

# VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWS

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION  
(VLOA)

October - December  
4th Issue, 2005

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 1 Roundup R2K6**  
Tom Anderson
- Page 3 Bryce Kramer Memoriam**  
Al Iller
- Page 4 The Back Pew**  
John Doyle, Chaplain
- Page 5 Registration Form for**  
Roundup R2K6
- Page 6 Silent Auction Information**  
Ole Thornton
- Page 7 Notes From the Director**  
Tim Bisch
- Page 9 Note from the Voisins and**  
the Theriots
- Page 10 Membership Application**  
Form

## ROUNDUP R2K6 !

Rounding up all you stray Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners and Gunners to corral you at a reunion is sorta like herding cattle; always a pleasant, but painstaking, task. We really want y'all to come, so this year, Bucko's, we're gonna call it what it is !!! It's the Outlaw Roundup for 2006, or R2K6!

We've always had fantastic Roundup (reunion) destinations! Small-town Branson; Big City San Antonio; Military Post Ft. Rucker. This year, Pigeon Forge will be no exception. However, I'm sure, when many of you heard the 2006 Roundup would be in Pigeon Forge, the first question that came to mind was, "Pigeon Forge? Where the H - - is THAT?" Well, for those who don't know, it's only the most visited National Park area in the U.S.!

Yessiree, old cowpokes, this year our Roundup trail leads to the fabulous tourist destination of Pigeon Forge in the heart of the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee! And the arrangements and agenda are sure to delight everyone who attends.

The last Newsletter outlined the events and schedules but that page probably got used to start the wood fire in the cook-stove, so here's another run-down on what you'll experience in Pigeon Forge.

The first thing you should know is that Pigeon Forge is not isolated. **If you plan to fly** to the Roundup, Pigeon Forge is served by nearby Knoxville (Tennessee) McGhee-Tyson Airport. (Delta, Northwest, United, US Airways, Comair, American Eagle, Continental Express, etc.). A rental-car drive from the Knoxville airport takes about the same time as from the San Antonio airport to our reunion hotel in that city.

**If you're driving**, Pigeon Forge is located just East of Knoxville, off of I-40. From I-40, take exit 407 (Sevierville-Pigeon Forge-Gatlinburg) and follow the signs south, through Sevierville then into Pigeon Forge, about 13 miles. In Pigeon Forge, turn right at Stop Lite #6 (they're all marked), up a slight hill, through the stop sign, down the hill to the **MainStay Suites** on the right. The good times are about to roll!

The price is right! Our registration fee is nearly identical to what we paid four years ago in San Antonio! First, you'll have 4 nights in a wonderful hotel, the MainStay Suites nestled in a country setting just ½ mile off the Parkway in Pigeon Forge. Your room will have a Queen bed and a full kitchen. The hotel offers indoor and outdoor pools (ever been in a "lazy river" pool?), (continued on page 2)



**(ROUNDUP R2K6 !**  
**continued from page 1)**

free continental breakfasts, exercise rooms and a host of other amenities. Plus, we've been given great prices for those who want to arrive a day or two early or stay a day or two after the Roundup.

The gates to the corral (hospitality suite to you city folk) will open on **Thursday, September 21**. Hootin' and hollerin' can begin! The late September Roundup date coincides with the beginning of the changing of the fall leaves, but timed to be just a few days before hotel rates all through the area double or triple for the thousands who come each year just to see the leaves. We'll move from the corral to the pavilion for an early-evening **outdoor barbeque** Roundup dinner, with entertainment.

Friday morning we'll saddle up (that's cushy van seats for you who don't ride ponies) for a guided, narrated van tour into the **Smokey Mountain National Park**. Stories, legends and history fold around an outdoor lunch on the banks of the Little River. That evening you'll be treated to a great four-course dinner followed by Dolly Parton's fabulous "**Dixie Stampede**"! This is a "must-see" event that features beautiful belles, beaus, bridles, buckles and big-time sets.

Saturday morning all cowpokes and pokettes (?) will assemble in the corral for our **General Membership meeting**. Lots of light-hearted humor, sniping and banter here, broken occasionally by minutes of serious VLOA business. Although the meeting does set the agenda for the VLOA for the next two years, Tim Bisch says he will strictly enforce the "no heavy-handed politics" rule!

That evening, following a great meal at the **Applewood Farmhouse Grille**, we'll be entertained at the **Smith Family Theater** with an evening of harmony and laughter from the Smith Family.

