

# Vinh Long Outlaws Newsletter

January—March, 2012

First Quarter 2012

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## National Director's Corner

### Greetings All:

2012 is well underway and before long, it will be Outlaw Roundup 2012 time. By now, you will have received a "Post Card" alerting you about another large military group (the 3<sup>rd</sup> ID Association, I guess that qualifies as a large group) that will be at the Savannah Georgia Hilton Desoto the same time we will be holding our reunion. So my question to you is: Have you made your hotel reservations yet? Have you sent in your registration and monies to The Reunion Brat yet? Time is starting to get short. Yes, I'm sounding like an Old School Teacher, but just as a reminder, we have only a certain number of rooms (49) reserved at a special price for us. So, I strongly encourage you to reserve your room now. After all, you're reserving it with your credit card so really it hasn't cost you anything yet! Another reason for making your reservations now is to ensure that you will have a room. Those of you that are waiting to register in May or June might find that there aren't any rooms available. The Reunion Planner is giving me periodic reports about how many rooms have been reserved. Yes, we might be able to get a few more rooms, but that is a BIG IF! The VLOA just doesn't want to see anyone who wants to come, not have a room. So again, reserve your room now and send your registration form with payment to The Reunion Brat!

We have formed a search committee to identify a candidate or candidates for the prestigious Directors Award. The Nominating Committee is chaired by Ernie Isbell, who has an article elsewhere in this newsletter. I would like to thank Chester for showing remarkable restraint, in not betting the VLOA treasury on the LSU Tigers for the National College Football Championships, or the New Orleans Saints for the NFL Championship. I know his heart was in the right place, but we don't need to increase our treasury that way! The best way is: if you're a member and have not paid your 2012 dues, then do so immediately!

Now speaking of our finances and the IRS, I timely filed our Federal 990-N tax return (for Non-Profits, Tax exempt) and the IRS has accepted it! So we are good for another year or 30,000 miles whichever comes first!

As we approach reunion time, the elected officers time in office is about to expire. The VLOA is asking and searching for members to fill those spots for the next two years. Our VLOA Deputy National Director, Angelo Spelios is chairing the search committee. The Outlaws need members to fill the various organizational offices to keep the VLOA functioning. We need new blood and new ideas to help us grow and continue at the high level of performance and involvement that we have come expect. We cannot and should not continue asking the same people to do these jobs year after year. Certainly, we don't want them to get tired and worst of all loose interest. What I'm saying is, give it some thought and see if you can spend some time weekly to help this great Organization continue and grow. And, if you can, let Angelo or me know and we will put your name down for one of the officer/director positions. OK! I can get off my soap box now, and wipe the foam from my mouth!

Now, here is some good news for all you guys and gals that like our "Reunion Shirts" (that includes yours truly). Our Quartermaster has a Reunion Shirt Order Form in this issue, so fill it out and send it with your check to Quartermaster Tom by the stated suspense date. You need to get them in as early as possible so we can get an economic purchase and have them in time for the Outlaw Roundup. We are going to order only for those who send in their order form with payment and a very few extra for sale at the Roundup. Tom will also be "Ram Roding" the Silent Auction. There is an article elsewhere in this newsletter describing how to donate items.

Yesterday, Laurie and I finished our plans for Savannah. We will be flying into Savannah (see *DIRECTOR* on page 2)

# The Back Pew

By John Doyle

## His Name was Smokey

Being a kid in the '40s was not easy. I often thought, "We are so poor, the church mouse should bring us crumbs." My mother worked in the mill, my father took whatever he could get. He finally landed a regular job as a night watchman at the mill.

The money got a bit better, to the point that, one day, my parents offered me a choice between a new jacket or a puppy that a neighbor had for sale. For me, that was a no-brainer. I wanted the puppy.

He was a Dalmatian and the love of my life. I named him "Smokey." Boy and dog were inseparable.

