



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

"www.vinhlongoutlaws.com"

Vinh Long Outlaws Winter 2022 Newsletter

October-December

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

4th. Quarter 2022

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National Director's Corner

By- **Bob Allen**



Hello everyone!

We continue to live in exciting times, and 2023 has started out just that way. I am pleased and excited to present to you the results of our recent reunion survey.

Remember, the choices were Branson, MO, Dayton, OH and Nashville, TN, as the location to celebrate our 60th Anniversary as a unit. There was a good response to the survey, even from those who have yet to attend a reunion, and we came away with a clear winner. We are headed to Nashville, TN in 2024!

With Nashville as the selection, I and the steering committee will begin the process of securing a viable contract for lodging, excursions, and other entertainment options. Planning is underway to consider some virtual attendance options for our homebound comrades, and for various ways to lessen the price of attendance for everyone.

All in all, this promises to be a well-attended event honoring the 60th year of our historic unit's beginning. Start making plans now to set apart the third week of September, 2024, as we gather together in Nashville, TN. More details will be forthcoming as planning finalizes the elements of the reunion.

(Cont. on Pg.2)

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Bob Allen, - National Director
Columbus, Ohio.

Ivan White- Deputy Director
French Village, MO.

Doug Wilson, -Secretary
Costa Mesa, CA

Frank Estes, -Treasurer
Ozark, AL.

Bob Sharp, -Newsletter Editor.
Albert Lea, MN.

Phil Van Alst, -Web Master
Hau'ula, HI.

Ernest Isbell, -Chaplain
Denton, TX..

Jim Donnelly, -Historian
Virginia Beach, VA.

Ernie Isbell -Mem-At-Lge. (64-65)
Denton, TX.

Walter Cieslak- Mem-At-Lge (66-67)
Darian, WI.

Eric Ragsdale, Mem-At-Lge (68-69)
Mesa, AZ.

Position Open, Mem-At-Lge (70-71)

Fred Rosenberg, Mem-At-Lge (72-75)
Leesburg, FL.

Lorie Hausenfluke M-At-Lge (03-08)
Hedenheimer, TX.

Terry Khachadourian,
Distaff Advisor
Lilburn, GA.

Tom Anderson, -Permanent Advisor.
Springfield, VA.

Ernie Isbell, -Ex Officio(2002-2004)
Denton, TX.

Tim Bisch, -Ex Officio (2004-2006)
Huntsville, AL

Joe Clelan, -Ex Officio (2006-2008)
Mechanicsburg, PA. (deceased)

Frank Estes, -Ex Officio (2008 2010)
Ozark, AL.

Bob Koonce, -Ex Officio (2010-2012)
Tacoma, WA.

Angelo Spelios, -Ex Officio (2012-2014)
Weatherford, TX.

Larry Jackson, -Ex Officio (2014-2016)
Hilton Head Island, SC.

James Donnelly, -Ex Officio (2016-2018)
Virginia Beach, VA..

(Cont. from Pg.1.)

This year is also an opportunity to reach out to our Outlaw/Maverick/ and Bushwhacker family of friends and encourage greater involvement and participation in the V.L.O.A. We are continually seeking to update address and contact information for those who currently members, and especially for those not yet on our roster. Your sphere of contact and influence most likely extends beyond our general ability to locate new members, so I ask for your much appreciated assistance in this regard!

Over the next several months I and my wife Shari will be traveling, sightseeing and cruising before summer approaches. Mexico, the Caribbean and Italy are on the docket as we celebrate our upcoming 50th year anniversary. My hope is to keep you all informed as we travel, and to share pictures and highlights of the locations as we go. Until then, be safe and well, prepare for Nashville and our 60th, and tell your friends to come along with you!

Celebrate 60!

Bob Allen, National. Director.

I write a monthly newsletter article for our VFW Post 447 here in Albert Lea, Mn. I thought that I would like to share it with you folks. February/2023

Hello Fellow Veterans:

As I am sitting in the lobby of a well-known hospital in the Minneapolis metro area waiting for a friend, I decided to write and use a scare tactic, as that is what it takes to get most of us "Old Vets" to get off our duffs and get with the program. I am as guilty as anyone. Had it not been for my spouse and her persistence, I most likely would have gone with the recommendation, "Don't worry about it" and would have succumbed to the cancer back in 2018/2019. I read an article this very morning entitled, "Don't Ignore the Symptoms of Prostate Cancer!" There are at least 5 symptoms to recognize it and early onset checkups are crucial! Prostate cancer is the leading cause of death in men over 55. 1 out of every 3 men will have it and those are not good odds! It is the number "1" cause of death in men over 75!

I know that most of us dream of sitting somewhere on the bank of a beautiful lake, or on the beach of some ocean in the sunshine, where we will drift off into the sunset someday. But that won't happen if you do not pay attention! For your own good and your family, follow up, do a PSA test regularly after detection, digital check yearly, and biopsies every 18 months. Good luck and stay healthy! Long live our Vet's!

Bob Sharp, Cmdr.
VFW Post 447



VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION (VLOA) Financial Statement - 12/31/2022

Balance effective 01/01/2022

REVENUES:

Dues - Annual	\$225.00
Dues - Life	\$300.00
Dues - Patriot Live	\$1,200.00
Reunion Shirt & bumper sticker sales	\$655.00
Reunion Anderson Auction (Note: credit card fee of \$95.59 deducted by cc co.)	\$4,956.28
50/50 Raffle	\$750.00
50/50 Winners' donation back to VLOA	\$725.00
Armed Forces Reunions reimbursement	\$1,920.71
Donations	\$1,350.00
TOTAL:	\$12,081.99

EXPENDITURES:

Newsletters, external hard drive, bank statements, awards, stickers, reunion incidentals, donation to VFW Post 8397.	\$6,832.64
TOTAL:	\$6,832.64

CASH BALANCE - as of 12/31/2022

Details: 12 months period ending 12/31/2022

Revenues Detail

Donation by Josiah Austin	\$500.00
Donation by Tim Bisch	\$150.00
Donation by Carol Chambers - Memory of Bill Chambers	\$500.00
Donation By Bert Rice	\$200.00
Reunion Shirt sales	\$505.00
Bumper stickers	\$150.00
Credit card payments for Anderson Auction items	\$3,481.28
Payment by check/cash for Anderson Auction items	\$1,475.00
50/50 Raffle Income	\$750.00
Armed Forces Reunions reimbursement	\$1,920.71
50/50 Raffle Winners' donation back to VLOA	\$725.00
Sub-Total	\$10,356.99

(Cont. from Pg. 3)

Dues: - 2022**Annual Memberships (AM): - 2022**

John Diamond	\$25.00
David Arsanis	\$25.00
William Gregorius	\$25.00
Harry Bauman	\$25.00
Larry Wolf (2 years)	\$50.00
Bob Tidd	\$25.00
Gary Bradford	\$50.00
Sub-Total	\$225.00

Lifetime Memberships (LM): - 2022

Peter Sweers	\$100.00
Luis Martinez	\$100.00
Dan Johnson	\$100.00
Sub-Total	\$300.00

Patriot Lifetime Membership (PLM) - 2022

Bert Rice	\$400.00
Ernie Isbell	\$400.00
Linda Isbell	\$400.00
Sub Total	\$1,200.00

<u>TOTAL REVENUES -12 months period 2022</u>	\$12,081.99
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Expenses Details

Bob Sharp - 4th Qtr. 2021 - Newsletter	\$828.40
Bob Sharp - 1st Qtr. 2022 - Newsletter	\$816.17
Bob Sharp - 2nd Qtr. 2022 - Newsletter	\$825.32
Bob Sharp - 3rd Qtr. 2022 - Newsletter	\$816.37
External Hard Drive for storing VLOA Historical Records.	\$94.64
Reunion postcard reminders - reimburse Frank Estes.	\$386.77
Bumper stickers - reimburse Jim Donnelly.	\$336.43
Reunion expenses - reunion incidentals: Bert Rice.	\$401.57
Reunion expenses - reunion incidentals: Pat Hall.	\$120.66
Donation to VFW Post 8397 for Posting the Colors at the arrival & banquet dinners.	\$400.00
Domain names renewal for 2023.	\$96.89
Annual webhost fee - Harlow Media.	\$239.88
Shipping of award to Phil Van Alst (winner-Natn'l. Dir's Award.)	\$168.55
Printing, shipping reunion shirts to non-attendees	\$833.49
Awards statues - Bluestone Designs.	\$449.50
Paper bank statements.	\$18.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES - 12 months period 2022</u>	\$6,832.64

INCOME (LOSS) - 12 months period ending 12/31/2022	\$5,249.35
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“Outlaws and Mavericks”



Hello, it is me your VLOA Historian, Jim Donnelly.

