



# VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWS



January-March  
First Issue 2003

Inside this issue

WEB SITE	1
BACK PEW	2
HOMEFRONT	4
TROA UPDATE	6
FINANCIAL REPORT	8
MEMBERSHIP FORM	9

*Special points of interest:*

Introducing Steve Roper (p 3)

Fred Jacob's visitor (p 3)

Tell your story (p 5)

Bob Hope article (p 5 and 10)

Memorium C.V. Mills (p 6)

Remembering (p 7)

Koonce's Latest (p 9)

## Outlaws Web Page Makes Debut

At the general membership meeting held in San Antonio, the association supported the establishment of a Web site which would provide information about our organization. Travis Wilson, with the assistance of Steve Roper, has undertaken this task and is pleased to announce that the site is up and running. As the days pass, more and more material will be added to files and information that can be found on the site.

There are lots of possibilities for this endeavor. A Guest Book is available and sign ins are most welcome. Officers of the organization are listed and e-mail can be sent to them through the web page.

Though not all complete at this time, information regarding the following subjects will be available as soon as all materials are collected and posted.

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Committees       | Reunion            |
| Membership       | Gallery            |
| Newsletter       | Roster             |
| Then & Now       | By-Laws            |
| Honor Roll       | Feed Back          |
| Guest Book       | Chaplain           |
| History of 62nd  | Area of Operations |
| History of 150th |                    |
| History of 28th  |                    |

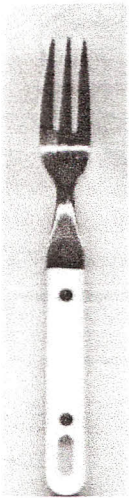
Come check out this site at [www.Vinhloungoutlaws.com](http://www.Vinhloungoutlaws.com).

**See you on the Web!**

## The VLOA Requests the Pleasure of Your Membership

It is that time again. At the meeting held in San Antonio it was decided, by vote, that the dues would be raised to \$20 for the year 2003. Chuck Wren is standing by, waiting for your check. Pick up your pen and write a \$20 check to VLOA and send it along with the Membership Application Form located elsewhere in this publication. Mail these items to Chuck Wren, 20 Rozbern Dr., Eatontown, NJ 07724. Let's keep Chuck busy with all the deposits.

# The Back Pew by your VLOA Chaplain John Doyle



*In this space, I will try to share some words that will, in some way, make your day a little easier to get through. It will, through various formats, share a spiritual thought or message that will give you cause to stop and think of the One that is always close by.*

Every now and then I receive an e-mail that makes me stop after I have read it, and just say **AMEN!**

Here is one of my favorites.

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and was given three months to live. As she began to get her things "in order", she called her pastor and asked him to come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes.

She told him what songs she wanted sung at her service, what scriptures she wanted read, and what dress she wanted to be buried in.

She also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible in her left hand.

Everything was in order and as the pastor was preparing to leave, the woman suddenly remembered one final request that was very important to her.

"Please Pastor, just one more thing", she said excitedly. "Sure, what is it?" came the pastor's reply.

"This is very important to me," the woman continued..."I want to be buried holding a fork in my right hand."

The pastor gazed at the woman, with a loss for words.

"That surprises you doesn't it?" the woman asked.

The pastor replied, "Well to be quite honest, I'm puzzled by your request."

The woman explained, "You see pastor, in all my years of attending church socials and pot luck dinners, I remember that when the dishes were being cleared after the main course, someone would inevitably lean over to me and say, "Keep your fork". "It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming, like velvety chocolate cake or deep dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance to end a great meal."

The pastor listened intently, and a smile came upon his face.

The woman continued, "So, I just want people to see me there in the casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder why..."What's with the fork?"...then, I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork...the best is yet to come."

The pastor's eyes welled with tears of joy as he hugged the woman good-bye. He knew that this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the woman had a better grasp of Heaven than he did. She **KNEW** and trusted that the best was yet to come.

At the funeral, everyone that walked by the woman's casket saw her wearing a beautiful dress with her favorite Bible in her left hand and a fork in her right hand. Over and over the pastor heard people ask the question. "Why is she holding a fork?"

During his message, the pastor told people about the conversation that he had with the woman shortly before she died. He explained the fork and what it symbolized to her. The pastor told everyone how he could not stop thinking about the fork and how he hoped that they would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

The fork and the meaning of it to the woman had quite an impact on everyone, and they are still sharing the story with people they meet.

