafted a great article on the beginnings of the VLOA back in 1997, who was involved, and how it has grown into our VLOA of today. Thanks to Al, we have another document that captures a bit of our VLOA history.

Probably the most activity over the last three months has been to find lost Outlaws and locate former members of our Outlaw nation in all year groups. We continue to lose contact with some of the original VLOA members for a number of reasons. My article in this newsletter discusses this further. And, our search team continues to look for ways to identify former members of the Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners, 28th Signal Detachment and 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division gunners from all year groups and Iraq. It is good to report that we are beginning to find a number of them, with sufficient information that we can now include them on our membership roster and add their names to our website. Some are submitting their membership applications. To those new members, welcome aboard. We are glad to have you join us and hope to see you in Nashville on September 30.

We continue receiving registration forms for our 2010 Outlaw Nashville Roundup scheduled for September 30 through October 4. To date, we have nine couples registered. The initial suspense date for submitting registration forms is June 1, with a minimum of 50 percent of the registration costs included with the registration. Final date for full payment and registration for the Roundup is August 1. Payments must be sent to Charles Bouton at his address reflected on the registration form. The Gaylord Opryland Hotel will not take reservations directly from the VLOA membership; all registrations must come to the VLOA for processing. A registration form, schedule of Roundup events, and reunion shirt order form are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have selected the reunion shirt and hat, and contacted the provider to be ready to respond to our request when the reunion registration forms arrive. A shirt order form is included in this newsletter, and the hat will be provided as part of the Roundup attendee's welcome packet for the men. Thanks go to Tom Anderson and Bill Hensinger for working the shirt and hat issue to a final decision.

*(Article continued on page 2)*



*DIRECTOR'S NOTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 -*

We depend on two main sources of revenue to keep our newsletter and website operations solvent. These are: dues payments and reunion Silent Auction plus 50/50 proceeds. Please take a moment to read the two important articles on these items, one by me on the dues and one by Tom Anderson on the Silent Auction. Your support by paying you annual dues and generously participating in the reunion's Silent Auction will help keep our organization solvent for future operations.

If you have any items you feel important to share with our membership, don't be bashful about writing an article for future *VLOA Newsletters* and sending them to Nell Moist for publication. If you have any questions about any of our VLOA operations, don't hesitate to email me at [estesf@charter.net](mailto:estesf@charter.net) or call me at 334-774-5571.

*We are looking forward to seeing you at our 2010 Outlaw Nashville Roundup!*

**OUTLAW NASHVILLE ROUNDUP**  
**SHIRT ORDER FORM**

The shirt for this year's Roundup is made by Holloway in red with white scallops under the arms. Material is wicking polyester (similar to DryTech® or Sport Mesh®) for a cooler, comfortable feeling. Shirts will have the Outlaw, Maverick, and Roadrunner logos embroidered on the left breast.

Cost for each shirt is \$30. You may pre-order your shirt(s) on the form below. All shirt orders will be placed in your welcome bag at the VLOA registration desk in the Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN. A limited quantity of additional shirts will be available for sale at the reunion.

**Quantity Desired by Size**

**MENS' SHIRT SIZES:**

	<b>XS</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>2XL</b>	<b>3XL</b>	<b>4XL</b>		
	30-32	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48	50-52	54-56	58-60	<b>TOTAL#</b>	<b>COST</b>
Qty	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**LADIES' SHIRT SIZES**

	<b>XS</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>2XL</b>		
	0-2	4-6	8-10	12-14	16-18	20-22	<b>TOTAL#</b>	<b>COST</b>
Qty	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

For delivery of shirt orders at the reunion, please indicate name(s) below:

Name: _____	Size: _____
Name: _____	Size: _____
Name: _____	Size: _____
Name: _____	Size: _____
Name: _____	Size: _____

***ALL PRE-PAYMENT ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 1, 2010. SEND SHIRT ORDER FORMS WITH PAYMENT TO:***

Ernest F. Estes  
407 Country Club Drive  
Ozark, AL 36360

**Make checks or money orders payable to: VLOA.**

## A VISIT TO A PROUD LADY

About a year ago, Outlaw Phil Horne, knowing I lived in Arkansas told me that it might be worthwhile for me to visit a proud lady of his acquaintance residing in Walnut Ridge in the NE part of Arkansas. From my home in the NW corner of the state it appeared 180 mile trip, doable in one day. Phil provided a contact phone number in Walnut Ridge and a call later I was invited to come over for a visit. Summer blended into fall, then winter and the trip was delayed further for one reason or another until a few days before spring this year.

Confirming telephone calls were made with the Walnut Ridge contact and a date was set for the visit. I departed one Friday afternoon bound for Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. Stopped short at Hardy, Arkansas for an overnight and meal. Early the next day on to Walnut Ridge, a short hour road travel. Hit a barber shop just opening at 7 AM as I was in need of a dog license or haircut. Settled on the latter; had a short stack of pancakes at Monie's café recommended by the barber. As expected, the café was the gathering place for the locals, lots of chatter, laughter, visiting and waitresses bantering with the customers while providing endless refills of coffee mugs.

Back to the parked car, a quick telephone call to Jason Hammock, my contact, host and guide for the day. A ten mile backtrack and rendezvous with Jason at a highway café parking lot in Black Rock. Brief introductions were made; then a "follow me" five mile or so drive winding generally south from the highway and arrived at the proud lady's home. There stood her beautiful 8,000 square foot home, complete with high beamed ceilings and well lit. I entered the home and there she stood erect, both feet squarely and firmly planted on the polished floor. Jason introduced me and I was immediately struck by her pristine appearance, although not dressed in the colors I remembered of some 45 to 46 years ago. Yes, I was looking at UH-1B known as Outlaw 11 (Army Serial Number 63-8704) now bearing the tail number of N 64771 and we were in Jason's spotless hangar (Photo #1- OL 11). More about Jason later.

