

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

Vinh Long Outlaws Newsletter

October-December 2011

Fourth Quarter 2011

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National Director's Corner

Greetings All:

First off hope everyone had a Wonderful Christmas and a happy New Years. Laurie and I spent Christmas with our Son and his Family in Auburn, WA. We watched our grandkids tear into their Christmas packages, and heard them scream "Look What I Got" and wanting to know who had the Batteries for the Game or how's this look Grammie? Ah! Grandkids make Christmas! This past Christmas was extra special for us since our son was with us this year, Last Christmas he was in Kuwait, on Deployment with the Air force.

Whoa, Boy did 2011 Fly By! Don't know exactly where the time went but went it did! Only about nine months till the next Outlaw Roundup, and preparations for reunion are moving along nicely, Our quartermaster, Tom Anderson is collecting information and comparing prices for our reunion shirts and hats, and should have selection and pricing done by next newsletter, (can't wait to get a new Outlaw Shirt).

Now, here's what you've all been waiting for! It's finally here the reunion registration forms and the information to get your hotel rooms, (by the way we have only certain number of rooms at the reunion prices so call early) secondly, you will see a form and information on how to pay for the Meals, Transportation, and entertainment, this will be handled by The Reunion Brat, which is our reunion planner. Another

plus with this reunion is that we will be able to book our rooms and pay for our other items with use of our credit cards. The reunion Brat now accepts Visa, and MasterCard. (I can hear Chester yelling! Yes! Yes!)

Have had some concerns from some Outlaws that either live in Savannah or in the near vicinity of Savannah, coming for just the activities or part of the activities, for this you would need to contact THE REUNION BRAT at 1-360-663-2521.

Now those of you who haven't attended a reunion, (this means ALL OUTLAWS from ALL YEARS) now's the time, the reunion is in a wonderful location and a Historic City Savannah. So don't wait, don't let another reunion pass you by. My wife and I have been to all the reunions and have enjoyed everyone, it's great to see old faces and renew old friendships from a time long past, it's also great to talk with Outlaws that came after us and share stories from Vinh Long.

Next thing, it isn't too early to start thinking about the silent auction, we always need items for the auction, items in the past have shown a lot of thought in things donated for auction, it's amazing. Oh! For those of you like Laurie and I that will be flying, the hotel will take a small amount of packages sent to them in % Vinh Long Outlaw reunion.

(continued on page 2)

The Back Pew

By John Doyle

The Hat

On a recent vacation, one of the men on our tour had a hat that I have been searching for but could never find. The gentleman was kind enough to tell me what manufacturer made it and that it was called a Weekender.

On arriving home, I began my search on the internet for it. I found plenty of them. The only problem was I could not find one in my size. I still check the internet without finding what I am looking for.

Have you ever been exasperated when you have

searched and searched, and never found what you are looking for? Might it just be that you are not looking in the right place for that which you search? Have you been searching for answers to what ails you?

Are you searching for inner peace and comfort? Is your life unfulfilling, meaningless, or just out of control? What if I told you, "I know where you can find inner peace?"

The answer is found in God's Word. Here you can find truth, comfort, life direction, love, understanding, and eternal life.

(Director's Corner continued from page 1)

We will be electing new officers during the reunion, and there are positions open so don't be shy, let us know. You can contact me or one of the board members and we would be delighted in putting your name on the ballot.

The Outlaw Newsletter is still in need of a Editor, this position is vital to us members, it keeps us in touch with other members, it informs us as to up and coming events, (such as our reunion in September in Savannah) So if you would like to try your hand at being our editor, give Frank Estes, or Myself a e-mail or snail mail.

Speaking of officers, I have asked Jim Kelly, and he has graciously accepted the position of Member at Large that was left vacant with the death of Duane Truman. Lastly I would like to thank all Board Members and Past Director's for your advice and support this last year, your input was invaluable in making the decisions, to move forward with our Reunion and Outlaw business.

One Last Reminder "YOU WILL HAVE TO CALL" for your HOTEL RESERVATIONS; the VLOA isn't doing that for you this reunion.

Bob

What this country needs is more unemployed politicians.
Edward Langley, Artist (1928-1995).

A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have.
Thomas Jefferson.

RETURNED NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters sent to the following individuals have been returned as undeliverable. We have tried to follow up and cannot find accurate addresses, email addresses, or phone numbers for these Outlaws or the spouses for the deceased. If anyone knows the information on these Outlaws, please provide it to Frank Estes (estestf@troycable.net) or Larry Jackson (Jackson3605@roadrunner.com) so we can update our roster and website.

Edward Garcia (deceased)
Herschel Hudson (deceased)
Murph J. Marrow
Eddie McGuire
Rossie C. Harris, Jr
Keith D. Ohm
Herbert D. Merritt
Talmadge Ledford
Robert E. Weedon (USN)
Mrs. Albert Kinder
Jerry L. Jobski

Observations on Growing Old

- You forget names, but that's ok; because other people forgot they even knew you.
- Your kids are becoming you.....and you don't like them.....but, your grandchildren are perfect.
- Going out is good.....coming home is better.
- What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep."
- You use 4-letter words: "what?" "When?"