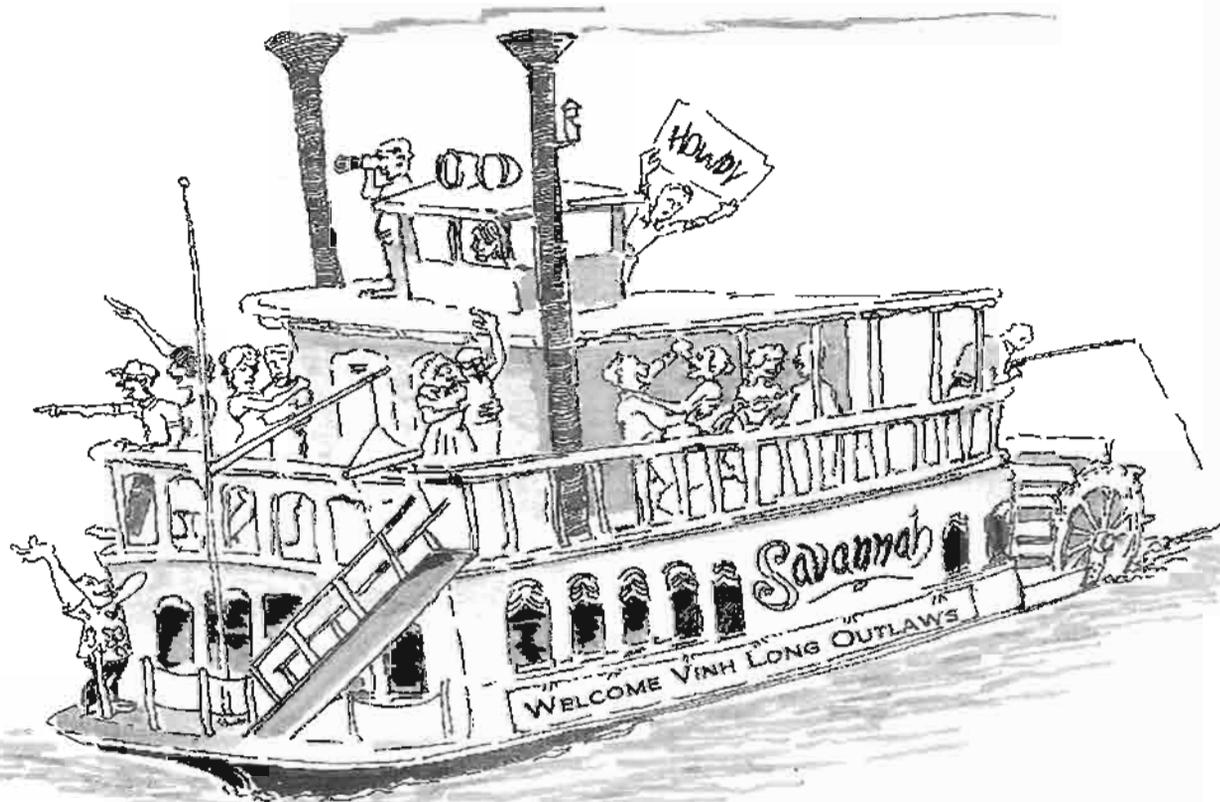
When I went fishing, I would spend more time throwing Smokey off the low bridge, than I did fishing. I would throw him in the water, he would swim to shore and with tail going about 60mph, he would jump up on me wanting to get thrown back in the water. He was my best friend, and I believe I was his.

God has not thrown me in the water - yet, but we have a relationship that in some ways, is like me and Smokey. No, God has never thrown me in the water; however, if he were to do so, I would go running back to him and let him do it again. You see, God is my best friend.

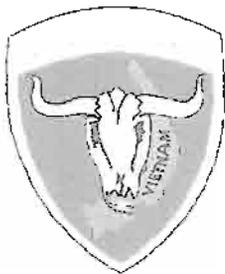
(from DIRECTOR, page 1) before the reunion, and departing for home several days after close of the reunion. This will give us time to explore more of the low country and see places like Hilton Head, and Beaufort SC. Yes, we almost got direct flights to Savannah from Seattle. Well, that is if you consider stopping in Newark NJ, as direct. We only need a million more frequent flier miles and we will have free tickets to Cleveland!

In closing, time is getting short with about 150 days until Outlaw Savannah Roundup 2012 time. I guess I'd better start writing the welcome speech. Laurie and I are looking forward to seeing all you Outlaws in Historic Savannah.

