



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

## Vinh Long Outlaws Winter Newsletter

October-December.

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

4th. Quarter 2016

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VLOA -2018  
Reunion  
Charleston, SC!!

## National Director's Corner

By- **James Donnelly**

Hello to all from Blizzard land. This is unexpected because we normally have 1-3 inches a year max here in Virginia Beach and it melts a few days later. Well this foot of snow will be around for a while. But I am sure you people up north are saying just another Tuesday, right!

Well I have been keeping active with the history project, scanning 430 slides since the last newsletter. I am also distributing the Outlaw coins we had made to the more than one-hundred people that placed preorders I am also looking forward to taking the reunion planning to the next level.

On a sad note, Vickie and I attended the internment ceremony of Pat Anderson at Arlington National Cemetery as friends of Tom Anderson and as representatives of the VLOA. Those of you who had the chance to meet Pat know what a special lady she was and how much she will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tom and his family in the long process of grieving.

Well as I said before it's cold here and so our thoughts turn to our annual Cancun, Mexico vacation we take every winter to escape the cold for two weeks. Of course we eat and drink too much because you have to, at an all inclusive resort. We do the usual touristy things, swim with the dolphins and stingrays, zip-line and snorkel. I'll have my computer with me but coin shipments and other "in person" activities will be on hold for a few weeks.

Hope you all have had a great New Year so far and wish the rest of it to be magical. Stay safe and well.

Jim Donnelly  
National Director.





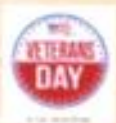
**On this special day we would like to remember all our fellow veterans and thank you for your service.**

On behalf of the VLOA Outlaws Silent Auction Committee, Fran & I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our "Outlaw" members who participated in this year's Silent Auction in Branson. Your donations and purchases certainly made this year's auction a great success. We had a great selection of items up for bid and sold 99% of them.

It was a pleasure meeting new members and visiting with old friends.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next VLOA Roundup in 2018

**Silent Auction Coordinators: Fran & Jack Konopka**



## Outlaw Challenge Coins now For Sale

We have 50 Bronze coins for sale and I anticipate they will sell quickly based on the interest shown for them in Branson. The proof art work is below. Please contact me at [vinhlongoutlaw18@gmail.com](mailto:vinhlongoutlaw18@gmail.com) to reserve yours now. The cost is fifteen dollars each shipped to your door. You can mail your check made out to the VLOA to me at 2413 General Longstreet Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454-2611 Thanks, Jim Donnelly.



### Looking for new team to take over the Silent Auction!

After doing a magnificent job running the Silent Auction, Jack and Fran Konopka have asked to be relieved. This means that for the 2018 reunion we need someone to step up and take over the Silent Auction duties. If you would consider coordinating this event please contact me. The Silent Auction is one of the VLOA's top moneymakers and supports the production and distribution of our quarterly newsletter. It is an essential part of the reunion and is anticipated and enjoyed by all who attend.

Our thanks to Jack and Fran for the years of devoted service to the VLOA Silent Auction.

Jim Donnelly, [vinhlongoutlaw18@gmail.com](mailto:vinhlongoutlaw18@gmail.com)

## ***DUES ARE DUE!***

By Frank Estes, Treasurer

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

Life Members and Associate Life Members make a one-time donation to the VLOA and receive a Life Member or Associate Life Member card. No further dues payments are required from these members.

Honorary members are not required to pay annual dues but may make an annual \$25 donation, and receive an Honorary Membership card.

All former members of the Outlaws and its sub-organizations and affiliates currently listed on our roster with active addresses will receive our ***Outlaws Newsletter*** each quarter.

Those paying annual /life membership dues and those who attend our biennial roundups are providing the financial foundation that supports our website and ***Outlaws Newsletter***. If you are not paying dues, why not begin this month, and help the rest of us keep the Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA) financially sound.

The back page of this newsletter has a membership request form. Why not use it today, and help keep our VLOA treasury strong.

## **New Veterans Benefit** **(But, Don't Hold Your Breath)**

A recent news item might be of interest, and value, to some of us in the near future. A newly enacted DOD policy change will allow over 16 million honorably discharged veterans to shop military PXs on line. The program is scheduled to begin on Veteran's Day, 2017.

The news release indicated that the change to policy is designed to reward veterans for their service with PX product savings that can average up to a 20% savings over commercial department store prices. Additionally, the change is designed to increase PX revenues to offset declines caused by the draw down of military active duty forces as well as base closures. The change will not include military commissaries.

Don't get too excited yet, however. Veterans of our era, i.e. those of us who served prior to 1981 are not currently included in the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) records. DMDC is currently creating software to verify the status of, and incorporate of veterans of, our era into the database using VA records.

We all know how slow the wheels of government turn, so the purpose of this notice is merely to make all Outlaws aware of the changes coming.

More information will be available in this Newsletter as the change-date gets closer.

## A Troopship! What is THAT?

When we all deployed to Viet Nam, regardless of when we arrived, and ultimately to serve in the Outlaws, we all went by air. Travis AFB in California was one of primary departure points. Some of us travelled by USAF transport planes, some by commercial contract jets. Regardless of when we departed CONUS, we were in Viet Nam in only a couple days.

In World War II, and still later in the Korean war, soldiers went to war on troop ships. Today, troop ships are an antiquated, and impossible, way to move men to a war zone. There are no more, nor will there ever be, another “troop ship.”

I thought it might be an interesting contradiction to look at how rapidly the Army was able to get **us** to Viet Nam, as opposed to how slowly troops went to war only a few years earlier. And I was one of them.

I got my Army Aviator wings at Fort Sill, OK in April 1954 and was immediately assigned to Korea. Although the Korean War was essentially over by that time, it was still classified as a combat zone. However, how I actually traveled to Korea had not changed much since before WWII. Along with about 15 of my flight school classmates (Class 54) I went to a war zone on a troopship!

We boarded the troopship USMS Marine Adder in Seattle in June 1954. What a change of life-style for about 2400 mostly ground-pounder Army soldiers. The Marine Adder headed west into the Pacific, 6,600 miles to Korea!, For the next 21 days, we were treated to heavy seas, calm waters, cramped quarters, seasickness, powdered milk, powdered egg breakfasts, and hours and hours -, followed by days and days, of

boredom.

Ship accommodations were sparse, however, as a shave-tail lieutenant, I did fare slightly better than the hundreds of troops below. But not much. Bunks were stacked four-high, down both sides of the passenger bay. Second and third bunks in the stacks were the most desirable and were the first to go when boarding started. Every man on board had his entire belongings stuffed in a duffel bag, which was stored, under cover, on the deck.

The trip to Korea normally took about 16 days! However, after 17 days, the Marine Adder put into port in Okinawa. The reason for the stop-over was far above the pay grade of any of us. After spending a night on Okinawa, and four days later, we sighted the Korean shoreline. It turned out we were disembarking in Pusan!

Four years earlier, North Korean forces had pushed UN forces into a disastrous retreat deep into the Pusan Perimeter which resulted in the North Koreans surrounding and cutting off US units, forcing a disarrayed retreat, and leaving behind much equipment. History reminds us that General Douglas MacArthur orchestrated the historic landings, far north, in Inchon later in June, 1950. The North Koreans were strategically out-flanked resulting in the battles to retake South Korea. The historical significance of the Pusan perimeter was not lost on any of us who arrived that day to begin our tour of duty in Korea.. Disembarking from the troopship Marine Adder, after 21 days at sea, was an overwhelming relief. After that, I actually looked forward to the Korea tour. But, that’s another story.

The only purpose of this narrative is to mark the military transition from troopships to aircraft to get US troops to war. I was a part of that transition, which is now only a memory. The “troop ship” is forever gone and found only in the pages of history.



## 2018 Outlaw Reunion Location Chosen

The voting was much lighter than I expected but Charleston, South Carolina won by more than double the votes of the next leading location. Charleston is a historical city with genuine southern charm. The steering committee will be exploring accommodations and attractions in the upcoming year to insure the reunion meets the high standards set by past reunions. Vickie and I will be traveling to Charleston to personally check out hotels and entertainment opportunities in conjunction with whatever reunion coordinator is chosen. Future issues of the newsletter will provide details as they become available. Hope to see you all there in September 13 - 17, 2018. Jim Donnelly

From the editor: Hello to all you Outlaw's and your spouses!

First of all I would like to say that Gloria and I hope you had a very Merry and Joyous Christmas and wish for you all a Happy-Healthy New Year. Now that 2016 is history we can look back and see that it had a lot of good memories but also had a lot of heart aches for some. We need to be thankful for all we have, our families, friends, former comrades, fellow members of our churches and military organizations. And also, be thankful for the days we are allowed to stay on this earth and be able to contribute and enjoy each other. Always looking forward to another great day and thank you for letting me serve you all. Bob, Gloria, and our mule "Sassy".



# The Back Pew

By:



An unexpected Guest.



## IF JESUS CAME TODAY

If Jesus came to your home to spend a day or two  
 If He came in unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do?  
 I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured, Guest  
 And all the food you'd serve Him, would be the very best  
 And you'd keep on reassuring Him, you're glad to have Him there  
 That serving Him in your home is joy beyond compare

But when you saw Him coming, would you answer His first ring  
 With arms outstretched in welcome for Him who is your King?  
 Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about  
 To hide your worldly habits; put some "religion" out?  
 Yes, I wonder if the Saviour, spent a day or two with you,  
 Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would your family conversation keep its usual pace  
 Would you find it hard at every meal to say a simple grace?  
 Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read  
 And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?  
 Would you take Jesus with you where ever you planned to go,  
 Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends;  
 Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?  
 Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on,  
 Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?  
 It might be interesting to know the things you'd do,  
 If Jesus came in person to spend some time with you.

-----Author Unknown-----



## 50th Year Anniversary of Easter Sunday 1967

Announcing a reunion gathering for anyone that was part of the Battle of Easter Sunday, March 26, 1967, Vinh Long, RVN. The reunion event will be held in Mineral Wells, Texas at the old Fort Wolters Army Base beginning Thursday, March 23, 2017 through Sunday March 26, 2017. All members of the Outlaws, Mavericks, 82nd Dust Off and all MACV advisory team members involved in or supporting the Easter Sunday battle are invited.

The invitation to the reunion includes your wife, parents, family members and friends. This is an opportunity to reconnect with crew members and friends after fifty short years. This is the chance to tell stories and share memories of a very memorable day in our lives

The City of Mineral Wells has offered an activity center building as a reunion facility located on the old Fort Wolters Base. Chuck Carlock has generously donated his UH-1D and UH-1C "Huey" helicopters that will be on display outside the activity center building exactly as you flew on them in 1967. Chuck Carlock is also providing a lot of Vietnam memorabilia to be displayed inside the activity center - all from his private collection. Bring your own memorabilia to add to the display. (Note: If you sent your favorite M60 home; you probably shouldn't bring it.)

Please help us to contact all members of the Outlaws and Mavericks, 82nd Dust Off and MACV advisory team that were there on March 26, 1967. We will be circulating known phone numbers and addresses. We are missing many contacts so your help is needed to help us spread the word of the reunion.

### Schedule of Events \*

**March 23, 2017, Thursday:** Location - 735 Hood Street, Fort Wolters - 10:00 am until 10:00 pm. Check into your hotel. Open date with nothing scheduled. Meet old friends and tell stories. Beer and soft drinks with snacks all day at the 735 Hood Street location.

**March 24, 2017, Friday:** Location - 735 Hood Street, Fort Wolters - 10:00 am until 10:00 pm. Meet old friends and tell stories. Beer and soft drinks with snacks all day. Golf Scramble Tournament to start 9:00 am. Tour the Mineral Wells Vietnam Museum. Day trip to Dempsey AAF is on the table.....working on permission to tour the facility.

3:30 - 5:00 pm - Terry McDowell will have a slide show of Vinh Long from 1966 - 1967, followed by a slide show of Vietnam when Ron Cone, Fred Stetson, Rex Latham, Reg Farrington and others returned to Vinh Long on March 26, 2007.



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## 50th Year Anniversary of Easter Sunday 1967

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5:45 pm - 7:00 pm - Catered BBQ Dinner by The Mesquite Pit Restaurant. Your meal will consist of 3 meats, 3 sides, banana pudding, tea and coffee.

7:10 pm - 10:00 pm - Ron Petty will be the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Ron Petty's slide show, stories, laughter, singing and poetry - **(some songs are Vietnam colorful)**. Send Ron your pictures and slides. Open microphone for everyone's stories.

**March 25, 2017, Saturday:** Location - 735 Hood Street, Fort Wolters - 10:00 am until ? Meet old friends and tell stories. Beer and soft drinks with snacks all day. Tour the Mineral Wells Vietnam Museum. Check out local attractions..

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm - Catered Steak Dinner by The Mesquite Pit restaurant. Steak, baked potato, salad, peach cobbler, tea and coffee.

7:00 - ? pm - Ron Petty will be the Master of Ceremonies for the evening program. A program dedicated to the events surrounding The Battle of Easter Sunday, March 26, 1967; honoring the men and their heroic effort to rescue three downed helicopter crews.

**March 26, 2017, Sunday:** 8:00 am - Location - 735 Hood Street, Fort Wolters - 8:00 am - Coffee and donuts.

\* Schedule of events are in the planning stages, but firming. We will try to keep everyone apprised of daily events as they develop.

The catered BBQ dinner on March 24<sup>th</sup> and banquet dinner on March 25<sup>th</sup> will cost \$ 75.00 per person for both meals. Included in the \$ 75.00 cost are expenses related to overnight security of the helicopters, banners, snacks and soft drinks, ice, table decorations, final cleaning of the event facility, and misc. items. Please send your payment for both evening meals to Jim Martinson at 13810 Bluff Circle, San Antonio, Texas 78216. Jon Myhre is putting together in book form your written account of the events Easter Sunday. Please send your personal account and/or applicable photos of that day to Jon Myhre before January 1, 2017. Jon's contact information: Cell: 772-589-0666 ~

Email: [jfmyhre@aol.com](mailto:jfmyhre@aol.com).

Ron Petty is preparing a slide show of your experience in Vietnam and would like everyone to send photos of yourself during the 1966-67 timeframe, plus a current photo. His contact information: ( If it is a bad photo we will try to airbrush improvements.)

Cell: 928-830-3338 ~ Email: [rpetty@norma-usa.com](mailto:rpetty@norma-usa.com)

Cont from pg 9 **50th Year Anniversary of Easter Sunday 1967**

Page 3.

**Hotels near Fort Wolters: For Reservations - Notify the reservationist that your with the Outlaw and Maverick reunion. Make reservations early!**

Holiday Inn Express & Suites: Phone (940) 325-7829 ~ FAX (940) 325-2309 \* \*

Days Inn & Suites: Phone (940) 468-2727 ~ Fax (940) 468-2728 \* \*

Best Western Inn & Suites: Phone (940) 325-2270 ~ Fax (940) 325-1088

Comfort Suites: Phone (940) 327-0077~ Fax (940) 327-0078

Executive Suites: Phone 940-328-1111 ~ Fax (940) 328-6062

\* \* Hotels located at the entrance to Ft. Wolters.

**For questions and suggestions and event planning contact:**

Dwayne (Willie) Williams - Cell: (817) 229-6992 ~ Email [helicrafder@cox.net](mailto:helicrafder@cox.net)

Ron Petty - Cell: (928) 830-3338 ~ Email: [rpetty@norma-usa.com](mailto:rpetty@norma-usa.com)

Jon Myhre - Cell: (772) 589- 0666 ~ Email: [jfmyhre@aol.com](mailto:jfmyhre@aol.com)

Terry McDowell - Cell: (423) 240-3575 ~ Email: [juniperccw@hotmail.com](mailto:juniperccw@hotmail.com)

Jim Martinson - Cell: (210) 422-0035 ~ Email: [jamesmartinson@rocketmail.com](mailto:jamesmartinson@rocketmail.com)

Donnie Hoover - Parks and Recreation Superintendent - (940) 328-7805 ~ Donnie can answer any questions you might have regarding the facility at Fort Wolters. Donnie has been very helpful planning this event. We are grateful for his support and dedication to helping us make our reunion success.

We sincerely hope everyone will plan on attending this reunion since we have some neat events planned and a great opportunity to see old friends.

**This Ain't No Sh-t!**

**" We Gotta Get Out Of This Place"**



TET-31 January 1968 175th AHC Project Last Update 8 MAY 2015



## “ The Battle for Vinh Long”

30 January 1968

Knights Over The Delta book : The Tet Offensive actually started in the mid-morning on Tuesday 30 January 1968, a good 15 hours prematurely , when a Red Knight slick pilot Capt Dick Davis Red Knight Lead returning from Ca Mau spotted a fleet of sampans , hundreds of them, out in the no-fire zone. A pilot in a 0-1 Birddog , call sign "Shotgun" confirmed the sighting and General William Westmoreland cancelled the cease-fire truce at 0945.

January 1968

Anthony Law MAVERICK ARMAMENT & Maverick Door gunner: Weeks before Tet I had flown several night missions. While on these missions we observed convoys of small trucks with wooden pens on the back of them hauling pigs. Under the beds were staches of arms, ammuniton and supplies being brought into the area in preparation for Tet. These supplies were being stored in tombs and churches in the area which were off limits to military operations.

Al Zanetti DGM39: Charles Yeoman and I were at the Orphanage in the afternoon helping the nuns and playing with the kids. No evidence of anything suspicious .

Vinh Long Airfield was expanding in size. There was a dredging machine on the river that was pumping sand and water into the compound through a large pipe, maybe 3 feet in diameter. The VC somehow entered the pipe and made their way into the airfield and the battle started on the west end of the airstrip .

Capt James Williams Jr. Cobra pilot: "Shotgun" birddog pilot had radioed TOC (Tactical Operations Center) he had spotted a VC Battalion in sampans south of the airfield. They were in the open near the infamous "Y" . Somehow Capt Dick Koenig 175th Maverick Lead and I had obtained permission from higher up to take-off with our 2 UH-1C light fire teams and investigate. The KBA that day ran into the hundreds.

At 03:10 a firefight broke out between the VC and the Night Crew at the 175th and 199th RAC revetments at the west end of the runway. SP4 Thomas Wulff was seriously WIA.

31 JANUARY 1968, at 3:AM "THE BATTLE FOR THE AIRFIELD"

Cobra crews were sleeping in the Hero Hooch, 81mm mortars started coming in, the 3rd mortar hit the Hero Hooch, the crews had already been outside starting their helicopters. Cobra co-pilot WO WILLIAM BRAD DUNCAN was shot in the temple before his ship left the run-way. The gunship continued flying and took WO Duncan to Dong Tam.

cont from pg.11 WO David Savage AC Maverick 31: The "Flare Ship" was on the ground taking a break. Maverick pilots WO Sheehan and WO Mercer were on the north side of the river waiting for us to refuel. We just got refueled and the mortars started to hit. Took off to the east and made a right turn to the south. The 114th guys were coming out of the "Hero Hooch" and it blew up. Three mortar tubes were flashing just south of the fence. We pumped rockets, mini-gun and door guns into them. Joined up with WO SHEEHAN, then he got shot. I remember all the fire coming up from the slick ramp. My crew included WO1 Mike Baker, CE Mario Reza (I think) & DG Bob Elson.

SSG Arthur LaBelle, 150th Maint: What I remember is being awakened in the middle of the night with gunfire and explosions and being told we were under ground attack. I got my M-14 and headed for the flight line, there was burning aircraft, the hanger was on fire, or I thought it was, but it was a burning Huey in front of the hanger. I made it to the revetments and found some other guys there where our aircraft were and got into a short fire fight with some Sappers trying to blow up our ships. By then it was pretty much over, so we started to police up the wounded and gather the dead, and spent a nervous rest of the night.

SP5 Terry Smith 150th Trans: The ARVNs were shooting off fireworks when we went to bed. Then about 3:AM mortars started coming in. I ran to the bunker then I picked up my rifle and ran to the flight line. About 100 feet from me I saw Ken Hotchkiss being shot and dropping to the ground .

LTC BERNARD D THOMPSON and platoon Sergeant SSG VERNON L NEWTON drove a jeep out to the firefight and both were killed by small arms fire.

WO1 Roland Ferland AC Outlaw 22: So this was the night the mortars started pounding. Out of bed and into a bunker that was next to the hooch thinking in thirty minutes I would be back in my bunk. But this time the mortars didn't stop and they were walking them from the helicopter ramp and runway and into the compound. I think this went on for several hours and around 3:AM the mortars stopped. There was gun fire coming from the ramp area and a lot of commotion in the compound and someone shouted we were under attack. I went back to the hooch to get my steel pot and 45 pistol. It seemed everyone was in a panic, like me, scattering with no leadership or direction. I decided to make my way in the dark to the Operations building to find out what was going on. Outlaw 2nd platoon hooch's were on the perimeter of the compound next to the runway with the generator and water tank between the hooch and operations. With the intense firefight on the ramp not far from where I was and knowing the only weapon I had was useless, I decided to hunker down by the water tank until daylight. When I got to Operations the news was not good. Airfield commander KIA, XO KIA, several crew members KIA. I don't remember what happened the rest of that day. When it was safe I went out to the ramp to survey the damage. It was really bad. There were VC bodies around the helicopter revetments, some looked like they were only 13 or younger killed in the battle. Most of the helicopters had major damage. After being up all night I think I was told to get some rest in case we had some flyable helicopters.

Cont from pg.12

Anthony Law: Once the mortar fire had ended I headed to the flight line to help with the rearming and refueling of our aircraft, however once I was on the flight line I saw my armament shop had been hit and was engulfed in flames. One end of the armament shop was housed to the "Hero Hooch". Once I arrived at the armament shop I unlocked the door in an attempt to go inside to salvage any parts I could, however when I opened the door flames engulfed everything and I was unable to go inside. By this time the VC had infiltrated the base and had set up in our bunkers and began to approach the main compound. Many of the troops that were on perimeter guard that night had been injured or killed and the VC occupied their bunkers. Eventually some of the troops were assembled and engaged the enemy, slowing their progress onto the compound. I believed we received more than 350 mortar rounds before it was over.

Roger "Andy" Anderson CE Maverick 32: My crew AC Fred Gemienhardt, DG CHARLES YOEMANS and Co-pilot were refueling and rearming on the east side of the airstrip when a mortar hit close by. YOEMANS took a mortar fragment in the arm. We helped him out of the helicopter and sat him down. We didn't realize that the fragment had also passed into his stomach and he soon died there next to the helicopter. Door gunner Jim Asher then took Yoemans place as door gunner and we continued fighting the VC.

At some point in the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Regiment ARVN Cavalry was ordered to assist in the defense of Vinh Long Airfield while Headquarters 2nd ARVN Cav. troops were to provide security for the south western portion of Vinh Long City perimeter. After clearing out the outer perimeter of the Airfield the 3rd Squadron was ordered back to Vinh Long City where it cleared the route from the Airfield to the Tactical Operations Center, in the middle of the town. When the Cavalry started to clear Vinh Long City's main street heavy automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire from the buildings stalled the mounted attack. Finally the 3rd Squadron linked up with a Company of the 43rd Ranger Battalion of the South Vietnamese Army, but in the face of intense fire the Rangers retreated, leaving the 3rd Squadron to continue the assault on its own. A Regional Force Company was sent to fight with the Squadron but it too refused to advance. After a direct order by the Cavalry Commander the Regional Force Company reluctantly followed the Cavalry but the attack bogged down. As evening came the Company departed and the 3rd Squadron pulled back to protect secured areas of the city. SFC RONNIE RAY ROUSH Advisor for the 2nd ARVN Armored Cavalry was KIA by small arms fire.

SP5 Terry Smith: The next morning after the ground attack, we walked around taking pictures of damaged helicopters and other damage. We opened up the body bags to identify American GI's. Some of us went out to the end of the runway. I found my houseboy dead, age 14. The tower was shot full of holes.

1 February 1968

Early in the morning the squadron again attempted to clear the main street, still without Infantry support. The fighting see-sawed back and forth all day through the rubble but little

Cont on pg.14

Cont from pg. 13 progress was made. Every move toward the main street had to be fought from house to house. Even when the squadron was reinforced by fighting elements of the 2nd Regimental Head- quarters, the most that could be achieved was security of the Tactical Operations center and the Provincial Administrative Center, and even that was a constant battle.

During the night South Vietnamese soldiers from the 3rd Battalion 15th Regiment 9th ARVN Infantry arrived by boat to Vinh Long City .

WO1 Roland Ferland: It was February 1st or 2nd I can't remember, when we loaded a Huey with parachute flares to the max from the floor to the cabin roof. It wasn't my Outlaw 22, it had major tail boom damage, may have been 27 that I flew that night. We took off a little after dark and orbited Vinh Long airfield for two hours and thirty minutes dropping flares for continuous illumination. The twenty minute fuel light was on for about ten minutes when we landed. Also on the 1st or 2nd I remember we had a combat air assault from Can Tho (I guess) to reinforce the airfield.

Richard Newell Cocheo, a civilian working for P A & E ,living in Vinh Long city was taken P O W when the Viet Cong surrounded his house and told him to surrender. . Instead Mr. Cocheo fired on the VC, and during the firefight Mr. Cocheo's wife was killed. Mr. Cocheo then surrendered and was taken away

2 February 1968

In the morning the ARVN 3rd Squadron 2nd Cavalry and the Infantry began clearing the main street.

WO1 Roland Ferland: February 2nd or 3rd or 4th or sometime around there when the Airfield was safe a C-123 landed to pick up crew members and we flew up to Nha Trang to pick up 2 or 3 or ? helicopters and fly them back to Vinh Long to replace our lost helicopters. That was a good mission, I got out of the "fight" for a little rest and got to fly a smell good, clean, new helicopter back to Vinh Long.

3 February 1968

There was heavy fighting. With US helicopter Gunship support

4 February 1968

After 5 days of frustration the combined forces charged the Viet Cong positions and broke through. The Cavalry troopers and a Ranger company quickly cleared the western section of the city and the remaining Viet Cong fled.

? February 1968 WO1 Roland Ferland: When I got back from Nha Trang 2 or 3 days ? things got busy as more helicopters were flyable. I thought at the time it was a tremendous effort the maintenance crews were doing to get these helicopters flying. They worked around the clock for awhile. They fixed my old Outlaw 22, VENI VIDI VECE, and we flew for a few more months until I rotated out in May.

Cont. from pg.14

WO1 Roland Ferland: One other memory of Tet... After the battle the dead VC were loaded into one of those big military dump trucks we had on the base and parked at the perimeter at the end of the runway. It was left there for I don't know how long. I remember flying over that quite a few times on my way to the parking revetment...sad for us also with nine KIA.

An estimated 2 VC Battalions attacked Vinh Long Airfield. 9 ( or 11) Americans were KIA, 27 Americans WIA, 45 Enemy KIA, 8 Enemy captured and 4 U S Helicopters destroyed.

Civilian RICHARD NEWELL COCHEO and several South Vietnamese civilians were seen as captives being held in the village of Tan Gia, Vinh Long Province. On 10 June 1973 a report stated that a Vietnamese employee talked with a monk in Tan My village, Tra On District, and alleged that he had seen a prisoner he identified as Mr. Cocheo who was taken to Vinh Xuan village, Tra On District. The disposition of Mr. Cocheo from that point on was unknown.

Our WIA's and KIA's:

WO WILLIAM BRADLEY DUNCAN (114th) KIA 31 January 1968

SP/4 Kenneth H Erickson (199th RAC) WIA 31 January 1968

SP/4 FRED K HATADA , (199th RAC) KIA 31 January 1968

PFC KENNETH EUGENE HOTCHKISS, (175th) KIA 31 January 1968

CWO John W Mercer (175th) , WIA, died in a helicopter accident in the USA November 1969

SP/4THOMAS W MOORE (150th) KIA 31 January 1968 Buried in Maryland, US.

SSG VERNON LEE NEWTON (175th) KIA 31 January 1968

SGT DONALD LAMAR SMITH (150th) KIA 31 January 1968

LTC BERNARD DAVID THOMPSON JR (346th Avn Det) KIA 31 January 1968 Buried Golden Gate Nat. Cemetery.

MAJ JAMES MATTHEW VRBA (175th) KIA 31 January 1968 , Buried Mineral Wells TX.

SP4 Thomas Wulff (150th) WIA 31 January 1968

PFC CHARLES AGUSTUS YEOMANS (175th) KIA 31 January 1968

The End.



## 4th. Qtr. - 2016- VLOA Treasurers Report by Chester Voisin



<b>Vinh Long Outlaws Association - (VLOA)</b>		
		<b>Balance</b>
		<b>\$</b>
<b>Cash Balance - 01/01/2016</b>		<b>30,951.59</b>
	<b>12 Months</b>	
	<b>12/31/2016</b>	
<b>Revenues:</b>	<b>\$</b>	
Dues - Annual	525.00	
Dues - Lifetime	3,200.00	
Dues - Associates Lifetime	200.00	
Sale of Reunion Shirts	2,932.00	
Silent Auction Receipts	3,919.25	
Sale of 50/50 Drawing Tickets	2,450.00	
Rebate - Branson Gatherings	525.00	
Miscellaneous (Donations)	1,045.25	
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>14,796.50</b>	<b>14,796.50</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Newsletter Costs	2,301.74	
Inventory purchases & costs	-	
2016 Reunion expenses	6,900.22	
50/50 Prizes	1,228.00	
Administration	343.03	
Miscellaneous	-	
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>10,772.99</b>	<b>10,772.99</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss) - 12 months 2016</b>	<b>4,023.51</b>	<b>4,023.51</b>
<b>Cash Balance - 12/31/2016</b>		<b>34,975.10</b>



Cont from pg.16.

<b>Annual Dues (AD): - 2016</b>		<b>Life Time Memberships (LTM): - 2016</b>	
John E. Doyle	25.00	Harold J. Dress	100.00
Dale A. Roland	25.00	John C. Irwin	100.00
Harold E. Feathers	25.00	Edmund W. Hubbard	100.00
Donald S. Palmer	25.00	William J. Meehan	100.00
Frederick W. Jacobs	25.00	Frederick C. Schattauer, Jr.	100.00
Jon Elsea	25.00	Verdis D. Sharp	100.00
William A. Gregoricus	25.00	Gary D. Williams	100.00
Richard M. Dyer	25.00	Lyle E. Perry	100.00
Norris T. Marshall	25.00	Friedrich K. Rosenberger	100.00
Randall P. Smith	25.00	William E. Sharpe	100.00
Joseph J. O'Neill	25.00	Joseph F. Torre	100.00
Ivan W. White, Jr.	25.00	Robert W. Stephens	100.00
John W. Hughes	25.00	Robert L. Fleming	100.00
Michael Colaneri	25.00	Eric Ragsdale	100.00
Robert C. O'Brien	25.00	Douglas G. Wilson	100.00
Richard J. Lecinski	25.00	Daniel M. Hudgins	100.00
Raymond S. Pyrcz	25.00	Richard D. Waldo	100.00
Donald R. Hawk	25.00	Robert Allen	100.00
Ray J. Ferguson	25.00	Dennis L. Hiemstra	100.00
Harry A. Baumann	25.00	Alfred J. Brown	100.00
Robert W. Tidd	25.00	John R. Clausen	100.00
		Allen J. Theriot	100.00
		William R. Coleman	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>525.00</b>	Richard D. Meana	100.00

Cont. on pg.18



## OBITUARIES



**Steven K. Smith**

**December 27, 2016**

SMITH Steven K. of Tampa, FL., formerly of West Roxbury, December 27, 2016. Vietnam Army Veteran. Beloved son of the late Hilbert L. (Ret. Captain BFD) and Mary (Quinn) Smith. Devoted brother of Paul R. Smith of Roslindale, Ellen J. Nichols of West Roxbury, William C. Smith of West Bridgewater, Christine M. Smith of West Roxbury, Martha A. Heim of West Roxbury, and the late Eric F. Smith and Peter G. Smith. Loving friend of Frances Elliott of Clearwater, FL. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Retired Mail Carrier, US Postal Service.

Funeral from the P.E. Murray - F.J. Higgins, George F. Doherty & Sons Funeral Home 2000 Centre St. WEST ROXBURY Tues. Jan. 3rd at 9AM. Followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Theresa of Avila Church, West Roxbury at 10AM. Relatives & Friends kindly invited. Visiting hours Mon. Jan. 2nd from 4-8pm. Interment Mass. National Cemetery, Bourne. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Fisher House Boston P. O. Box 230, South Walpole, MA 02071.

P. E. Murray - F.J. Higgins - George F. Doherty Funeral Home  
2000 Centre Street  
West Roxbury, MA 02132  
617-325-2000  
<http://www.pemurrayfuneral.com>

### FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the near future, if you know of the death of any Outlaws member, please provide a copy of the obituary with photo or info on how to obtain the obituary to the Bob Sharp at [handybobsharp@gmail.com](mailto:handybobsharp@gmail.com) or Frank Estes at [estesf@troycable.net](mailto:estesf@troycable.net). We will soon transfer responsibility to the VLOA Chaplain to obtain and prepare obituaries for the *Outlaws Newsletter*.

*In Memory of*

### **Ronald Gene Smith**

**February 5, 1933—April 13, 2015**

Arrangements where under the direction of Palm Downtown Mortuary, Las Vegas, NV.

The Family elected not to publish an obituary.



*In Memory of*

### **Kenneth Fredrick DeLozier**

**January 31, 1943—March 22, 2010**

Mr. Kenneth F. DeLozier Age 67 of Trenton, KY passed away at 1:00 PM Monday, March 22, 2010 at Gateway Medical Center, Clarksville, TN of natural causes. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM Thursday, March 25, 2010 at Maddux Funeral Home, Pembroke.

Mr. DeLozier was born in Knoxville, TX on January 31, 1943 to the late Fred and Eva Bewley DeLozier. He was a veteran of the US Army and retired from Bell Helicopter where he worked as a test pilot.

Survivors include his sons, Tom DeLozier of Fort Worth, TX, and Keith DeLozier of Cedar Creek, TX; a sister, Barbara Jane Senger of Mount Solon, VA; and two grandchildren. He is buried in Edgewood Cemetery, Trenton, KY.

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)  
 c/o Robert J. Sharp, Editor.  
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 handybobsharp@gmail.com  
 Cell 507-828-3062 –H Ph.507-373-6452



Winter -2016

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

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

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

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

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Rank (while assigned to unit) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Dates assigned in Outlaws/attachments (Mo/Yr to Mo/Yr) \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Unit/plt/sect/position \_\_\_\_\_ Radio Call sign \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_