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA) Financial Status

	2011 12 Months \$	Balance \$
Cash Balance - 01/01/2011		17,968.49
Revenues:	<hr/>	
Dues - Annual	550.00	
Dues - Life-time	1,500.00	
Dues - Life-time Associates	400.00	
Sale of Inventory Items	494.00	
Miscellaneous	167.00	
	<hr/>	
Total Revenues:	3,111.00	
Expenditures:		
Newsletter Costs (4)	1,505.45	
Host Website (Harlow Media)	239.88	
Reunion Statue	155.00	
	<hr/>	
Total Expenditures:	1,900.33	
Net Income (Loss) - 2011	1,210.67	<hr/> 1,210.67
Cash Balance - 12/31/2011		<hr/> 19,179.16

2011 Dues Paying Members

Lifetime Memberships:

Phillip Van Alst
 Joe Cleland
 Larry E. Cunningham
 Wesley A. Dunn
 Harry Khachadourian
 Philip R. Kirk
 Robert E. Lakey
 Joe Moffett
 Martin Schroeder
 John Sedam
 Robert W. Slick
 Angelo Spelios
 Clayton Stolte
 Jerry Wade
 Ronald E. Walsh

Regular Annual Memberships:

Joe Cleland
 John N. Diamond
 John Doyle
 Wesley A. Dunn
 Billy Genter
 Gary L. Halase
 Cullis L. Holub
 Frederick W. Jacobs
 Jimmy R. King
 Phillip R. Kirk
 Donald Palmer
 Lyle E. Perry
 Charles R. Poulton II
 Gerald Ritchey
 Gary R. Runts
 Robert W. Tidd

Associate-Lifetime Memberships:

Carolyn Fredriksson
 Marguirete Iller
 Stephanie Iller
 Laurie Koonce

WOW!!! And **THANKS** to all these dues paying members. It is your dues that keeps the newsletter and website in operation. Again, thanks so much for your faithful support of the VLOA.

NOTICE: *Prayer requests* are placed on the website and in the newsletter only after a request has been made to the Chaplain or Newsletter Editor.

John Sedam: The key that opened the door for VLOA

By Tom Anderson

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of John Sedam on January 4, 2012. John had been in failing health since suffering a stroke five years ago. But, John was the spark that got the VLOA started. Here's how.

In April 1997, I received a letter from John Sedam. I hadn't seen or spoken with him since we left Vinh Long in 1965, so it was a real treat to hear from him. John gave me an update on his life since VN and mentioned that he had recently been in touch with both Al Iller and Tim Bisch. So, after replying to John's letter, I made contact with Al and Tim, also for the first time in years. Those initial contacts expanded to several more of the original group who soon began trying to find a time and place where we could get together after over 32 years.

Al suggested that we come to Branson, MO. In 1998 we met in Branson and had such a grand time that we decided to do it again, but to include everyone we could locate from that first bunch of Outlaws. John couldn't make it to that first get together in Branson, but it was because of his initiative in contacting his old friends that the VLOA organization was first formed and now has biennial reunions.

John always had a smile on his face! Except for one incident that happened late one night at Vinh Long. In the event of an attack on our compound, or an imminent threat of attack, our SOP called for the evacuation of every aircraft on the field to Can Tho. John's evacuation aircraft was the C&C ship, Outlaw 1. One night the alarm sounded. Aviators from all over the compound dashed to the flight line. John raced to Outlaw 1, jumped in, hit all the right switches, got the engine started, . . . but forgot one minor first step. . . untie the main rotor blade! You know what that meant. So, John, and Outlaw 1, remained at Vinh Long. John was embarrassed, of course, but . . . stuff happens. John was a great guy and a wonderful addition to the VLOA but, more than that, he will always be fondly remembered for being the catalyst for the VLOA to become a reality? (P.S. Tim Bisch and the Roadrunner crews had Outlaw 1 flying again within two days.)

John Sedam is now a member of our VLOA Honor Roll. May he, and all our other departed brother Outlaws, rest in peace. They are deeply missed by those of us who are blessed to be here to remember them.



What A Story!

By Jim Donnelly

I was asked to write a article for the news letter. I am guessing of some historical significance given my office. But instead let me share a thought and a request for you to send me your stories.

Professional writers allow us to share a story or an experience by the eloquence of their prose, their use of descriptive language, their vividness of character and detail. But the stories I am asking for need not be any of these things to achieve a loyal and appreciative audience. They only need to be honest. To convey as best as one can an event which has for all these years remained with them. Because we have the shared treasure of experiences, part of our pleasure - our delight - is in providing the embellishment or enrichment of a story from our own deep well of memories. Because we have shared so much for a story to be a "Best Seller" it must only remind us of what was for some and could have been for us all. Please allow us to share your memory in the form of a written or audio remembrance of a person or event from your Outlaw past. Allow your story to become a part of the Outlaw History for others to share.

VIET NAM WAR STILL NOT OVER FOR SOME

by Tom Anderson

All of you who were with the Outlaws or any of the affiliated units on June 16, 1965 undoubtedly remember the day quite vividly. It was the day on which we lost two of our Outlaw/Maverick comrades, Captain Jack Sanford and Sp. Michael Moritz. They were on a Maverick search mission looking for a missing U.S. Army advisor, Captain John Schumann and his ARVN counterpart, who had been stopped by a VC road block and taken captive just a few miles north of Vinh Long airfield.

The details of how Captain Schumann was able to communicate his capture are not known, however it's likely he had time to radio the Senior American Province Advisor and convey their predicament just before they were physically taken prisoner. Their capture was quickly relayed to the 13th Aviation Battalion Tactical Operations Center in Can Tho. The Battalion TOC forwarded a request to Outlaw Operations in Vinh Long to get a fire team airborne to the area to see if any information on the whereabouts of the captured men could be found.

Outlaw Operations quickly contacted Maverick Lead, Captain Sanford, and gave him the particulars of the mission, which included the name of the captured American. When Jack heard the name, he immediately recognized that Captain Schumann was a close friend of Roadrunner Lead, Captain Tim Bisch. Jack contacted Tim and asked him if he would like to fly copilot on the search mission, to which Tim quickly agreed.