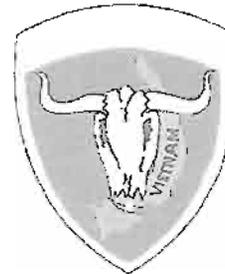
Respectfully, Bob



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



**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**

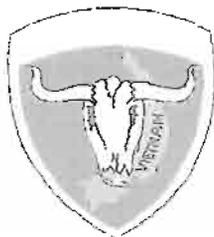
**Phone: 360-663-2521**

Vinh Long Outlaws Association

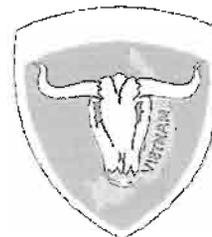
2012 Outlaw Savannah Roundup

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



**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**

## Outlaw Silent Auction Needs Your Support

The last Newsletter had a lengthy article on the Savannah Reunion Silent Auction. I won't repeat all the information in that article, but I would like to once again urge everyone who receives this Newsletter to consider forwarding an item to the Savannah Reunion Silent Auction. Your contribution will be welcomed whether you attend the Reunion or not.

The Nashville Silent Auction provided over 70 items for attendees to bid on, which resulted in more than \$3100 brought into the VLOA treasury! While the Association needs the annual dues from members, the combination of the Silent Auction and the 50-50 drawing are the two major sources of income for your treasury.

The treasury pays for the 4X per year Newsletter, which is not cheap. It pays for maintenance and upgrades to our fantastic VLOA website. It pays our IRS filing fees so that we can maintain our tax exempt status. The treasury supports the extras and incidentals at the Reunions, such as signage, hospitality room refreshments, printing costs, recognition awards, caps and other attendee favors.

So, we depend on the generosity of our members to support the Silent Auction by contributing items that will bring bids from the Reunion attendees. 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 that it have a quality that will tend to create a bidding war between attendees for the right to WIN THE BIDDING for that item! Be creative, be original but be a participant!

Once again, a reminder! If, for some reason, you absolutely cannot attend the reunion, but you'd still like to send in a donation for the Silent Auction, your contribution will be welcomed! Contact me if you need any more information. My contact information is also on the pull-out flyer, but, if you have ANY questions, send me an email at [teander@cox.net](mailto:teander@cox.net) or call me by phone at 703-451-4015.

Tom Anderson



**Old Outlaws Frank Estes and Tom Anderson spent an afternoon recently touring the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum at Dulles International Airport. Posing in front of a Viet Nam-era UH-1H brought back lots of memories! Among the hundreds of other aircraft in the museum are the SR-71 Blackbird, the Concorde SST, the B-29 Enola Gay that dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the space-shuttle Enterprise, lots of early helicopters and an Army O-1 Bird Dog! Every Outlaw visitor to Washington D.C. should make this a must-see visit.**

NOTICE: Please remove this flyer from the Newsletter and keep it available for information regarding how to donate items for the Silent Auction

## VLOA Savannah Reunion

# SILENT AUCTION

Your VLOA needs your help !      Here's How !

From Tom Anderson

The SILENT AUCTION is always one of the favorite features of the VLOA reunion. VLOA members never fail to donate a fascinating collection of unique, historic and eclectic items for the attendees to peruse and purchase. All items are placed on tables in our Hospitality Suite, alongside a written description ("Bid List") of the item. A "Bid Sheet" is placed beside the item on which bidders write their name and their next-higher bid amount.

I have again been asked to be the Auction Guru for R2K12 in Savannah. On the reverse side of this flyer are all the details you'll need to know to donate an item.

All items on the auction tables are donated by VLOA members. Past items have included a wide variety of commercial items, personal bits and pieces, photos, home-made crafts, patriotic or military memorabilia, VLOA-emblems, gift baskets, books, etc. etc.

This "pull-out" flyer is a straight-forward way of imploring ALL OF YOU, WHETHER YOU ATTEND THE REUNION OR NOT, to please consider donating an article that you think will have enough interest to the attendees that they'll bid like crazy on the item and help replenish the VLOA treasury. There are no restrictions on what you can donate. Anything that will have an appeal to one of your fellow Outlaws - or ladies - that will make him or her want to bid high enough to WIN it and take it home !

We'd like to ask everyone who attends the reunion to donate at least one Silent Auction item. More than one would be even better.

Give me a call - or send me an email - and let me know that you'll be contributing an item (or items) for the Silent Auction.

If, for any reason, you'd like to keep your name anonymous, that's OK ! We'll honor your request.

Tom Anderson

## Silent Auction details

1) **BID LIST** In order to develop the Bid List, I'll need to know, as soon as possible, what you will be contributing and a description of the item(s). Contact me (see below) as soon as you decide what you plan to bring to the auction.

2) **GETTING YOUR ITEM TO THE REUNION.** Driving it yourself is the surest, and least expensive, way of getting your item(s) to the reunion auction. If you are driving, and bringing your item(s) with you, again, please contact me well ahead of time, as requested above, to get the information into the Bid List.

3) **FLYING** If you are flying and can't bring your donation with you, please call me so we can discuss shipping the article. (And, see following paragraphs)

4) **SHIPPING DETAILS:** Fortunately, this year we are in a smaller hotel which will allow us to ship items prior to arrival to be held for pick-up, at no cost to us. If it is more convenient for you to ship your items, please note that shipments should be scheduled to arrive at the Hilton DeSoto Hotel no earlier than Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. (Five days prior to the reunion).

5) **SHIPPING ADDRESS** If you ship your donation, please make sure the following information is included on your shipping label:

Ship To: Hilton DeSoto Hotel  
15 East Liberty St  
Savannah, GA  
31401

Event Name: Vinh Long Outlaws Association Reunion

Event Date: Sep 6 - 10, 2012

Hold for Pickup by Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

(Your name here!)

7) **PLEASE CONTACT ME AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON OR QUESTION**

Tom Anderson

7880 Rolling Woods Ct #308

Springfield, VA 22152

Email: [teander@cox.net](mailto:teander@cox.net)

Phone: 703-451-4015

VLOA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

**OUTLAW ROUNDUP - SAVANNAH**  
**HIRT ORDER FORM**

The official 2012 Outlaw Roundup shirt is a very attractive Royal Blue. Men's shirts have a white panel spliced into both sides and inside the sleeves. Women's shirts have the white side panels plus a white detail on the "Johnny collar" neck. Material is "tricot micropique" for smooth, snag-resistant, moisture-wicking, comfortable wear! Made by Sport-Tek, all shirts will have the Outlaw, Maverick, and Roadrunner logos embroidered on the left breast.

Cost for each shirt is \$30. NOTE: Added cost for sizes 2XL=\$32 3XL=\$34 4XL=\$36 men's or women's. Please pre-order your shirt(s) on the form below. Shirt orders for Reunion attendees will be placed in your welcome bag at the VLOA registration desk in the Hilton DeSoto hotel in Savannah. 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*	TOTAL#	COST
	32-34	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49	50-53	54-67		
Qty	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**LADIES' SHIRT SIZES**

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

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

If you are not attending the Reunion, 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 10, 2012.**  
 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 !**

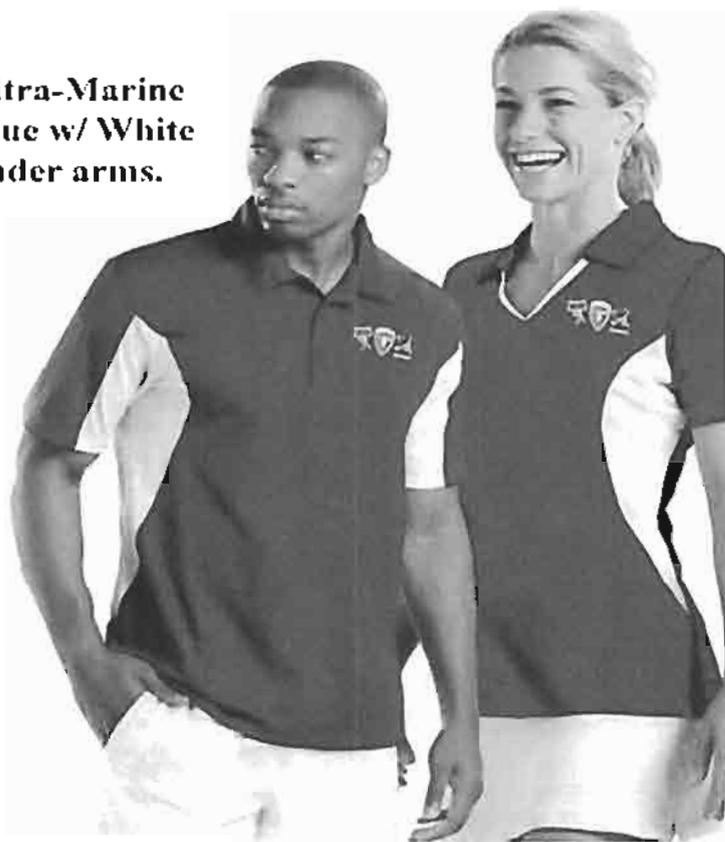
## Outlaw Reunion Shirts

### Now Available to Everyone

At every past Reunion, those who attend have had the opportunity to pre-purchase an Outlaw shirt. This year, the shirt selected as the official Reunion Shirt will now also be available for pre-purchase by any Outlaw, of any year whether you attend the Reunion or not.