A slow walk around OL 11 with Jason's help looking in all the inspection doors, engine compartment, crew compartment and then climbing on board to sit in the pilot's seat. OD paint in most all interior parts attested to her origin; instruments, flight controls and crew seats all appeared original or at least Army reconditioned or new with few exceptions (Photo #2). OL 11 has indeed been cared for along her long journey during 7,200 hours of flight, and Jason has given her that same TLC provided by the original Crew Chief, CE Phil Horne. The photos are evidence of OL 11's present condition. Seeing OL 11 and sitting in the pilot's seat many memories flowed through my mind of Vinh Long days, some of which shared with Jason as he has a deep interest in history the VN period and Army Aviation.

OL 11 has a long and interesting history in her journey from VN to Jason's Hangar. Briefly, OL 11 was retrofitted as a gunship in '65-'66, retrograded to CONUS sometime then to ARADMAC for overhaul/reconditioning, assignment to various Army units then on the National Guard duty in OH and CO, deactivated and eventually sold by US Government to the Los Angeles Fire and Rescue Department, and finally acquired by Jason in 2004. Full details of OL 11's 46 year journey would require another story.

Following Jason's purchase of OL 11 he checked out in the aircraft and obtained his commercial helicopter rating in that aircraft. Jason purchased the aircraft for special use clearing electric and gas pipe line right of ways with the device in Photo # 3. A 4 cylinder 20 hp gas engine drives ten 12 inch circular saw blades affixed to a rigid boom. For operation, a long tubular boom attached to the device is hooked up to the helicopter cargo hook and hoisted aloft. The engine driven saws can be stopped and started from the cockpit. When operating in this mode the device is used to cut overhanging branches and brush from the right of ways. High degree of pilot skill and proficiency is required during these operations plus the fact that during most operations the helicopter is in a slow hover out of ground effect.

Now, a little background on Jason Hammock (Photo # 4). Thirty eight years old, stands 6 feet 2 inches and weighs 240 pounds. His build would indicate a football line backer or bruising running back. But, he only excelled in basketball since his small high school did not have a football team. His interest in aviation was sparked by his stepfather, Renny and Renny's two brothers all involved in aerial application work. Jason soloed at 16 in a Cessna 150 which he had purchased in run down condition and rebuilt himself. Although encouraged to pursue further schooling, he dropped out after a year of college for he knew a flying career was for him.

*(continued on page 4)*



## A VISIT TO A PROUD LADY (continued)

Jason garnered additional commercial ratings and qualification as an aerial applicator attending a specialized school for such pilots. Now, some 20 years later and with 7,800 flying hours Jason's operation includes the UH-1B never used, or intended to be used for crop dusting; one AG CAT with a radial engine and two AG CATS with turbine engines. Rounding out his hangar of aircraft is a Cessna 150 for personal use and pleasure. Recently, his younger brother Chris, following the family career tradition obtained his commercial fixed wing and rotorcraft/helicopter ratings and plans to become an aerial applicator (crop duster) pilot. Jason lives on his 240 acre farm with his wife Kim and three daughters, Katelyn, Kaylie and Hannah. With flying in the blood lines no telling what career those young ladies may pursue. He hangs OL 11 and a occasional AG CAT there on the farm along the side of his 2,200 foot grass strip.

To cap off my day, Renny invited me for a tour of their FAA Certified Repair Station which specializes in repair and reconditioning of helicopter rotor blades. Renny, and his brothers Paul and Jimmy have operated their repair station for 20 years where they have provided services to helicopter operators all over the world. What an operation! Located near Black Rock, AR in three large industrial type buildings totaling 18,000 square feet of shop space and offices about 150 feet off the main highway, completely non-descript without any signs or markings that would give a passerby any idea of what the building houses, only to raise questions as for what purpose the buildings might be used. To adequately describe and do full justice to their operation will require another article. Renny and his brothers also have a TH-13, and 2 OH-58s.

On the trip home, Saturday evening, I recounted the great experience of the day with new friendships and hospitality of some very special folks, and the opportunity to visit that proud lady Outlaw 11 and the helicopter blade repair operation. I plan to return soon and collect on an offer by Jason for a ride in OL 11.

Thanks, Phil Horne for nudging me to make this memorable trip!

**POSTSCRIPT:** *There are many to thank who provided the leads to and history of OL 11: Jason for his persistence in seeking of information regarding the history and tracking of OL 11 through the years; Jim Donnelley in his quest for accurately pursuing the Vinh Long Outlaws history and adding to that of OL 11; Jim Burroughs former CE OL 6 for pegging the former CE of OL 11 for Jason; and finally, Phil Horne CE OL 11 who verified UB-1B (63-8704) as the original OL 11 and set the wheels in motion for the visit.*

(submitted by Al Iller)



Photo #1

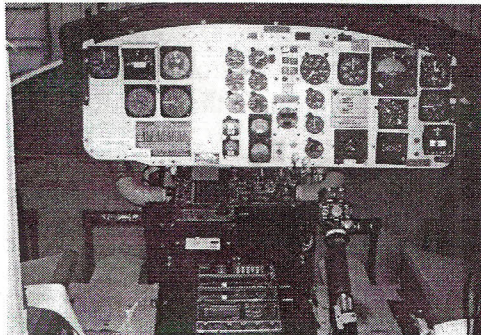


Photo #2



Photo #3

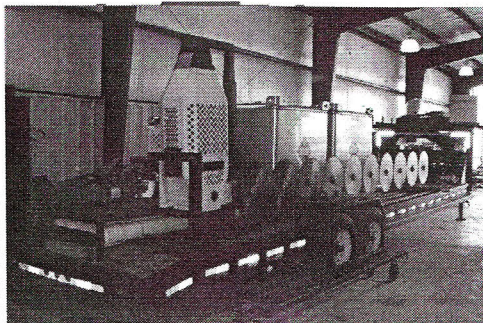
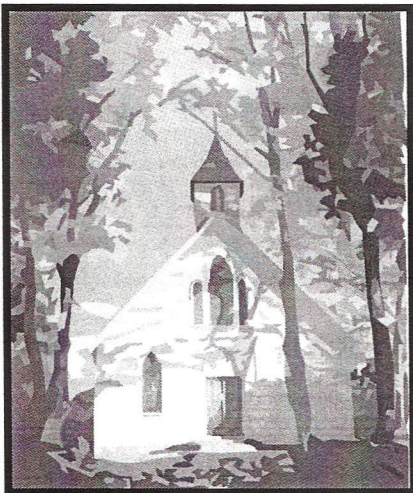


