



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

## *Vinh Long Outlaws* *Spring Newsletter 2018*

January-March.

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

Ist. Quarter 2018

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## National Director's Corner

By- James Donnelly



Over the last three years one thing has become obvious, I am a man of very few words. This newsletter article should be no different.

My wife, Vickie and I traveled to Hawaii for a two-week winter getaway in February and had a wonderful time with equally wonderful weather. We got to spend several days with Outlaw Phil Van Alst (our webmaster) and his lovely wife Moana. Phil gave us the grand tour of Oahu and points of interest not commonly seen by the typical tourist. We would like to thank them for a truly amazing experience. We also did a week long cruise around the islands where we snorkeled, attended a luau, took two helicopter tours on Kawai and Maui. We also took an amazing whale watching tour with a dozen close encounters under and around the boat.

We came home from Hawaii and went to Hilton Head, South Carolina for week to escape the cold again. While there we had lunch with Larry and Polly Jackson.

Now back to business! The reunion is five months away and it's time to remind you how well received past reunions have been and I hope this one will be no different. Please consider coming to renew old friendships and make new ones in a beautiful and historic Southern city. In addition to this newsletter I will be sending out a group email later this month to invite you one more time to be a part of the reunion.

It is also time to think about the silent auction which Tom Anderson is heading for this reunion. The silent auction is a huge fund raiser and is looked forward to by all. Please consider donating an item or even two to the auction. Items need not be Vietnam related. Anything that you might want, others will want to bid on. Tom is also doing double duty as our point of contact for reunion shirts sales and that order form has been in the newsletter and I am sure will be again. Please consider ordering one for the group picture or wearing your past reunion shirt for the photo. All who attend will be given an 8x10 color copy of the group photo.

Cont. on pg. 2.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Jim Donnelly, National Director

Virginia Beach, VA

Bert Rice, Deputy Director

Odenton, MD

Doug Wilson, Secretary

Costa Mesa, CA

Frank Estes, Treasurer

Ozark, AL

Jim Donnelly, Historian

Virginia Beach, VA

Bill Hensinger, Member-At-Large

Palmyra, PA

Irwin Katz, Member-At-Large

Buffalo Grove, IL

Eric Ragsdale, Member-At-Large

Mesa, AZ

Bob Allen, Member-At-Large

Piqua, OH

Fred Rosenberg, Member-At-Large

Leesburg, FL

Bob Sharp, Newsletter

Albert Lea, MN

Phil Van Alst, Web Master

Hau'ula, HI

Bert Rice, Interim Chaplain

Odenton, MD

Terry Khachadourian, Distaff Advisor

Lilburn, GA

Tom Anderson, Permanent Advisor

Springfield, VA

Ernie Isbell, Ex Officio (2002-04)

Highland Village, TX

Tim Bisch, Ex Officio (2004-06)

Huntsville, AL

Joe Clelan, Ex Officio (2006-08)

Mechanicsburg, PA (deceased)

Frank Estes, Ex Officio (2008-10)

Ozark, AL

Bob Koonce, Ex Officio (2010-12)

Tacoma, WA

Angelo Spelios, Ex Officio (2012-14)

Weatherford, TX

Larry Jackson, Ex Officio (2014-2016)

Hilton Head Island, SC

Cont. from pg.1

Speaking about stepping up, please consider taking a leadership position in the VLOA. This is a great organization which cannot survive without the participation of its members. The same names appear over and over and it is time to diversify some of these responsibilities. We will have several positions open in September including the now vacant Chaplain's position. The Chaplain need not be ordained, only a person of faith who is willing to do four small newsletter articles and lead us in our service at the reunion. If you would consider taking a position in VLOA please contact me.

It is also time to think about who we will recognize for their work to make and keep the VLOA a thriving and successful organization. Frank Estes has volunteered to head the awards committee and should be the one to contact for your nominations. As you know Frank is also our Treasurer - another member doing double duty.

Again, I hope to see you in Charleston, until then Stay Safe and Well.

*James Donnelly*

## A Reunion Experience !

Attending the 2016 Outlaw Reunion in Branson was an amazing experience for me!

My husband John Diamond was a crew-chief/door gunner on a Huey in Vinh Long. His tour of duty in Vietnam was from December 65 to January of 67.

John has always been very open with me about his combat experience, so I thought understood a lot. I also "THOUGHT" I understood about the bond between combat veterans. However, my first ten minutes in the "snack room", I realized that I had not a clue! As I watched my husband of nearly 50 years connect with Gary Blackman and Neil Schmit, whom he had not seen for over 50 years, like he had just seen them yesterday, I fully understand that bond.

We had a wonderful time and met many new friends. The reunion planners had done a great job! A special "thank you" to Patty and Neil Schmit for "taking us under their wing" and "showing us the ropes". Also, a thank you to Bert Rice and his lovely wife, who were great table-mates, and for his many inspiring words. It was a great pleasure to meet Marti and her mother in person. John previously only had contact with Marti by phone.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Charleston!

Sherry Diamond.

