



# Vinh Long Outlaws News

Reunion 2000 (R2K)

May 2000

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER - DO IT NOW!

### Mail Call!!!!!!

Tom Anderson - Outlaw 6

You're sitting at home, looking through the day's mail, and you find yet ANOTHER Newsletter from that pesky group called the Vinh Long Outlaws Association. (That's the bunch that's having it's FIRST and LAST reunion in September!!!). In scanning through it, you notice that there seems to be people from all (former) ranks and quite a bunch from both the Outlaw company and from the attached units who are signing up to go to the reunion.

You start asking yourself, "Why would all these people, who haven't seen each other for 35 years, and who never kept in touch before, want to get together after all these years"? Then it hits you!!! .... "These guys really meant something to each other way back then, whether they knew each other well or not, and they just want to relive a few of those moments one more time"!

You mention the reunion to your wife. She says, "You ought to think about it, you old fud. You never do ANYTHING any more that you used to do when you were young, you know". You think..... "maybe she's right.... It might be fun to spend a few days in a relaxed setting, where there is no rank anymore, just first names between guys who have finished most of their working careers..... But, I probably can't afford it, it's at the wrong time, they'll all know each other and I probably wouldn't know anyone..... we've got commitments to the grandkids...." And a hundred other lame excuses for not saying "yes" to one of the best chances you'll ever have to get together with those guys from that year in Vietnam in 1964-65.

Then you look at the price..... Can't believe that it's that inexpensive!!!!!! And the location..... A place that caters to veterans and their get-together. And the names of some of the people start coming back to you. And you note that everything that's planned is going to be relaxed and informal. And, it's just the guys who were there during that first year (64-65) so you

KNOW you'll at least know someone. And you realize that there's still time to get your Registration Form in and be a part of it. And you start to say, "Honey, do you think....." And she says, "Why don't we just GO! It might be fun and I'd like to see what some of those characters you used to write to me about really look like".

So you reach for the Registration Form in this Newsletter, fill it out, send in your deposit, and already you start to feel excited about seeing those guys again! And you say to yourself, "This might just be the best decision I've made this year".

So, as the ads say..... JUST DO IT! And we'll see you there!!!! It'll be GREAT!!!!

### "HIGH FLIGHT"

"Oh, I have slipped the surley bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings:  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence; hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or even eagle flew -  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand and touched the face of God."

John Gillespie Magee, Jr.  
September 3, 1941

"Hailed as the first classic of the second World War, "High Flight" was written by John Gillespie Magee, Jr., 19 year old RCAF pilot, who was killed in action on December 11, 1941. His parents, Rev. and Mrs. John Gillespie, live in Washington, D.C."



## R2K PLANNING & RESERVATIONS

Al Iller

We are movin' on and the countdown for R2K reservations is fast approaching the 1 June 2000 deadline. April 15 is past and you all should be receiving your IRS tax refunds (ha!) And be ready with the \$\$ for your reservations to forward to our Secretary and Treasurer. Only a 50% deposit is required with your reservations by 1 June and the balance due NLT 15 August 2000. We realize this seems like a great deal of lead-time; however, it is necessary in order that we can guarantee our reservations for accommodations, meals and scheduled activities. Our Steering committee has carefully budgeted this event in order that you won't be "nickel and dimed" after arrival with added items other than those personal expenses not included in the R2K reservation package.

When reservations are in and closed 1 June 2000, Branson Chamber of Commerce will mail you their visitor information package. You should receive this package in late June or early July for your planning purposes.

You will note in this newsletter edition of the "Reunion Reservation Form" we have included bed options. Please indicate your preference; however, we can not guarantee your selection but it will receive consideration based on availability. For those who have already sent in your reservations a short Email or post card to Ernie and Linda in Flower Mound, TX will suffice.

The schedule for R2K Branson Reunion remains unchanged since the March 2000 Newsletter. Remember NO formal or informal coat and tie event is, or will be scheduled! CASUAL is the byword for Branson.