In what was probably less than an hour after their capture, a Maverick heavy fire team was in the air and over the coordinates of the roadblock. One of the Mavericks reported seeing a sampan on a canal with a rice straw mat covering something that looked suspicious. Sanford took the lead flight position and, on descending to have a look, took heavy fire from the tree line along the canal and crashed. Both Jack Sanford and Mike Moritz gave their lives in service to their country. Tim Bisch and Sgt Chiacchino survived but with extensive injuries.

But, there's an interesting sequel to this story. In early December, I was having Sunday brunch at the Officer's Club at Fort Myer, Virginia. At the dessert table, (where else would I start?) I was standing next to a lady Army Lt. Colonel in dress blue uniform who was wearing a branch insignia I did not recognize. (I am continually reminded that a LOT of things have changed in the Army since I retired 35 years ago!). I asked Lt. Colonel Van Auken what branch she was and she replied, "Civil Affairs". I did not know CA was now a branch. When I asked her what her job was, she replied she was assigned to the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office or DPMO for short. I then mentioned the incident of Captain Schumann being captured in June 1965 and our not knowing whether he was ever recovered. She told me she could look up the incident and get back to me.

I learned that the DPMO is focused solely on the massive issues relating to military personnel who have been captured or lost in combat and not returned to their families. The investigations go all the way back to WWII. Since that time, and in all wars in between, there are over 85,000 names of lost service people who are still missing! The DPMO maintains an open file on each one of these individuals in the hope that at some point, a snippet of information might be learned that could lead to closure for the families involved.

Regarding Captain Schumann, in addition to the information sent to me by Lt Col Van Auken, I researched a number of on-line DOD files and learned more details. After he was captured, Capt Schumann was held for a time in a prison camp in Dinh Tuong Province, and later in Tay Ninh Province, both in the Mekong Delta region. Documents recovered from the Viet Cong by ARVN units in late 1965 included a photograph of Schumann in captivity. A photo of him in captivity even made its way to Moscow in 1967 and appeared in the Soviet "Red Army" newspaper in October 1967.

He was held in an NVA POW camp, known as TB-20 and, after weeks of moving through the jungles, ultimately arrived in North Viet Nam. Enroute, the NVA travelled along narrow foot or bicycle paths cut into the jungle, moving the camp frequently. Schumann became very ill and suffered from pneumonia and malfunctioning kidneys. He was with several other American POWs when he died at 1330 hours early in July 1966. His body was removed and buried at an unknown location.

None of the US POWs who knew CPT Schumann saw where he was buried because guards took his body outside the camp some 500 meters away to a grassy clearing. One guard has stated that it "was a 20 minute walk from the camp". DPMO has sent teams out to the area more than six times, but terrain changes now make it difficult for witnesses to recall the precise location.

The DPMO is centering the search for his remains on locating and interviewing Vietnamese guards, medical staff, etc. who worked at the POW camps where he was held. The hope is that these people may still have some recollection of the location where POWs were buried outside the camp. However, U.S. and Vietnamese investigators have determined that the prison camp was leveled and converted to farm land after April 1975 (continued on Page 6)

(Viet Nam War Still Not Over For Some continued from page 5) locations and/or burial sites with the result that any facility would be nearly impossible to locate. DPMO, however, continues to work with Vietnamese officials to help locate additional witnesses who would be available to escort a U.S. team to the burial site.

Captain Schumann was on the major's promotion list when he was captured and was promoted posthumously. Captain Schumann's family is aware of all this information through annual Family Update briefings by the DPMO. These events are designed to keep family members informed of our government's worldwide efforts to account for those still missing and to provide details of any information available about their specific cases. Schumann's two sisters are very active in the DPMO briefings and regularly attend the Family Update to learn what, if any, new information may have been uncovered regarding resolving his location and possible return of his remains at some future date.

The sad lesson from this episode is that the Viet Nam war, from which we all returned, is still not over for the many families and loved ones who lost part of their lives and who have still not received final closure. The positive lesson is that our country still continues to keep their memory alive by constant attempts to locate and bring their remains back to their families.

As Veterans' Day Approaches, Weatherford Man Reflects on a Long-Ago Promise

This article was published in the Dallas News on November 5, 2011.
Ernie Isbell suggested we reprint it in the *Outlaws Newsletter*.

He wasn't Rambo, that's for sure. This kindly, older gentleman wearing a dark blue suit and eyeglasses also didn't look anything like the haunted Vietnam veterans in the documentaries these hit-school students had watched in preparation for this day.

But Angelo Spelios was the real deal, a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War, who responded to a teacher's request to meet with her photography class at Trimble Tech High School in Fort Worth.

He was one of a dozen veterans her students wanted to interview and photograph for a Veterans' Day project. Angelo, tall and thickset, found himself perched at a rectangular, Formica-topped desk across from seniors Ana Gonzalez, 17, and Brenda Contreras, 18.

Over the next hour, with a slight New York accent that recalled his upbringing, Angelo, 70, talked about how he joined the Army eager to become a pilot and ended up in Vietnam flying helicopters through hailstorms of bullets.

He told a story about a friend he'd met in flight school, not much older than Ana and Brenda; a young man from California, with a sunny personality and a wickedly beautiful sports car. He'd been like a younger brother to Angelo.

Then, as Ana and Brenda listened intently, he told them of a promise to that young man's father, one that he'd been unable to keep.

A Chance to Fly: Angelo grew up in the Bronx and joined the Army just as the U.S. was getting more involved in the civil war in Vietnam. He responded to an Army recruiter's promise to learn to fly helicopters. For a high-school graduate working a dead-end job as a parking lot attendant, it was the opportunity of a lifetime.

Older vets warned him it was a recruiter's trick. He'd end up an infantry grunt, they said. The only time he'd see the sky was flat on his back after a long march. But, there was no trickery. Angelo went to the Army's helicopter training center at the old Fort Wolters in Mineral Wells, Texas. That was in 1964. Over the next five years, the few hundred U.S. advisers in South Vietnam helping to fight the communist North Vietnamese mushroomed into hundreds of thousands of troops fighting a full-scale war by land, sea, and air.

