



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

Vinh Long Outlaws Spring Newsletter

January-March-2015

The VLOA is a 501(c)(19) nonprofit, tax exempt war veterans' organization.

Ist. Quarter 2015

Inside this Issue:

The National Directors Corner	1-2-3
Winter in the North.	3
Lost Outlaws— Frank Estes.	4
The Back Pew-- John Doyle	5
The Treasurers Report	6-7
Retarded Grandparents.	7
Proposed Viet Nam Vets. Memo-	8-9
The last Roll Call	9
Coin Info.-Tom Anderson.	10
Outlaw Commemorative Coins	10
Maverick Lead-Tom Anderson	11
Military Family Service-Tim Bisch.	12-13
Viet Nam Heroes— Du Hua.	14
Outlaw Websites New Look.	15
Ireland-2014. Larry Jackson.	16- 17-18
In Memory of Bud Bender	19

National Director's Corner

By- **Larry Jackson**

Greetings to all Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners, 28th Avionics Sig Det. B Troop 1-158th Outlaw Aviation and 175th Bushwhackers.

I'm sure that most of you will agree with me that this winter has been the worst in recent memory for most of us. Spring has finally arrived so we can look forward to warmer days and no snow. By the time that you are reading this, Polly and I will have returned from our trip to South Africa. We have 19 friends and neighbors from Port Royal Plantation that will be accompanying us on the trip. We have a direct flight from Atlanta, GA to Johannesburg lasting 15 ½ hours and covering 8434 miles. We will visit Mpumalanga, Kruger National Park (where we will have 3 game drives), Mbabane, Swaziland; Hluhluwe, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Knysna and Cape Town. Our return flights will be from Cape Town to Paris and then on to Atlanta. This trip should be quite an experience and I'll share some of the highlights in a future newsletter.

I expect to have a final Request for Proposal (RFP) for our reunion requirements that will be sent to a number of reunion planners in the Branson area completed by the end of April. I will require that preliminary proposals be submitted by mid-July so that a decision can be made by mid-August prior to my visit to the area. I plan on meeting with the selected reunion planner to review the plan. The reunion planner will be required to submit detailed cost data so that we can have a registration form with final costs that will be published in the January 2016 newsletter and will be posted on the VLOA web site.

I wanted to share with you a synopsis of my life from the time I arrived at Vinh Long until the present. I know some of you probably know this but humor me so I can share it with everyone else.

I was assigned to A Company, 502nd Avn. Battalion (Outlaws) in June

Cont. on pg. 2



Cont.-pg.1

1965. I joined the Maverick platoon in August prior to the unit being sent to Cam Ranh Bay to train a Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division in airmobile operations.

I returned to the states in June 1966 and was assigned as an instructor pilot at Fort Wolters, TX. I was an instructor in the Primary phase of training in the OH-23 and TH-55. I received a direct commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in June 1967 and attended the Armor Officer Basic Course at Fort Knox, KY and Cobra Helicopter transition training at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah before returning to Vietnam for my 2nd tour.

I was assigned to A Troop, 3/17 Air Cavalry Squadron at Long Binh, VN. When I arrived, the unit had not received their Cobras so I was transitioned into the UH-1C gunship. The Silver Spurs were supporting the 199th Inf. Bd. and the 52nd LRP Company in interdiction missions on routes into the Beinh Hoa and Saigon area. I was assigned as the Troop maintenance Officer when the Reserve Captain who came over with the maintenance unit rotated home. I think that this assignment was probably the hardest assignment I experienced during my 20 years in the Army. We had very few days that we did not have at least one of our helicopters with bullet damage so it was very hard to keep enough ships flying to support the mission.

Upon my return, I was then selected to attend college full-time and received a BBA in Economics from Armstrong State College in Savannah, GA in 1971. I was then transferred to Fort Knox and was assigned to a Training Battalion. I spent a year commanding a training company training Radio Operators. I was then the Operations Officer for the Battalion which trained Radio Operators and Cooks. I then attended the Advanced Armor Office Course at Fort Knox, KY and attended night school and earned a Master of Science in Systems Management/Information Systems from the University of Southern California in 1974. I was then transferred to Fort Hood, TX where I served in A Troop, 2/1 Cavalry Squadron as a scout platoon leader and operations office. I was tasked to run the 2nd Armored Division Museum for 6 months. This was an interesting assignment as I had to work very closely with MG George S. Patton Jr. as he wanted the focus of the museum to change from his father and Elvis Presley and to reflect the Divisions roles in WWII, I was then assigned to the 13th COSCOM to Command the 13th Data Processing Unit which provided the automated logistical and personnel support for 3rd Corps. I was promoted to Major in February 1978 and was then transferred to the Military Personnel Center in Alexandria, VA where I managed the Personnel Structure and Authorizations data base. I retired in October 1982.

I then worked for two civilian companies in the Northern Virginia area supporting the National Intelligence Community in developing automated systems used to collect and distribute intelligence data. My area of expertise was computer communications and I was able to travel extensively all over the world. I loved my work but after 22 years of commuting in the Washington, D.C. area I decided to call it quits and try retirement. My wife of 50 years, Polly and I moved to Hilton Head Island, SC in September 2000 where we enjoy playing a lot of golf and walking on the beach. Polly is a Pediatric RN and she enjoys working at the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic here on the island. They provide free medical care to workers

Cont. from pg.2 and residents here that have no medical insurance and a limited income. I play golf 4-5 days a week and enjoy working in the yard. I have served as President of the Board of Governors of our Golf and Racquet Club, as the Golf Chairman of our club, and as Captain of our Low country Interclub team. I have served as Secretary for the VLOA for the 12 years.