The pavilion will be the setting for Chaplain John Doyle's **Sunday morning service** followed by a **country breakfast** along the banks of Mill Creek on the grounds of our hotel. We've even built in a little gospel music for the morning.

The afternoon is reserved for whatever you like. **Dollywood** (discounted tickets available); **golf** (at the Gatlinburg Country Club); **Mall shopping**, or even a little **nap** in the bunk-house . . . whatever suits your pleasure.

After a **group photo** at 5:30, we'll move into the ballroom for our always-fantastic **closing banquet**. This **last evening together** is always the **highlight of the Roundup**. Fun-filled, uplifting, moving, poignant and melancholy. Ernie Isbell will be our Master of Ceremonies again this year and he promises more surprises.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you'll see the article from Olen and Mary Thornton describing their plans for one of the most fun-filled features of the Roundup, the **Silent Auction**! Be assured, if they don't hear from you, they'll be contacting you to ask your help in providing a distinctive, self-created article for the Silent Auction. I encourage you to give them your support. After reading their article, contact them and let them know what you can provide.

We're ordering some great **logo shirts** that you will be able to pre-order. The next Newsletter will contain an order form that will let you place an order for your shirt(s). It will help our ordering process if you'll get your order in early. Look for more detailed information in the next Newsletter.

The **Roundup R2K6 Registration Form** is enclosed with this Newsletter. It's easy to complete but, for some of you older ranch hands who might need a little help filling it out, contact your closest grandchild. But, please, just get it filled out **NOW** and **send it in to Chuck Wren. !!!**

We all know that the passage of the next two years, before we meet again, can bring changes none of us want to even consider at this time. I urge all of you to make the decision to come to Roundup R2K6 to help celebrate, and commemorate, more than 40 years of closeness and shared friendship among those who served together so well, so far away, so long ago.

**You'll never regret coming!**

Submitted by: Tom and Pat Anderson

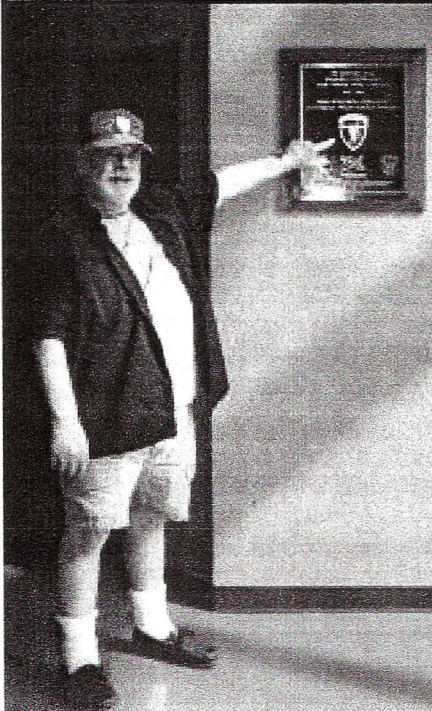
**(Registration Form on Page 5)**

**NOTE FROM AL & NELL:** If you have a change of mailing address please send it to us or Chuck Wren so that you will not miss future issues of the VLOA Newsletter.



## IN MEMORIAM

Bryce R. Kramer  
1933-2005



We have lost an Outlaw from our ranks. He has answered the roll call from a higher command. Bryce Kramer passed away on November 25, 2005 after fighting long and hard with multiple medical complications of myelogenous leukemia and heart problems. Bryce is survived by his wife, Gloria, their son Kenneth, daughter-in-law Amy, daughter Kirstin, and three grandchildren. Gloria has been a stalwart in her care, encouragement and support of Bryce during the last several years of his battle.

A graduate of the University of West Virginia, 1956, Bryce entered the Army in 1956 as an Infantry Officer. He served overseas tours in Germany and two in Vietnam. A Parachutist, Expert Infantryman, Senior Army Aviator, Ranger, Special Forces, Foreign Area Officer and graduate of the US Army War College in 1978. Retiring from the US Army in 1979. Following his retirement he spent nine years in administrative and management positions with IBM.

Bryce was, in every sense of the terms, a soldier, professional and true friend. A war horse many say, hard charger, rough, tough, direct, abrupt, he gave no quarter for less than optimum effort from others and himself, and was sometimes "in your face" when situations necessitated. Most remember these qualities. Underneath this outside armor he wore was a heart and soul of this man who had a deep honest concern, understanding and compassion for others. His

contemporaries in his approach to any task at hand. In any dire crisis situation, one would have wanted Bryce to organize the troops, lead the charge, totally confident the objective would be achieved and the rescue successful.