## 2018 Reunion Shirts

### Ready for ordering!

Each Outlaw reunion gathering has been filled with colorful polo shirts worn by both the men and women. Of course, the reunion shirts are a long way from the “same color” uniforms we wore together over half a century ago. However, the identical-colored reunion shirts worn by so many of the reunion attendees, make the statement that there is still a “oneness” between all those who wore the Outlaw uniform and patch “way back then”.

This 2018 reunion shirts are a refreshing departure from the traditional shirts from previous reunions. First, it is one solid color, verdant green, with no alternating color sides or collar. It will comfortably blend in when in a crowd. Second, it has the naturally soft feel of cotton. It will also feature the Outlaw logo patch embroidered on the left front. Men’s shirts have a three-button collar placket. Ladies shirts have an attractive open ”Y” neckline.

The price for each shirt remains at \$30, same as at the Branson reunion. (larger sizes slightly increased cost).

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find the Shirt Order Form with which to place your order. Although there are several months remaining before the reunion, you are asked to place your shirt order early if possible, well ahead of the reunion, so our supplier can be given an approximate number to be made. All orders are pre-paid, of course and your order must be received no later than August 17, 2018.

Tom Anderson is coordinating shirt orders, payments and delivery. Those who attend the reunion will find their shirts in their Welcome Bags at the VLOA registration desk. If you cannot attend the reunion but would like to have an attractive Outlaw-logo shirt, please add \$5.00 for shipping costs to your total. And, be sure to provide your name and mailing address on the Order Form.

As it says on the Order Form, make your checks out to VLOA, not to Tom.



**Don't forget to order your Reunion Shirt.**

**Verdant green cotton with Outlaw logo**

**If not attending the reunion, you can still order  
See the Shirt Order form in this Newsletter.**



## 2018 CHARLESTON OUTLAW ROUNDUP SHIRT ORDER FORM

The official 2018 Outlaw Roundup shirt is a rich, verdant green color. Made by Port Authority, the shirts are made of Meridian Cotton and have the naturally soft feel of cotton, which is a departure from shirts in some past reunions. Men's shirts have a three-button collar placket. Ladies shirts have an open "Y" neckline. The very attractive shirt will again feature the Outlaw patch embroidered on the left front.

Cost for each shirt remains at \$30. (NOTE: Added the cost for sizes 2XL =-\$32 3XL=\$34 4XL = \$36 men's or women's.) Please pre-order your shirt(s) on the form below. Shirts ordered by Reunion attendees will be in your welcome bag at the VLOA registration desk. If you will not be able to attend the reunion, but would like a shirt, see info below \*\*. A limited quantity of additional shirts may be available for sale at the Reunion.

Please Indicate Quantity Desired by Size:

### MENS' SHIRT SIZES:

XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL*	3XL*	4XL*		
32-34	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49	50-53	54-67	TOTAL#	COST

Qty \_\_\_\_\_

### LADIES' SHIRT SIZES

XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL*			
0-2	4/6	8/10	12/14	16/18	20/22		TOTAL#	COST

Qty \_\_\_\_\_

\* Note: Cost for sizes 2XL - \$32 3XL - \$34 4XL - \$36 Men's or Women's

For Reunion attendees, please indicate name(s) and sizes needed, below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

(Use the reverse side of this form for any additional information or comments)

\*\* Note: If you are not attending the Reunion, and would like an Outlaw shirt, please add \$5.00 for shipping costs and provide the following information:

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Phone #) \_\_\_\_\_

ALL ORDERS ARE PRE-PAID AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 17, 2018 !

Send this shirt Order Form, with payment – made payable to VLOA, to :

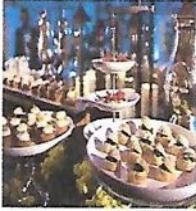
Tom Anderson

7880 Rolling Woods Ct #308

Springfield, VA 22152

Make checks or money orders payable to: VLOA . . . . not to Tom !

**Vinh Long- Itinerary  
Charleston Reunion  
September 13-17, 2018**

THURSDAY 13	FRIDAY 14	SATURDAY 15	SUNDAY 16	MONDAY 17
 <p><b>Check in at North Charleston Marriott HOTEL</b> Check-in: 4:00 PM</p> <p><b>12:00 Noon Hospitality Room Open</b></p>  <p><b>7:00 p.m. WELCOME DINNER at Hotel</b></p>	<p><b>Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m. City Tour/ Lunch on own</b></p>  <p><b>Return to hotel at 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Group Photo 4 p.m. Outside Hotel</b></p> <p><b>Hospitality Room Open</b></p> <p><b>Evening Free</b></p>	<p><b>Breakfast 8:00 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Executive Meeting</b></p>  <p><b>9:00 – 11:00 a.m. VLOA General Membership Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Group Photo Pickup</b></p> <p><b>12:00 a.m. Boone Hall Plantation Tour</b></p>  <p><b>Return to hotel at 4 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Free Time Before Dinner 7 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Carolina Queen Dinner Cruise</b></p> 	<p><b>Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m. Chapel Service</b></p>   <p><b>12 p.m. Patriots Point Tour: Includes USS Yorktown, Medal of Honor Museum/ Lunch on own</b></p> <p><b>Return to hotel at 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Hospitality Room Open</b></p> <p><b>6:30-9:00 p.m. Farewell Banquet at Hotel</b></p> <p><b>Last Silent Auction Item Pickup</b></p> 	<p><b>Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>Depart</b></p> <p><b>FULL PACKAGE</b></p> <p><b>Single: \$1070 Double: \$ 748 Triple: \$ 642 Quad: \$ 589</b></p> <p><b>Includes:</b> <b>Hotel Stay</b> <b>Hospitality Room</b> <b>Chapel Service</b> <b>Meals Listed</b> <b>Events Listed</b> <b>Transportation</b> <b>Reunion Website</b> <b>All Taxes and Gratitudes</b></p>