Angelo finished flight school, followed by advanced training at Fort Rucker, AL. He became a Warrant Officer, assigned to Fort Benning, GA.

Angelo lived in a house with three other newly minted pilots. One of them, a tall, outgoing Californian named Steve Morgan, surprised everyone when he came back from leave in California with one of the first new Fort Mustangs. "He had speakers put in above the doors so it sounded like stereo," Angelo recalled. "Wow, what a car!"

Coming from the Bronx, the 23-year-old Angelo had never owned a car. "We had subways and buses," he said. "Here's this kid, Steve, and he says to me, 'He, Angelo, let's go out and look around!'" "Off we went, listening to the music and what have you. I guess it's the California thing - - - those days of hot rods."

Angelo didn't give much thought to the conversation. "We were all young," Angelo said. "I think I told him, 'Don't worry, don't worry. We'll all be back here in a year.'"

In Vietnam, Angelo was transferred to the 121st Aviation Company. Based in Soc Trang, in the Mekong Delta south of Saigon, his job required flying troop-transport helicopters. His buddy Steve was assigned to the Utility Tactical Transport, a unit of Bell UH-1 helicopter gunships, armed with machine guns and rocket launchers that provided protection for helicopters transporting troops and equipment.

The Battle of Binh Gia: Four months into Angelo's tour, U.S. and South Vietnamese *(continued on Page 7)*

(*Veteran's Day continued from page 6*) forces launched an all-out assault on enemy troops in the Battle of Binh Gia. On December 30, 1964, a U.S. helicopter gunship was shot down, killing all four crewmen. Angelo didn't know all the details until a few weeks later. During a refueling stop, he ran into another pilot he knew from flight school.

"Angelo, did you hear about Steve?" the pilot asked. "He got killed." Angelo froze. "My God," he uttered. "My God."

Devastated, Angelo nevertheless couldn't allow himself to become overwhelmed with grief. He needed to stay focused on his mission. His job required him to fly troops around South Vietnam, often at night. Many, many times his helicopter came under fire but he never took a hit, Angelo said.

"I was very, very lucky," he said. Angelo's tour of duty ended in September 1965. His thoughts turned to the conversation with his friend Steve's father a year earlier.

The jet returning him to the U.S. would refuel at Travis Air Force Base, near where Steve's family lived. Angelo agonized over whether to visit Steve's parents or call them from the airport. He asked some older soldiers and officers. They advised him to not contact the family, to leave them alone. One soldier told him: "No good can come of it."

He followed their advice. It had been 10 months since Steve's death, and Angelo didn't want to reopen their wounds. "There was nothing I could do about it," he said.

A Heavy Weight: Seated in the Trimble Tech classroom, the students, Ana and Brenda, listened wide-eyed as Angelo told them about Steve. Angelo said he thought Steve was about 18 years old, but military records indicated that the Warrant Officer was 20 when he died. That's only two years older than most high school seniors - - - a fact not lost on Ana and Brenda.

"It was really sad, and it made me wonder how I would react if I was in that situation," Ana said afterward. "Especially with the weight his friend's parents put on him. That would be a big weight to carry."

Shannon Oden, the photographer teacher who organized the event, said she hoped the dialogue would engender empathy among her students for these veterans who were young once, like them. She said: "It was really important for the younger generation to hear the stories, to hear the perspectives and make that connection of 'Wow, this could be me!' I think these stories are important ones to know. Those experiences can shape your decisions for the rest of your life."

A few days later, at his home in Weatherford, Angelo reflected on his experiences in Vietnam. The war was difficult and, at times, scary, he said. "The military also gave me my life," he said.

He went on to become an operations inspector with

the Federal Aviation Administration, based in Fort Worth. In recent years, he and other local members of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association helped create the National Vietnam War Museum in Mineral Wells, near the site of old Fort Wolters. The site includes a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the wall that contains more than 58,000 engraved names, including Steve Morgan's.

After 47 years, Angelo doesn't second-guess his decision to not get in touch with Steve's parents. He prefers to reflect on the memories of his friend that have remained with him over the years. "In my mind, I remember the good times," he said. "That's how I remember him."

A Photo Tribute to Duane Truman

Contributed by Bob Sharp



**In Memory of
Duane E. Truman
1940—2011**

By Bob Sharp

Obituary: Duane Edward Truman, age 71, of Cassville, Missouri, passed away Tuesday, October 25, 2011, at his home. He was born September 20, 1940, in Diagonal, Iowa, the son of Ed and Ora (Wilmeth) Truman. On December 27, 1974, in Cassville, he was united in marriage to Janice "Jan" Jackson, who survives. Also surviving are one son, Lane Truman and his wife, Misty of Cassville, Missouri; one daughter, Barbie Truman of Mt Vernon, Missouri; two sisters, Evelyn Davenport and her husband, Marvin of Mt. Vernon, Missouri and Robbie Taylor of Carthage, North Carolina; two grandchildren, Ashlee Rummel and her husband, Travis of Everton, Missouri and Kennedy Truman of Cassville, Missouri; several nieces and one nephew.

Preceding him in death were his parents.

Duane grew up and received his education in Creston, Iowa, graduating from Creston High School. He went on to receive his Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering. In 1963, Duane joined the US Army and was a pilot in the Vietnam War. Throughout his Army career he received various medals, ribbons, and badges, including a Bronze Star Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Silver and Bronze Stars, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Aircraft Crewman Badge, Army Aviator Badge, Distinguished Flying Cross, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, national Defense Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and national Defense Service Medal. On January 31, 1983, Duane retired as a Major. He was a member of Vinh Long Flying Unit, National Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, NRA, and a Lifetime member of both the Monett VFW and Military Officers Association.

