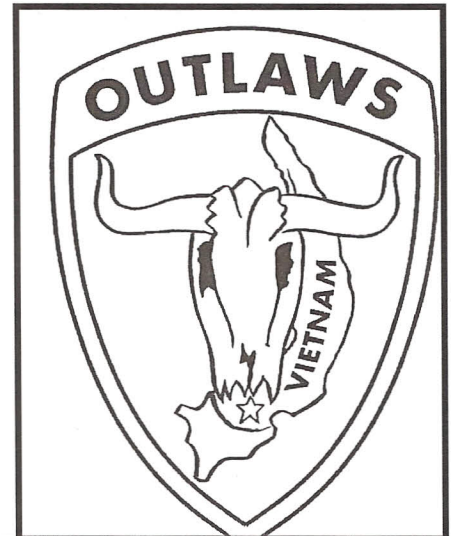


# VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWSLETTER

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION



October — December 4th Quarter 2008

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Frank Estes

The next two years will prove to be interesting, trying, and sometimes nerve racking. Change is coming whether we want it or not. If one listens to the media, there is nothing but gloom and doom for the foreseeable future. Personally, I have confidence in the American people and our institutions. In turn, I believe that we will soon recover from the economic situation we currently face and be a stronger country for now having a couple of generations that have experienced hard times. Additionally, I believe that we will have enough caring American citizens who will stand up and be counted when the incoming President and his administration attempt to force unwarranted change in areas where it is not needed. Likewise, I believe that we should give our new President time to get his feet on the ground, implement some of his programs to "turn our country around" (at least economically), and stabilize a foreign policy before we pass judgment on his administration. His economic recovery plan will have a direct impact on our ability to afford attending the VLOA Roundup 2010.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article on our initial planning for Roundup 2010. We are early in the planning stages, but will be making progress soon to finalize the location and identify the Reunion Planner/Coordinator, associated costs, and agenda. We will keep you informed in future newsletters.

You will find herein a couple of resumes on two of your elected Officers and Directors. I think it useful if our newsletter readers know more about the people they elected to run our Vinh Long Outlaws Association. We will continue including a couple of resumes in each future newsletter until we cover all elected Officers and Directors, and then begin including a couple of VLOA members who possess interesting backgrounds you might be interested in knowing about.

Also included in this issue are updates on our financial status and efforts we are taking to locate new members, and as always a welcome Chaplain's Corner by John Doyle. Additionally, we are working diligently to find a full-time website manager who can bring our website up to date on a few items and hopefully do it at an affordable cost.

Finally, I appreciate all the emails and phone calls to keep me informed on issues and situations. Without these, your VLOA leaders will be operating somewhat in the dark. So, keep in touch, and don't be bashful about contacting me at [estesf@charter.net](mailto:estesf@charter.net) or 334-774-5571.

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### "The Back Pew"

From our VLOA Chaplain: John Doyle

#### The Back Pew

"HERO". Are you as sick as I am with the way the media uses that word? A guy climbs five feet up a tree to rescue a cat, and they write an article in the next day's newspaper entitled: "Hero Saves Cat." Or you turn on the TV "6 O'clock News" and there are three stories of people that do something that any other person would do without giving it a second thought, and all at once, they are declared to be a "hero". It is sickening.

I think we know something about heroes. We saw it in Vietnam on a regular basis. It was the lone American advisor, who accompanied a company of Republic of Vietnam Army soldiers as they got out of an Outlaw "slick" in a hot LZ. It was a Dustoff crew that went into a hole in the trees under fire to medivac wounded soldiers. Heroes were 19 year old, WO 1's, flying a slick into an outpost that was under attack. It was a Maverick crew flying, guns blazing, into enemy automatic weapons fire. Oh yes! We know what heroes are. We saw them first hand. And let me tell you, what the media calls heroes today, is nothing more than common man doing common things.

In Jesus' day, when he was being persecuted, 12 brave, common men followed Him. After His crucifixion, some of those men and others risked their lives to spread His Word. These men were my hero's. I honestly doubt I would have been willing to do what they did.

And let us not forget the father and mother that do without, so their children can receive the education, they need to live in a crazy world. They are the parents that live by God's Word. Again, these are my heroes.

Want to be a hero? Do something for someone who needs help - and tell them you did it to honor God.

God Bless.  
Chaplain, John Doyle

## Treasurer's Quarterly Report – 4Q 2008

Account value at start of 4Q (checking account)	\$ 11,941.65
Income from dues (annual & lifetime)	\$ 280.00
<u>Total prior to expenses</u>	\$ 12,221.65
Quarterly Newsletter	\$ 434.52
<u>Checking account value as of 12/31/08</u>	\$ 11,787.13
Total VLOA funds	\$ 11,787.13

This report will also serve as the 2008 year end report.

**Charles F. Bouton**  
Treasurer, VLOA

Hello all,

It's that time of the year again. Due to minimal activity this quarter, the report will be a very short read. The only outlay was for the quarterly newsletter and our income consisted of 4 renewals and 2 lifetime memberships.

I haven't placed any of our funds into a CD at this time. This is due to the low amount in our account and to the reduced availability of flexible CDs. If there are no changes in the next month I will look to place 75% of our funds into a money market account.

I am also attaching a copy of the letter of acknowledgement I received from Fisher House. They were very happy with the contribution. Please note that while the group agreed to donate \$1000.00, the letter mentions \$1,300.00. This is due to Al Iller's generously adding his \$300.00 winnings in the 50-50 draw.

Best wishes to all in the new year.

*Charles F. Bouton*

*[cbouton@hotmail.com](mailto:cbouton@hotmail.com)*

*+ 772 224 6738*

*Fax: + 772 345 3553*



**FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION, INC.**

*"Dedicated to our greatest national treasure...  
our military service men and women and their loved ones"*

November 17, 2008

Vinh Long Outlaws Association  
2013 S.W. Providence Pl.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34953

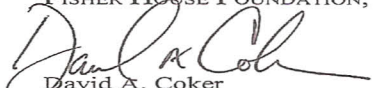
Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Fisher family and the rest of the Board of Trustees, Fisher House Foundation, Inc., please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your organization's generous contribution from 3rd Quarter CFD Donations of \$1,300.00 on November 3, 2008. It is through donations such as yours that the Fisher House Foundation, Inc. is able to continue having a positive impact on the quality of life of *"our greatest national treasure...our military service men and women and their loved ones."*

Your donation to Fisher House is even more meaningful as our thoughts and prayers are with America's service men and women engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The many military and veterans' families, who will benefit from your thoughtfulness, join me in expressing our collective appreciation for your generosity. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION, INC.

  
David A. Coker  
President

*Thank you for this blessing!*  
*For IRS purposes, this letter serves as your receipt and acknowledges that no goods or services were provided in consideration for your gift.*

[www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org)

1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 600, Rockville, Maryland 20852

Tel: 301-294-8560

Fax: 301-294-8562

## RESUME' FOR BOB KOONCE

Married, Forty Two years to wife Laurie, two married children, and six grandchildren

Hobbies include Civil War Reenacting, Skeet Shooting, Black Powder Target Shooting, Pistol Shooting, Archery, Biking, Walking, Drawing and Painting, Honey Do's, and Traveling

US Army Transportation Corps, Helicopter Mechanic, Helicopter Crew Chief 1963-66

Vietnam 150<sup>th</sup> Trans Detachment Vinh Long September 64-June 65

167<sup>th</sup> Trans Detachment, Soc Trang, June 65- September 65

4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, WA November 65 - May 66

6<sup>th</sup> Army Garrison, Fort Lewis WA May 66 - December 66

BFA Pacific Lutheran University 1971

MFA Pacific Lutheran University 1986

(CONT'D ON PAGE 11)

## What I Did After the War

By Frank Estes

I returned from Vietnam during September 1965 to an assignment at Fort Rucker. My assignment to the Department of Tactics resulted in me serving both as a Standardization Instructor Pilot and a Flight Tactics Instructor. This was truly a great assignment because we got to fly every day of the school week, turning a class over every 28 calendar days. It got to the point where pilots were needed so badly in Vietnam that the student pilot would get a passing grade if he found the helicopter on the ramp.

The Army called me for a return trip to Vietnam in July 1967, including an intermediate stop for Chinook qualification training and unit formation at Fort Benning, GA. We deployed to Vietnam in February 1968 to Can Tho, where I served initially as a Platoon leader for about a month. The infusion process sent most of the senior officers to other aviation units, and I became the Operations Officer for the remainder of my tour. This resulted in me having to fly backup, recovery, CS gas drops, napalm drops, ash and trash, and "designated pilot" when companies or battalions nearby need transportation to and from the party site.

I returned to Fort Sill, OK in February 1969, where I served successively as a Field Artillery battalion XO, commanded a Chinook company, and on the Fort Sill staff (personnel) in equal length tours. Afterwards, I was selected to attend the US Air Force's Air Command and Staff College in Montgomery, AL for a year, where I also obtain a Masters Degree in Public Administration by attending night school and two summer school sessions.

Department of the Army called me in August 1973 to serve in the Pentagon for the next three years. My duties included weapon systems development and acquisition, with primary responsibility for the Apache helicopter and the Hellfire laser guided missile, along with some other lesser important programs. Please note: both of these systems are still in use today in the US Army. Thankfully, I was selected for an unaccompanied tour to command a Chinook battalion in Korea, and deployed in June 1976 to do that. The battalion was the largest in the Army at that time: two Chinook companies, one Huey company, one command & control (scout) company, and the US Forces' Mohawk intelligence gathering airplanes. This was truly a diverse, demanding, educational, and enjoyable 13-month tour.

Afterwards I returned to the Pentagon for another assignment, but this time in a most unusual area. The Army was just starting its Women in the Army program at the direction of the Department of Defense. The goal was to expand the 54,000 women in the Army to 110,000 within five years. You can imagine all the problems we ran into. Unfortunately for my career, I had to run the staff action that eliminated the female Major General's position for the Women's Army Corps. I'm sure she never forgot my name. But, eliminating her position had to be done to in order to fully integrate all the women into the Army. Another action I was in charge of was opening 96 percent of the military occupational specialties to women, with the only ones being closed were those where the holder was directly exposed to combat. Some of the general officers af-

-fected also never forgot my name.

Fortunately, I was selected to attend the US Army's War College in Carlisle, PA during August 1979 through June 1980. This schooling gave me the best understanding of what the Army, Department of Defense, and our country's foreign policies were all about.

Following the War College, I served a four year tour again at Fort Rucker, where I was the Director of Training Developments. This directorate of 210 officers, warrant officers, enlisted men, and civilians were responsible for developing all aviation manuals, training programs of instruction, training aids, and other aviation training materials, plus publishing the *Army Aviation* magazine. The highlight of this tour was the time I served on a study group of two general officers, a chief warrant officer, and myself studying the history of Army Aviation in an attempt to determine if the Army should designate Army Aviation as a combat arm of the Army and formation as a separate branch. I was assigned the duties of being the "principle author" for the final 960-page study. In April 1983 the Army made that decision.

Beginning in April 1984, Ann and I moved to Fort Monroe, VA to serve what turned out to be a short tour in the combat developments business. As soon as I got there, I was notified that I had been selected to command the Aviation Brigade in Korea. This tour turned out to be an accompanied tour, and in turn, Ann deployed with me in June 1985. The brigade had one Chinook battalion, an Air Traffic Control battalion, a command and control company, and a Blackhawk battalion; totaling 11 different aviation companies. I also served in three aviation staff positions simultaneously while in command. My days were so full of duties that frequently Ann caught the "space A flight" to Hong Kong, Bangkok, or the Philippines. As a matter of fact, she and a long-time friend were in the Philippines when Marcos was overthrown. Yes, I was worried, but I found out later she wasn't.

Ann and I returned to Fort Rucker in July 1987. I served in succession as the Director of Combined Arms Tactics, the Deputy Assistant Commandant, and finally as the Fort Rucker Chief of Staff, with each being one year assignments. Ann and I then retired to Ozark, AL. Since then, I was the Director of Human Resources for the Fort Rucker aircraft maintenance contractor until I retired from that job in July 1999, and then went into the consulting business. My consulting business was mainly for companies in Pensacola, FL, Fort Worth, TX, and Orlando, FL. All the consulting work dealt with writing technical proposal responses to US Army and Department of Defense requests for proposals.

This month, I fully retired from all "paid" forms of work. Now Ann and I have lots of time to spend with our daughter Sherri, grandsons Roth and Riley, and son-in-law Larry at their home in Tallahassee, FL or at the farm about an hour south of there. Otherwise, you can find me in the woods with the wildlife, hunting, plowing, planting, looking, listening, and enjoying the outdoors, or volunteering for the Boys & Girls Club and local city/county library.

**Veterans Administration (VA)**  
**News Briefs**

**Partnership for Non-Government Outreach:** The VA has announced a new partnership with non-government organizations that provide services to veterans, their families, and their survivors. The partnership is called the *NGO Gateway Initiative*. Under the initiative, the VA will work with the Veterans Coalition Incorporated, a non-profit group that is formed by major veterans' service organizations two years ago, to assist non-profit organizations in identifying the unmet needs of veterans, families, and survivors at the community level.

By tapping into the power and resources of NGOs, the VA can ensure more veterans and their families receive not only VA services, but also other assistance in their communities.

For more information on this program, call the Veterans Coalition at (703-408-0122).

**Assisting Veterans with Health Care Costs:** For veterans struggling financially due to a job loss or decreased income, the VA offers an assortment of programs that can relieve the costs of health care or provide care at no cost. If the veteran's income was ruled too high for VA health care, they may now be able to enter the VA care system based upon a hardship if their current year's income is projected to fall below federal income thresholds due to a job loss, separation from service, or some other financial setback.

Veterans returning from a combat zone are also entitled to five years of free VA care upon their discharge from the military. Each VA medical center has an enrollment coordinator available to provide veterans information about the VA's free health care programs.

For more information, call the VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 977-222-VETS (8387) or your county Veterans Service Office.

**Department of Defense Offers Casualty Assistance Services to Retirees:** When a military retiree dies, the next-of-kin should immediately notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service by calling the DFAS toll free number at 800-321-1080. DFAS will take steps to close the retiree's pay account and mail a survivor benefits packet to the next-of-kin which includes the application forms for survivor benefits. Additionally, the local retired activities office at the nearest military installation is available to render assistance as well as your County Veterans Service Office. For assistance in applying for survivor benefits, call you local VSO's phone number.

**Roundup 2010 Locations**

By Frank Estes

During our Reunion 2008's business meeting, we solicited input from attendees concerning potential locations for Roundup 2010. Attendees identified a number of locations they would like considered. Here are the ones identified: a trip on the Delta Queen; Chattanooga, TN; Savannah/Charleston; Las Vegas, NV; Nashville, TN; Memphis, TN; Dallas/Fort Worth, TX; Branson, MO; Denver, CO; Washington, D.C; a theme cruise; and a large airport city.

These locations were provided to your elected Officers and Directors for their prioritization and recommendations. Their input identified additional locations that were given consideration: St. Louis, MO; Phoenix, AZ; Pigeon Forge, TN; Seattle, WA; Williamsburg, VA; Atlantic City, NJ; Disney World, FL; Ft. Rucker, AL; and San Antonio, TX.

The initial scoring of all these locations identified the following five as the highest scoring locations (in order of priority): Nashville, TN; Savannah/Charleston; Memphis, TN; Las Vegas, NV; and Washington, D.C. Clearly, we are not locked into only these five because there may be unknown factors that require reevaluation and inclusion of another location.

However, we will start with these five locations to initiate the next evaluation phase to identifying a Reunion Planner/Coordinator in order to identify the final venue, associated costs, and tentative agenda. If you have thoughts or considerations on this subject, feel free to email me at [estesf@charter.net](mailto:estesf@charter.net) or contact me at 334-774-5571.

**A Note From Al and Nell**

We realize the newsletter is a little late this time....with the holidays, etc. we can all understand that we hope. We have a new email address and our phone numbers have changed.

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

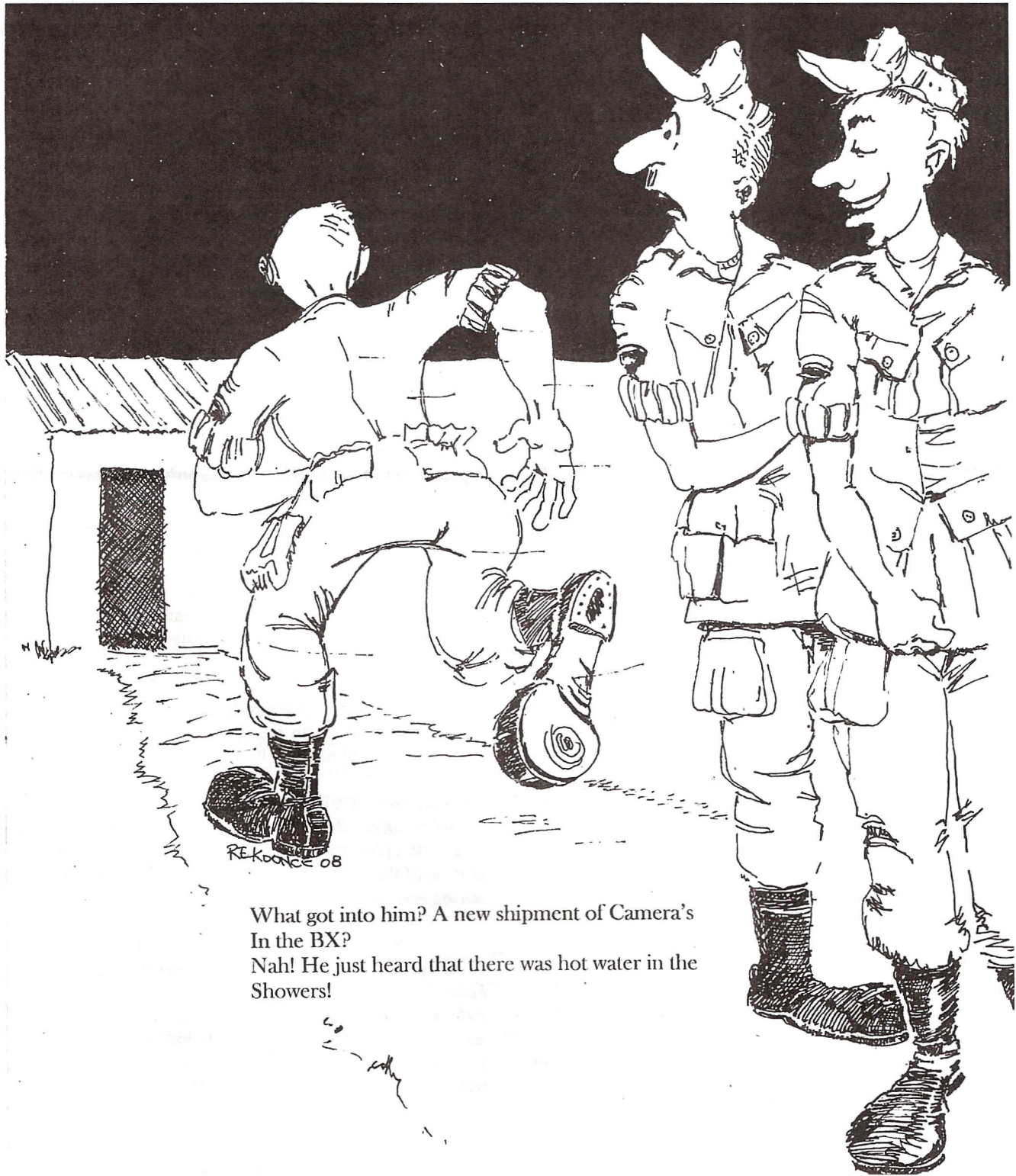
We no longer have a land line so our phone numbers are as follows:

Nell 850-209-7621 - Al 850-209-3355

Wishing the Very Best to everyone for the New Year!!

Al & Nell

# *Komics By Koonce*



What got into him? A new shipment of Camera's  
In the BX?  
Nah! He just heard that there was hot water in the  
Showers!

## **Health Conditions Presumptively Recognized to Date by VA**

This article is extracted from August 2008 issue of *The Agent Orange Review*. Some of you may not be aware of this information and, if so, call your local state or county VA office or go to [www.VA.gov/AgentOrange](http://www.VA.gov/AgentOrange).

"The following health conditions are presumptively recognized for service connection. Vietnam veterans with one or more of these conditions do not have to show that their illness (is) is (are) related to their military service to get disability compensation. VA presumes that their condition is service-connected.

### **"Conditions Recognized in Veterans:**

Chloracne (must occur within 1 year of exposure to Agent Orange)  
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma  
Soft tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)  
Hodgkin's disease  
Porphyria cutanea tarda (must occur within 1 year of exposure)  
Multiple myeloma  
Respiratory cancers, including cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus  
Prostate cancer  
Acute and subacute transient peripheral neuropathy (must appear within 1 year of exposure and resolve within 2 years of date of onset)  
Type 2 diabetes  
Chronic lymphocytic leukemia

### **"Conditions Recognized in Children of Vietnam Veterans:**

Spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta) (linked to herbicide exposure)  
Certain other birth defects in the children of women Vietnam veterans (linked not to herbicide exposure but rather to service in Vietnam itself)

### **"Brief Description of Conditions Recognized for Presumptive Service Connection for In-Country Vietnam Veterans:**

**Chloracne:** A skin condition that occurs soon after dioxin exposure and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. The first sign of chloracne may be excessive oiliness of the skin. This is accompanied or followed by numerous blackheads. In mild cases, the blackheads may be limited to the areas around the eyes extending to the temples. In more severe cases, blackheads may appear in many places, especially over the cheek bones and other facial areas, behind the ears, and along the arms. **Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma:** A group of malignant tumors (cancers) that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue. These tumors are relatively rare compared to other types of cancer. Survival rates have improved during the past 2 decades. The common factor is the absence of the certain cells (known as giant Reed-Steinberg cells) that distinguish this cancer from Hodgkin's disease.

**Soft tissue sarcoma:** A group of different types of malignant tumors (cancers) that arise from body tissues such as mus-

**Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma:** A group of malignant tumors (cancers) that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue. These tumors are relatively rare compared to other types of cancer. Survival rates have improved during the past 2 decades. The common factor is the absence of the certain cells (known as giant Reed-Steinberg cells) that distinguish this cancer from Hodgkin's disease.

**Soft tissue sarcoma:** A group of different types of malignant tumors (cancers) that arise from body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues (not in hard tissue such as bone or cartilage). These cancers are in the soft tissue that occurs within and between organs.

**Hodgkin's disease:** A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia.

**Porphyria cutanea tarda:** A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas.

**Multiple myeloma:** A cancer of specific bone marrow cells that is characterized by bone marrow tumors in various bones of the body.

**Respiratory myeloma:** Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.

**Prostate cancer:** Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men.

**Peripheral neuropathy (transient acute or subacute):** A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. This condition affects only the peripheral nervous system, that is, only the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord. Only the transient (short-term) acute and subacute forms of this condition, not the chronic persistent forms, have been associated with herbicide exposure.

**Diabetes mellitus:** Often referred to as Type 2 diabetes; it is characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.

**Chronic lymphocytic leukemia:** A disease that progresses slowly with increasing production of excessive numbers of white blood cells.

### **"In Children of Vietnam Veterans:**

**Spina bifida (linked to herbicide exposure):** A neural tube birth defect that results from the failure of the bony portion of the spine to close properly in the developing fetus during early pregnancy.

**Disabilities other than spinal bifida in Children of Vietnam Veterans (linked not to herbicide exposure but rather in service in Vietnam):** Covered birth defects include a wide range conditions: 18 defects are specifically included and others not specifically excluded are covered. For more information, contact a veteran services representative at 1-800-827-1000.



We went on a trip to Russia last July. We had a group of 10 couples from our community and golf club. We flew from Atlanta to St. Petersburg via Frankfurt, Germany. We began our journey in St. Petersburg, Russia's loveliest city, restored in many ways as it was during Peter the Great's reign. It was founded in 1703 as the new capital of Russia. It was the vision and creation of Tsar Peter the Great. It is known today as the Venice of the North and has more than 40 picturesque islands, more than 60 canals and hundreds of lovely bridges. We took a city tour and saw the Admiralty, former shipyards, and the present Naval Academy on the banks of the Neva River. We visited St. Isaac's Cathedral, the largest church in the city. The dome of the cathedral is gilded with 200 pounds of gold and the interior is decorated with exquisite mosaics, icons, malachite, and lapis lazuli. The church can seat 14,000 worshippers. We spent the afternoon visiting the Hermitage which was the former Winter Palace and home of the Tsars. The museum consists of 1,000 rooms housing nearly 3 million exhibits and displays of the world's greatest art. The next day we visited Catherine's Palace and Park in Pushkin. The original palace was occupied by the German's in WW2 and was heavily damaged but was restored to its original beauty by thousands of Russian craftsmen. The façade stretches 978 feet and glitters in all its former glory, with elegant white columns and ornate gold moldings. We visited several other churches and spent a lot of time walking the streets and enjoying the sights. On our final day, we visited the Peter and Paul Fortress which was built in 1703. The St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, located within the fortress, have a lovely spire topped by a golden angel holding a cross. Peter the Great and all the Russian emperors and empresses are buried here.

We then began our 7 day river cruise on the M/S Rossia, a Russian river cruise ship, owned by Grand Circle. We cruised 950 miles on several rivers including the Neva, Svir and Volga. We passed through 18 locks and two large lakes on the way to Moscow. Our first stop was at the remote village of Svir Stroi, where we were hosted by a local family for Russian tea and piroshky (pastries filled with meats, fruits, and cheese). The couple was great-grandparents and he was a retired river barge captain. The next day, we visited Kizhi Island in the middle of Lake Onega. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was an early pagan center, and now hosts an open-air architectural museum and reserve. Over 80 wooden monuments represent folk wooden architecture and cultural items. The heart of the museum consists of the Church of Transfiguration of Our Savior (1714) with 22 domes and the Church of Intercession. They are built entirely of wood and have no bolts or nails. We visited several other towns along the way and enjoyed the beautiful scenery. Most of the areas along the way were sparsely populated but had many beautiful and colorful churches in all of the small villages. The highlight of the cruise was the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. The Russian crew had a ceremony that morning raising the Star Spangled Banner and playing the National Anthem. They had the ship decorated in Red, White and Blue and had an American BBQ. That evening, they had a spectacular fireworks display from the ship. They had lots of activities on the ship including vodka tasting, matryoshka (stacking dolls) painting, language lessons, and a Russian Blini party.

We arrived in Moscow on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of our trip. Some of the highlights of Moscow included a tour of the Kremlin and the Armory Museum, a visit to Red Square, the GUM Department Store, an underground mall next to the Kremlin, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the KGB building and a number of churches with brightly colored cupolas. We also visited the Central Museum of Armed Forces and had a meeting with Russian WW2 veterans who shared their wartime experiences with us. We also had a tour of the Moscow Metro. It was very impressive with many sculptures and paintings on the walls. We attended the Russian Folklore Show and the Moscow Circus Excursion. Both shows were really great and very colorful. The Kremlin is actually a walled city in the very heart of Moscow. Construction began in the 12 century and lasted for several hundred years. The citadel is surrounded by a mile of red brick walls 65 feet high and up to 20 feet thick. Along these walls are battlements and gated entryways interspersed with 20 towers, the tallest standing 264 feet high. In addition to housing the seat of government, there are numerous museums and six cathedrals within the walls. We also had the opportunity to do a lot of walking and exploring on our own and do some shopping. Russia is famous for its hand painted matryoshka dolls and Russian Santa Claus.

We flew to Kiev, Ukraine and spent three days there prior to coming home. We took a tour of the Chernobyl Museum & Babiy Yar Memorial which honors the victims of WW2, primarily the Jewish population. The museum was extremely interesting but really scary to think what had happened. They had a lot of details about the reaction and the actions taken after the accident. They are still monitoring a large number of people who lived in the area and or worked in the facility who are still alive. We visited several cathedrals and the Monastery of the Caves. The caves were inhabited by early monks who lived, died and are buried in the caves. We concluded our journey with a Ukrainian dinner and Folklore songs at a very quaint restaurant.

The trip was definitely an experience of a lifetime and was a lot different than what we expected, considering the experiences of growing up in the Cold War era.

**(Submitted By Larry & Polly Jackson)**

## Remembering LTG Harry Kinnard

Lieutenant General Harry W. O. Kinnard passed away on January 5, 2009 at his home in Arlington, Virginia at the age of 93.

General Kinnard will be remembered by many VLOA members as the brilliant officer who commanded the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Division at Fort Benning, which gave birth to our Outlaw unit, the 62d Aviation Company.

While serving in the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Division, I had several occasions to meet General Kinnard, but, as a newly-minted Major, I could hardly say I “knew” him. However, my most momentous meeting with him came on Monday morning, 3 August 1964. At the time, I was commanding Company C, 229<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Battalion and had been in command for about six months.

When I arrived at work that morning, my first sergeant told me that the Division G1 had called and I was to call him back. I had known the G1 from a tour in Hawaii where we were friends on a staff bowling team together. I assumed it was probably some sort of personal call. However, when I called him, he was all business. He told me that General Kinnard would like to see me, in his office, at 1100 hours that morning but gave no indication of the purpose of the meeting. You can imagine how many things went through my mind when hearing that I was to report to the Commanding General!

Nor was my angst dispelled when, arriving at the General’s office at 1045, I found another aviator major, Lew Henderson, also waiting, having received the same phone call as I had. Neither of us had any inkling of what might be in store for us.

General Kinnard smilingly welcomed us to his office, offered us a cup of coffee, and asked us to sit down. He got right to the point. He told us that Department of the Army had ordered the activation of two new helicopter companies, to be formed from the assets of the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Division, and that the units were to be deployed ASAP to Vietnam. He told us that he had selected the two of us to activate and command these two units.

The units were to be designated as the 3d Assault Helicopter Company and the 62d Assault Helicopter Company. One unit would be departing within six weeks, the other a month later. He did not say which would depart first. He then suggested that he flip a coin to see which of us would command which company. The honor of activating the 62d was mine! And, the 62d would be the first to be deployed in-country!

General Kinnard told us that the full support of Division staff would be made available to us to ensure that the 62d was fully deployable in the short time available. It was, and, the rest is history. Our VLOA history!

I had one other, in-progress report-type meeting with General Kinnard during the next few weeks. When I saluted and shook his hand goodbye that day, I would not see him again until 43 years later, when I met him again, in 2007, at an Army Aviation tour of the huge Air & Space Museum annex at Dulles airport. I don’t think he remembered me, but I certainly remembered him and the impact he had on my aviation, and military, career. And, I told him so.

General Kinnard was a soldier, a leader and a statesman. He was born into an Army family, witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor, later parachuted into France on D-Day with the 101<sup>st</sup>

(cont’d on Page 11)

## Remembering LTG Harry Kinnard

(cont'd from Page 10)

Airborne Division and participated in the Battle of the Bulge. In 1963 he was selected to activate a new type of Army division, the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Division. After 2 ½ years at Fort Benning, he led the division, renamed the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division (Airmobile), into combat in Vietnam. He spent nearly 40 months in command of the division. The doctrine, techniques, tactics and SOP's formulated in those early years, of which the Outlaws were decidedly a part, have set the standard for all future U.S. Army airmobile operations.

General Kinnard received many high military honors throughout his career, including being knighted by the Queen of Holland for his actions in Holland in 1944. He retired from active service in 1969. Gravesite service and interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery, with full military honors, on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. I plan to be there.

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(Submitted By Tom Anderson)

### *An Officer and a Gentleman*

An elderly gentleman was pulled over for speeding by a rookie officer.

The officer asked him for his license and registration and the old man replied: "I don't have that as this is not my car. In fact, I stole this car and killed the owner. I didn't know what to do with the body, so I put it in the trunk."

The rookie officer was shaken and went to his car to radio for backup. When the backup arrived, the Sergeant, after listening to the rookie's report, approached the car and asked the elderly man to open the trunk. The man did as asked and the trunk was empty.

The Sergeant asked for the man's driver's license and registration and the man quickly handed them over. The Sergeant scratched his head with a look of disbelief in his eyes. The elderly man asked, "Is there something wrong?" to which the Sergeant replied, "I don't know. My officer told me you didn't have any papers and you stole this car and killed the owner and put him in the trunk."

The elderly man looked at the Sergeant, and without missing a beat said, "And I bet you he told you I was speeding, too!"

Extracted from *Street Talk America* Jan2009

### RESUME' FOR BOB KOONCE) (COUNT'D FROM PAGE 4

Northwest Orient Airlines, Seattle, Flight Line 1966-67  
The Boeing Co. Seattle, Production Control 1967-71  
Hygrade Food Products, Tacoma, WA Production Line, 1971-72  
Sumner School District, Sumner WA, Art Teacher, Coach,  
Cross Country, Basketball, Track 1972-2003  
Retired from Teaching Summer of 2003