We enjoy traveling, especially cruising. We have traveled to New Zealand and Australia, a River Cruise in Europe from Amsterdam to Budapest, Hungary; Alaska, French Polynesia, Hawaii, Scandinavia and St. Petersburg, Russia; the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, sailing through the Panama Canal and down the West coast of South America to Valparaiso and Santiago, Chile. We have also toured Thailand, Cambodia, Israel, Egypt, China, Vietnam, Singapore, Italy and Sicily, Ireland and cruised around the Greek Islands, Dubrovnik, Croatia and Istanbul, Turkey.

We also visit Texas and Denver a couple of times each year to visit our families. We have two adult children, Greg who lives on Hilton Head and Katy who lives in Charlotte, NC.

Finally, a note about what is going on in my life. I have been diagnosed with a leaking mitral valve in my heart. Polly and I will be leaving May 10th to drive to Weston, Fl. I will have surgery on May 13th at The Cleveland Clinic Hospital Cardiac Unit. They expect that I'll be in the hospital 3-5 days and then I must stay around for a few days for my check-up in order to release me.

I wish every one of you a pleasant spring with family and friends.

Larry Jackson.

From the Editor: Bob Sharp.

Winter in the Northlands.

Well, it looks like spring may be here as when it try's to rain it still thinks it has to snow some too. We are looking forward to the warmer days as it has been a little trying this winter in Minnesota. I have to say that the North-East has definitely got the record this year for the most snow!! That's okay though as the cold here makes up for that.

We do enjoy ourselves even if the weather does it's thing. We get in some sleigh riding with our mules and try to participate in a few sleigh and cutter days parades. My wife Gloria was a little nervous, to say the least, as we were going to the longest running Sleigh and Cutter Days Parade in the United States in Waseca, MN. It was 6:00 AM and it was -8 degrees with a 41 mph wind (I don't know the wind chill) so I finally called it off. Have a great spring!!!!



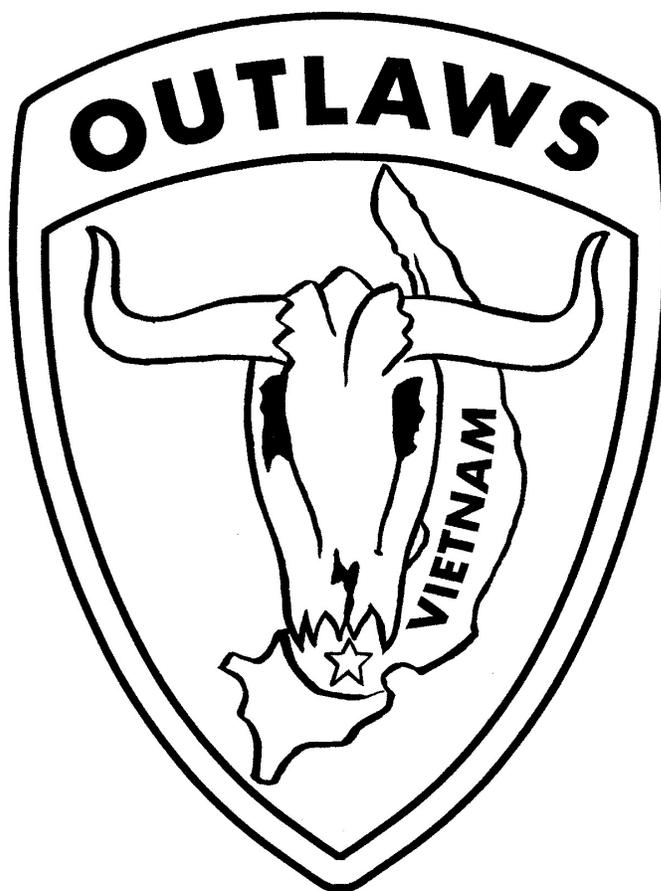
LOST OUTLAWS

By Frank Estes

Our VLOA's Deputy National Director, Jim Donnelly has been doing yeoman's work to locate Outlaws, Mavericks, Bushwhackers, Roadrunners, and other members of attached units whose addresses and other contact information has become outdated. Additionally, he has been contacting a number of individuals he personally knows or has found their information via the VHPA and is encouraging them to join the VLOA. We all owe Jim a huge "THANKS" for going above and beyond the call to search for "lost Outlaws."

To help in this effort, the following is a list of former Outlaws that were on our roster but whose information is now outdated. If you know any of these individuals or will assist Jim in trying to find these individuals, Jim and the VLOA would be most appreciative.