A Personal Tribute: October 25, 2011 was a very sad day in our lives as we lost a very dear friend and fellow veteran, Duane Truman. I met Duane Truman at Ft. Rucker, AL early in 1963 as we were classmates in training to be helicopter mechanic's. Along with myself, there were Dick Donahue, Jimmy King, Dennis Lappin, Robert Micalic, Bud Allie, Martin Schroeder, Jimmy Koepple, and a lot of others that when we graduated we were assigned to the 11th Air Assault Division, and training for 18 months. We became fast friends as we lived and worked together before being assigned to the 62nd Aviation Company and shipped to Viet Nam. I was reassigned to the 121st Aviation Company at Soc Trang, along with a few that I can remember; Angelo Spelios, Billy Hampton, and Martin Schroeder. I was not to see or hear from anyone again for 38 years.

By sure chance, we were reunited just before the very first Outlaw's Reunion. We attended the reunion in Branson, MO, and were able to meet and visit with a lot of old comrades from the past. We then decided that we were not going to wait two years to see each other again, and we set up a schedule where we met at Phil and Lynn Horne's in May and then at Bob and Bonnie Sharp's in



September, and at Duane and Jan Truman's in December. We also went on vacation's together to Florida, to the ocean and beaches, to Northern Minnesota fishing, to Bandera, TX to sight see and go dancing.

We have had a lot of changes in our lives since 2000 and have lost spouses and dear friends, but among the most wonderful things that have happened in our lives is the fact that we have been reunited with our fellow veterans and their wonderful spouses and wouldn't you know it, they have become dear friends also.

We all loved him dearly and will miss him immensely.
He was my dearest friend!!

Poem Hanging on the Wall in Duane's Home

Friend is a word that I don't throw around,
Though it is used and abused I still like the sound,
I save it for people who've done right by me,
And I know I can count on if ever need be.

Some of my friend's drive big limousines,
Own ranches and banks and visit with queens,
And some of my friends are up to their necks,
In overdue notes and can't write a check.
They're singers and ropers and writers of prose,
And others God bless'em, can't blow their own nose.

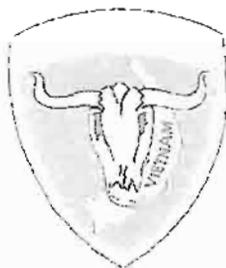
I guess being friends don't have nothing to do
With talent or money or knowing who's who.
It's a comfortable feeling when you don't have to care
Bout choosing your words or being quite fair
Cause friends just listen and let things go by,
Those words you can't mean and not even bat an eye.

It makes a friend happy to see your success,
They're proud of your good side and forgive all the rest,
And that ain't so easy all of the time,
Sometimes I get crazy and seem to go blind.

Your friend just might have to take you home,
Or remind you sometime that you're not alone,
Or ever so gently pull you back to the ground,
When you think you can fly when no one is around.

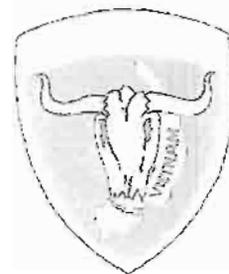
A hug or a handshake, whichever seems right,
Is the high point of giving, I'll tell you tonight.
All worldly riches and tributes of men,
Can't hold a candle to the worth of a friend.

Thank you,
Bob Sharp



**2012
VINH LONG OUTLAWS
ROUNDUP**

**SAVANNAH GEORGIA
SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2012**



To be held at the Hilton Desoto, located in Savannah, Georgia's Historic District. Room rates are \$114.00 per night, plus tax for single or double occupancy. Parking at the hotel is \$10.00 per day and Valet parking is \$17.00 per day. Registration will be \$682 per couple and \$341.00 per single and includes:

- ~ A Welcome Package with Name Button, Itinerary, List of Attendees
- ~ Hospitality Room ~ Stocked with Snacks & Beverages all 4 Days
 - ~ Breakfast Buffet ~ Friday ~ Saturday ~ Sunday
 - ~ Thursday ~ Welcome Dinner Buffet
 - ~ Friday ~ City Tour with Lunch
- ~ Saturday ~ Savannah Riverboat Dinner Cruise
- ~ Sunday ~ Farewell Banquet Dinner & Program

CITY TOUR WITH LUNCH

The Savannah City Tour takes you through downtown historic Savannah. Imagine seeing one of America's most beautiful cities, one that dates back to the early 1700's. See the history. You will then sit down to lunch at the Shrimp Factory Restaurant overlooking the Savannah River, where you can "Watch the Ships Go By!"

SAVANNAH RIVER BOAT DINNER CRUISE

Enjoy an evening of dinner, live entertainment, and an unforgettable tour of Savannah on a river boat cruise. Experience refreshing river breezes on a sightseeing harbor tour, delicious local southern flavors, cultural entertainment, fun filled dinner, magical moonlight.

★ Call the Hilton Desoto at 877-280-0751 no later than August 17, 2012 to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the Vinh Long Outlaws to receive the room rate of \$114.00 plus tax.

COME JOIN US AS WE SHARE OLD MEMORIES AND MAKE NEW ONES!!!