Photo #4





## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### "The Back Pew"

*From our VLOA Chaplain: John Doyle*

*In early February, I drove to Ocala to visit Northern Tool & Equipment and Gander Mountain stores. It was just a getaway day for me, while Ruth was shopping in Crystal River. It is only about twenty-five miles to Ocala. I drove "Red Rider," my 1997 red Ford Ranger. It only has a little over 13,000 miles on it. I bought it new in Greenville, North Carolina, shortly before we retired. It has not been too long since I replaced the original tires because of dry rot.*

*After doing my shopping in Northern Tool & Equipment, I went next door to Gander Mountain. I was in the gun section holding tight to my money, when I noticed a young man over at the assault rifle rack. He was taking aim with an M 16, or what looked just like an M 16. I walked over to him, he was only about 20 paces away, looked him in the eye with a straight face, and said, "If you join the Army, they will give you one of those to play with and all the ammo you can shoot." For a few seconds he just looked at me. He was very clean cut, about 18 or 19 years old. When it sunk in that I was not chewing him out, he smiled and said, "You won't believe this, but I have already signed my contract to go into the Army. I report for basic training in May.*

*I introduced myself and told him I was retired from the Army. For about thirty minutes we "talked Army." He was full of questions, which I tried to give him honest answers to. He said his contract guaranteed him a slot in Special Forces after Infantry Basic.*

*Of course, I introduced him to the reality of being a "GRUNT" and the privilege of being in the "elite aviation brotherhood" of the US Army. He said he hoped to get into aviation after he had been in awhile. We talked about the 160<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company, which he was familiar with.*

*This was a nice young man, educated and well spoken. I couldn't help thinking that maybe, just maybe, we old soldiers can rest in the knowledge that "all is well in this man's army."*

*That night, I prayed a special prayer that God would take care of this young man and all the other young men and women like him.*

*John (Chaplain)*



## WHERE DOES THE VLOA TREASURY GET ITS MONEY?

Submitted by Tom Anderson

The primary purpose of our Vinh Long Outlaws Association is to have a reunion every two years for all of us who served together nearly half a century ago. Our Constitution even states that the first objective of the organization is "*to renew and preserve the camaraderie and esprit de corps among members of the VLOA*".

Each of our reunions has been WONDERFUL! The camaraderie among the attendees is unbelievable.

Those who have attended will confirm that each reunion has been nothing less than "first-class". To achieve this level, however, every reunion coordinator has had to balance the costs of providing all the expected amenities against the reality of keeping the cost-per-person within feasible limits. This is not easy!

When we formed the VLOA, back in 2000, there was no treasury. Several individuals among the "Charter Members" each contributed some donations to initialize a small treasury to fund the costs of the fledgling Newsletter. The first membership meeting approved an annual "membership fee", however that income barely covered the Newsletter costs. And, our income from annual memberships is now decreasing because many members have opted for a Life Membership.

And, as you know, reunions cost money! In order to provide money for such items as refreshments, banners, signs, gratuities, recognition and thank-you gifts, etc., the first reunion coordinators resorted to including a small fee on top of each attendees costs to cover these expenses. Then, several reunions ago, we began our spirited 50-50 program to provide a secondary funding source for the treasury. We also established the popular "Silent Auction" program to further augment the treasury.

Those two programs, (50-50 and Silent Auction) have become the principle means by which the VLOA can put significant money into the treasury. Therefore it's obvious that the treasury has been built, and sustained, primarily by those who attend the reunions. And, it follows that the treasury should be used to continue to make the reunions as first-class as possible.

The upcoming reunion in Nashville will again be **1<sup>st</sup> class!** Frank and Ann Estes have worked tirelessly with the staff at the Gaylord Opryland hotel to ensure that we will have a fantastic time. Yes, the cost of the reunion is slightly higher this year than previously, but so is everything else we face in our everyday life. And again, the treasury will be used to underwrite certain amenities for R2K10.

At the Hershey reunion, the Silent Auction and 50/50 brought in somewhat less revenue than in previous years primarily because there were fewer attendees to bid on auction items or purchase 50-50 tickets. We hope that will change and we'll have a great turnout for the Nashville reunion R2K10. The treasury is still sound but will continue to need the support of those who attend the reunions. Thanks to everyone who has supported the 50-50 and Silent Auction in the past. They are great fun and are vital to the continuing success of the Vinh Long Outlaws Association. See you at the reunion !

### Treasurer's Quarterly Report – 1Q 2010

Account value at start of 1Q (checking account)	\$ 10,417.73
Income from dues (annual & lifetime)	\$ 300.00
Reunion Deposits	\$ 8,784.00
<u>Total prior to expenses</u>	\$ 19,501.73
 Quarterly Newsletter	 \$ 397.23
A-plus (C. Wren)	\$ 9.99
Tax Exempt fee (US Treasury)	\$ 400.00
<u>Checking account value as of 3/31/10</u>	<u>\$ 18,694.51</u>
 Total VLOA funds	 \$ 18,694.51

Charles F. Bouton  
Treasurer, VLOA



## **VLOA DUES**

By Frank Estes

Annual dues for membership in the Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA) are due each January. Regular Membership is \$20 per year, and Life Membership is a one-time \$100 fee. Since we have very little income from other sources, we have to depend heavily on annual dues and Life Memberships to fund our quarterly *VLOA Newsletter* and website [www.vinhlongoutlaws.com](http://www.vinhlongoutlaws.com). Total annual costs for these two budget items are about \$2100. That means we need at least 105 Regular Membership renewals each year just to meet our financial obligations for the newsletter and website.

Dues are essentially the financial lifeblood of the VLOA. Dues and residual from each biennial reunion are what keeps the VLOA financially viable. In the past, we have had a lot of members who faithfully paid their dues at the beginning of each calendar year. However, in recent years, we have seen the level of payments drop markedly.