Won't you share it?

*May God Bless you and your family. The best is yet to come!*

## Bob Hope...Thanks For The Memories

*We have been informed by Al Iller that he has a cassette of the "Bob Hope USO Show" which was performed for the troops at Vinh Long on Christmas Day 1964. Some of you were privileged to watch the original performance and others may not have seen it due to military duties. Al said he would be happy to send copies to anyone who would be interested. Contact him for details at [alair@cswnet.com](mailto:alair@cswnet.com) to let him know if you would like to have a copy.*



## New Name Added To Honorary Members List

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In this issue we want to introduce Steve Roper to our members. Steve has been working with Travis Wilson setting up the VLOA web site. They first met at the Ozark Masonic Temple where they were both attending a ceremony for the installation of officers.

Steve was born in Alabaster, Alabama and his family moved to Ozark in 1960. Steve's father was hired at Ft. Rucker on a maintenance contract. At this time, Steve is now employed as a machinist with Dyn-corp on that same contract. He has a wife Janet, two daughters, Heather 24, and Felicia 20.

Steve admits to starting off as a "trial and error" beginner after he inherited his brother's old computer. Before long he was pulled into the installation of bigger and better hardware programs. That led to more interest in graphics and electronic medium pictures.

After getting to know Travis better and hearing about the VLOA, Steve realized he could be of help. Steve's father, Sam Roper, was a Veteran of WWII and his dad instilled in Steve a respect for the men who have sacrificed so much for their country. Steve's uncle, E8 Arthur Glass, gave his life in Vietnam in 1972 and Steve has always regretted how the Vietnam Vets were

treated in the years following the war.

At his present age of 46, Steve recalls growing up watching the war in Vietnam on the 6 o'clock news. It's good to know there are people like Steve who remember that time period in history and are willing to add their skills to help our organization. He has designed several web sites and won special recognition for a web site at Fort Rucker. Steve is webmaster of that site.

Welcome, Steve Roper! We look forward to meeting you at our reunion to be held at Fort Rucker in 2004.

### Fred Jacob's Visitor



In the last issue of the Newsletter, the identity of Fred's visitor was incorrect.

He actually is Terry Jacobs, the son of Fred and Barbara Jacobs. It had been a couple of years since they had seen each other, so visiting with their son was a real delight.

Terry, 44, lives in the outskirts of San Antonio. He was stationed at the Naval Air Station located at Randolph AFB until about six years ago. At that time he left the navy after 16 years to become a civilian once more.



## On the Home Front 1964/65

By Shirley Hall

After attending the two reunions of the Outlaws of Vinh Long, I was drawn back in time to that period in our life. It was a time of saying goodbye and keeping the family going until the head of our household returned from Vietnam. Most of the wives in attendance at the reunion have experienced this separation. How did we cope? We had to be strong and have faith that our husbands would return and life would get back to military normal. Some of us learned to do things we had never done before. I was a veteran, having gone through this type of separation several times before.

There were lots of changes to be made. We left our home in the Chicago area where we had lived for four years and moved into quarters at Fr. Benning. When the group was formed and prepared to leave we then moved again to an apartment in a suburb of St. Louis. At least there were some relatives in the area that would provide support if we needed it. Our oldest three were enrolled in school and the baby kept every one busy.

During Dad's absence the children baked cookies every three or four weeks for their father. They became excellent cookie makers and it was a special time for the children. They felt they were bringing something from home to their Dad. They also wrote notes to keep him informed about their activities and sent lots of pictures.

In 1964 our only TV set was a black and white. Like other youngsters, the children yearned for a color set but knew it was not a possibility at the time. We did have an alternative though. A local TV store was located only three blocks from our apartment. It was a small store but owned and operated by Gene Love, a man with a big heart and a vision for the future. Gene placed a color television in the front window of his store and kept it turned on from morning until the station went off the air at night. Though the shop was close, we would get in our station wagon and drive to Love's. We would park up front where we could see the television and we would turn our radio to a special number on the dial to pick up the sound for the station

we were watching. It was like magic, Bonanza was one of the family favorites along with the Wide World of Color and we made sure we had a front row seat for those programs. Sunday evening was a special treat.

During the summer the family decided to take swimming lessons at the apartment pool. There was a prize for the one that mastered the skill in the shortest number of lessons. All three were able to swim and pass the test in less than 10 lessons. The only one who didn't make it was Momma! The children were very sympathetic as they explained that I could try again and would do better.