**Vinh Long Outlaws  
Registration Form  
Charleston, South Carolina  
September 13<sup>th</sup> ~ 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name on nametag \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name(s) Spouse/Guest (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sunday Banquet Meal Selection Beef: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken: \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Fish: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hotel Room Choice: King: \_\_\_\_\_ Two Doubles: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 list any Special Needs: Wheelchair Access \_\_\_\_\_ Dietary Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*\*\*\*

**HOST HOTEL:** North Charleston Marriott, 4770 Goer Drive, North Charleston, SC 29406

**REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES REUNION ACTIVITY PACKAGE:**

Hotel room with Breakfast, Welcome Packet, Name Badge, Hospitality Room,  
 Thursday Welcome Dinner, Shows and Attractions, Transportation and Taxes. See Itinerary Attached.

**Registration Fee Hotel Room Occupants & Activity Package**

Single: \$1070.00 (**Single Person**)

Double: \$748.00 (**Per Person**)

Triple: \$642.00 (**Per Person**)

Quad: \$589.00 (**Per Person**)

**Please Circle Which Package**

**For activity package only contact Jim Donnelly 757-481-6196**

**\$160 Per Night with Breakfast at Hotel if staying Before or After Reunion Dates**

**TOTAL DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

A 50% deposit is requested by May 3, 2018 and final payment must be received by August 1, 2018. To guarantee reservation for tours/meals you MUST register by August 15, 2018. We cannot "add-on" at the reunion. No refunds on activity package after August 15, 2018.

**MAIL REGISTRATION & CHECK PAYABLE TO:**

GRAY LINE GATHERINGS PLUS, 155 Industrial Park Drive, Hollister, MO 65672

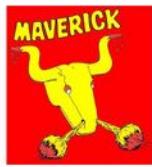
**TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD PLEASE COMPLETE BELOW:**

I authorize Gray Line Gatherings Plus to charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on my card

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Add \$10 Per Person if paying with a Credit Card**

**417-338-4048** Visit your website home page at [gatheringsplus.com](http://gatheringsplus.com) to register online Click "MY EVENT" then on your logo or name enter vfoutlaws for your password



# VINH LONG



## OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION Welcome to Roundup Charleston 2018

From the National Director: James Donnelley

First as always, I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and spirits. That is my wish for you. Okay let's get down to business. The time to throw your name in the hat for a steering committee position is NOW. We would love to see your name on the ballot in September. Member positions require very little work and yet are a necessary part of our planning process. All I am asking is think about it and give me or Tom Anderson a shout out. My email is [FBI\\_Jim@hotmail.com](mailto:FBI_Jim@hotmail.com) or you can call 757-481-6196. Thanks in advance.

The reunion registration 50% deposit cut off date has been extended to June 15, 2018. Please consider attending the reunion in beautiful Charleston, September 13-17. You may be able to register after that, but we may not have a goody bag for you. The deadline is necessary to arrange all the events and the transportation to them. Feel free to call me with any questions. The itinerary and registration form can be found in the Winter Newsletter 2017. You can also email me, and I will attach a copy of these to you no problem if you no longer have the Winter newsletter issue.

Permanent Advisor Tom Anderson, Deputy Director Bert Rice and myself, along with several other Outlaws and Mavericks attended the dedication ceremony for the Vietnam Crew Members Memorial placed in Arlington Cemetery. It was a moving time and my thanks to all of you who attended. I am sorry for not remembering everyone's name. There are quite a few monuments in Arlington and so this makes ours even more special. It took the VHPA some three plus years to make it happen, our hats off to them.

Until next time, stay well and safe, Jim.

## Directors' and Outstanding Outlaw's Award Nominations

By Frank Estes

The VLOA has an established awards program to recognize those individuals who have contributed significantly to the VLOA organization. Each of these awards has certain criteria which must be met to receive either of the awards.

**Directors' Award:** This award is the highest award the VLOA gives during any reunion year. This award is not an award that must be mandatorily presented at each biennial reunion. Only one of these awards may be given because it is to clearly recognize the one individual or couple who has made the greatest contribution to the VLOA organization over an extended period of time. The Directors' Award is reserved for any member or couple who gives substantial, quantifiable, long-term support to the VLOA through his/her contributions, time, energies, ideas, and accomplishments in promoting and furthering the aims and goals of the VLOA as a war veterans, not for profit organization.