As of March 25, 2010 the following members have paid their annual dues of \$20, and two have joined as Life Members by paying the one-time \$100 fee.

### **Regular Members:**

Harry A. Baumann  
Vernon H. Bernard  
Andrew Hoder  
Fred W. Jacobs  
James T. Kelly  
Jimmy R. King  
William Maxwell  
Larry E. Page  
Don S. Palmer  
Harold D. Quattlebaum  
Michael J. Schillaci  
Bob W. Slick  
Angelo Spelios  
Robert W. Tidd  
Ronald E. Walsh  
William Washburn

### **Life Members:**

Curtis Fair  
Ray Roth

I offer my personal thanks to those who have already paid their dues. Your support is sincerely appreciated.

To those who have not paid your annual dues, the VLOA needs your support now more than ever. Our quarterly newsletters and maintenance of the website requires an assured flow of financial support annually just to fund these operations. So, your dues are pivotal to the continued service the newsletter and website provide to all members and to the general public at large.

If you haven't paid your 2010 dues, won't you consider doing so in the immediate future? Everyone's support is necessary for the VLOA to continue as a financially viable organization. Thanks for being a part of our national organization. We look forward to seeing you at our 2010 Outlaw Nashville Roundup.

## **"Directors Award" Nominations**

Anyone wishing to submit a nomination for the Directors Award to be presented during this year's reunion should send an email to Ernie Isbell at the following il ([ernieandlinda2@yahoo.com](mailto:ernieandlinda2@yahoo.com)) or submit a letter of nomination to the Directors Award Committee, % Ernie and Linda Isbell, 2635 Bierstadt Dr, Highland Village, TX 75077. If someone wishes to get additional information they may contact Ernie Isbell at 972-410-0206 (work) or 972-317-9657 (home).

These nominations need to be submitted not later than 1 August 2010 and should contain the following information about the nominee: Name, Address, Phone, and a narrative commentary regarding why the nominee should receive the Directors Award. Specifics regarding service in the Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners, Signal Detachment, or the associated support organizations should be provided. Of particular interest should be the reasons that make the nominee worthy of receiving this award such as service to the VLOA, service to veterans or civic organizations, including positions of leadership or support in any of the activities being used to support the nomination. Anecdotes that could be used in consideration during the selection process would be helpful. Using this narrative format will preclude having to produce and use a form that might prove cumbersome and limiting in this nomination process."

Ernie Isbell, Chair, Directors Award Committee.



**JACK SANFORD PHOTO PRESENTED TO U.S. ARMY  
AVIATION WARFIGHTING CENTER**

By Frank Estes

On March 26, 2010, a brief ceremony was conducted at Sanford Hall, Fort Rucker, Alabama for the purpose of donating a photo/portrait of CPT (Promotable) Jack Sanford to the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center. The photo/portrait is now hanging in Sanford Hall, along with other memorabilia of CPT Sanford's.

The genesis of this presentation and development of the photo/portrait was the brainchild of COL (Retired) William "Bill" Giese. Bill was a close and long-time friend of Jacks, and served with him on multiple occasions. They corresponded frequently while serving in the Army.

A few years ago, COL Giese found an old photo of CPT Sanford that was taken in May 1965 during an awards ceremony at Vinh Long, Vietnam. Jack sent a copy of this picture to Bill because of their close friendship. During a visit to Fort Rucker, Bill visited Sanford Hall, and noticed the walls had very little displayed about CPT Sanford. In turn, he began the arduous effort to get permission to hang an appropriate picture of Jack in Sanford Hall. It took the better part of two years to get the picture enlarged, touched up by an artist, and matted and framed in appropriate colors befitting of the décor of Sanford Hall.

Finally, Bill was able to get the presentation date finalized, and invited me to attend. He had attempted to get others close to Jack to attend by family situations precluded their attendance.

Much to our surprise, a great ceremony was planned by the Fort Rucker Public Affairs Office, where 25 young first and second lieutenants awaiting flight training attended the presentation ceremony. Bill and I both spoke for a few minutes each, and talked about the great leader, professional soldier, and friend we found in Jack Sanford. Afterwards, I spoke with all the lieutenants in attendance, shook their hands, and congratulated them on their decision to serve their country. You could see the excitement in their eyes to be getting into the Army Aviation Branch's business. I was moved by their confidence, professionalism, candor, and commitment reflected in the few minutes I could spend with each soldier. You should be extremely proud of the soldiers we have serving our country

Here are a couple of photos taken at the ceremony. The VLOA is indebted to COL Giese for his recognition of a great leader and a great contribution to the décor of Sanford Hall.



The inscription on the photo reads: *Major Jackie W. Sanford, March 4, 1932 – June 16, 1965. My good friend, Jack, was the Gun Platoon Leader, Maverick Lead, of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Company Outlaws, operating out of Vinh Long in the Mekong Delta, RVN. He sent this awards presentation photo to me at Fort Rucker before being wounded and hospitalized in May 1965. Shortly after his return to duty, Jack was killed leading three UH-1B gunships on a rescue mission. A soldier's soldier, Jack received numerous awards for valor while serving in Korea and Vietnam...and five Purple Hearts. William Giese, Colonel, USA (Retired).*



## **LOST OUTLAWS: WHERE'D THEY GO?**

By Frank Estes

We are slowly losing contact with a number of our VLOA members. With each mailing of the *Outlaw Newsletter*, we receive 10 to 15 returned newsletters due to such reasons as "no forwarding address," "not deliverable as addressed," or "forward time expired."

This brings up two issues we need to address as an organization:

1. How to get members to include the VLOA in any address change they provide to their local Post Office, When members move and provide no forwarding address, have a committee that aggressively searches the internet and other VLOA members in that state to find the "lost Outlaw."

We are asking for your help in keeping your address up-to-date with our Secretary. Please include the VLOA in any address change notices you might send to companies, individuals, or other services if you plan on or in fact have already moved. If you will help us in this manner, we will be able to significantly reduce the amount of returned correspondence and at the same time, keep our roster up to date.