For More Information:

Contact: Bob & Laurie Koonce

Phone: 253-537-4818

Email: potteryyperson@q.com

Or

Contact: The Reunion BRAT

Phone: 360-663-2521

Vinh Long Outlaws Association

2012 Outlaw Savannah Roundup

September 6 – 10, 2012

<i>Thursday September 6</i>	<i>Friday September 7</i>	<i>Saturday September 8</i>	<i>Sunday September 9</i>	<i>Monday September 10</i>
<p>3:00-6:00pm – Arrival & Check in</p> <p>5:00-7:00pm – Refreshments in Hospitality Room (Pulaski Room)</p> <p>7:00-9:00pm – Welcome Dinner (Separate room)</p> <p>9:00pm-until – Silent Auction & Socializing in Hospitality Room</p>	<p>6:00-9:00am – Buffet breakfast in Hospitality Room</p> <p>9:00-9:15am – Board buses for Tour of Old Town Savannah (Loading area TBA)</p> <p>9:15am-12:00noon – Bus Tour of Old Town Savannah</p> <p>12:00noon-1:30pm – Lunch at “The Shrimp Factory” on River Street</p> <p>1:30-1:50pm – Board buses for return to hotel</p> <p>2:00-6:00pm – Free time; Hospitality Room open</p> <p>6:00-9:00pm – Dinner on your own</p> <p>8:00pm-until – Silent Auction & Socializing in Hospitality Room</p>	<p>6:00-9:00am – Buffet breakfast in Hospitality Room</p> <p>8:00-9:00am – Steering Committee meeting in Conference Room</p> <p>9:00-11:00am – General Membership meeting in Hospitality Room</p> <p>11:00am-6:00pm – Free time (Lunch on your own)</p> <p>6:00-6:15pm – Board Buses for Savannah River Dinner Cruise</p> <p>7:00-9:30pm – Savannah River Dinner Cruise</p> <p>9:30pm – Board Buses for hotel</p> <p>9:30pm-until – Silent Auction & Socializing in Hospitality Room</p>	<p>6:00-9:00am – Buffet breakfast in Hospitality Room</p> <p>9:00-9:30am – Follow-up General Membership Business meeting in Hospitality Room</p> <p>9:30 – 10:30am – Non-denominational Services in Hospitality Room</p> <p>10:30am-5:00pm – Free Time (Lunch & tours on your own)</p> <p>3:00-6:00pm – Hospitality Room open</p> <p>6:00-9:00pm – Farewell Dinner, Awards Presentations, & Program in Hospitality Room</p> <p>9:00pm-until – Silent Auction & Socializing in Hospitality Room</p>	<p>6:00 – 9:00am – Breakfast on your own</p> <p>9:00-11:00am – Farewells & Departures in Hotel Lobby</p>

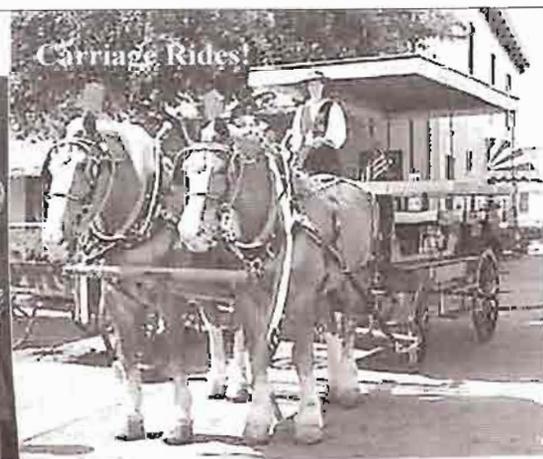
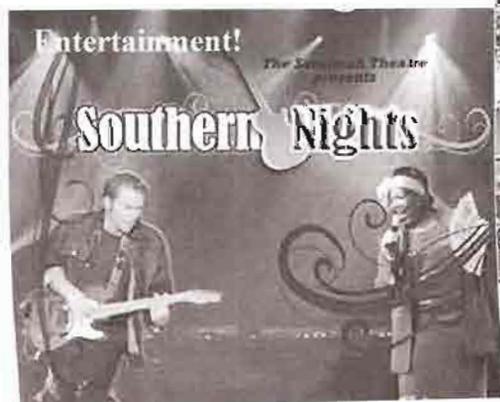
The **Hilton Savannah DeSoto Hotel** offers the finest deluxe guest rooms with either one king size bed or two Double beds. All rooms feature scenic views of Savannah historic skyline, hair dryers, irons and ironing boards, complimentary coffee daily with coffee makers, daily newspaper, electronic lock entry system and valet services. Other amenities include:

- Audio/visual equipment rental
- Business center
- Express mail
- FAX
- Meeting Rooms
- Notary Public
- Photo copying service
- Printer
- Video conferencing available
- Children's menu
- High chairs
- Cribs
- Playground
- Automated teller (ATM)
- Baggage storage
- Bar area
- Concierge desk
- Elevators
- Gift Shop
- Guest activity/recreation desk
- Lounge
- Luggage hold
- Multi-lingual staff
- News stand
- Room service
- Safety deposit box
- Tour desk
- Fitness room
- Pool
- Sight seeing tours
- Check-in: 3:00pm
- Check-out: 12:00pm