What does the shirt look like? Fortunately, you can now actually SEE the shirt before you order. Frank Estes has posted a picture of the shirt on the Outlaw website, which displays the selected color, the Outlaw/Maverick/Roadrunner tri-logo and a view of both the men's as well as the lady's shirt! Right now, go to [www.vinhlongoutlaws.com](http://www.vinhlongoutlaws.com) - click on the "Reunion" bar on the left side of the page, click on the "Savannah Reunion 2012", then go to the bottom of that page and click on "Reunion Shirt Picture". (An Order Form is also available, for copying, on the bottom of that page.)

**Ultra-Marine  
Blue w/ White  
under arms.**



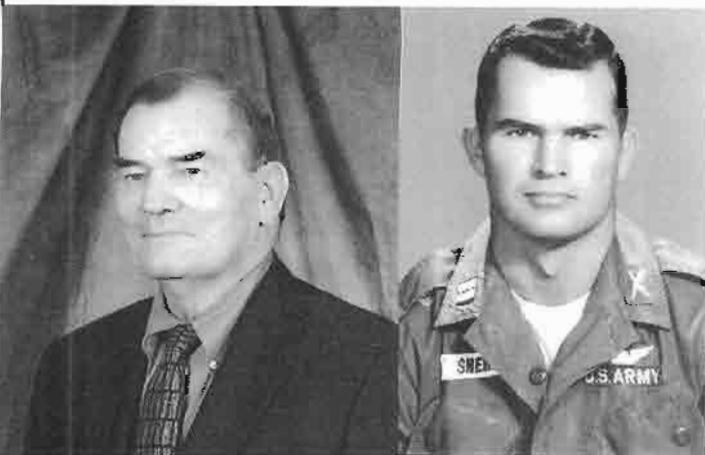
You'll see that the shirt is a very attractive royal blue color. Women's shirts have a "Johnny-collar" for a more feminine appearance. Both shirts have a white panel spliced into both sides and under the sleeves. Cost for most sizes is \$30. The Order Form, found in this Newsletter, shows the added cost for larger sizes. A copy of the shirt Order Form is included with this Newsletter

If you are attending the Reunion, fill out the information needed on the Order Form and mail it to Tom Anderson NLT August 10<sup>th</sup>. Your shirt(s) will be in your Welcome Bag at check-in. If you are not attending the Reunion, fill out the Order Form to include your mailing address. There is an additional \$5.00 cost for shipping.

All orders must be received no later than August 10 to allow time for the embroidery shop to complete the entire order. Take a look, NOW, at the VLOA web site picture of the shirts! They're beautiful!

## LAST FLIGHT OF TWO ORIGINAL OUTLAWS

By Al Iller



### DALE E. SHERROD

December 17, 1934—January 12, 2012

Dale Sherrod, an original Outlaw has left our ranks. Dale passed away after fighting a long and courageous battle with cancer and COPD. He was laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with accorded full military honors.

Dale is survived by his wife of fifty-two years, Dian; daughter Angela Sherrod Tipton and two granddaughters, Georgia 9 and Anna Beth 7; and his brother William Sherrod. He was predeceased by his parents, four brothers and three sisters.

He excelled in high school football earning an athletic scholarship to play football at Oklahoma University under Coach Bud Wilkerson. He entered the U.S. Army shortly after graduating from college and married his high school sweetheart, Dian.

During his retirement years, after serving twenty-three years, Dale and Dian enjoyed traveling together throughout the world. VLOA remembers Dale from the first Branson 2000 Reunion as stepping forward and volunteering to host, together with his wife Dian the second VLOA Reunion San Antonio 2002 that was such a great success.

The words of a close friend pay poignant tribute to Dale: "Dale was a man's man and certainly a fighter. He fought to improve himself as a young man, fought for his country, and for his health and life at the end of his life. He will be missed."

### HAROLD "JACK" EARWOOD, JR.

August 14, 1933—January 21, 2012

Jack Earwood, an original Outlaw was the second to leave our ranks in January 2012. Jack passed away after years of battling multiple medical problems, including heart disease. He was laid to rest with full military honors

in the Cheatham Hill Park Cemetery, Marietta, GA.