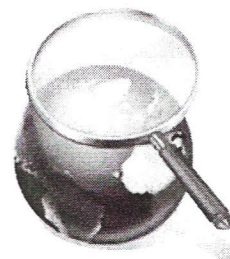
Currently, we have been using the returned newsletters and other correspondence addresses to conduct an internet search for the "lost Outlaw." However, most of the work is being accomplished by one or two people. We will have this issue as an agenda item for our Business Meeting at the 2010 Outlaw Nashville Roundup. Hopefully, we will be able to find four or five members who are willing to take on this search responsibility and help keep our roster up to date.

We have updated our website Membership Page to reflect in "blue" color the names of VLOA members for whom we do not have a current address. Hopefully, this will help in obtaining a current address for our "lost Outlaws."

For the time being, here is a list of "lost Outlaws:" (See next column)

## **Members:**

Dennis N. Akkola  
Berkley F. Badgett  
Clyde E. Bixler  
Paul L. Botterbaugh  
William P. Cotham  
Robert A. Delucian  
Wesley Dunn  
Therman (Shorty) Farley  
Roger A. Franke  
Martin (Cleve) Groover  
James R. Groover  
Rossie C. Harris Jr.  
Virgil R. Hoff III  
Cullis Lee Holub  
David Huereca  
Sean Huggins  
Tommy E. Kite  
James A. Koeppelle  
Robert F. Lannerd  
Jack A. Lawson  
Brian L. Long  
Colan (Skip) McRae  
Everrett (Pink) Pearson  
Gill Procter  
Jimmie J. Scoles  
Louie Seagers  
Ronald G. Smith  
Lee J. Williams



## **Honorary Members:**

Norman Dobrzenski  
Betty Mills  
Peggy Postles  
Kathleen Schrum  
Hilde Wilson

If you know any of the members listed above, please help us obtain the current and accurate address, phone numbers, and email address. At the rate we are losing contact with some of our members, we will be down to a "last man standing" organization in short order. So, your personal help is sought and crucial to our ability to keep our records accurate and stay in contact with all VLOA members.

## **JUST THINK.....**

- If you are open minded...your brains will fall out.
- Don't worry about what people think; they don't do it very often.
- Going to a church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- It isn't the jeans that make your butt look fat.
- Artificial Intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
- My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.
- Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
- It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.
- For every action, there is an equal & opposite government program.
- If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.
- Bills travel thru the mail at twice the speed of checks.
- Men are from earth. Woman are from earth. Deal with it.
- No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.



**VA Proposes Change to Aid Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange**  
***Proposed Regulation Change Adds Illnesses to List of Diseases Subject to***  
***Presumptive Service Connection for Herbicide Exposure***

Copied from Veterans' Affairs Website Home Page

WASHINGTON – Well over 100,000 Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in Vietnam and other areas will have an easier path to qualify for disability pay under a proposed regulation published by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that adds three new illnesses to the list of health problems found to be related to Agent Orange and other herbicide exposures.

"This is an important step forward for Vietnam Veterans suffering from these three illnesses," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "These warriors deserve medical care and compensation for health problems they have incurred."

The regulation follows Shinseki's October 2009 decision to add the three illnesses to the current list of diseases for which service connection for Vietnam Veterans is presumed. The illnesses are B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson's disease; and ischemic heart disease.

The Secretary's decision is based on the latest evidence of an association with widely used herbicides such as Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, as determined in an independent study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Even though this is a proposed rule, VA encourages Vietnam Veterans with these three diseases to submit their applications for compensation now so the Agency can begin development of their claims and so they can receive benefits from the date of their applications once the rule becomes final.

Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted over the next 30 days. The final regulation will be published after consideration of all comments received.

"We must do better reviews of illnesses that may be connected to service, and we will," Shinseki added. "Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence."

Over 80,000 of the Veterans will have their past claims reviewed and may be eligible for retroactive payment, and all who are not currently eligible for enrollment into the VA healthcare system will become eligible.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. military used more than 19 million gallons of herbicides for defoliation and crop destruction in the Republic of Vietnam. Veterans who served in Vietnam anytime during the period beginning January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides.

Used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove concealment for the enemy, Agent Orange and other herbicides left a legacy of suffering and disability that continues to the present.

The new rule will bring the number of illnesses presumed to be associated with herbicide exposure to 14 and significantly expand the current leukemia definition to include a much broader range of leukemias beyond chronic lymphocytic leukemia previously recognized by VA.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a "presumed" illness don't have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits.

Other illnesses previously recognized under VA's "presumption" rule as being caused by exposure to herbicides during the Vietnam War are:

AL Amyloidosis,  
Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy,  
Chloracne or other Acneform Disease consistent with Chloracne,  
Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, (now being expanded)  
Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2),  
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma,  
Porphyria Cutanea Tarda,  
Prostate Cancer,  
Respiratory Cancers (Cancer of the lung, bronchus, larynx, or trachea), and  
Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma).

Additional information about Agent Orange and VA's services for Veterans exposed to the chemical are available at [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange).



## A LETTER, OR A PHONE CALL?

Memory and specific details may fade after thirteen or fourteen years. No matter whether a letter or a phone call, whichever came first was maybe sometime in 1996 or was it 1997 ? Anyway, the event was essentially one original Outlaw attempting to locate another from '64 -'65 Vinh Long days. Perhaps it was a telephone call with the usual beginning, "where you been all these years" followed by each exchanging a recap of some thirty-three years or so, a few recounted war stories, and then a question as to the whereabouts of another specific Outlaw individual. The location and telephone number of the one being sought was obtained and provided by letter or phone call.