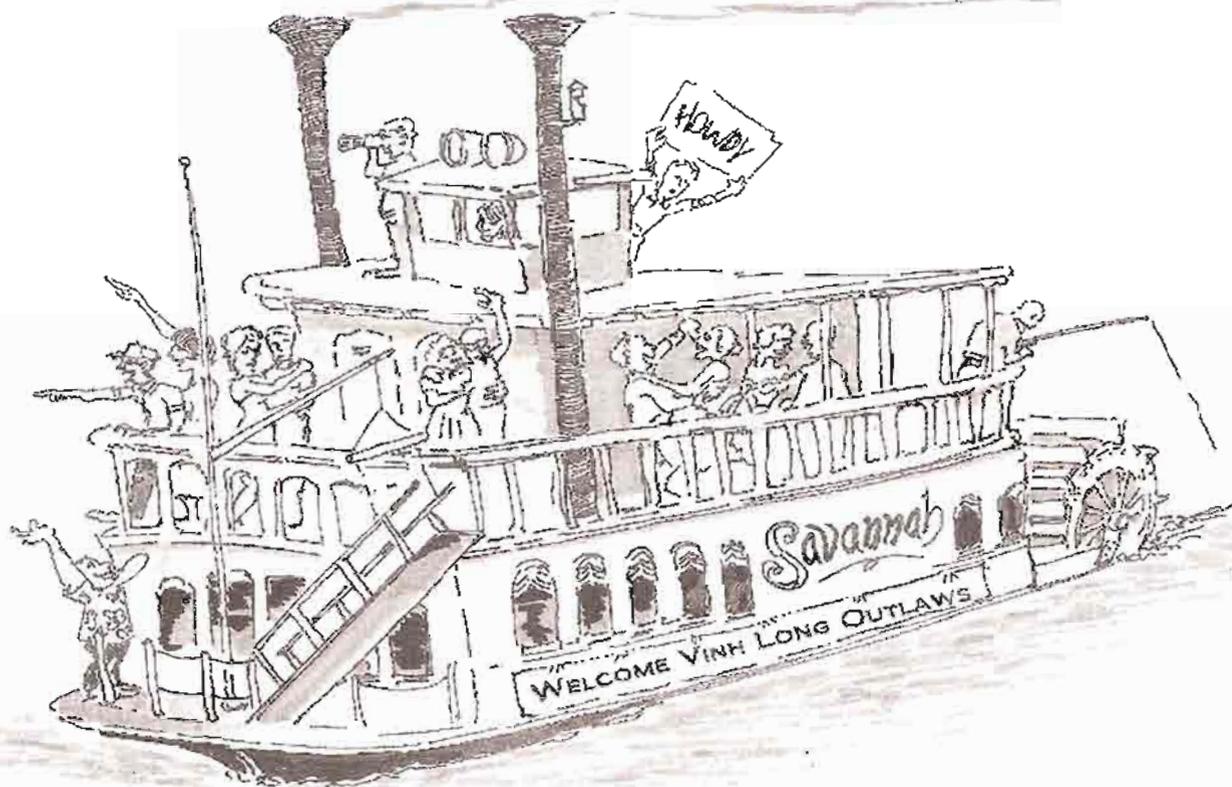
Standard Guest Room



Two-bedroom Suites



Hits of the 60's, 70's and 80's



COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR REUNION IN SAVANNAH
WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A BOAT LOAD OF FUN!

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO HILTON SAVANNAH DESOTO HOTEL

Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport:

- Depart Airways Ave toward Patrick S Graham Dr
- Turn right onto Patrick S Graham Dr
- Turn right onto Gulfstream Rd
- Turn right onto GA-21 South/Augusta Rd
- Keep straight onto I-516 East/GA-21 South/GA-25 South/Lynes Pkwy/Ocean Hwy
- At exit 5, take ramp right for I-16/US-17 toward Savannah
- At exit 167B, take ramp left for Montgomery St toward Civic Ctr/Downtown/Savannah
- Bear left onto Montgomery St
- Turn right onto W Liberty St
- Keep straight onto E Liberty St

From Interstate I-95 North or South:

- Exit at 99A (I-16 east), follow to the end where road feeds onto Montgomery Street.
- At the first stop light turn right onto Liberty Street.
- Follow for 5 blocks to the Hilton which will be on your right hand side

ADVERTISEMENT

The VLOA is still looking for a volunteer to assume the responsibilities of the Newsletter Editor. Anyone interested please contact Bob Koonce at potteryperson@aol.com.

1,000 Places to See Before You Die, by Patricia

Schultz, lists Savannah, GA as one of the 1,000 places. Savannah's Historic District is an urban masterpiece. Savannah (America's first Planned city) is America's best walking city, with the largest historical district: 2 1/2 square miles holding more than 1,000 lovingly restored colonial homes and commercial buildings, all punctuated by 21 of the city's original 24 green-leafed 1-acre squares.

Where to Eat in Savannah

By Bob Koonce

We are going to have some free time to explore the City of Savannah and the surrounding cities and country side.

Savannah has many types of Restaurants serving a wide variety of cuisine. There should be a restaurant that fits your pallet. Some are just a short walk from our hotel. I'm just going to highlight a small number, mostly the most popular and the ones with the best reviews. Some require Reservations.

Six Pence Pub & Restaurant, 245 Bull Street (Just across the street from the Desoto Hilton Hotel) Sandwiches, soups, salads, and Hearty fare served in an Olde English Pub atmosphere. They are famous for their French Onion Soup. (912) 233-3151. (http://www.sixpencepub.com/ourlocations_savannah.htm)

10 Downing at Churchill's, British owned and operated Churchill's Pub and Restaurant, serves a unique blend of traditional British favorites and contemporary American Cuisine in an upscale environment. (912) 232-8501. (<http://www.thebritishpub.com/>)

One of Savannah's newest restaurants is the Bull Street Eatery, 1514 Bull Street; it offers breakfast all day, a "Blue Plate" lunch special and many other "Mouth Watering" lunch specials. (912) 232-4782.