We spent one weekend a month looking at houses. We knew that we were searching for a permanent home for the future. The collection of floor plans grew as the year passed.

Eventually, the year was over and Dad was coming home. We would be going to Fort Rucker, Alabama. The two older children attended school in Ozark while one had school on post. The baby still kept every one busy. In less than nine months we were on orders again. Dad would be returning to Vietnam and we would be returning to the St. Louis area. All the scouting for housing paid off and we were able to have our new home built before Ray left us on August 6, 1966. We should say "partially built."

We moved into an unfinished house on August 1 so we did have a roof over our heads but other important things were missing. The yard was not graded and our furnace was not installed until the day after Thanksgiving due to a sheet metal workers' strike. Fortunately the fall was mild and we learned to cope. The high school was on a split session so the two oldest were in school from 6:30 am until 1:00 pm. Since they were home in the afternoon, the children helped put in landscaping plants, bushes, and trees. We climbed the ladders together to install awnings over the two front bedroom windows. Those windows were covered with sheets for a time. Piece by piece we put our home together. These are all things that military families learn to deal with over and over. Each move is a major undertaking.

To all the ladies that went through that year of 64/65, I salute you! We also served. **We are proud to be military wives.**

## WORST PICK UP LINES

It has been said, that certain Outlaws, Mavericks, and Road-runners in their youthful prime and single were quite the ladies men. Their ability to approach a sweet young thing and delight her with a time tested line may have resulted in, well shall we say, a pick up on occasion. Of course these brazen encounters did "zero out" from time to time, due to an unpolished phrase or two and a bungled delivery not well received. Over the years some of the more unsuccessful attempts by those of the infamous groups were witnessed and recorded for posterity. The all time worst pick up lines attributed to them are set down here for your judgment. (The non-attribution policy of the Outlaws News in delicate matters prevents revealing the originators).

\*"I didn't know that angels could fly so low."

\*"Was your father an alien? Because there's nothing else like you on earth."

\*"Do you have a Band-Aid? I skinned my knee when I fell for you."

\*"Can I have a picture of you? I want to show Santa what I want for Christmas."

\*"If I had a nickel for every time I saw someone as beautiful as you, I'd have five cents."

\*"You must be Jamaican, cause you Jamaican me crazy."

\*"Do you know CPR? Because you take my breath away."

\*"You must be goin' to hell 'cause it's a sin to look that good."

Because Pickup lines are deadly in large quantities and best in small doses...**That's all Folks!**



## Everyone Has A Story To Tell

Al Iller put it into words so well when he wrote the following account.

"With the advent of our second reunion we believe we have developed a real feeling of family within the group and one which will grow with future reunions. The personalities and attitudes of our group are still much the same as 38 years ago when we first organized at Ft. Benning and then deployed to Vietnam. Yep, our appearance and shapes may have changed, but the same youthful spirit and esprit de corps is still evident. There is a great satisfaction in seeing this group together and rekindling old friendships that have survived all these years."

For each member there is some story worth setting down in words or pictures. It can be humorous, adventuresome, or informational. We would ask that you delve back in your memory for an experience you could share.

Let us know if you are having a wedding in the family, or a new grandchild. Maybe someone is graduating from high school or college. Did someone get a promotion at work or win the lottery? Thought we would throw that last one in just for the fun of it and see if you were paying attention. Lots of us travel now that we are retired and some of those adventures would be enjoyed by others. We understand that Ernie gets forced onto a cruise ship three or four times a year. How awful! Remarks about some of these trips might answer some questions for others who are contemplating such a vacation.

The newsletter gives us an opportunity

to share what is going on in our lives with our friends. In this issue is an article called On the Home Front 1964/65. Perhaps some of the ladies have a story to tell about how they dealt with that special year in their lives.

Being a military wife is a special privilege and we all managed in our own way. Share some of those memories that you recall.

We will be open to any contributions. It would be great to learn something new about our friends. A collection of such stories can be saved to be used for many issues ahead. Send them by e-mail to :

rhalltopsg@aol.com or by mail to:  
Ray and Shirley Hall  
11814 Majella Drive  
Bridgeton, MO 63044

## Our mail box is always open!

### HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American entertainment icon Bob Hope may be getting along in years he's 99 now, but he continues his patriotic support of U.S. troops assigned stateside and deployed around the world.

Hope, born Leslie Townes Hope in Eltham, England, on May 29, 1903 (his family emigrated to America in 1907), became a star of vaudeville, Broadway, radio, movies and television and a hero to U.S. servicemen and women.