Jack is survived by his son, John and his wife Sherry, and two granddaughters, Allison Anne and Rachel Dean; daughters Kelly Lea and Crystal Anne, her husband William and a grandson Jack Henry and granddaughter Alice Edan. Jack's wife, Alice Dean preceded him in death in 1996.

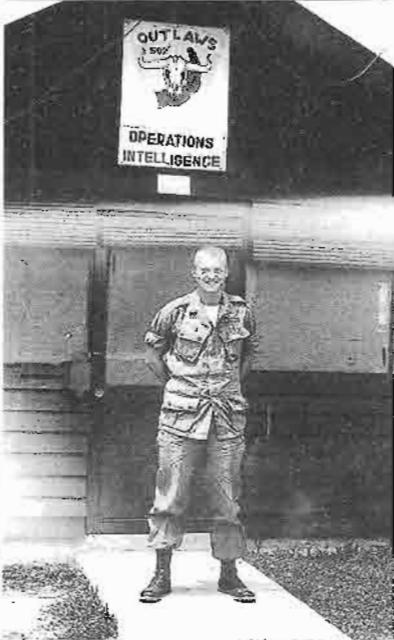
He served his country in the U.S. Army for twenty seven years and earned his Bachelor and Master's Degrees before retiring. After retirement,

Jack spent another twelve years in U.S. Civil Service. Jack was an avid motorcyclist and runner, participating in the Peachtree Road Race ten times, and a ham radio operator. When calling him by phone, you were apt to receive a Morse Coded message from his answering machine. He enjoyed animals; his favorite, Turk a cat.

Jack participate in the very first mini-union of Outlaws in 1998 in Branson, MO., attended by nine other Outlaws and their wives. This group formed the first steering committee for the organization and planning from Branson 2000. Jack met again with the same group and others in Pigeon Forge, TN in 1999 and there participated in the final planning and approval for Branson 2000. Unfortunately, due to medical problems, Jack was unable to attend any of the VLOA future reunions.

*For all the Outlaws who have passed  
before us, the final stanza and words of Taps:*

*"Thanks and praise,  
For our days,  
'Neath the stars,  
'Neath the sky,  
As we go,  
This we know  
God is nigh."*



## OUTLAW SAVANNAH ROUNDUP ATTENDEES

Well, our Outlaw Savannah Roundup 2012 is about 140 days away, and many Outlaws have already made their hotel reservations and submitted their registrations. Here is the listing of those who have reserved their rooms at the Hilton Desoto Savannah Hotel as of March 3, 2012.

David Amason  
 Tom & Pat Anderson  
 Tim & Mitzi Bisch  
 Charles & Coleen Bouton  
 Tony & Rose Ann Clemente  
 Scott Davis  
 Dick & Donna Donahue  
 Jim & Vickie Donnelly  
 John & Ruth Doyle  
 Kim Dunaway  
 Frank & Ann Estes  
 Jim & Pat Grandstaff  
 Gary & Linda Halase  
 Lois Hampton  
 Bill & Grace Ann Hensinger  
 Phil & Lynn Horne  
 Ernie & Linda Isbell  
 James Kelly  
 Jim & Sharon King  
 John & Fran Konopka  
 Bob & Laurie Koonce  
 Gloria Kramer  
 Mike & Joan Madigan  
 Paul Martin  
 Bob & Krista Michalic  
 Al & Nell Moist  
 Hallye Ray Moodt  
 Lyle Perry  
 Bob & Gloria Sharp  
 Robbie Taylor

Mary Thornton  
 Chester & Emmadell Voisin  
 Jerry & Charmaine Wade  
 Bob & Dixie Williams

Bob Koonce has been working very closely with The Reunion Brat to ensure that plenty of hotel rooms are available for everyone who wants to attend. He has increased the number of rooms twice now, and reports that a few rooms are still available. However, when they are gone, they are gone. Please refer to page 3 of this newsletter for more information on reserving your room and applicable room rates. Also, August 17, 2012 is the last day you can reserve a room at the stated rate. Finally, send your registration with payment to The Reunion Brat by August 6, 2012.

### ADVERTISEMENT

The VLOA is seeking a smart, energetic, volunteer with borderline (or better) literate computer skills to perform the duties of the *VLOA Outlaw Newsletter* Editor. If you are interested, please contact Bob Koonce at [potteryperson@q.com](mailto:potteryperson@q.com) or Frank Estes at [estesf@troycable.net](mailto:estesf@troycable.net).