He was a master of the "long story, short". So, in that sense, Bryce, this is not good bye, just so long; we will see you later.

All Outlaws, Mavericks and Roadrunners extend our sincere condolences to Gloria and her family. They remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Submitted by: Al Iller

### **REMINDER REMINDER REMINDER**

It is that time of the year. If you haven't paid your 2006 membership dues they are to be paid from January through March. Please use the membership application/renewal form made available in this newsletter or the form is available on the VLOA website. Please fill out the form in its entirety and notify the treasurer of any changes you have made in the past year, home address, email address, etc. A list of paid up members for 2006 is provide below. This list is also made available on the VLOA website.

#### **2006**

David Amason, Tim Campbell, Robert Costner, John Doyle, Richard Leister, Robert Michalic, Don Palmer, Harold Quattlebaum, Robert Sharp, Robert Tidd, Duane Truman, John White, Charles Wren, Mike Frontera, Tony Clemente, Tom Anderson, Pat Theriot, Jim Grandsaff, Tim Bisch,

#### **ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

Ron Smith





## THE BACK PEW

Submitted by our Chaplain: John Doyle

As I write this, we are less than a week away from celebrating a new year. When we wake-up next Sunday morning, it will be 2006. Our old friend, 2005, will soon fade into our forgotten past. That is how it is. The old passes away and is replaced by the new. Our life is no different. In time each of us will also pass from this life into, we believe, what? What is it you really believe in your heart awaits you after this life is over. I have a sibling who believes heaven and hell are literally experienced during our life time here on earth. Still others I have talked with say that "dead is dead." What they mean is death is the end of life, existence, being, etc., and there is nothing. On the other hand, millions of people of various faiths believe in an after-life. Some will provide riches, others rewards of various forms, such as "ten virgins", etc., etc. Each of us is responsible for our life today and how we live it. I remember a little saying I often use when preaching revivals: "Just one life, it soon will pass. Only what's done for Jesus will last."

As a Christian I believe in Heaven. I believe that when my time on earth comes to an end, my time of perfect peace will begin. I believe in a literal place the Bible calls Heaven, and I believe that my Faith insures my future in eternity there with my Lord. I have never done anything in life that will cause my name to live on, except in the heart of those that love me. No great novel have I penned. I have invented nothing that will cause people to know my name. All in all, I am pretty much an ordinary guy. Like most others I have had periods in my life that I would rather never have happened. They did happen though, and I assume full responsibility for my failures.

But more important is my knowledge that my Savior has forgiven and discarded forever my past sins. Each of us, man, woman, and child of the age of understanding right from wrong, is responsible for our life here on earth and into eternity. We must make the decision of what we believe about life after death. We must decide what our gods are, or what and who our God is. You have the God-given responsibility for making the right choices.

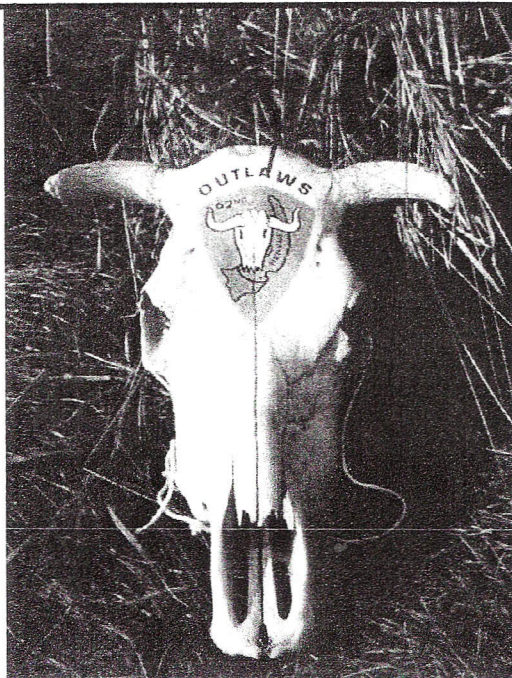
Jesus said in John 3:16:

"For God so loved the world, that he sent his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting Life."

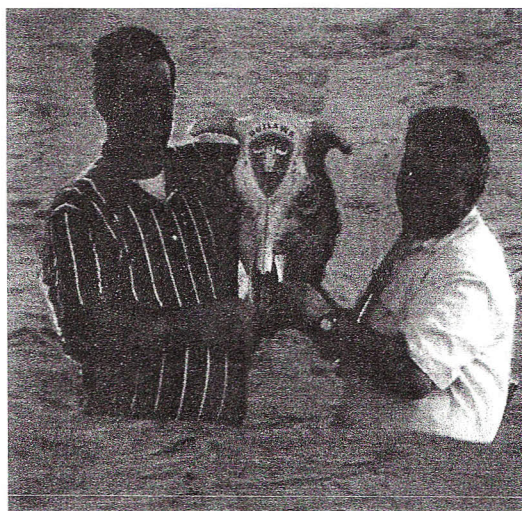
The old will soon be gone and the new will come into being. Believe in what God's Word speaks to you. Live your life as though you believe is worth doing or being.

I pray that each of you had a Joyous and Blessed Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, or simply a Happy Holiday.

God Bless. John



We found this floating around in flood waters on some dead marsh grass.



We lost everything, but we got "moo---ving" and saved the head!



## SILENT AUCTION LOOKING FOR YOUR HELP!

The Silent Auction has always been one of the most intriguing elements of our Outlaw Reunion roundups. Every reunion has been a variety of eclectic, handmade, nostalgic or military memorabilia items on the tables. The fun part of the Silent Auction is in trying to figure out how to both outfox and outbid someone else for the opportunity to take the item(s) you most want home with you. The other side of the Auction is that you can not only acquire a unique item donated by one of our band of Outlaws, but also help defray much of the reunion costs that are not included in your registration fees.

This year should be even more fun because we are asking YOU, the Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners and Gunners (or a family member of one of those bad boys) to donate something to the Silent Auction that has been personally created. This should make for not only an interesting collection of auction items but also an opportunity to take home with you a distinctive and original piece that was designed, developed, created or otherwise fashioned by one of our own.

The Reunion Committee thinks that every one in our group has something they like to do for fun, amusement or even for commercial sale that can be made available to the Silent Auction. You might not think the creations of your hobby, pastime or leisure pursuits are good enough to donate to the auction; but you can be guaranteed that some old Outlaw, Maverick or Roadrunner will think your piece is a treasure they HAVE to HAVE!

Be creative in your thinking and imaginative in what you can donate. Might be something with an aviation motif to it. Perhaps some sort of VLOA-related item. Possibly something you made years ago. It does not have to be any of these; but whatever it is, we would like to have at least one item donated from every person or party who attends. If you could contribute more than one item, that would be even better. We know there is a lot of talent out there. If you don't want your name identified with the item, that's OK. Just put something of YOURS into the auction.

Olen and Mary Thornton will be handling the silent auction. Please write, call or email them not later than March 31 and let them know what you plan to donate to the silent auction, along with a written description of the item, to include historical or personal significance. They plan to reproduce all of your descriptions in order to provide a standardized format and presentation. After March 31 they will attempt to contact those who have not responded to see if you plan to donate to the auction. Contacts for Olen and Mary are:

Address: 3603 Gawaine Court, Annandale, VA 22003-1311  
Home phone: 703-698-0548  
Olen's cell phone: 703-203-2624  
Email: olenandmary@cox.net

## TREASURERS CORNER

The VLOA financial condition has remained solid during 2005. The beginning balance for 2005 was \$17,061.44 and ending balance for 2005 was \$16,314.01, a shortfall of \$747.43

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report reflects an ending balance of \$ 16, 314.01. Annual dues collected were a mix of late 2005 membership pmts and approx. \$120 in renewals for 2006. Revenue for Memorabilia orders was below then what was anticipated. Our expenses for this quarter was for Newsletter publishing, purchase of sympathy cards and our application for copyrights to our various logos. The preservation of our copyrights could take a couple of months to be processed. An attorney needs to be given to Al Iller for his in depth research, coordination and finalization of the separate applications. The separate application of the copyright of the logos was done on purpose, to ease the burden of possible confusion at the Register of Copyrights. You need to be aware that copyrights provide the VLOA Organization protection from other individuals who may want to duplicate the logos and could end up as a legal action. Bob Koonce needs to be praised for his art work on the logos and the sympathy cards. John Doyle also played a role in assisting in the creation of the cards. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all three.



**VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION**  
**ROUNDUP 2006 (R2K6)**  
**Pigeon Forge, Tennessee**  
**September 21-25, 2006**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

All reservations to be made through VLOA. Hotel cannot accept reservations for Roundup R2K6.

Please complete this Registration Form and mail to Chuck Wren at the address shown below.

**REGISTRATION FEES:** Registration fees include: Four Nights Hotel Accommodations - Breakfasts - Roundup Welcome-Back BBQ Dinner - Guided Tour & Lunch- Dixie Stampede Show & Dinner - Applewood Farmhouse Dinner - Smith Family Theater Show - Farewell Dinner & Entertainment - All Local Transportation - All Taxes, Gratuities and Amenities !!!

	NO. PERSONS (CHECK ONE)	PRICE	TOTAL	SMOKING RM (Ck if "YES")	HANDICAPPED (Nbr OF RMS)
(All rooms are Queen-bed Suites)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 495	_____	*	_____
	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 690	_____	*	_____
	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 885	_____	*	_____
	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1076	_____	*	_____

**Early Arrival/Late Departure Reunion Hotel Nights:**

Will Arrive \_\_\_\_ days early @ \$ 77 per night \_\_\_\_\_

Will Stay \_\_\_\_ days later @ \$ 77 per night \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** (Includes Reunion fees plus early arrival/late stays) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: All reunion-booked rooms are non-smoking. If you need a smoking room, please indicate "yes".

Please indicate here if you require any special accommodations such as dietary needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**ROUNDUP ADD-ONS:**

**Dollywood:** I would like \_\_\_\_ Dollywood Theme Park tickets for Sunday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Cost for each ticket will be \$ 36. I will pick up and pay for these tickets when I arrive at the Roundup.

**Golf:** Check here \_\_\_\_ if you would like to play golf at the Gatlinburg Country Club on Sunday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>. Cost for each Green Fee be approximately \$50. For pairings, my handicap is \_\_\_\_\_. (Send no money at this time. Pay at the Clubhouse upon arrival at

**Arrival Mode:** I will be \_\_\_\_ driving or \_\_\_\_ flying to the reunion. (Please include this for our planning.)

**I will have an item to place in the Silent Auction:** \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO

**Payment:** PLEASE NOTE: 50% deposit is due to Chuck Wren no later than June 15, 2006.

Remaining 50% is due to Chuck Wren no later than August 15, 2006.

**Cancellation/Refund Policy:** Individual cancellations must be made 10 days prior to arrival. No refunds will be made prior to the reunion. Full refund will be made if notification received earlier than 10 days prior to arrival. Partial refund will be made if notification received later than 10 days prior to arrival.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Name for your name tag: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name of spouse or guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name Tag name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Registration Form AND payment to:

VLOA

C/O Chuck Wren

20 Rozbern Drive

Eatontown, NJ 07724

(Chuck's ph: 732-222-5579)

(Email: cwren@ix.netcom.com)



### VLOA Notes from the Director

Last October Tom and Pat Anderson proceeded immediately with coordinating plans for R2K+6 at Pigeon Forge. You will enjoy their outstanding results per article "Roundup R2K+6!" We look forward to enjoying the Smokey Mountain area and many special events on the agenda. Note the use of "Roundup" as a term to designate this and subsequent R2K reunion events. During December John Doyle suggested this term also be used in keeping with "Outlaw" and "Maverick." It was proposed and approved for use by our Steering Committee. John's timing was excellent.

Cited in our previous Newsletter were VLOA members who have stepped forward to serve when necessary. We have enjoyed and appreciated Bob Koonce's artistic talents exhibited through his many captions, paintings, letterings, and designs. In the previous issue I mentioned the Outlaw, Maverick, and Roadrunner decals he designed for our QM Al Iller to sell and distribute. Bob also designed and coordinated production of 100 VLOA Sympathy Cards completed for our use during November. Chaplain John Doyle contributed appropriate readings. Bob and John, thank you. Copies will be displayed at Pigeon Forge for review.

Regretfully, we have sad news. Bryce Kramer passed away November 25, 2005. Bryce is survived by wife Gloria, son Kenneth, daughter-in-law Amy, daughter Kirstin and three grandchildren. Their home is Carlisle, PA. Bryce and Gloria were original members of VLOA. Gloria and family were comforted and provided assistance with funeral/memorial services by Tom Anderson, Joe Clelan, Ole Thornton in addition to their wives Pat, Erlene, and Mary respectively. Jeannette Sanford Smith also came from Atlanta to pay respects to her and Jack's close friends. Bryce was a great soldier. He will be missed.