Berkley F. Badgett, Mineral Wells, WV 26150
 Paul L. Botterbaugh, Rogers, AR 72758
 Robert A. Delucian, Belleview, FL 34420
 Randy Diuguid, Fuquay-Varina, NC
 Therman A. "Shorty" Farley, Sugar Land, TX
 Lori Gaff, Burkeville, TX 75932
 John J. Hand, Jr., Aurora, CO 80010
 Rossie C. Harris, Jr., Moudou, LA 79364
 Virgil R. Hoff, III, Fountain, CO 80817
 Sean Huggins, Fort Irwin, CA 92231
 Jerry L. Jobski, Page, AZ 86040
 Richard "Lightnin" Keltner, address unknown
 Tommy E. Kite, Tacoma, WA 98409
 James A. Koeppelle, Clearwater, FL 33759
 Robert F. Lannerd, Avinger, TX 75630
 Jack A. Lawson, Redondo Beach, CA
 Talmadge Ledford, new Brunswick, NF 08901
 Patricia A. Litt, Garland, TX 75042
 William P. Lowie, Orlando, FL 32839
 Herbert D. Merritt, Oro Valley, AZ 85788
 Betty Mills, Lawton, OK 73501
 Robert J. Morgan, Baytown, TX 77523
 Kathy Norden, St. Paul, MN 55103
 Keith D. Ohm, Auburn, WA 98203
 Everett O. "Pink" Pearson, Oakville, WA 98568
 Peggy Postles, Mobile, AL 36619
 Sue Prescott, Tilton, NH 03275
 Gil Procter, Tucson, AZ 85711
 John P. Reynolds, Albuquerque, NM 87111
 Kathleen Schrum, Seattle, WA 98115
 Jimmie J. Scoles, Oklahoma City, OK 73110
 Louie Seagers, Ashford, AL 36312
 Ernest P. Shreve, address unknown
 William "Bill" Washburn, Fling, TX 75762
 Lee J. Williams, Watonga, CT 06779



Please take a good look at these names and contact Jim Donnelly if you feel you can help find any of these individuals.
 James Donnelly-(jcdonnelly1@cox.net)

The Back Pew

By: John Doyle



No Fear!!!!



When I was about 12 or 13 years old, we went swimming in a nearby lake. At one end of the lake was an abandoned water-escape device, used to keep the lake from flooding. It had a large gate that could be opened to let water out of the lake into the river. I never saw it in use.

Two cement towers had a lift gate with a pool in front, We could climb up on the gate and jump down about 25 feet into the pool, which was about 6 by 10 feet. When we jumped, a small mistake could result in a serious injury or worse. I do not remember anyone getting hurt. No—— it was not our great skill that kept us safe. My belief, then, and still is today, was that God kept us safe.

Folks ——think back on your life. Can you see God's protection in your life?

God Bless. *John Doyle*

1st. Qtr.- 2015- VLOA Treasurers Report by Chester Voisin



**Bal-
ance
\$**

**Details: 3 month period -
1/1/2015 thru 3/31/2015**

Cash Balance - 01/01/2015

31,667.
76

Revenues

Revenues:	2015 3 Months 3/31/2015 \$		Inventory Sales	None	None
Dues - Annual	75.00		Miscellaneous - Donations	None	None
Dues - Lifetime	100.00		Annual Dues: - 2015		
Dues - Associates Lifetime	200.00				
Sale of Inventory Items	-		John Doyle	25.00	
Miscellaneous	-		Donald Palmer	25.00	
Total Revenues:	375.00	375.00	Fred Jacobs	<u>25.00</u>	
			Total	75.00	75.00
Expenditures:			Life Time Memberships (LTM): - 2015		
Newsletter Costs	347.08				
Inventory purchases & costs	370.00		Walter Cieslak	<u>100.00</u>	
Administration	38.97		Total	100.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	<u>70.85</u>		Life Time Associate Membership (ALTM): - 2015		
Total Expenditures:	826.90	826.90	Maranita Roberts Lopez	100.00	
Net Income (Loss) - 3 months 2015	(451.90)	(451.90)	Jeannette (Sanford) Smith	<u>100.00</u>	
			Total	200.00	200.00
Cash Balance - 3/31/2015		31,215. 86	Total Revenues - 3 month period 2015		375.00

Cont. on pg. 7.

Cont. from pg. 6 -Treasurers Report.

Expenses

Robert Sharp - 4th Quarter 2014 Newsletter	347.08	
Administration	38.97	
Inventory Expense	370.00	
Frank Estes - Nell Moist Floral Arrangement	70.85	
Total	826.90	<u>826.90</u>
Total Expenses		<u>826.90</u>
Income (loss) 3 month period ending 3/31/2015		<u>(451.90)</u>



May 15, 1964– Co C 227th. Aslt Hel Bn. Ft. Bg.-To May 23,1964 to Co C 229th Aslt Hel Bn 11 AAD Ft. Bg GA then Aug 17, 1964 to 62nd Avn Co Air Mbl Lt. Ft. Bg. Vinh Long bound!!!

L/R PFC Robert J. Sharp, PFC Myles (Dennis) Lappin, PFC James A. Koepple, & Spec. Martin A. Schroeder.

Retarded Grandparents.

After Christmas, a teacher asked her young pupils to write an essay on how they spent their holiday away from school. One child wrote the following:

We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Batemans Bay where everyone lives in nice little houses and they don't have to mow the grass anymore!

They ride around on their bicycles and scooters and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore.

They have a building called the wrecked center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now.

They do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool there too, but all they do is jump up and down in the water with their hats on.

At their gate, is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody escapes. Sometimes they sneak out and go cruising in their golf carts!!

Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And they all eat the same thing—early birds!

Some of the people can't get out past the man in the doll house. The ones that do get out, bring back food to the wrecked center for pot luck.

My Grandma says that Grandpa worked hard all his life to earn his retardment and says that I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too.

When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll house.

THEN!!! I will let the people out, so they can visit their grandchildren!!!!!!!!!! Priceless!!!





VIET NAM HELICOPTER PILOT AND CREWMEMBER MEMORIAL
AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Viet Nam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) is currently undertaking a long-overdue project to have a Viet Nam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Memorial placed in Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). The Memorial will honor all helicopter crewmembers, of all ranks and branches of service, who gave their lives in service to their country while engaged in helicopter operations in Viet Nam.