**Outstanding Outlaw Award:** For those nominees whose contribution does not rise to the level of the Directors' Award, the Outstanding Outlaw Award may be given when a nominee has given service to the VLOA, such as meaningfully holding an officer/director's position and rendering recognizably important service concerning the furtherance of the VLOA's goals, objectives, history documentation, membership location, and preservation of the organization.

Anyone wishing to submit a nomination for the Directors' Award or the Outstanding Outlaw Award to be presented during this year's reunion in Charleston, South Carolina should send an email nomination to Frank Estes, Awards Committee Chair at the following: [estesf@troycable.net](mailto:estesf@troycable.net) or submit a letter of nomination to:

Awards Committee Chair

c/o Frank Estes

407 Country Club Drive

Ozark, AL 36360.

334-797-9196 (cell)

334-774-5571 (home)

The nominations need to be received by the Awards Committee Chair not later than 1 August 2018 by email or letter as discussed above, and should contain the following information about the nominee's:

Name

Address

Phone number, and

A narrative commentary regarding measurable justification of why the nominee should receive the Directors Award or the Outstanding Outlaws Award.

Specifics regarding service in the Outlaws, Mavericks, Bushwhackers, 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.

Thank you.

*Frank Estes*

## **DUES ARE DUE!**

By Frank Estes, Treasurer

***Outlaws' dues are due each January!***  
 If you are a Regular Member (requiring an annual \$25 payment), your dues are due each January. However, if you paid dues at another time during the year, we track your payment date, and your membership card is good through one-year from the date the application is received by the Treasurer.

Life Members and Associate Life Members make a one-time donation to the VLOA and receive a Life Member or Associate Life Member card. No further dues payments are required from these members. Honorary members are not required to pay annual dues but may make an annual \$25 donation and receive an Honorary Membership card.

All former members of the Outlaws and its sub-organizations and affiliates currently listed on our roster with active addresses will receive our ***Outlaws Newsletter*** each quarter. However, there will come a time when revenues will not exceed our expenses, and the VLOA will have to decide whether to continue sending the ***Outlaws Newsletter*** to those rostered members who do not pay dues.

Those paying Annual or Life membership dues and those who attend our biennial roundups are providing the financial foundation that supports our website and ***Outlaws Newsletter***. Currently, we have 517 members on our active roster. Of these, 164 (32%) are Life Members; 9 (2%) are current Regular (annual) Member dues payers; 343 (66%) are not current on their annual dues or have never paid any dues. So, 34% of our members are carrying the financial load for the rest of those who are not paying dues but get the quarterly newsletter.

If you are not paying dues, why not begin this month, and help the rest of us keep the Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA) financially sound. The back page of this newsletter has a membership request form. Why not use it today, and help keep our VLOA treasury strong.

**Thank you !**

## **Who Do I Call For . . . . ? ? ? ?**

With the reunion fast approaching, below is a table showing points of contact for the primary features, events and items relating to the 2018 reunion.

VLOA Membership Application and dues payments:

Frank Estes: [estesf@troycable.net](mailto:estesf@troycable.net) or  
334-797-9196

Reunion Registration:

Gatherings Plus  
[gatheringsplus.com](http://gatheringsplus.com)  
 or 417-338-4048  
 Go to: [gathering-splus.com](http://gathering-splus.com)  
 >MY EVENT  
 >outlaw logo  
 > P/W = vloutlaws  
 > download: Mail in  
 Registration & Reunion Itinerary

Order Official Reunion Shirt:

Tom Anderson [teander@cox.net](mailto:teander@cox.net) or  
703-451-4015

Donate Silent Auction item: Tom Anderson

Steering committee nominations:

Tom Anderson

Outlaw Awards nominations:

Frank Estes

Outlaw challenge coin:

Jim Donnelly [jcdonnelly1@cox.net](mailto:jcdonnelly1@cox.net)

<b>Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)</b>			
Balance effective 01/01/2018			\$35,377.44
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
Dues - Annual		\$125.00	
Dues - Lifetime		\$300.00	
Bank Account Close Out - Previous Treasurer		\$390.08	
Sales & Miscellaneous		\$264.00	
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,079.08</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Newsletters, website mgmt, admin, supplies, bank acct.		\$687.28	
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$687.28</b>	
<b>CASH BALANCE - as of 3/31/2018</b>			
			<b>\$35,379.16</b>
Details: 3-month period ending 3/31/2018			
Revenues Detail			
Sale of Outlaws coins		\$45.00	
Sale of Reunion Shirts		\$219.00	
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$264.00</b>	
Annual Dues (AD): - 2018			
Donald R. Hawk		\$25.00	
Frederick Jacobs		\$25.00	
Emelio Alvarado		\$25.00	
John Diamond		\$25.00	
Dale Roland		\$25.00	
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>	
Lifetime Memberships (LM): - 2018			
Raymond E. Novotney		\$100.00	
Lawrence R. Bradley		\$100.00	
Jay C. Miles		\$100.00	
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	
<b>Total Revenues - 3-month period 2018</b>			
		<b>\$689.00</b>	
Expenses Details			
Bob Sharp - 4th Qtr 2017 - Newsletter		\$642.31	
Bob Sharp - 1st Qtr 2018 - Newsletter			
Bob Sharp - 2nd Qtr 2018 - Newsletter			
Bob Sharp - 3rd Qtr 2018 - Newsletter			
Paper bank statements		\$3.00	
Domain Names renewals		\$41.97	
Paper bank statements		\$3.00	
	<b>Total Expenses - 3-month period 2018</b>	<b>\$687.28</b>	
<b>INCOME (LOSS) - 3-month period ending 3/31/2018</b>			
			<b>\$1.72</b>