If no volunteers come forward between now and Reunion time, we will put the names of all VLOA members, their spouses or significant-other, children, grand-children, and great-grand-children in the hat and draw out a name during our Reunion's Farewell Banquet. That person will be given the duties of Newsletter Editor.

Seriously, my last newsletter will be the July-September issue to be published in October 2012. Someone else needs to step up and perform this VLOA duty.

## VINH LONG AND THE OUTLAWS: A NEVER-ENDING STORY

By Tom Anderson

It is always fascinating how, after nearly half-a-century of being away from Vinh Long, away from the days of the original Outlaws, away from both the good and unpleasant experiences which we left behind so many years ago, that interesting anecdotes about those years continue to surface. I thought you might be interested in a recent occurrence that I have become involved with. .

Several months ago, Jim Grandstaff, who monitors our website Guestbook pages for items that need a response, sent me an email. Jim suggested I follow up on an entry from someone asking where he could get an Outlaw patch. Without paying attention to the email address source, I responded that, yes, I had several generic Outlaw patches and, if he was interested, they were \$5.00 each.

His answer came back to me quickly saying he was, rather, looking for an "original" 62d patch, one which would have been worn in Viet Nam. Then I noticed that he was writing me from Denmark! His name is Anders Strand-Holm and he is an avid collector of military memorabilia.

Thus began an interesting back-and-forth dialogue about the Outlaws. Turns out he had seen an Outlaw patch on eBay, bid on it, but didn't get it because the bidding closed before he could get his last bid recorded. Somehow he located our Outlaw website and inquired about a patch. And, thus began a continuing two-way dialogue that has become more interesting each week. Anders has set up an Outlaw memorabilia corner in his home and has a growing number of genuine items. I mailed him an Outlaw cap as well as a current patch, however, he continues to search eBay for original patches and other Outlaw memorabilia.

Anders is 55 years old, lives near Copenhagen and works in an Information Technology company. His father was a Danish-loyalist resistance fighter during WWII and, after the war, served as an officer in the post-war Danish Army. The father ultimately became a Deputy Commander in the National Defense Guard. Anders himself has served as an NCO in the Danish National Defense Guard in the 70's and 80's.

He has developed a growing fascination with our Outlaws organization. Last year, he and his wife made a trip to Thailand, Laos and a couple days in Viet Nam. Wanting to see more of Viet Nam, this year, 2011, they are making yet another trip to Viet Nam. On this trip, he has included a visit to Vinh Long and has indicated he will hire a taxi to take him to the old airfield, take some pictures and send them along to be shared with our fellow Outlaws.

A Google-earth search for Vinh Long airfield shows that the communists have completely razed the entire compound. The runway area is visible, as is the parking and maintenance ramp, but the maintenance hanger and all other facilities appear to be gone. Moreover, it appears that the nearby convent, the church, the young girls' dormitories, etc. etc. are also completely gone, with no evidence to be seen of any buildings on the ground.

Anders and I have traded several dozen emails over the past 3-4 months. I have told him about our upcoming Outlaw reunion in Savannah this September and, if it were not for his Viet Nam trip being at the same time, he probably would have asked to come to Savannah to join us, as a guest, at our reunion! When I mentioned that our 2014 reunion will commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Viet Nam service, he indicated that he and his wife would very much like to attend as guests and visit with the people of the Outlaws! He has even applied for Associate membership in the VLOA!

Who could have guessed that our little group, the Outlaws, would become an item of international fascination and interest to a Dane who was a very young boy at the time of our Viet Nam tour.

Yes, our Vinh Long tour continues to come back to us in so many ways. The best way, however, to keep alive the bonds we formed so many years ago, is through this great organization we call the Vinh Long Outlaws Association!

Hope to see you in Savannah !

## Directors Award Nominations

By Ernie Isbell

The Directors Award is presented at each meeting of the VLOA to recipients who have added greatly to the development and mission of the organization. For each bi-annual meeting the nomination process allows for VLOA members in good standing to submit nominations to the National Directors Award Committee.

I am serving as Chair of the committee and it is time for all VLOA members to give thought to the nomination process. The award is presented to the person or persons that have distinguished themselves by furthering the goals and objectives of the VLOA through their active service as an officer, or committee member or chair, or support staff, and through attendance at the National Meetings. The nominee must be in good standing with current dues or be a life member. Specific criteria includes:

- Active VLOA member;
- Reunion attendee;
- Active VLOA participant as a VLOA Official or volunteer;
- Contributions to VLOA such as articles/photos for newsletter publication;
- Contributions to growth of VLOA through recruitment of new members; and,
- Significant service with other service organizations.