It is a well accepted fact that helicopters were the backbone of the Viet Nam war effort. Without the helicopter, our forces could not have had the successes that were accomplished on the battlefields of that war. And, it is also recognized that hundreds of helicopter crewmembers were lost during the Viet Nam conflict.

There can be no more appropriate, logical or rightful location for a memorial to helicopter crewmembers than Arlington National Cemetery. Nearly 20% of the 2590 Viet Nam KIAs buried in Arlington National Cemetery died while serving in rotary wing aircraft. Statistics show that approximately 10% of the more than 58,000 killed in Viet Nam served in helicopter units. Nearly 5000 helicopter crewmen were KIA in Viet Nam. Arlington is also the final resting place for a number of MIA helicopter crews recovered after the war, and interred in common grave sites.

We all know that Viet Nam veteran's organizations, such as the VLOA, are, in fact, a "Last Man" club. We are poignantly aware that World War II veterans are becoming fewer and fewer. Korean War vets have also reached their senior years. And, it is undeniable that all of us Viet Nam veterans are also on our way to becoming memories.

From pg. 8

The VHPA is deeply concerned that no national monument exists to honor helicopter crewmembers who gave the supreme sacrifice in the Viet Nam conflict and that the sacrifices of these men will soon fade into history. When that day arrives, there would be no individual or organization to spearhead an effort to sponsor such a memorial. Therefore, the VHPA initiative is focused on putting in place a memorial which will forever recognize, and honor, the sacrifice of helicopter crewmember of all ranks and all branches of the US military services. Now is the time!

However, obtaining approval to erect the Memorial monument at Arlington is proving to be a daunting task. The process began in September 2014 when the VHPA delivered a complete memorial package proposal to ANC. At that time the VHPA was led to believe that the approval process could be completed in time to plan for a dedication ceremony on August 28, 2015, during the annual convention of the organization in Washington DC.

The application review process began with a formal presentation to a Subcommittee of the ANC Advisory Committee in March 2015. With that group's recommendation, a complete presentation was made to the full Advisory Committee for their review. That presentation included a full outline of the proposal with justifications and suggested locations within ANC. Upon approval, the proposal must then be forwarded to the US Commission of Fine Arts for their review and decision.

Assuming approval by that body, the proposal is forwarded to the Secretary of the Army who is required by law to notify the US Congress for information and comment. After a 60 day filing and review period, the Secretary of the Army will make the final decision whether the VPCM Memorial is placed within ANC. That decision must be made with consideration of the limited burial space within the cemetery.

The VHPA will be soon notify, and invite, ALL Vietnam-era helicopter pilots and crewmembers, and their families, to attend the memorial service at the Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Amphitheater 10:00 AM, August 28th, 2015. Recognizing the potential for bureaucratic delays, it is possible that approval, construction and installation of the memorial may not be completed by the hoped-for date of 28 August. In that event, VHPA President Bob Hesselbein has stated that the Arlington Cemetery ceremony on that date will be marked with a tree planting ceremony, which has previously been approved with the Memorial to be dedicated at a later date.. The tree has been generously donated by the VHPA Old Dominion Chapter.

This Viet Nam Pilot and Crewmember Memorial will be the last mission that can be performed to truly honor our lost brothers-in-arms. The humble VPCM memorial will far outlive all of us and will serve as a lasting reminder of the valor and sacrifice of our generation to those who follow.

Submitted by Tom Anderson

The Last Roll Call—In Memory.

-Robert Alfred Delucian—April 14, 2008

Belleview, FL 34420

-Berkly F Badgett—March 16, 2014.

71 Gihon Meadows Drive. Apt. 128

Parkersburg, WV. 26101-7717

-Marc Corder—2012.

3730 Sperryville Pike

Sperryville, VA 22740-2149



ADDITIONAL OUTLAW COMMEMORATIVE COINS**NOW AVAILABLE**

At the Outlaw 50th Anniversary reunion, each male attendee received a one-of-a-kind Outlaw Commemorative Coin, similar to the ubiquitous Challenge Coins now so popular among military organizations. The gold colored Outlaw coin displays the Outlaw logo patch, with a cold-colored steer skull on the front side. The reverse side shows a US flag with the words **VINH LONG VIETNAM** on the outer edge with the name **OUTLAWS** superimposed on the US flag.

A lot of positive, and favorable, comments were made at the reunion when the coins were discovered in the Welcome Bags. In fact, a number of people immediately wanted to know where they could get additional copies of the coin to give to children or friends.

Because the entire original order was either distributed or sold during the reunion, an additional order of coins was ordered and has been received. Nearly half of the re-order has already been spoken for.

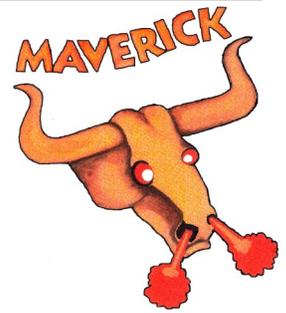
To get your copy, or copies, of the Commemorative coin, send your check, made out to **VLOA** for each coin requested, to Tom Anderson, 7880 Rolling Woods Court, #308, Springfield, VA. 22152. Each coin costs \$15 with shipping costs included in that price. **DO NOT** make the check payable to Tom! Please make payable to VLOA.

These coins will go fast. The manufacturer indicates that the die is normally destroyed after one year so this may be the only opportunity to pick up those additional coins you wanted. Because there are no restrictions on who can purchase the coins, it is possible that outsider Challenge Coin collectors, seeing the ad on the Outlaw web site, may buy up a number of the reordered coins. If you have questions, call Tom at 703-451-4015 or email at teander@cox.net.





MAVERICK LEAD ADDS ANOTHER LIFE-ROLE



We've all heard the expression that "if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it". A good example of that adage is one of our own, who has contributed far more than his share of time and talent to the VLOA. Frank Estes has been the VLOA National Director; Newsletter editor; webmaster for the VLOA website; and hosted two VLOA reunions. Beyond VLOA, his activities include leadership positions in his local Rotary Club; local Boys & Girls Club. President (2 years) and Director (12 years); state officer of the National Wild Turkey Federation, as well as President of his State Chapter's (4 years) and local Chapter President and Banquet Chairman for 16 years. In addition, he has been deeply immersed in leadership positions in his Ozark, AL First United Methodist Church (FUMC), currently serving as the Lay Leader. Now, on top of all his other veterans, military, community and religious activities, Frank has chosen to take on yet another personal assignment.

Frank recently committed to take his personal spirituality to another level. After several months of personal study, followed by attendance at the UMC Lay Servant Academy, Frank completed the Basic Course leading to his certification as a Lay Servant in his church. By attaining that designation, Frank may now be permitted to officiate at selected church services and, upon invitation by his Pastor, preach sermons from the pulpit in his church.

In that regard, Frank was recently honored by his Senior Pastor by being asked to deliver the Good Friday devotional service. Good Friday is, of course, a significant date in the Christian year; recognition of Jesus Christ's pain and suffering prior to and during his crucifixion. Frank is committed to continuing his ministerial progress through completing a series of Advanced Lay Servant courses which could lead to appointment as a Pastor in his local UMC conference (South Alabama and West Florida), should there be a lack of ordained ministers.

VLOA members know Frank from his deep involvement, unwavering commitment and demonstrated leadership in our shared military background in the Vinh Long Outlaws. The VLOA has also been blessed with having had, for a number of years, spiritual guidance from our former Maverick gunship platoon sergeant, Reverend John Doyle. I felt it was worthy of note to make all VLOAers aware of the spiritual side of yet another ex-Maverick, gunship pilot and Maverick Lead, Frank Estes.

Submitted by Tom Anderson



Proud of Continued Family Military Service

by: Frederick (Tim) Bisch



Having completed over 29 years of active duty service I chose to retire September 30, 1986.

I was pleased my oldest son Frederick (Fred) would be present for the occasion. Fred joined the Army Dental Corps in 1985 immediately upon graduation from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. He had just finished a one-year Advanced General Dentistry residency at Fort Bragg, NC and was headed to Mainz, Germany. Almost 29 years later Mitzi and I will be proud attendees for his retirement ceremonies at Fort Gordon, GA to acknowledge his official retirement after 30 years of military service. In addition to performing the usual dentistry services, after his specialty training in periodontics he spent the majority of his Army time in dental education (over 15 years). From 2000-2004 he was the periodontal mentor with the Army Advanced Education in General Dentistry 12-month Program at Baumholder, Germany. He returned to Fort Gordon for assignment with the U.S. Army Advanced Education Program in Periodontics, first as Assistant Program Director from 2004-2007 and then as Program Director from 2007 until present, three years longer than anyone previous. His residents earned board certification at record rates; they won numerous research awards, and the Army Program earned a place as truly one of the best periodontal programs in the country. In addition to regularly scheduled periodontics residency courses. Fred helped to train numerous Army dentists in periodontics by traveling to various venues and speaking about periodontics.

Since 2010 he has provided approximately 300 hours of continuing education courses to both Army and civilian dentists alike. He served as Periodontal Consultant to the Surgeon General since 2010. He has received numerous Army and national awards for his periodontics service to include the 2014 Dental Corps Chief's Award for Excellence in Dental Education,

Another highlight of his retirement ceremony will be attendance of his son 1/LT Frederick (Travis) Bisch, U.S. Army Transportation Corps. Travis will be a recent returnee from 10 months service at Camp Redleg, Qatar where he served as Company XO, Supply & Support Battalion, 17th Artillery Brigade. Travis will also be re-united with his wife Anna, who continued to reside at Tacoma, WA during his tour of duty at Qatar.

During early 2013 Bob and Laurie Koonce, Tacoma, WA forwarded to us an article from their Tacoma newspaper titled "JBLM soldiers proud of shared family mission". It included comments from several "Army brats" serving at Joint Base Lewis-McChord regarding the topic. The article included two photos of Lt. Bisch. One photo showed him with his soldiers in their motor pool. The caption stated "Lt Travis Bisch, whose father and grandfather served in the Army and achieved the rank of Colonel, believes in continuing his family's tradition of military service". The other photo was Colonel Fred Bisch swearing son Travis into service during his 2012 commissioning ceremony at Auburn University in Alabama. Uncertain of future career plans for Travis but whatever, this is one proud Dad and Grandfather for his son and grandson's respective service.

Cont. on pg. 13.



Col. Fred Bisch swearing in his son Travis into service during his 2012 commissioning ceremony at Auburn University in Alabama.

Note: Thank you Bob and Laurie for noticing the newspaper article and forwarding it to us.

L/R:

Tim and Mitzi Bisch, the proud parents and grandparents of the distinguished Servicemen above.

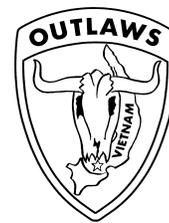
Tim and Mitzi shown here on the right attending the VLOA Reunion in Savannah, GA. 2014.





VIETNAM VETERANS ARE HEROS!

Posted on Facebook by
Du Hoa, Pharm.D, Navy vet, DAV, VFW
(Submitted by Frank Estes)



Our Dear Vietnam Veterans & Friends:

It's been 40 years since the fall of Saigon, but the vivid images of war are with us until this day. How could we forget the oppressions, aggression, suffering and the killings from the Red evil? There was so much bloodshed, so much sacrifice but then we had to give up the contest to determine the true meaning of freedom for the people of the Republic of South Vietnam.

My name is Doctor Du Hua and I am from Vietnam. I was born in the early 60s and I was born in the war zone. I lived through the war growing up. I was there prior, during, and post the fall of Saigon.

Forty years ago, the North Communist of Vietnam said to themselves that they liberated the people of South Vietnam. The People around the world saw the war in Vietnam came to an end and they claimed that the North Communists of Vietnam had brought the unification and peace for the entire country. How sad and deceitful this is! Let's be clear, because the country of Vietnam has fallen into the hands of the communists, there is no peace and harmony for the people of Vietnam. There is no freedom and human rights here in the last 40 years.

What is the kind of peace without freedom? Peace, freedom and liberty need to walk together. Once our President Thomas Jefferson said: "When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty." The fear of the people for the Vietnam communist regime is tremendous in the last several decades until this day.

On the 40 years anniversary of the Black April, The Fall of Saigon, we are here at the Vietnam Memorial Site to honor and commemorate our Brothers and Sisters' names on this sacred Wall for their service and sacrifice.

My Vietnam veterans, some of you were lucky to come back home, your faith was questioned, your patriotism was challenged, and your characters were distorted but yet this WALL represents the Spirit of America. Our Vietnam veterans are the men and women at their time. What can be more American when you go to the faraway land and try to stop the expansion of communism and spread the seeds of freedom like you have ever secured the freedom for the people of the Republic of South Korea and many others?

Thank you so much for fighting and giving your lives for the freedom of the people. We are here, also, to promise you that we will continue to follow your path, the paths of fighting the freedom and democracy for the people of Vietnam and around the world.

My Vietnam veterans, The United States military never lost a major battle in the war. The United States military definitely did not lose Vietnam. The United States military left Vietnam on the order of its politicians.

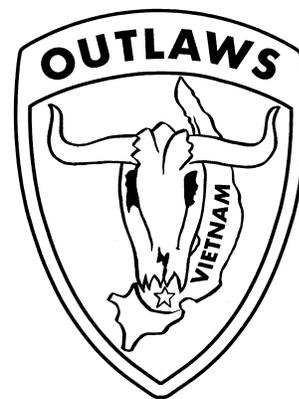
Our Vietnam veterans are our heroes. You are holding the torch that shining the light of faith in God to our people. You represent the Americans who refuse to live on our knees and be willing to die on our feet.

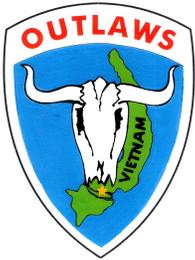
My Vietnam veterans, you had exemplified what it means to be Americans. Thank you for stepping up fighting and protecting the freedom for more than thirty million men, women and children of the Republic of South Vietnam.

Thank you and welcome home, May God bless you and may God bless America. I hope I have your support!

Your brother,

Du Hua,
Pharm.D, Navy vet, DAV, VFW.





Outlaw Website's New Look

By Frank Estes



Our website host, Harlow Media and I have been working since the reunion to arrive at an agreement on what our website

upgrade will include to bring it into the modern era. The following will briefly explain what the upgrade entails.

Keep the patriotic theme and all logos on the home page, with the Outlaw logo predominant at the top left of the page.

The menu currently at the left of the page will be moved to show up across the top of the page with dropdown submenus to see subpages on the main pages. Redesign the Home Page with some new gee-whiz stuff, and link it to Facebook and Twitter so we can just grab things located there and post them on the home page. Move six other logos to one of three potential positions on the Home Page to make the page more presentable. Move the Links Page to the bottom of the Home Page and add "Contacts" link (for National President, Newsletter Editor, and Website Manager (email addresses only)) also at the bottom of the Home Page; these two items will be seen by clicking on "Links" or "Contacts." This will eliminate one page in the main menu. Consolidate Honor Roll Page and Chaplain Page as sub-pages under the Membership Page, thereby eliminating two pages in the main menu. Consolidate Constitution/By Laws, all current History subpages, and Then & Now Page under the History Page, thereby eliminating two pages in the main menu. Rename Gallery Page as Photo Gallery Page.

Keep Guestbook Page as current. Keep Feedback Page as current.

Put "Newsletters Page" on the Home Page with a "link" to get to the newsletters, thereby eliminating one of the main pages in the main menu. Program the website to be compatible with smart phones and tablets so that all you have to do is scroll down and not have to shrink/expand the size of the viewed page. Keep all current content in reformatted form, and decide over time if it needs to be modified, shown in a different place, or expanded to make better sense.

Develop a 1-hour DVD of how to manage the website, including how to make changes to all pages, subpages, modules, and sections. This will be very useful when I turn the website over to someone else, making it easy for the new Website Manager to get up to speed on keeping the website updated.

In closing, the plan calls for Harlow Media to have all the coding accomplished by mid-April and the new-look website online by the end of May; hopefully sooner. After the first "new" version is developed, there will still be a lot of tweaking require to ensure we do not lose information currently contained on our website. If you have been watching, our website is close to breaking 200,000 visits since our website went on line in late 2008. Not bad; not bad at all.



Ireland– 2014

By: Larry Jackson.



Polly and I started our tour of Ireland in Dublin in August, 2014.

We were travelling with our friends, Peter and Polly Hopkinson. Our first stop was for 2 nights in the Shelbourne Dublin which dated back to 1824. The Shelbourne is one of the most famous hotels in Dublin -- indeed in Ireland -- and its icon status is immediately clear from the moment guests arrive. St. Stephen's Green is one of the most popular (and crowded) tourist areas in the city center, and The Shelbourne's stately brick facade, colonnaded entrance, intricate wrought iron fence, and door-men with top hats draw plenty of attention.

We started our visit in Dublin at the Trinity College founded by charter of Queen Elizabeth in 1592. The library is one of the world's great research libraries, holding the largest collection of manuscripts and printed books in Ireland. One of the highlights was the viewing the Book of Kells which was written over 1,000 years ago when Ireland had a population of less than a half million people. The Book of Kells contains lavishly decorated copy, in Latin, of the four gospels. It has long been associated with St. Colum Cille (c. 521-597 AD) who founded his principal monastery on the Island of Iona. We also visited the Guinness Storehouse located in the heart of the Guinness Brewery at St. James Gate (founded over 250 years ago). You walk through the door into the building's giant, pint-shaped heart of glass visitors' center. The highlight of the tour was having a pint in the 7th floor tasting room with a 360 degree view of Dublin.

Our next stop was in the historic city of Waterford where we visited the House of Waterford Crystal. We took a tour of the fascinating factory where we were able to see how the crystal was molded and finished into beautiful designs. The tour ended in the retail store which houses the largest collection of Waterford Crystal in the world.

The next day we journeyed to the historic Blarney Castle. It was a rugged climb to the top on a narrow spiral staircase where you had the opportunity to kiss the famous Blarney Stone. I passed on this opportunity but Polly agreed to be put in position for the kiss but decided not to put her lips where thousands of others had already done the deed. We continued on from there to Killarney where we were treated to a jaunting car ride* (a horse drawn cart) over to the Muckross House and Gardens. A tour of the house and gardens offered a glimpse into the elegant life-style of the Victorian gentry.

From pg. 16

The following day we traveled along one of the most beautiful coastal routes in the world, the Ring of Kerry.

We enjoyed pristine ocean scenery as we went through picturesque villages. We climbed up rugged mountain passes into “Ladies View” where we were able to gaze upon the Lakes of Killarney.

The next morning we left Killarney and our first stop was at the Molanna Dairy Farm. We visited with our hosts, Paddy and Margaret Fenton as they talked about the workings of an Irish Dairy Farm. Paddy was born in a small home dating back to the 1600’s. Their modern farm house where they raised their family is now operated as a B & B. We continued on to Limerick, where we spent the night.

On Sunday we journeyed to the stunning, 700-foot high, Cliffs of Moher. It was a long walk to the edge of the cliffs but was worth the effort as we had awe-inspiring views of the mighty Atlantic and the Aran Islands. You had to work hard to stand up to the strong winds coming off the ocean. We continued our day travelling through the vast limestone landscape of the Burren, known for its stark beauty and Neolithic tombs.

We started the next day with a cross-country journey to Irish Whiskey territory. We visited the Tullamore Dew visitors’ center for a tour of the distillery and explanations of how the whiskey was brewed. Following the tour, we were treated to tastings of several of their whiskeys. We continued on to Kingscourt and the Cabra Castle, where we spent our last night in Ireland. The original Cabra Castle, the ruins of which still stand on high ground in Dun na Ri Forest Park. The Castle and the land surrounding it belonged to the O’Reilly Family until it was confiscated in the mid 17th century by Cromwell’s orders and given to Colonel Thomas Cooch. It remained in the family for the next 265 years but was disposed of in 1964 because of economic circumstances. In 1991, the castle was purchased by its present owners, the Corscadden family, who re-opened it as a hotel. Since then the property has been extensively refurbished and expanded from 22 bedrooms, to incorporate the former courtyard area, Gate Lodge and 6 newly built Cottages. We stayed in what was originally the milking parlor.

We enjoyed really great weather with only a couple of days of light rain and very warm for that time of year. The country side is beautiful with homes and there carefully manicured yards. Much of Ireland is farm land and everything is bright green. The people are very outgoing and friendly. *Larry Jackson.*

Cont. on pg.18

From pg. 17.

Ireland—2014—continued.



Polly and Larry enjoying a pint.



Larry with Charlie Chaplin.



Beautiful Cabra castle.



Polly at the Blarney Stone.

Bob and Tom:

Bob— So, Tom, what do you remember most about living out on the prairie?

Tom—How flat it was. When my wife left me, I watched her ride away for a week._____.

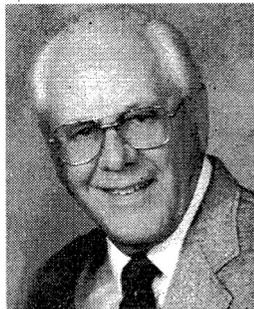


Ole was hunting geese up in the Minnesota marsh and he leaned his 16 gauge against the corner of the blind to take a pee and as luck would have it, his foolish dog Dawson knocked it over and it went off and Ole took most of the #4 shot in the groin.

Several hours later, lying in a Duluth Hospital bed he came to and there was his doctor, Sven. “Vell Ole, I got some good news and some bad news. Da good news is dat you are going to be okay. Da damage vas local to your groin, dere vas very little internal damage, and I vas able to remove all of the bird shot”. “Vat’s the bad news” asks Ole? “Da bad news is dat dere vas some pretty extensive buckshot damage done to your unit and I’m going to haf to refer you to my sister, Lena.” Ole says, “is she a plastic surgeon?” “Not exactly” Sven says, “she’s a flute player for the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra and cause all you got is Obamacare ,she’s going to teach you where to put your finger’s so you don’t pee in your eye.