More names have been added to our roster since the last Newsletter. Thanks to the efforts of Tim Bisch and Shorty Farley the 150<sup>th</sup> Maint Det (CHFM) are growing in numbers. We expect to see a very good representation of "Roadrunners" at R2K. Shorty has developed a well reasoned deductive approach to finding "strays" and has given all of us encouragement in our continuing efforts to find others. A new confirmed roster is included.

### Announcing

A Poem by The Old Sarge

Roses are Red (but you knew that)  
Violets are Blue (what did you expect, green?)  
If we don't get your money in the next day or two,  
When we get to Branson, we'll sure miss you!

## 150<sup>th</sup> TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT (CHFM)

Tim Bisch



There has been an accounting for about one-third of our former 150<sup>th</sup> veterans during the 1964 - 65 time period based on many telephone calls and e-mail messages. Unfortunately, it included seven members who are deceased. Therman (Shorty) Farley has been a major player in locating and contacting many of you. As a result, the last roster included with your March issue, Outlaws News, included names of Bisch, Botterbaugh, Bouton, Farley, Frontera, Harris (Rossie C. Jr.), Hoff, Jacobs, Johnston, Lancour, Moodt, Osterland, Prescott, Theriot, and Voisin. Additional names for this May roster includes Constantine, Filo, Grandstaff, Hand, Konopka, Novakovich, Ohm, Robideau, Scoles, and Spade. There others that are still being searched for and that will continue.

The Reunion Registration Form, included with your Vinh Long outlaws News, has all the information about R2K, its fees and what they include. Note it requests the form be mailed with your payment no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>. Branson is a long drive for some of you and /or it will take some planning to arrange work schedules and vacation plans. Remember the reunion is a one time event; it won't happen again so now is the time. From my personal experience, participating in previous R2K planning sessions in a casual and relaxed manner with former friends from Vinh Long, meeting their wives,, renewing our friendships, both cussing and discussing the unique experiences we all shared is an experience I know you will enjoy and won't want to miss.

I look forward, with eager anticipation, to getting together with all of you in Branson for a few short days 15 - 18 September.

If you have any questions, you didn't get a registration form, or have any other concerns, contact Frederick R. (Tim) Bisch, 8604 Esslinger Ct., Huntsville, AL 35802, telephone: 256-881-3043, e-mail: [bischfr@aol.com](mailto:bischfr@aol.com)



## A THANK YOU



**Ernie & Linda Isbell**

### Marguerite Iller

Have you ever wondered who was taking your reservations for R2K, patch orders and anything else that requires money and receipts for the Vinh Long Outlaws Association? What are this person's qualifications and background to whom you are entrusting your funds? It all helps if you have a secondary education degree, taught high school business classes, been a computer specialist, a civil servant employee with a GS-12 rating and an all around "camp follower".

This individual has been military connected for all but 6 weeks of her life. Born to a Naval career officer and his wife she was a Navy dependent until she married Ernie in September of 1959. Six weeks later Ernie joined the Army and the rest is history.

Linda Isbell is wife to Ernie, mother to Bill, a practicing attorney in Dallas, Cheryl, a stockbroker with Ernie at Edwards Jones Co. and grandmother to Clayton, 13.

She has been President of the Lewisville Kiwanis Club and presently is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Kiwanis Club. She works part time as a trainer for the Edward Jones Co. teaching office management skills to new office managers.

She loves to read, garden, sews, is a good cook and a member of a local investment club besides her other volunteer activities in her community of Flower Mound.

Thank you, Linda, for your willingness to be our "de facto" treasurer with your humor and panache.