Some time passed, seemed appropriate to make a follow up call and see if the two had connected. Pick up the phone and dial the one being sought, a voice answers and immediately recognized as that other old Outlaw that was the subject of the search. Yes, the connection had been made, a long conversation followed as expected. Throughout the next few weeks additional telephone calls were exchanged between these two and an idea surfaced, what about a gathering together a few of the original Outlaws at some convenient location and discuss the possibility of a unit reunion. Sounded reasonable, several were contacted and agreed, a location was selected and the proverbial wheels started to grind out the details for a small three day event. The result, a meeting in 1997 of ten old Outlaws and nine wives at a central location where all regaled in renewed friendships, good food and entertainment. All endorsed the idea of a one time unit reunion of all original Outlaws from the time period August 1964 through September 1965 with the year 2000 as a reunion target date. This group, later known as the "Steering Committee" for the reunion developed a basic plan for a 2000 reunion which was later dubbed the R2K Outlaw Roundup.

Returning home from this initial gathering, all began the search of personal old military records, orders and such in order to assemble a roster of known names from that period. Approximately 500 names were eventually compiled as a master roster of those Outlaws assigned or attached anytime from August 1964 through September 1965, next step was a search to locate them. An untold number of phone calls were made, leads followed, blind alleys encountered and no less than a welcome dividend when positive contact was made. Result, some 250 confirmed contacts with personal information including address, telephone numbers, Email, wives names, period with the Outlaws, position and platoon/section.

In 1998, the Steering Committee together with a few others again met to finalize reunion plans, agree to the location and slate of accommodations, events, entertainment and food. Now the time to get the word out, so in May 1999 the first edition of the Vinh Long Outlaws News (later Newsletter) was dispatched by mail to the 250 confirmed contacts announcing the planned 2000 reunion.

September 2000 the R2K Outlaw Roundup Reunion saw Outlaws, Mavericks and Roadrunners gather with wives, friends and family members totaling one hundred and sixteen attendees who enjoyed 3 days and nights in Branson, Missouri. Planned as a one time event, the groups' unanimous consensus to continue to have biennial reunions attested to the success of the Branson event. From there, as the saying goes, "...the rest is history.". VLOA is now readying for it's SIXTH VINH LONG OUTLAWS ROUNDUP REUNION September 30 to October 4 in Nashville, Tennessee, AND now has expanded the VLOA membership to include ALL assigned and attached to the Outlaws who served ANYTIME during the VN conflict plus those follow on units who have military lineage and adopted the Outlaws as their logo.

What's the point of this dissertation. Well, it just takes a phone call or a letter from one old soldier to another to awaken and rekindle friendships that may start a meaningful reunion of old military comrades. The next time you receive such a phone call or letter no telling what adventure or journey awaits you with old friends and comrades.

*It is with sincere thanks, gratitude and appreciation to Maverick John Sedam as he is the one who initiated that very first call or letter which sparked the contact between others and the idea of a Vinh Long Outlaws Reunion.*

*(submitted by Al Iller)*



## Veteran Programs Website

Contributed by Frank Estes

The following comment concerning the Veteran Programs Website <http://veteranprograms.com> was posted to our Vinh Long Outlaws website and might be of interest to our readers. I visited the website and found some interesting information I was not previously aware of but applicable to my own disability situation.

**Name:** Rance Jurevwicz  
**Location:** Highland, CA  
**Email:** [admin@veteranprograms.com](mailto:admin@veteranprograms.com)  
**Website:** Not Provided  
**Rating:** 10  
**Comments:** <http://www.veteranprograms.com> Great website! VSO's throughout the Nation tell us the U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs is a GREAT website as well. In fact, it is the website recommended by VSO's around the world. Veterans who are actively pursuing a service-connected claim or seeking an increase in compensation visit U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs to learn how to file, who to see, where to go, what to do, and so much more. Visit it today! <http://www.veteranprograms.com>  
**Visit Date:** 3/5/2010

### God Bless you Bill Hackney (wherever you are)

(submitted by John Doyle)

Over the years, when my thoughts drift back to Vinh Long, the name that often pops into my mind is Bill Hackney, aka "Baby Huey."

Bill was a fellow Maverick crew chief (Maverick 34) and my roomie. He was a friend, comrade, and often, like most of us, a pain in the rear-end. But I must admit that when all was said and done, he was more like a brother than anything else. (You do remember those fights with your brother don't you?) I remember one time when Bill and I had spent a few hours in the NCO Club drinking cold Millers. KT (Louie Klinetob the Plt Sgt) came in and gave us the good word that we would be flying a night mission. We said, "OK", drank several more beers, and got ready for the mission. So far, no one has detected that we are both a little tipsy.

In the course of the mission, we were engaged with "Victor Charlie." On one gun run, Hackney's gunship was behind us. We completed our run and were gaining air space, when a brilliant stream of tracers passed to our left and close in.

I noticed that these were orange, not green, tracers. In other words, not the VC. Guess who?

When we landed, a pilot that shall remain un-named, asked Hackney, "What in the hell did you think you were shooting at?" Noticing that Hackney had been drinking, he added, "Your drunk!" Bill innocently replied, "Why are you mad at me? Doyle is drunker than I am!"

Good Bless you Bill Hackney wherever you are.

(Bill Hackney died in a motorcycle accident in March of 1966)



**VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION (VLOA)**

**ROUNDUP 2010 - - - Nashville, Tennessee**

**September 30 – October 4, 2010**

+++++REGISTRATION

FORM+++++

**All reservations must be made through the VLOA.** The Gaylord Opryland Hotel will not accept reservations or cancellations for the VLOA Roundup 2010 except from the Steering Group's National Director. Please complete this Registration Form and mail it and a minimum of 50% deposit to: **Charles F. Bouton; 2013 SW Providence Place; Port St. Lucie, FL 34593; 772-345-3553; cbouton@hotmail.com.** Make checks payable to: **Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA).** Registration must be postmarked by June 1, 2010. Credit card charges for registration payment will not be accepted.

**REGISTRATION FEES:** Includes: Four nights hotel accommodations (Sep 30, Oct 1, 2, & 3) (room, self-parking fee\*, hotel/room amenities\*\* fee); Roundup welcome dinner; three breakfasts (Friday – Sunday); bus tour of downtown Nashville & tour of Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum including lunch; Grande Ole Opry tickets; transportation to Hall of Fame/Museum tour & Grande Ole Opry show; Farewell Dinner; taxes (are exempt), gratuities and amenities. The Gaylord Opryland Hotel is a "smoke free" facility; convenient areas outside the building are available to those who desire to smoke. \*Upgrade to Valet Parking can be accomplished after check-in; tell check-in agent and \$7 per day will be added to your room credit card charges. \*\*Hotel/Room Amenities include: 2 bottles water each day; iron; ironing board; refrigerator; coffee maker & coffee; hair dryer; safe; wifi; & shuttle buses to selected venues.