He became famous for flourishing a golf club during his comedy act. But Hope also became well-known as a patriot who'd over the last six decades risked his life to visit with and entertain more than 12 million U. S. servicemen and women during 700 trips stateside and overseas in peace and war. (cont'd on page 10)



## **TROA Legislative Update for December 6, 2002**



### **ISSUE 2 President Signs Defense Authorization Act.**

President Bush came to the Pentagon on December 2 and ceremoniously signed the 2003 Defense Authorization Act into law (Public Law 107-314).

Among other things, the Act provides active duty, Guard and Reserve personnel a 4.1% to 6.5% pay raise (depending on grade and years in service) and 8% housing allowance increase as of January 1, 2003. It also substantially eliminates the disability offset to retired pay for certain retirees with at least 20 years of active duty and (a) any disability rating that is associated with a Purple Heart or (b) a disability rating of 60% or higher that is due to a combat-related or operations-related disability. Eligible retirees will have to apply for this new compensation.

Because the Defense Department needs time to develop guidelines for approval as well as application forms and procedures, Congress made the effective date of the new payment 180 days after the President signed the law. President Bush did that on December 2, so the effective date of the new special compensation will be June 1, 2003.

DOD officials have a lot of work to do to build documentation requirements, approval procedures and guidelines, application forms and more, and say these actions probably won't be completed before the end of April.

In the meantime, many members have called to relate their circumstances and ask "Will I qualify?" Unfortunately, it will be four or five months before we know what the final rules are or how or where to apply.

We urge disabled retirees to be patient and avoid sending inquiries to the Defense Department until the rules are announced. The responsible Pentagon officials are working to build the new program, and it's counterproductive to make them spend time processing inquiries when they haven't yet had time to figure out the answers.

## **IN MEMORIUM**

### **A MAVERICK HAS LEFT OUR FORMATION Chief Warrant Officer 4 C. V. Mills, USA, Ret**

Known to us as just "CV", after battling a heart attack, surgery and complications from cancer, left our formation on his last and final flight on Friday, November 29, 2002. CV's military career spanned thirty-two years of distinguished military service to his country including enlisted service in the United States Air Force and later as a warrant officer in the US Army. His overseas tours included Korea during the conflict there, two tours in Vietnam, Belgium and Germany. CV's award and decorations include the Master Army Aviator Badge, Distinguished Flying Cross, sixteen Air Medals and two Purple Hearts. CV retired from active military service in 1979 to Lawton, Oklahoma and farmed together with his father. From time to time, he would help many of his close friends in their business enterprises. CV attended our first reunion in Branson R2K 2000 but was unable to join us in San Antonio due to his illness.

CV is survived by his wife, Betty, their three daughters and eight grandchildren. Knowing each other since the age of 7 CV and Betty would have celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on December 26, 2002. The VLOA members offer their heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Betty and her family.

*Another of our own has "...slipped the surly bonds of Earth....and touched the face of God".*

by Al Iller



## Life in Black and White—For older folks only.

You could hardly see for all the snow,  
Spread the rabbit ears as far as they go.  
Pull a chair up to the TV set,  
"Good night, David; Good night, Chet."

Dependin' on the channel you tuned  
You got Rob and Laura-or Ward and June.  
It felt so good, felt so right.  
Life looked better in black and white.

I Love Lucy, The Real McCoys  
Dennis the Menace, the Cleaver boys  
Rawhide, Gunsmoke, Wagon Train  
Superman, Jimmy, and Lois Lane.

Father Knows Best, Patty Duke  
Rin Tin Tin and Lassie too,  
Donna Reed on Thursday night-  
Life looked better in black and white.

I wanna go back to black and white.  
Everything always turned out right.  
Simple people, simple lives  
Good guys always won the fights.

Now nothing is the way it seems  
In living color on the TV screen.  
Too many murders, too much fight,  
I wanna go back to black and white.

In God they trusted, in bed they slept.  
A promise made was a promise kept.  
They never cussed or broke their vows.  
They'd never make the network now.  
But if I could, I'd rather be  
In a TV town in '53.  
It felt so good, felt so right  
Life looked better in black and white.

I'd trade all the channels on the satellite  
If I could just turn back the clock tonight  
To when everybody knew wrong from right  
Life was better in black and white!

Author Unknown

### REMEMBER?



Do you remember this enthusiastic preacher who brought *GOD'S WORD* to all who passed his pulpit at the Alamo Plaza? It was 95 degrees that Sunday morning and we were all wilting.

Many sought any bit of shade to get relief from the stifling heat. Some of that heat might feel good about now to those that have had a colder and snowier winter than usual.

The visit to the historic Alamo was a real treat for those that had not visited before.  
Remember the Alamo!



**VINH LONG OUTLAW ASSOCIATION  
INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT  
4th Quarter (10/1/02 to 12/31/02)**

**Beginning Balance \$39,274.39**

**Income**

Dues Collected	\$290.00
Seed Money Contribution	\$10.00
Reunion Deposits	\$ 720.00
Reunion Sales	\$1,003.00
Ft. Rucker Memorial Fund	\$1,015.00
Reunion Card Member Check	\$25.00
Woodfield Suites Refund	\$733.19
Return Petty Cash	<u>\$100.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,896.19</b>

**Expenses**

Outlaw Newsletter Publication Ck # 114 (9/16)	\$214.35
Check Order (10/3)	\$28.43
Petty Cash Withdrawal (10/3)	\$100.00
Arty Tees (Cups) Ck # 115 (9/25)	\$437.68
Embroidered Images Ck # 116 (10/03)	\$2,595.16
Woodfield Suites Ck # 117 (10/4)	\$16,209.96
Casa Rio & River Walk Ck # 119 (10/4)	\$3,277.00
7A Cattle Ranch BBQ Ck 120 (10/6)	\$4,092.00
San Antonio Historical Tour Ck #121 (10/6)	\$2,975.00
Ft. Sam Houston Golf Club Ck #122 (10/6)	\$1,782.34
Eric Dyer (Entertainment) Ck # 123 (10/6)	\$300.00
Bus Charter Service Ck # 124 (10/6)	\$810.00
Reunion Expenses (Dale Sherrod) Ck # 125 (10/7)	\$970.62
Reunion Expenses (Ernie Isbell) Ck # 126 (10/7)	\$410.19
Reunion Expenses (Ernie Isbell) Ck # 127 (10/11)	\$87.22
Reunion Expenses ( Tom Anderson) Ck # 128 (10/6)	\$18.82
Arty Tees (4 Cups) Ck # 129 (10/27)	<u>\$14.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$34,322.77</b>

**Ending Balance \$8,847.81**



## 2003 VLOA Membership Application Form

Beginning January 1, 2003 an initial VLOA membership is \$20.00, and all annual dues will be \$20.00 and due each January. Please use this form to forward initial and annual dues to: Charles C. Wren,  
20 Roxbern Drive, Eatontown, NJ 07724.

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

Street/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Assigned to Outlaws/attachments (Mo/Yr to Mo/Yr) \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Unit/pit/sect/posn \_\_\_\_\_ Radio Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

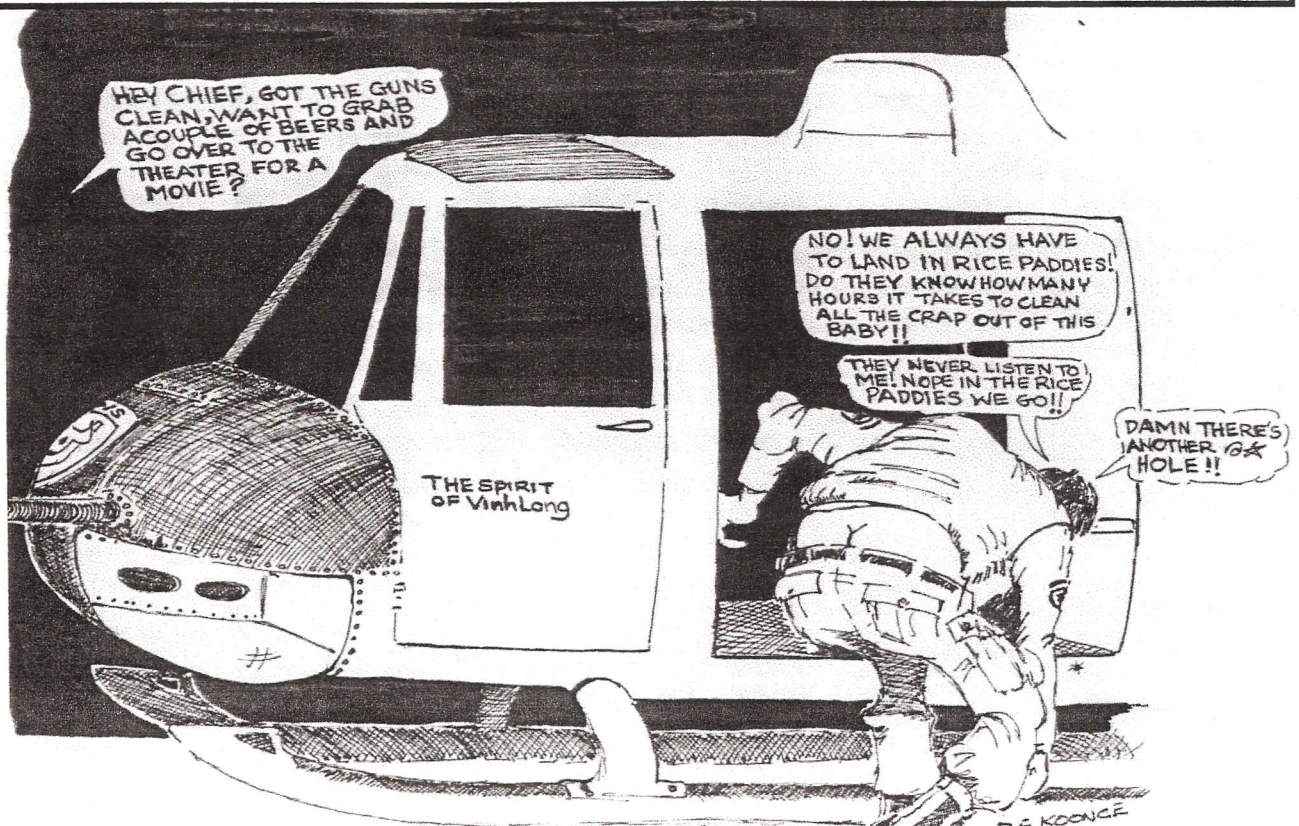
\_\_\_\_ Check here if the above address is a change from the one previously provided.

\_\_\_\_ Please initiate \_\_\_\_ renew my VLOA membership. Make checks 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.

\_\_\_\_ I know of a former Outlaw/Maverick/Roadrunner/attachments member and have attached his name, address, and phone number to this form.

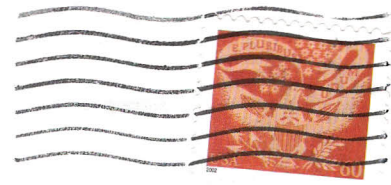
AFTER A LONG DAY FLYING.... A CREW CHIEF'S DAY IS NOT FINISHED!! R.E. KOONCE 2003





VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION (VLOA)

C/O Charles C. Wren  
20 Rozbern Drive  
Eatontown, NJ 07724

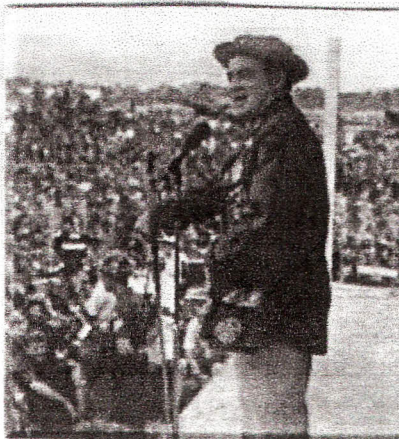


Hope's trips to see troops began in May 1941, when the comedian and movie star soon to be known as "America's No.1 Soldier in Greasepaint" traveled with other entertainers to March Field in California and performed a morale boosting radio show for airmen.

After America entered World War II on Dec. 7, 1941, following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hope began visiting service members at military posts across the nation, and in theaters of war in Europe and the Pacific.

He made his first trip to entertain troops in a combat area in 1943, visiting troops stationed in England, Africa, Sicily and Ireland.

After the Allies' victory over the Axis powers in 1945, Hope continued entertaining service members throughout the Cold War. **He made numerous visits to U.S. troops overseas during the Vietnam War.**



Hope, honored five times by the U.S. Congress, has been recognized for his patriotic efforts, too. The USNS Bob Hope, a roll-on/roll-off cargo ship, was christened in May 1997. The comedian also had an Air Force C-17 transport plane named after him.

In October 1997, Bob Hope was made an Honorary Veteran by both houses of Congress, the first time an individual has been so honored in U.S. history.

(Article taken in part, courtesy of TREA-Feb 2003)