## The Back Pew

By: Bert Rice

### Thank God For That

In part taken from Gleanings

Submitted by: Bert Rice

Memorial Day reminds us of all military service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. We thank them from the bottom our hearts and pray that they will never be forgotten. Our Nation owes them a debt of gratitude. We also remember the loved ones who were impacted by their sacrifice. May they be comforted in knowing just how much we, as a Nation, appreciate their sacrifice for freedom's sake.

I came across the following which had direct meaning to me so am sharing with you.

One day during a university philosophy class, a student made some inflammatory remarks about a professor's views. To the surprise of other students, the teacher thanked him and moved on to another comment. When he was asked later why he didn't respond to the student, he said, "I'm practicing the discipline of not having to have the last word."

This teacher loved and honored God, and he wanted to embody a humble spirit as he reflected this love. His words remind us of another Teacher ---- this one from long ago who wrote the book of Ecclesiastes. Although not addressing how to handle an angry person, he said that when we approach the Lord we should guard our steps and "go near to listen" rather than being quick with our mouths and hasty in our hearts. By doing so we acknowledge that God is the Lord and we are those whom He has created.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 – "Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty with your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few."

How do you approach God? If you sense that your attitude could use some adjustment, why not spend some time considering the majesty and greatness of the Lord? I often find myself having to pause before talking in fear of offending God. We should ponder and remember His unending wisdom, power, and presence. By doing so, we will feel awed by His overflowing love for us. With this posture of humility, we too need not have the last word.

### A Thought: Carefully chosen words honor God!

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**God Bless Each and Every One,**

**And**

**Remember our Fallen!**

*Bert Rice*



## Reunion Committee Needs Your Silent Auction Items



Everyone who has attended an Outlaw Reunion has generally agreed that the Silent Auction is not only filled with interesting items, but is also fun to participate in. The Silent Auction has always been one of the most popular features of the reunion.

The Auction tables, which fill the walls around the Hospitality room, have always been a distinctive attraction. Every reunion has featured dozens of interesting, unique, curious, one-of-a-kind and eclectic items, plus, occasionally a rare item.

There are only two ways for the VLOA treasury to be replenished. One is the reunion 50/50 drawing(s). The other, and by far the most significant method of putting cash into the treasury, is the Silent Auction! The VLOA urgently needs the cash brought in by these two events to continue to provide basic services to the members.

What is the money used for? First and foremost, is the Newsletter. It costs BIG money to print and mail out our quarterly Newsletter. There are now over 500 ex-Outlaws who receive the Newsletter free of charge. Many ex-Outlaws receive the Newsletter who have not paid the nominal annual membership cost. There will likely be some discussion at the next General Membership meeting whether the Association can continue to send out all those Newsletters without having some source of revenue in return.

Along with the Newsletter, our other primary means of communicating with the members is through the website. Again, it costs money to continue to maintain our website. Additionally, the Association has various legal responsibilities for paying filing and registration fees.

With every reunion, the VLOA Reunion Coordinator must rely heavily on the treasury to underwrite many of the “extras” required to make each reunion a success. To keep attendee costs down, the treasury underwrites such things as signage, refreshments, printing, recognition awards, welcome bags, cups and caps for attendees. These “extras” are a vital part of every successful reunion.

So, here's my pitch - to you – please support the Silent Auction.

**To make the Silent Auction both fun as well as a financial success, I need to hear from you – all of you – and ask that “all of you” provide one or more items for the Silent Auction.**

You don't have to attend the Reunion to provide support for the Silent Auction. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact me and we can discuss how to get it to the Auction.

The only criteria for Auction items is that they be relevant to our attendees (things you would like to take home with you) plus items that have an intrinsic quality that will stimulate reunion attendees to create bidding wars between each other for the right to win the bidding for a specific item.

Cont. from pg. 12

Donate something that you would bid on yourself if you didn't already have that item.

So, give it some thought, then go to your computer and send me your suggestions. I'd like to be flooded with email suggestions as to what type items you can forward to the Auction.

**Name: Tom Anderson Email address [teander@cox.net](mailto:teander@cox.net) Phone: 703-451-4015**

Each reunion has brought in between 50-70 items to put into the Silent Auction. The Steering Committee would like to have at least that many for Charleston, or even MORE. But, your help is needed! Send me a description of your items to be included in the Auction. We need your support!