Number of Persons in Room (Circle one)	Price (Price per person)	Upgrade to Atrium View Room – Add \$30 per day	1 King or 2 Queen beds (Select 1K or 2Q); Handicap Room (Put "H" by bed selection)	Extra Days Prior to or after Roundup (max of 3 before & 3 after)– Add \$152 per day	TOTAL
1	<b>\$941</b> (\$941)				
2	<b>\$1274</b> (\$636)				
3	<b>\$1617</b> (\$539)				
4	<b>\$1960</b> (\$490)				

**Arrival/Departure Dates:** Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2010 Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2010

**Special accommodations:** Indicate here if you require any special accommodations such as room, dietary, or transportation needs: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Nashville Roundup Add-ons:** You have three ways to obtain tickets to additional venues/tours/shows/dinners available during "on-your-own" time reflected on the schedule. Go on the Internet, locate the venue/tour/show you want tickets to or locate a ticketing agent, and purchase them on-line prior to your arrival in Nashville. Contact *Destination Nashville* (ticketing agent for the Gaylord Opryland Hotel) at their website [www.destinationnashville.com](http://www.destinationnashville.com), select venues/tours/shows you want tickets to, and purchase them directly from *Destination Nashville*. Wait until you arrive at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. The Hotel has a ticketing agent at the Hotel's Cascades Lobby entrance. Discuss your needs with the ticketing agent and purchase your tickets after you arrive at the Opryland Hotel.

**Payment:** Minimum of 50% deposit is due to Charles Bouton not later than June 1, 2010. **Balance/final payment is due not later than August 1, 2010.** Send payments to Charles Bouton at his address reflected above.

**Cancellation/Refund Policy:** Individual cancellations must be made by 9/15/2010 and include appropriate justification. No refunds will be made prior to the Roundup. Full refunds for cancellations prior to 9/15/2010 and partial refunds for cancellations after 9/15/2010 will be at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ Nametag: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ of spouse/guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ Nametag(s): \_\_\_\_\_



# VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION (VLOA) 2010 ROUNDUP

Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee

September 30 – October 4, 2010

## S C H E D U L E

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
September 30	October 1	October 2	October 3	October 4
<p><u>3:00-5:00PM:</u> Arrival &amp; check-in (hotel Cascades lobby); registration in hospitality room (Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Ryman Rooms A &amp; D)</p> <p><u>5:00-7:00PM:</u> Refreshments in hospitality room</p> <p><u>7:00-9:00PM:</u> Welcome Dinner in hospitality room</p> <p><u>9:00PM-until:</u> Silent Auction &amp; Socialize in hospitality room</p>	<p><u>6:00-9:00AM:</u> Breakfast -Waters Edge (Gaylord Opryland Hotel)</p> <p><u>9:00-9:15AM:</u> Board buses for downtown Nashville tour (loading area to-be-announced)</p> <p><u>9:15AM-3:00PM:</u> Bus Tour of downtown Nashville, Country Music Hall of Fame &amp; Museum tour, &amp; Lunch</p> <p><u>3:00-3:15PM:</u> Board buses for return to hotel</p> <p><u>3:15-6:00PM:</u> Hospitality room open</p> <p><u>6:00-9:00PM:</u> Dinner "on-your-own"</p> <p><u>8:00PM-until:</u> Silent Auction &amp; Socialize in hospitality room</p>	<p><u>6:00-9:00AM:</u> Breakfast -Waters Edge (Gaylord Opryland Hotel)</p> <p><u>8:00-9:00AM:</u> Steering Committee Members' meeting (hospitality room)</p> <p><u>9:00-11:00AM:</u> General Membership business meeting (hospitality room)</p> <p><u>11:00AM-6:00PM:</u> Lunch, tour, &amp; supper "on-your-own"</p> <p><u>3:00-5:45PM:</u> Hospitality room open</p> <p><u>6:00-6:30PM:</u> Board hotel shuttle bus to Grande Ole Opry (loading area to-be-announced)</p> <p><u>7:00-9:15PM:</u> Grande Ole Opry show</p> <p><u>9:15-9:30PM:</u> Board buses back to hotel (point of drop-off)</p> <p><u>9:30PM-until:</u> Silent Auction &amp; Socialize in hospitality room</p>	<p><u>6:00-9:00AM:</u> Breakfast -Waters Edge (Gaylord Opryland Hotel)</p> <p><u>9:00-9:30AM:</u> Follow-up General Membership business meeting (hospitality room)</p> <p><u>9:30-10:30AM:</u> Non-denominational services (hospitality room)</p> <p><u>10:30AM-5:00PM:</u> Free time: lunch &amp; tours "on-your-own"</p> <p><u>3:00-6:00PM:</u> Hospitality room open</p> <p><u>6:00-7:00PM:</u> Socialize in hospitality room</p> <p><u>7:00-9:00PM:</u> Farewell dinner in hospitality room</p> <p><u>9:00PM-until:</u> Silent Auction &amp; Socialize in hospitality room</p>	<p><u>6:00-9:00AM:</u> Breakfast "on-your-own"</p> <p><u>9:00-11:00AM:</u> Farewells and departures (hotel Cascades lobby)</p>



**Driving Directions**  
**To Gaylord Opryland Hotel**  
**2802 Opryland Drive**  
**Nashville, Tennessee 37214**

**Northbound on I-65 North from Huntsville, AL:**

- Continue on I-65 North toward Nashville
- Merge onto I-440 East via Exit 80 toward Knoxville/Chattanooga
- Merge onto I-24 West via the exit on the Left toward I-40 East/Nashville/Knoxville
- Merge onto I-40 East via Exit 52B toward Airport/Knoxville
- Merge onto Briley Parkway/TN-155 North via Exit 215B
- Take the West McGavock Pike exit, Exit 12, toward Music Valley Drive/Opryland Hotel/Convention Center
- Turn Slight Left onto McGavock Pike
- Turn Left onto Opryland Drive, and follow signs to hotel lobby