I am asking that all nominations be emailed to me at [ernieandlinda2@yahoo.com](mailto:ernieandlinda2@yahoo.com) not later than 1 July 2012. There will not be a set format for the submittals and each nomination will be considered on its own merits. Supporting recommendations from other VLOA members are encouraged. The committee will consider all nominations and the selection will be announced at the Savannah meeting.

See you in September in Savannah—

## Proud to be a Vietnam Veteran

By Ernie & Linda Isbell

All of us who are part of the Vinh Long Outlaws Association are veterans of Viet Nam. Not only those who wore the uniform but the wives and children are just as much veterans of the Viet Nam War. I, like you, am proud of my service to our nation but I am even more proud of my wife and children for the service they gave to me, the Army, and our nation.

Families were not “in harm’s way” in the same sense as the soldier serving in Viet Nam but they suffered in their own way because of being separated from their loved ones. Linda told me of the day she was looking out the window of our home in San Diego when she saw an unmistakable Army staff car turn onto our street while moving slowly and obviously looking for an address. Her heart stood still until the car drove by and she realized they weren’t looking for her.

During my third tour our son had a map of Viet Nam mounted on the wall of his bedroom and he followed the evening news to learn of the fighting in and around my location. Both he and his sister suffered the stresses of hearing the daily reminders of the killed and wounded in Viet Nam. My mother had my step dad and all four of her sons on active duty at the same time during Viet Nam. Because of the strong family support on the “home front” all of us in uniform benefited as we went about our daily duty.

Now days the communication system beats the devil out of “snail mail” and the ham radio assisted phone calls that were our lifelines during Viet Nam. We sent tape recordings back and forth and I used them to tell stories to my children so they could hear my voice. Linda says that the mangled versions of fairy tales that I sent them were hilarious for her to listen to, but they entertained the kids.

Yes, I’m proud to be a Viet Nam Veteran. But as you can tell I feel strongly that our family members are also Veterans of Viet Nam.

I hope that all who read this will join together in Savannah so we can share our values and some time together. This marks the 48<sup>th</sup> year since we all became --- Viet Nam Veterans.

See you in September,

Ernie and Linda Isbell

## Veterans' Administration Burial Benefits

### For Burial in a National Cemetery

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our 131 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains. Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran. Requests for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery cannot be made via the Internet. The VA does not make funeral arrangements or perform cremations. Families should make these arrangements with a funeral provider or cremation office. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation office will be at the family's expense.

### Preparing in Advance

Gravesites in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance. You should advise your family of your wishes and where your discharge papers are kept. These papers are very important in establishing your eligibility. You may wish to make pre-need arrangements with a funeral home. At the time of need your family would contact a funeral home who will assist them with making burial arrangements at the national cemetery. To schedule a burial: Fax all discharge documentation to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-866-900-6417 and follow-up with a phone call to 1-800-535-1117.

### Donating Burial Flags in National Cemeteries

Most of the Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries display an Avenue of Flags on patriotic holidays and during special events. The Avenues consist of burial flags donated by the families of deceased Veterans and provide a unique visible tribute to all of our Nation's Veterans. A Certificate of Appreciation is presented to the donor for providing their loved ones' burial flag to a national cemetery. Please contact the cemetery of your choice for information on how to donate a veteran's burial flag.

### For Burial in a Private Cemetery

Burial benefits available for Veterans buried in a private cemetery include a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. There are not any benefits available to spouses and dependents buried in a private cemetery.

### Burial Allowances

VA Burial Allowances are partial reimbursements of an eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not service related, the reimbursements are generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot or interment allowance. Certain eligibility requirements must be met (Visit: <http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf>). Generally, the benefits are: Service Related—up to \$2000 toward burial expenses for deaths after 10-1-2011 or up to \$1500 for deaths before 9-31-2011; Non-Service Related— For deaths on or after October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses (if hospitalized by VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by VA at time of death), and a \$700.00 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). For deaths on or after December 1, 2001, but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance. The plot interment allowance is \$150 for deaths prior to December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the Veteran was in a VA hospital or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the Veteran's remains may be reimbursed. An annual increase in burial and plot allowances, for deaths occurring after October 1, 2011, begins in fiscal year 2013 based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.

For more explicit and detailed information and before acting on the above information, please visit: <http://www.va.gov> and <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>.