Tom Anderson



### **Some Thoughts About Helicopters and the Huey**

Viet Nam was truly the “helicopter” war. In spite of the passage of time, today, hearing a Huey in the air, whether military or civilian, with that distinctive and iconic Whup, Whup, Whup brings back long-forgotten images within our memories. We think back to that (now) simple flying machine, with its single engine, single blade rotor and four-man crew that performed tasks that were never anticipated when it was new. It was a sound we can never forget.

But, it was still a “helicopter”. Some time ago I came across some words which provide an immensely accurate description of what a helicopter really is. I thought they were worth sharing with those of us who flew, maintained, served as a gunner, supported, refueled, provided C-rations to, or in any other way, knew the Huey helicopter during our days in Viet Nam.

We all know that helicopters are different from airplanes! An airplane, by its very nature wants to fly, and if not interfered with too strongly by unusual events, or by a deliberately incompetent pilot, it will fly.

A helicopter, on the other hand, does not want to fly. It maintains itself in the air through a variety of forces and controls usually working in opposition to each other. If there is any disturbance in this delicate balance, the helicopter will stop flying immediately and disastrously. There is no such thing as a gliding helicopter. This is why being a helicopter pilot is so different from being an airplane pilot. In general, airplane pilots are open, clear-eyed, buoyant extroverts. Helicopter pilots are brooders, worriers and introspective anticipators of trouble. They know that if something bad has not happened, it is about to. History has proved this to be so!

In Viet Nam, we conditioned ourselves to put aside all those potential failings of a helicopter and use it for its intended purpose, which was whatever was immediately needed to be done at the time. The sounds of the Huey may have retreated from our ears but, those of us who served with the Huey know we will hear them again. We always will.

## Vietnam Helicopter KIA's Honored at Arlington National Cemetery



**Viet Nam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmen memorial.**

Over 400,000 graves in Arlington National Cemetery honor US military members. It is the most sacred and revered cemetery in the United States. In 2015 the Viet Nam Helicopter Pilots Association planted a red maple tree in Arlington to honor the helicopter pilots and crews who lost their lives. Although the tree has become a living memorial, the VHPA felt that the almost 5,000 combat deaths, and 13 years of war, justified a permanent monument.

On April 18<sup>th</sup> 2018, a granite memorial was dedicated at Arlington to honor the nearly 5,000 helicopter pilots and crewmen who lost their lives during the Vietnam war. The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) spearheaded the efforts to obtain approval for the placement of the memorial in partnership with a number of other Vietnam war associations. The dedication of the memorial was the culmination of over four years of relentless effort on the part of the VHPA in overcoming numerous bureaucratic obstacles which delayed the final approval process. Army officials initially denied the request for the memorial saying that Arlington Cemetery lacked the space to support another war memorial. The VHPA then reached out to Congressional supporters and eventually gathered enough support for a law authorizing the long-overdue memorial.



**A Viet Nam combat-worn UH-1 is parked at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery at the ceremony to honor 5000 helicopter crewmen who lost their lives in the conflict. Lincoln memorial and Washington monument in the background.**

The dedication ceremony was held in the huge Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater with over 3,000 Vietnam veterans and others in attendance. Both our National VLOA Director Jim Donnelly and the Deputy National Director Bert Rice were present as well as a dozen or more fellow Outlaws who found one another as the day progressed. The weather could not have been more perfect for those gathered for the ceremonies. After the colors were posted, followed by the National Anthem, the invocation was delivered by Father Jerome Daly, a former Army helicopter gunship pilot, now a Catholic priest. Father Daly served three aviation tours in Vietnam, receiving numerous awards to include the Distinguished Service Cross while serving with a sister unit of the Outlaws in the Mekong Delta, the 121<sup>st</sup> Aviation Company.

The dedication program included a number of speakers with a close association to Army Aviation. Major General Carl McNair (retired), former commander of the Army Aviation Center and School at Fort Rucker, delivered a poignant and stirring tribute to the

Cont. from pg. 14

helicopter crewmen of all services who gave their lives during the Vietnam war. Congressman Mark Amodei, who sponsored the Congressional bill to obtain approval for the memorial, delivered the keynote address, which was an extremely powerful tribute in remembrance of all those helicopter crewmen who lost their lives in that far away land.

Jim Donnelly, National Director of the Vinh Long Outlaws Association, brought a large Outlaw banner to the ceremonies and displayed it to the assembled crowd several times, hoping to draw other Outlaws together during the proceedings.



**Tom Anderson and Jim Donnelly, National Director, Vinh Long Outlaws Association display the Outlaw banner in front of the Viet Nam Huey at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery**

After the Amphitheater ceremonies, and the playing of Amazing Grace by a distant bag-piper, the ceremony moved to the actual memorial location, which is very close to the Tomb of the Unknown. A large number of floral displays behind the granite memorial stone, included a red, white and blue floral tribute from several 175<sup>th</sup> Outlaw members. (below)



The monument itself displays the profile of a "Huey", used by all branches of the military in Vietnam. 2,197 pilots and 2,704 crewmen lost their lives. Of the 11,827 helicopters operated in Vietnam, 5086 were destroyed by combat or accidents (43%). The predominance of all helicopters deployed in Vietnam were, of course, Army as well as was the heavy loss of life of Army aircraft crews. During the conflict, 64 Outlaw crewmen were among those lost in combat.