**Northwest bound from I-75 North & I-24 West from Chattanooga, TN:**

- Continue on I-24 West toward Nashville
- Merge onto I-40 East via Exit 52B toward Airport/Knoxville
- Merge onto Briley Parkway/TN-155 North via Exit 215B
- Take the West McGavock Pike exit, Exit 12, toward Music Valley Drive/Opryland Hotel/Convention Center
- Turn Slight Left onto McGavock Pike
- Turn Left onto Opryland Drive, and follow signs to hotel lobby

**Westbound from I-40 West from Knoxville:**

- Continue on I-40 West toward Nashville
- Merge onto Briley Parkway/TN-155 North via Exit 215B
- Take the West McGavock Pike exit, Exit 12, toward Music Valley Drive/Opryland Hotel/Convention Center
- Turn Slight Left onto McGavock Pike
- Turn Left onto Opryland Drive, and follow signs to hotel lobby

**Southbound on I-65 South from Bowling Green, KY:**

- Continue on I-65 South toward Nashville
- Merge on Briley Parkway/TN-155 East via Exit 90B toward Airport
- Take the West McGavock Pike Exit, Exit 12 toward Opryland Hotel/Convention Center/Music Valley Drive
- Turn Slight Right onto McGavock Pike
- Turn Left onto Opryland Drive, and follow signs to hotel lobby

**Southeast bound on I-24 East from Clarksville, TN:**

- Continue on I-24 East toward Nashville
- Merge on Briley Parkway/TN-155 East via Exit 90B toward Airport
- Take the West McGavock Pike Exit, Exit 12 toward Opryland Hotel/Convention Center/Music Valley Drive
- Turn Slight Right onto McGavock Pike
- Turn Left onto Opryland Drive, and follow signs to hotel lobby

**Eastbound on I-40 East from Jackson, TN:**

- Continue on I-40 East toward Nashville
- Merge onto I-65 North via Exit 208B on the Left toward Louisville
- Merge onto I-65 North via Exit 86A on the Left toward Clarksville/Louisville
- Merge on Briley Parkway/TN-155 East via Exit 90B toward Airport
- Take the West McGavock Pike Exit, Exit 12 toward Opryland Hotel/Convention Center/Music Valley Drive
- Turn Slight Right onto McGavock Pike
- Turn Left onto Opryland Drive, and follow signs to hotel lobby



NOTICE: Please remove this flyer from the Newsletter and keep it available for information regarding donating items for the Silent Auction

# VLOA SILENT AUCTION

VLOA needs your help! Please Read !

From Tom Anderson

A favorite feature of the VLOA reunion is always the Silent Auction in which a fascinating group of donated items are available to the attendees. Each item is placed on a table in our Hospitality Suite, accompanied by a written description of the item. Alongside each item is a bid sheet on which attendees write their bid amount for the item just below the previous bidders name and bid amount. Much of our reunion costs, other than rooms, meals, transportation and shows must be subsidized from the auctioning of these items.

Items on the auction table are donated by VLOA members. Items have included a wide variety of such things as commercial items, personal bits and pieces, home-made crafts, patriotic or military memorabilia, VLOA-emblems, etc. etc. etc.

I have offered to serve as the Auction Guru for R2K10 in Nashville. On the back side of this flyer are the details you'll need to know.

This "pull-out" flyer is a shameless way of imploring ALL OF YOU, whether you will attend the reunion or not, to please try to donate an article that you think will of sufficient interest to the attendees that they'll bid on the item and help replenish the VLOA treasury. There is no restriction on what you can donate. . anything that will have an appeal to one of your fellow Outlaws who will want to bid high enough to WIN it and take it home with them.

We'd like to, at least, have one Silent Auction item donated from everyone who attends. More than one would be even better.

As we get closer to the reunion, I'll be calling you personally to urge both your attendance and your participation in the Silent Auction. So, why not pre-empt my call by sending me an email, or letter, and let me know that you'll be contributing an item (or items) for the Silent Auction.

If you'd like to keep your name anonymous, for whatever reason, that's OK too! We'll honor your request.



### Silent Auction details

1) **BID LIST** In order to develop the Bid List, I'll need to know, as soon as possible, what you will be contributing and a description of the item(s). Contact me (see below) as soon as you know what you plan to submit.

2) **DRIVING** This is the preferred way of getting your item(s) to the reunion auction. If you are driving, and bringing your item(s) with you, please contact me ahead of time, as requested above.

3) **FLYING** If you are flying and can't bring your donation with you, please call me so we can discuss a plan for shipping the article.

4) **SHIPPING-GENERAL** In previous years, our reunions were held at smaller hotels that were easy to work with regarding shipment of items to the hotel ahead of time. The Gaylord Opryland hotel is huge, and contracts this service to a company called IKON. Unfortunately, IKON charges for receiving and holding pre-shipped items.

#### 5) **SHIPPING DETAILS**

a) Shipments should be scheduled to arrive at the Gaylord not earlier than September 27 (three days prior to the reunion).

b) All shipments received will incur a hotel handling charge, as shown below:

Up to 15 lbs \$12	16 - 30 lbs \$17	31 - 50 lbs \$25
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c) Unfortunately, the VLOA treasury cannot absorb the handling costs. You will be asked to cover these additional costs. Again, call me (see below) to discuss this dilemma.

6) **SHIPPING ADDRESS** If you ship your donation, address the packages to. . . .

Event Name: Vinh Long Outlaws Association

Event Date: 9/30-10/4

C/O IKON Dry Storage

2800 Opryland Dr

Nashville, TN 37214

Guests Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 7) **PLEASE CONTACT ME AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON OR QUESTION**

Tom Anderson

7880 Rolling Woods Ct #308

Springfield, VA 22152

Email: teander@cox.net

Phone: 703-451-4015

VLOA needs your help !