The Olde Pink House, 23 Abercorn Street, Savannah's only 18th Century Mansion with antiques and ancestral paintings, and fireplaces aglow in every room, the Olde Pink House is the ultimate Savannah Setting for world - renowned elegant Southern Cuisine. Reservations (912)232-4286. (<http://www.americascuisine.com/georgia/savannah/TheOldePinkHouse.aspx>)

The Chart House, 202 West Bay Street, located on historic River Street, provides a spectacular atmosphere. The restaurant has three levels of dinning, as well as outside dinning overlooking the Savannah River. (912) 234-6686. (<http://www.chart-house.com>)

Mrs. Wilkes Dining Room, Savannah, 107 W Jones St. Open Hours: Mon: 11:00-2:00PM, Tue: 11:00-2:00PM, Wed: 11:00-2:00PM, and Fri: 11:00-2:00PM. This place is one you would like to put on your "Bucket List." Southern Cooking at its finest, at prices that won't break your pocket book, specializing in Fried and Baked specialties, reviews rate it off the charts. They do not take reservations but the wait in line is worth it. (812) 232-5997. (<http://www.mrswilkes.com/menu.html>)

Outlaw Silent Auction Will Again Be A Reunion Feature

by Tom Anderson

The Silent Auction at our Outlaw reunion has always been one of the most popular features of the get together! At the Nashville reunion, we had over 72 articles up for auction, the biggest grouping of eclectic, curious, interesting and one-of-a-kind items we have ever had! And, the returns for the VLOA treasury were deeply gratifying.

Bob Koonce, our National Director, has asked me to once again serve as the Auction Guru. And, I'm glad to accept the role! It's been fun in the past, and I hope it will be as successful in Savannah as it was in Nashville.

As you know, it costs money to continue to keep the VLOA moving forward as a viable organization. And, because both our membership, and attendance at the Reunion, continues to decrease each year, the Steering Committee must make provisions for retaining a comfortable reserve fund for the future.

Annual membership dues don't come close to supporting the many annual expenses we have. The VLOA treasury must pay for annual website domain name renewals, website internet service provider's annual fees, website updates and modifications, IRS filings, State registrations, Newsletter printing and mailing, admin supplies needed by Directors as well as other unplanned expenses.

In addition, treasury funds are used by the VLOA Reunion Coordinator to underwrite various "extras" required to ensure that the reunion is a first-class success. These include signage, refreshments, printing, recognition awards, caps, welcome bags, cups and badges, to name only some of the items normally paid for from our treasury. These "extras" are a vital part of every successful reunion.

Therefore, every two years, at the Reunion, the Silent Auction is held to help replenish the VLOA treasury with the funds collected from items purchased in the Auction. The Silent Auction and the popular 50/50 drawing are the two primary sources of revenue for our VLOA treasury.

So, here we are again. . . . appealing to the membership for items to be donated to the Silent Auction, as they have in the past.

The only criteria for donated items for the Silent Auction is that the item be relevant to our attendees (i.e. something that YOU would like to take home with YOU) and/or have a quality that will tend to create a bidding war between attendees for the right to **WIN THE BIDDING** for that item!

In the past we have attempted to generate a "theme" for the items to be donated, but we found that that was not practical. But, it should be noted that every item that was donated for the Nashville reunion was truly something that one of the attendees wanted to take home with them. So, be creative, be original but be a participant !

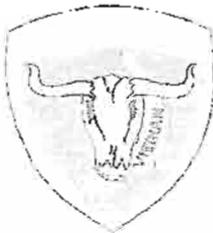
Included in the next Newsletter will be a "pull-out" page detailing the specifics of the auction: how to get your items to the auction; what information to include for publication in the "Bid List" and other similar items. Some details relating to possible receipt of items by the hotel have not yet been worked out. The pull-out page will describe, in detail all these procedures.

One more thing to remember. If, for some reason, you absolutely cannot attend the reunion, but you'd still like to send in an item for the Silent Auction, your contribution will be welcomed! Contact me if you need more information.

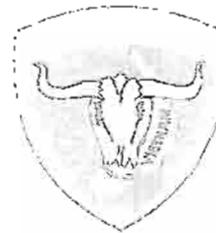
Although we're still months away from final approach into Savannah, time goes by very fast. So, please start planning your contribution to the Auction. Your VLOA needs your support and participation.

If you have ANY questions, send me an email at teander@cox.net or call me by phone at 703-451-4015.

Tom Anderson



2012
VINH LONG OUTLAWS
ROUNDUP
SAVANNAH GEORGIA
SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2012



NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NAME(S) OF YOUR GUEST(S) _____

BANQUET MEAL SELECTION: BEEF _____ CHICKEN _____ VEGETARIAN _____

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY: _____

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES

- ~ A WELCOME PACKAGE WITH NAME BUTTON, ITINERARY, LIST OF ATTENDEES
- ~ HOSPITALITY ROOM ~ STOCKED WITH SNACKS & BEVERAGES ALL 4 DAYS
- ~ BREAKFAST BUFFET ~ FRIDAY ~ SATURDAY ~ SUNDAY
- ~ THURSDAY ~ WELCOME DINNER BUFFET
- ~ FRIDAY ~ CITY TOUR WITH LUNCH
- ~ SATURDAY ~ SAVANNAH RIVERBOAT DINNER CRUISE
- ~ SUNDAY ~ FAREWELL BANQUET DINNER & PROGRAM

REGISTRATION FEES

COUPLES REGISTRATION FEE \$682.00 = \$ _____

SINGLE REGISTRATION FEE \$341.00 = \$ _____

★ CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ADD 3% OF TOTAL (FOR COUPLES ADD \$20.46 FOR SINGLES ADD \$10.23) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

★ PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 9, 2012

FOR VISA OR MASTER CARD ONLY, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____ SECURITY CODE (THREE DIGIT NUMBER) _____

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD _____

BILLING ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

★ PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: THE REUNION BRAT

PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS AND MADE PAYABLE TO:
 THE REUNION BRAT
 16817 MOUNTAINSIDE DRIVE EAST
 GREENWATER, WA 98022
 360-663-2521

- ★ Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by August 6, 2012
- ★ A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable.
- ★ Call the Hilton DeSoto at 877-280-0751 no later than August 17, 2012 to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the Vinh Long Outlaws Reunion to receive your group rate per night of \$114.00 plus tax.
- ★ These prices are available 3 days prior to and after your event should you choose to extend your stay, depending on availability.

WE'LL SEE YOU SOON IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA