



# Vinh Long Outlaws News

Reunion 2000 (R2K)

January 2000

## REGISTER TODAY FOR R2K!

### R2K (Reunion 2000) IS COMING!!!

Tom Anderson - Outlaw 6

**O**UTLAWS - MAVERICKS - ROADRUNNERS. NOW IS THE TIME!!! "Outlaw Tower" reports that R2K PLANNING is now on extended downwind - about to turn base - for the big reunion final on September 15 - 18!!!!

If you were assigned to the 62nd Avn Co. A/502d Avn Co. or any of the attached or supporting units stationed in Vinh Long, between August 1964 and September 1965, you will want to be in Branson, MO in September 2000!!!

Over the past two years, over 120 surviving members of that great Mekong Delta unit have been located..... officers, warrant officers, NCO's, and enlisted. And, most of you, when contacted, have indicated you strongly favor having a reunion and would attend. WELL, THIS IS IT!

Your Reunion Steering Committee has developed a three-day program that will provide you with a relaxed opportunity to renew the friendships you made in those early Vietnam combat days of 35 years ago! The dates shown above GUARANTEE that you will know many, if not most, of the people who will attend. And, most importantly, this reunion will be ONE-OF-A-KIND... it will NOT be repeated next year or ever again!

We have attempted to keep the costs reasonable and still have a first class reunion. There will be group lunches, shows, dinners, (but VERY few speeches). And, there will be plenty of chances to spend one-on-one time with certain old friends that you may have almost forgotten. The people in Branson, MO work hard to make sure reunion groups such as ours have an unforgettable time. And the Outlaw Reunion Committee is also committed to make sure this happens! Just show up and have a great time!

Fill out the attached Registration Form, mail it to the address shown, along with your payment, and get ready for a memorable few days with those people who were so much a part of your life when we were all MUCH younger. I am personally and deeply indebted to every one of you for the work and sacrifices you made as part of our unit 3 1/2 decades ago. I'd like to meet with you again, one more time, in a much more ideal location. Please plan on attending. We'll look for you there!!!!

### Reunion 2000 Arrangements & Planning Finalized

Al Iller

**A**rrangements and planning for the VLOA Reunion 2000, 15 to 18 September, at Branson Missouri have been finalized. Our steering Committee is pleased to announce the details of R2K in plenty of time for all to make plans accordingly.

Friday, 15 September 2000 is arrival date with check in at the Settle Inn anytime after 3:00 PM. A welcome/reception mixer with cash bar is scheduled for 5:00 PM followed by a buffet dinner at the Settle Inn. The next morning, Saturday 16 September, a deluxe continental breakfast will be available at the hotel from 6:00 AM until 10:00 AM. For those who desire a wider breakfast selection there are a variety of restaurants near by. Breakfast will be followed by a short VLOA business meeting at 10:30. Lunch and dinner will be on your own and the afternoon available for individual activities to include shopping, other music shows, sightseeing, golf, etc. as desired. That evening we will be picked up by motor coach at the hotel and taken to the Shoji Tabuchi Theater for a music show at 8:00 PM. At the conclusion of the show we will return to the hotel by motorcoach.

Sunday, 17 September, a continental breakfast will be available and at 9:00 AM a non-denominational church service will be held and officiated by our own Outlaw Chaplain. At 11:15 AM we will board a motorcoach for travel to Dogwood Canyon where we will be treated to an Ozark nature tour by tram of that area followed by a chuck wagon BBQ lunch, returning by motorcoach later that afternoon to the hotel for a period of rest and refresh. At 7:00 PM, we will be taken by motorcoach for a short trip to a local restaurant for our farewell dinner. After dinner we will be returned to the hotel by motorcoach.

Monday, 18 September, a continental breakfast will again be available. Check out time will be NLT 12:00 noon.

Throughout your stay an Outlaw hospitality room will be open with coffee and other refreshments available 24 hours. The hospitality room will be our central meeting place where we will be free to visit and discuss past, present and future.



We anticipate having lots of photos, slides and mementos of our first year (64-65) in Vietnam for display. We encourage anyone who may desire to share some of their recorded memories to bring them along.

Branson is located a short 40 miles south of Springfield, Missouri just off Highway 65 and is easily accessible by auto. The Branson/Springfield Regional Airport (SGF), Missouri is the entry point for the area for those traveling by air. Most major air carriers provide service or connecting service to SGF. Major car rental agencies are represented at the airport and limited shuttle service to Branson is available on a request/reservation basis.

A word about our Settle Inn accommodations. It's central location is just a long block off the famous Branson Hwy 76 strip and has been host to numerous veteran groups. Amenities include: deluxe continental breakfast (6:00 AM until 10:00 AM), complimentary coffee available 24 hours, 2 indoor swimming pools and spas, fitness center open 24 hours, handicap accessible and handicapped equipped rooms, guest laundry open 24 hours, tanning facility open 24 hours, pets welcome, gift shop, garden café and lounge open 3:00 PM to 1:00 AM, plus many others. For those who desire to arrive before or stay after the reunion, the Settle Inn has accorded VLOA members group rates as long as the stay is contiguous with the reunion dates (See VLOA R2K Registration Form).

With this newsletter is a reservation form the Outlaw Roundup 2000. We encourage those who desire to attend to forward their reservations with the VLOA early as all reservations and deposits will be due to VLOA no later than 1 June 2000. Full details and cancellation policies are indicated on the reservation form. A Branson information package provided by the Chamber of Commerce will be mailed to you shortly after receipt of your reservation.

## Ole Thornton Plans Retirement!



**O**ut law Olen (Ole) Thornton plans to retire from his second career at the end of May, 2000. He retired from the US Army at the end of July, 1984 after completing 28 years and became the Executive Director for a trade association representing the valve and fittings industry on 1 August, 1984. He and Mary plan to see his organization through its 2000 annual meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida during the period May 7 - 10, 2000, then return to Virginia where Ole will retire soon thereafter. The Thorntons have no

current plans to leave their Annandale home. We wish them well.

## NEW OUTLAWS PATCHES ARE READY TO SHIP



**John E. Doyle aka The Old Sarge**

**W**e have just had 300 new patches made and they are ready to ship to all who want to buy them. They are great looking, exact replicas of the original patch minus the A/502nd on them. Here is how you can get yours. We would like to sell them in packs of five (5). Remember,

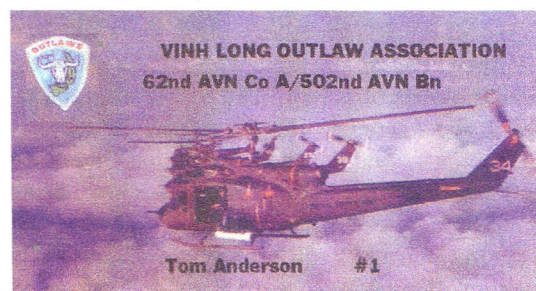
ALL PROFITS from the sale of these patches goes to help with expenses for the reunion in Branson in September.

1. Five patches cost \$20 and includes postage and handling.
2. For less than five (5) patches, the cost is \$5 per patch, plus \$2 for postage & handling.

Make your check out to VLOA and mail to:

Ernie Isbell  
2009 Tophill Drive  
Flower Mound, TX 75022

Now a personal note. Ruth and I have accepted an invitation from the First International Baptist Church (English Language), Copenhagen, Denmark, to serve as Interim Pastor for a six month period. We will be departing Orlando on February 28th and returning on August 28th. I will be shutting the old computer down at 2400 hrs. on February 27th. SEE YOU IN BRANSON!!!



## SAMPLE MEMBERSHIP CARD