The dedication ceremony concluded with a flyover of four UH-1 "Huey" helicopters above the newly dedicated memorial. The memorial will be a permanent reminder of the courage, discipline and spirit of those helicopter pilot's and crewmen who gave the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam.

## **ARMY AVIATION**

### “A Small Bit of History”

March 1862, General George B. McClellan’s armada of ships sailed from Washington, D.C. down the Potomac River to Fort Monroe, carrying 121,500 Union soldiers, 1,592 animals, 1,224 vehicles, 44 batteries of artillery and vast quantities of supplies and equipment. Marshalling at Fort Monroe, sited at the end of a peninsula between the James and York Rivers, McClellan’s force was to begin the drive, later known as “The Peninsular Campaign”, for the rebel Capital of Richmond, Virginia.

Among the Union troops was a young West Point Lieutenant, freshly battle seasoned earlier with the cavalry in skirmishes with the rebel forces around Manassas. After landing at Fort Monroe, he was assigned to a topographical unit. He learned he would not spend time at drafting tables making maps, but rather continuously leading troops to reconnoiter rebel forces. These experiences were not without considerable losses to his own forces in combat. Later, he found himself detailed to a very different experience.

“THE SILENCE STRUCK HIM MOST, the noiselessness of being lifted to heaven. There was none of the yammering of the machinery of modernity--the familiar chuffing and thrashing of the steamboat, the crackling and shrieking train, the brattle of telegraph clicks. Once the hydrogen-producing apparatus finished inflating the great diaphanous membrane, the balloon lifted into the air without a sound.”

“‘He’ occupied a shallow basket, only two feet high, attached to the swollen bag above by cables looped by a metal band at chest height. Professor Thaddeus Lowe, chief aeronaut of the Balloon Corps, crammed into the small vehicle beside him. Not yet thirty, with a walrus mustache and a history of adventure aloft, Lowe pioneered something new in military history: aerial observation. But the army wanted a professional to go up in Lowe’s craft, the *Intrepid*, to take a look at the Confederate line. ‘He’ got the job”

“‘He’ had never imagined he might someday fly. He later admitted that he was reluctant, if not terrified. At first he remained seated as low as he could get in the little basket as men’s heads and the rooftops and then treetops sank below him, as he rose to 1,000 feet in the air. He asked if the flimsy basket could possibly be safe. Lowe leaped up and down violently. ‘He’ did not ask again.”

At the end of his first flight, he had observed, “with good field glasses”, concealed enemy positions, equipment and earthworks, and oftentimes observing the enemy intently watching the balloon. He sketched his observations as best as he could while thinking, “Why not go up at night?” which he did, and made further flights in early morning hours as well as at night. Always reporting in detail his observations and presenting his sketches of enemy dispositions and fortifications to his superiors.

That young Lieutenant may be remembered by most as the youngest Union general in the Civil War rounding out his participation in that conflict as a national hero and at General Lee’s signing of surrender at Appomattox Court House. Or, maybe, ‘His’ Last Stand at The Little Big Horn: **George Armstrong Custer**

**Quotations From:** Custer’s Trials, A Life On The Frontier Of A New America, T.J. Stiles

Contributed by: Al Iller





**Paul Francis Whitworth**  
Aug. 4, 1946 – Feb. 22, 2017



Paul Francis Whitworth, 70, of Anderson, Indiana, passed away on February 22, 2017 at St. Vincent Anderson Regional Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born on August 4, 1946 in Anderson, where he resided most of his life.

Paul attended Daleville and Anderson Schools. He served his country in the US Army during the Vietnam war as a Door Gunner on helicopters, Outlaw 13 and a gunship, Maverick 31. He was a Decorated Veteran, receiving The Purple Heart, the Air Medal, w/oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct medal, and the Vietnam Service medal.

Returning to civilian life he owned Interstate Standard for 26 years. Later he managed South Side Shell, and then retired from The Village Pantry.

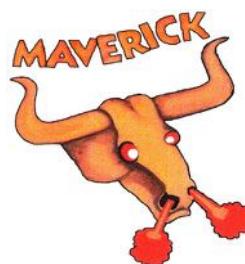
Paul is survived by his loving wife Georgeann Whitworth of Anderson, son, David (Olivia) Whitworth of Anderson, siblings, Raymond Whitworth of Anderson, John Whitworth of Melbourne, FL, Mary Linder of Muncie, grandchildren, Joycelyn Whitworth, Dominic Whitworth, special friends, Eddie and Connie Alfrey.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Estelle Whitworth, siblings, Jean Littlefield, Shirley Huffman, and Tom Whitworth.

Visitation and services were held Feb. 27/28, 2017 at Loose Funeral Home in Anderson, IN.