In Memory of Lawrence W. (Bud) Bender

Lawrence W. Bender



Lawrence W. "Bud" Bender, 92, a resident of Dothan passed away Saturday, April 4, 2015 at his residence.

A memorial service will be held 11:00 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2015 at First United Methodist Church in Dothan with Dr. Jim Sanders officiating. The family will receive friends from 10-11:00 a.m. prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Covenant Hospice, 104 Rock Bridge Road, Dothan, AL, 36303 or to First United Methodist Church, 1380 W. Main Street, Dothan, AL, 36303.

Mr. Bender was born March 23, 1923 in Lorain, OH and spent the early part of his life in Greenwich, OH. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1942 as a Naval Aviation Cadet. He graduated from flight school and transferred to the U.S. Marine Corps as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was a Veteran of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War serving in the Marine

Corps and then transferring to the U.S. Army in 1957. Mr. Bender has resided in Dothan since 1957 and was an avid fisherman, hunter and baseball player. Later in life he took up golf and eventually enjoyed playing 3 times a week into his 80's. He was a long-time supporter of SEACT, serving on the board and acting in several performances. He also was a volunteer with the Red Cross working as a donor and as a driver to transport blood throughout the local region. He was a member of several of the local retired military associations.

Mr. Bender was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Bender, his great-grandson, Jackson Jinright and his sister, Bonnie Foster.

Survivors include his children, Barbara (Lou) Jinright, Vicki (Dwight) Deal, Judy (Rudy) Johnson, and Robyn (Ken) Johnson; grandchildren, Justin (Beth) Jinright, Travis (Angie) Jinright, Nichole (Bill) Morton, Dwight (Gwen) Deal, II, Michelle (Murry) Sandlin, Tara (Tony) Pazzaglia, Mathew (Kellan) Bryan, Zachary Bryan, and Joshua Bryan; 13 great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandson.

Robert Byrd of Sunset Memorial Park Funeral Home 334-983-6604 www.SunsetMemorialPark.com. Sign the guest book at www.dothaneagle.com.



Written by Frank Estes:

I attended Bud's funeral this morning at the First Methodist Church, Dothan, AL. All I can say about the service, remembrances, and eulogies is WOW! Bud was well thought of as a former service member (Navy pilot in WWII, Marine pilot in the Korean War, and Army pilot in the Viet Nam War.) I did not know it, but Bud was one of the individuals the Marines that was asked to transfer to the Army and help establish the Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker in 1957.

Truly a family man and dedicated to them and his church. The church was full of attendees, giving confirmation of his close friendship with the FUMC congregants. I am attaching two pictures, one of the setting for his ashes and one of the vehicle that brought his remains to the church.

His spouse had preceded him in death. His five daughters and their spouses were there to celebrate Bud's life. We will miss him, as will his family and the Dothan FUMC and the community. Frank Estes.

Written by Al Iller:

Thanks Frank for the obituary on Bud. Sad news of a true Aviator and Soldier/Marine of the highest order. A great contributor to Army Aviation and I am sure he is remembered by a great many who had the privilege of knowing and serving with him.

Al Iller.



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)
 c/o Robert J. Sharp, Editor.
 17489 US Hwy. 65
 Albert Lea, Minnesota. 56007
 handybobsharp@gmail.com



ROADRUNNER



Spring-2015

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Memberships in the VLOA is open to any person of any rank who served with any lineage unit known as the “Outlaws” (and “Mavericks” and “Bushwhackers” armed platoons) or any affiliated unit at any time between August 1964 and the present. These units include the 62nd Aviation Company, A Company 502nd Aviation Battalion, 175th Aviation Company, B Troop 1-158th Aviation Regiment (Iraq), 150th Transportation Detachment (“Roadrunners”), 28th Signal Detachment, and 25th Infantry Division’s “doorgunners.”

Active (with vote) or Associate (without vote) Membership is \$25.00 annually, payable each January. A Lifetime Membership (with vote) is a \$100.00 one-time fee. A Lifetime Associate Membership (without vote) for spouses and relatives is available for a \$100 one-time fee. Higher levels of Lifetime Memberships are available; contact the National Director at: jackson3605@roadrunner.com. To pay initial or renewal membership dues for this calendar year, please complete and forward this form, with dues payment, to:

VLOA; c/o Chester Voisin, 1657 Dr. Beatrous Road, Theriot, LA 70397.

First Name _____ MI ____ -- ____ Nickname _____ Last Name _____

Telephone # (home) _____ (work) _____ Spouse’s Name _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Rank (while assigned to unit) _____ E-Mail address _____

Dates assigned in Outlaws/attachments (Mo/Yr to Mo/Yr) _____ to _____

Unit/plt/sect/position _____ Radio Call sign _____

- Please initiate _____ or renew _____ my Active _____ Associate _____ VLOA membership. **Make \$25.00 check payable to VLOA.**
- Please initiate my Lifetime _____ Lifetime Associate _____ VLOA membership. **Make \$100.00 check payable to VLOA.**

_____ Please do not renew my VLOA membership, but keep my name on the VLOA roster. I understand I may not receive any future issues of the VLOA Newsletter unless I am a current dues paying VLOA member.

_____ I know a former Outlaw/Maverick/Roadrunner or other affiliated unit member and have indicated his/her name, address, and phone number on this form.

Comments: _____