Another loss was Hal Scott, Jr., known as Scotty, son of Hal and Ann Scott. Scotty was but 45 years of age, losing his life to cancer during April 2005. Hal and Ann's other son, Greg, a Physical Therapist, accompanies his parents to provide assistance to Hal during our Roundups." We can look forward, Hal's health permitting, to seeing the Scotts at Pigeon Forge.

Jack Northridge recently updated Chaplain John Doyle and me on his current status since the operation to remove his larynx 14 September 2005. Jack wrote that it has been the toughest part of the entire ordeal. The opening of the trachea, or stoma, began to close up. As a result, Jack is wearing a dilation device to keep it open to try to stretch it. Swelling and resultant pain developed on the left side of his face. Don't know yet what is causing the swelling despite an MRI and biopsies that indicate there is no cancer. A result of increased medication is a loss of energy causing an increase of sleep. It has the oncologist stumped. Jack has an appointment with a ENT physician to learn if additional corrective measures are in order. Jack and Judy were with two of their family members in New Jersey for Christmas and returned home to Boydton, VA for the New Year. Judy, who according to Jack deserves the Medal of Honor or equivalent for her patience and perseverance throughout. They call her "Mother Superior" for the right reasons. Both thank the Outlaws of VLOA for our prayers and positive thoughts for his recovery. They can feel the power of our prayers. Their attitude is positive and they wait anxiously for Spring. With an attitude like that, a few extra prayers from each of us isn't too much to ask.

Was pleased and proud to learn that Ernie Isbell, director of "LPL Financial Services," Lewisville, TX and his staff were responsible for rounding up and donating over 500 bicycles to low income families for Christmas. Last year Ernie and his staff donated 100 tricycles to a local charitable toy store organization (Christian Community Action's Christmas Toy Store) who distributed them. This year with the large influx of Hurricane Katrina evacuees into the area, the store turned to Ernie and his "LPL Financial Services" troops to help satisfy the increased demand. Good move! "Every adult members his first bike," said Ernie. "We decided to make sure that no child in our area that wants a bike would be unhappy on Christmas morning." They solicited contributions from area businesses and friends. They rounded up 502 bikes of various sizes and colors for about \$50 each. Donations ranged from money for purchasing individual bikes to \$5,000 for bulk purchases. With about \$25,000 worth of unassembled biking equipment on it's hands, the toy store turned to a 15-year-old Boy Scout for help. Landon Blocker, a Scout looking for a project to earn the rank of Eagle Scout offered to put the bicycles together. He and about 15 of his fellow Scouts assembled the bikes. "I liked to ride bikes when I was a kid," Landon said. "I thought it would be a pretty good project to give kids who couldn't afford a bike the chance to have one." This was a creative and generous project to serve those in need. It needed a big man with a big heart to lead the way. Thank you Ernie and your "LPL Financial Services" partners.

Another of our VLOA partners who used his musical talents to entertain those who need and enjoy it is Ole Thornton. He presents his one-person show of blues, folk, country and bluegrass music to senior centers, schools, and hospitals. Attaway to go Ole!

(continued on page 8)



(Notes from the Director.... Continued from page 7)

Hopefully we all enjoyed a happy and holy holidays with family and friends. Now we are getting back into our usual routine to include making plans for the rest of 2006. I am sure after reading Tom Anderson's article each of us will want to be at Pigeon Forge during 21 - 25 September. Plan now to get reacquainted with each other again while enjoying a full filled agenda in the beautiful Smokey Mountains.

Reminder: Annual membership fees are due and payable to the Treasurer after January 1st of each calendar year and must be received no later than March 31st.

Happy New Year!

In the last issue of the newsletter we inserted a note from Byron Miksch in reference to his daughter, Shelby en route to Bosnia. In this issue is more on this subject and we will keep up with her progress as time goes on and space allows. We are sure many of us can relate to the experiences she is going through. Al & Nell

Subject: A Sailor's (mis)-adventures

Do all you guys remember how your trip went from your US duty sta. to Vinh Long?

Welllll.. My daughter's deployment to Bosnia started out ok, and ended ok (somewhere in Bosnia), BUT, the path in the middle-oh boy! Orders said, basically: Fly from Columbus. GA to Atlanta, transfer non-stop to Stuttgart, Germany, transfer to Bosnia. Simple, right? HAH! Shelby went from Columbus to Atlanta, and was put on a plane to Frankfurt, Germany! She knows only one word of German- nien/no. Can't even read German. With help from a local minister who spoke a little English, Shelby got on a train to Stuttgart. With five duffle bags of gear- two personal, and three military. And her carry-on bag.

In Stuttgart she got a ride to the airport in a taxi whose driver knew no English. "With a combination of hand signs, and a little Serbian, Croatia and Russian", Shelby said that she and the driver finally agreed that she needed to go from the train station to the airport. Shelby called from a "very plush" room at the airport to let me know she finally got back on track to where she needed to be. Before Shelby left San Antonio, her admin. People couldn't decide whether she needed a military, civilian, or both, passports. They finally decided neither.

At Benning (Shelby stayed at Harmony Church) admin. said don't worry about passports. Morning of Nov 15th I got an e-mail requesting two certified copies of her birth certificate ( the Navy lost it's copy) "registered mail, certified, as soon as you can get them here- and I mean soon!" Wherever Shelby was, sounds like she was stuck until she had passports. How does the Navy put it? "Its not a job, Its an adventure" They sure mean it.

More when available,

Byron

#### **SHELBY'S OPINION ON WAR:**

It (Her following opinions- Byron) comes from around the time that Cindy Sheehan was getting all of her airtime for being a neurotic wacko (erk, did I just say that aloud? guess so, but damn that woman still bothers me). Anyways, here it is as I will not deny anyone their right to have an opinion and to express it. With all due respect and sympathy to Cindy Sheehan for the loss of her son, I would like to tell her that I am fighting for her right to sit down and be quiet for once. I am one person that is of the opinion that we need to finish what we start, that pulling all of our troops from the Middle East right now and sending them home will not solve anything. Our losses in this conflict have actually been much less than they have been in any other conflict that the United States has been involved in during its history as a cohesive political entity. Also, I am beginning to question the validity of using any one person's death, no matter how close they are to you, as a motive to further your political views.

Once again, she has my sympathy, but I think she could better serve her cause by comforting others who have lost like she has instead of making a fool of herself on national television.

But, to every person who says that our troops are dying for no reason and/or against their will, I would say this. Every single one of them signed that contract knowing that there would be a chance that they would be sent out to battle and just maybe die. That was in my thoughts too, and it still is especially since I am heading overseas myself. We are not enforcing the draft - yet - so every person that has died volunteered to serve. Also, just because I am in the military and Bush is the highest authority over me, that does not mean I am fighting for him.

(Continued on page 9)



(Shelby's opinion of war...continued from page 8)

I am fighting for my family and my friends, not for my president, my government, or for college money. And even if Gore had been voted into office in 2000, even if the rest of the government were different, and even if I were offered nothing but a steady job and benefits, I would still do what I do because I do not want to lose what is closest to me. Going into harms way for no reason? Bull\*\*\*\*!  
Take care, all!"

Shelby

Greetings from Cajun Country. We are certainly looking forward to seeing everyone at Pigeon Forge in September for R2K+6. It looks like "6" has everything under control and we are excited about getting a change in scenery from what we have been faced with since August of last year. Things are coming along and we are well on our way to recovery. Emmadel has officially retired from the U S Postal Service (we finally get to see what one of those government checks look like every month) and I am reminded every day by her that she is retired. Breaking news from the Theriots. Mr. Theriot was forced to go back to work in order to finance his spouse's gambling addiction. He is employed at the refinery from which he retired several years ago, in a consulting capacity. That scares me because no telling what type of fuel will be coming out of that place.

When we left the last reunion we were entrusted with the safekeeping of the Outlaw "Cow Head". We are pleased to report that it has survived the ravages of the storms but it looks like it has not had anything to eat in a long time.

Update on Hannah Theriot - she is undergoing 2 weeks of intensive testing at Duke University Hospital to determine if she is a candidate for a bone marrow transplant. Her brother, Grant, is also undergoing tests to see if he would qualify as a donor for the transplant. She has a disease called "Chronic Mucocutaneous Candidiasis" which is very rare. Please continue to keep Hannah and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Chester & Emmadel Voisin  
Patrick & Patty Theriot

(see pictures of the "Outlaw Cow Head" and it's rescue on page 4)

Below are pictures of  
Hannah and Grant Theriot

Our prayers and thoughts are with them and  
their families.