DG OL-13



DG MAV-31



### **John E Doyle, 82, Inverness, FL**

I have received my orders for a new duty assignment. I have been reassigned to Fort Heaven. I am pleased with this assignment, I hear the duty there is a joy, and many of my buddies are already there. My departure date is February 11, 2018. I have it on good authority that many of you will be assigned here in the future. I will keep my eyes opened for your arrival. Until then, God Bless.      Written by, ISG E8, John E. Doyle, US Army, Retired.

John Edward Doyle, age 82, of Inverness, FL, passed away at his residence with his loving family by his side on February 11, 2018. John was born on April 8, 1935 in North Providence, R.I. to the late Sidney I. and Mary (Meledy) Doyle. He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army and was a Veteran of the Vietnam War. On March 5, 1955, John married Ruth (Farmer) with whom he shared 62 years of loving marriage. He earned a Master of Divinity from Southeast Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. John went on to become a Pastor for Baptist churches in both Tennessee and North Carolina. He made Citrus County his home in 1997 after relocating from Oak City, N.C. John was a member and Chaplin for the Vinh Long Outlaw Association and enjoyed hiking, canoeing, being outdoors and traveling in his spare time. He will be remembered for his sharp wit and how he could make people smile and laugh in any situation. John was a kind and compassionate man, a great husband and wonderful father and grandfather. In addition to his loving wife Ruth, those left to mourn John's passing are his daughters: Denise Watson and her husband Rick of Palm Harbor, FL, Susan Doyle of Inverness, FL, Rebecca Warfield and her husband Ogle of DeLand, FL; brother, Paul Doyle and his wife Annie Jean of Charleston, S.C.; 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. John was preceded in death by his sister, Madeline Bates. A service of remembrance is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Chas E. Davis Funeral Home, with Reverend Thomasine Farmer officiating. Following the service, John will be laid to rest at Florida National Cemetery where full military honors will be rendered by Inverness VFW Honor Guard #4337. In lieu of flowers, John's family requests that memorial donations be made in his memory to Homes For Our Troops, 6 Main Street, Taunton, MA 02780 or [WWW.HFOTUSA.ORG](http://WWW.HFOTUSA.ORG). Arrangements are under the direction of the Chas E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory, Inverness, FL.



John in his home with his collection of military memorabilia, including his infamous "Doyle Pole".



John with Tom Anderson on a recent visit to his home in Florida.



In Memory of:  
Jack Lane



One of our most loyal and dedicated Roadrunners, Jack Lane passed away 7 December 2017. Jack and his wife Shirley were regular attendees at VLOA Roundups and special occasions. A wonderful wife and mother, she passed away due to breast cancer during 2007. Charli, one of their three daughters escorted her Dad during many subsequent festivities.

Jack was one of the original members of the 150th Cargo Helicopter Field Transportation Detachment upon its activation at Ft. Eustis, VA.

He deployed to RVN as a SP5 Machinist where he served until September, 1965 making special tools and patching bullet holes. After his service in RVN his maintenance and military talents enabled him to be selected to serve as a Maintenance Warrant Officer. Not surprisingly, due to his excellent duty performance he rose to the top grade of Chief Warrant Officer 4 prior to retirement during 1982.

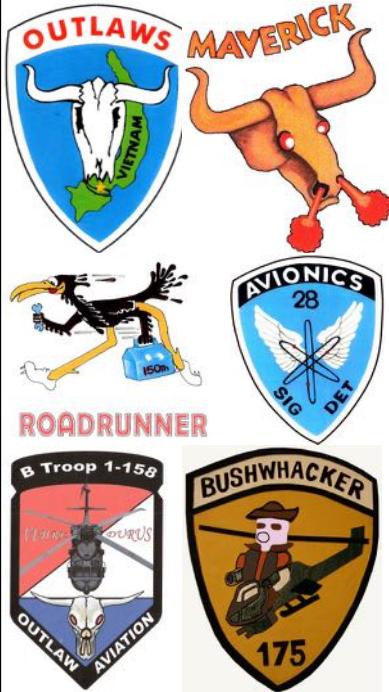
He subsequently attended the University of Oklahoma where he attained a Bachelor of Science degree in 1987. Jack taught high school mathematics for 12 years prior to his retirement in 2000.

Upon full retirement Jack continued to enjoy the happiness and joy of helping and loving his grandkids. He will be missed by us all.

Thank you, Jack.



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Spring -2018

**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 62<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Company, A Company 502<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Battalion, 175<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company, B Troop 1-158<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment (Iraq), 150<sup>th</sup> Transportation Detachment ("Roadrunners"), 28<sup>th</sup> Signal Detachment, and 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's "door gunners."

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 donation. Higher levels of Lifetime Memberships are available; contact the National Director at: [fbi\\_jim@hotmail.com](mailto:fbi_jim@hotmail.com). To pay initial or renewal membership dues for this calendar year, please complete and forward this form, with dues payment, to:

**VLOA-Treasurer: c/o Frank Estes, 407 Country Club Drive, Ozark, AL 36360.**

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: \_\_\_\_\_