## VLOA Income & Expenses for 4/1 - 5/500

**Ernie & Linda Isbell**

### INCOME

Beginning Balance	\$10,436.03
Dues	10.00
Seed Money	20.00
Patches	20.00
R2K Reservations	962.00
Total Income	\$11,448.03

### EXPENSES

0.00

Current Balance \$11,448.03

### R2K Reservations:

Anderson, Tom & Pat  
Badgett, Berkley & Beverly  
Bisch, Tim & Mitzi  
Clemente, Tony & Rose Ann  
Coleman, Jim & Doris Malusek  
Doyle, John & Ruth  
Estes, Frank & Ann  
Hall, Ray & Shirley  
Horne, Phil & Lynn  
Humphries, Charlie & Nell  
Iller, Al & Marguerite  
Isbell, Ernie & Linda  
Kramer, Bryce & Gloria  
Logan, Dave & Rosemary  
Moffett, Joe & Helen  
Myers, Mo & Bettie  
Parkinson, Floyd & Jewell  
Prescott, George & Sue Simpson  
Theriot, Patrick & Patty  
Thornton, Ole & Mary

We have a total of 20 couples/40 people who have made reservations as of May 5th.

Individual R2k Reservations with 50% Deposit is due to VLOA not later than June 1<sup>st</sup>. Time is running out (only 3+ weeks left), if you plan to attend this once in a lifetime event send your reservations and check to Ernie & Linda Isbell at 2009 Tophill drive, Flower Mound, TX 75022

## Take Advantage of Opportunity

**Jimmie (Big Jim) Kirkley**



**Big Jim & Linda**

As the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deployment of the Outlaws to the republic of South Vietnam in 1964 approaches, so does the time to be making plans for the upcoming reunion in Branson. This is an opportunity for all to take advantage of the chance to re-new old friendships.

After my retirement from the Military, I returned to Vietnam as a Field Engineer for Boeing Vertol, supporting the fleet of Chinooks in country. I spent four years there in

that capacity and had the privilege to encounter several former members of the Outlaws and Mavericks; Jerry Wade, Bill Hampton, Louie Litt, Mike Madigan and several others. I have thought often of the many good times and the bad times that occurred during my tour



with the Outlaws, and the friendships that were made. We regret that some of those we will not see in September.

I still try to stay active in the military community activities. I attend three reunions a year minimum. The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, which will be held in Washington, DC this year during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations. Those of you who were pilots should try to make at least one of these; the Warrant Officer W-4 Reunion-held the second weekend every June at Fort Rucker, or the Vietnam Veterans Reunion in April of each year which has in excess of 100,000 veterans that attend this event yearly in Melbourne, Florida.

It seems that the years are in high gear speeding by. I'm moving on at 70 myself, so let's slow down the process and enjoy a great reunion for a three day period in September 2000. See all of you in Branson.

## A Note From The Editor

Tony Clemente

Well here we are facing our deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>, time to get our reservations in for Branson. I know that a lot of time, money, (telephone calls, letters etc.), and a lot of let downs were experienced by Tom, Al, Tim, John, and Shorty Farley. They have really gone out of their way to make this one and only Outlaw Reunion a great success. All we need now is to get everyone there, what a great incentive to see and talk to the guys you served with 35 years ago. Me I'm nosey, I want to know what everyone has been doing these last 35 years. One thing I can promise is that you are going to have the time of your life and you will come away from this reunion with renewed friendships that will last a life time. So I strongly urge you, to take a minute and look at the list of those that have already made their reservations, look to see if your name is there, if it is missing, then it's time to act! Please don't put it off any longer. Remember if your name is missing on our list, we will truly miss you in Branson.

Well until the next Newsletter, keep those reservations coming. We need to show the Steering Committee that we appreciate everything they have done to make this ONE SUPER REUNION!!!!!! See you September 15 - 18 in Branson.

## Did you ever wonder?

If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?

If a man says something in the woods and there are no women there, is he still wrong?

## Just A Little Thank You

This is something that I wanted to share with anyone that had served in aviation in Vietnam.. On April 30, 2000, I was at a large grocery store in Gainesville, FL. ( I had my little pickup truck and on the back window I have my sticker from the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot Association.) When I came back to the truck, I found this note under my windshield wiper. I just wanted you to know there are many great citizens out there who truly understand the sacrifices we made for our country.