Doug Wilson and I have been collecting a photographic history of the Outlaws for many years. Doug has compiled an impressive amount of statics and various lists of persons, places, and aircraft. He is amazing at these tasks. But now to the reason I am writing.

Once in a while, we are lucky enough to find someone who will share a memory of their time with the unit. This kind of information was the reason I started the History Project more than a fifteen years ago and I am sorry to say response has been extremely rare. So, I switched to collecting pictures of the unit from those first days in 1964 to the Stand Down in early 1972.

I am again asking for your input via your written recollection of an event or person from your time in Vinh Long. I would also love to scan your photos, slides, awards, and other documents. Don't let your experiences be lost forever.

The history of our unit will be donated to various Vietnam depositories of history. More than 17,000 images and 1000 pages of documents, along with dozens of audio recordings and videos have already been donated to the historian at Rucker. Frank Estes presented a copy of the History late last year at the request of the Branch's Historian. The dissemination of the information has already begun.

I am at present scanning W2 George Karcher's photo album from his 1965 tour. The collection continues to grow and preserve another brave man's time with the unit. It is easy to have a folder in your name added to the collection. Just box everything up and ship it to me, I then scan and enhance the scans with the various software I have. I then place a copy of all the scans plus a copy of the photos from your time at Vinh Long on a flash drive which is included in the return box of all the materials you provided.

If you chose to donate the hard copies of the materials, then they will be stored in my “Outlaw Room” until the time when it all is turned over to The Vietnam Center & Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University.

We have several “newish” members and I appeal to you to dig up those old physical memories from your time in Vinh Long and send them to me. They will be treated like the treasure they are.

Thanks, Jim Donnelly

(jcdonnely1@cox.net) 757-469-8168

We want to wish you and your loved one a very Happy Valentines Day! God Bless!

Happy Valentines Day

ME



YOU



&



*My Valentine Forever !!!
Bob*



San Antonio Reunion Follow-up.



Hello to you all!

As the Newsletter editor I would like to inform you all, especially the members that were not able to attend the VLOA Reunion in San Antonio what a special recognition that was afforded us by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8397 of San Antonio, Texas.

The Honor Guard posted the Colors the first evening before our welcome dinner and as part of our program at the farewell dinner the Post Commander stood and welcomed us each and everyone of us veterans with a hand salute and a hearty, "Welcome home!" After that we were each given a Viet Nam War memorial pin. After the program and the dinner the Honor guard played taps for all the deceased and they retired the Colors. We were all moved by their presence and patriotism. We all thanked them very much!

I myself took a lot of pictures and felt that a "thank you" and some pictures of them would be appreciated. I visited a little with the Commander of the post and Color Guard and he was impressed by our organization as he has not been part of any group of Vietnam vets.

We may not realize it but we are a very special group as we, the first group, the 62nd. Aviation Co. most of us trained together in the 11th. Air Assault Division 18 months before we were formed as the 62nd. and then sent to Vietnam. From then on and the years to follow, we were moved around, and new replacements came in and we became a part of that legacy. It became an ongoing family and if you were once part of it you will forever be "One of the Vinh Long Outlaws".

I printed off some pictures of the Color Guard and the Commander and of the VLOA leadership and assembled them in a folder so each member could have a copy for themselves. I attached a personal letter and enclosed copies of the Newsletter with the reunion pictures and articles for each of the members to read. I wanted them all to understand how fitting it was and how we appreciated their extra effort.

Patriotism and volunteering with helping the veterans is the forefront in my life. So, when I heard the Commanders story I decided to keep in contact and keep him informed and share with him.

I want to say to all the members that were unable to attend this past reunion that my hope is that with the upcoming reunion in 2024 there will be more opportunities and availabilities for you all to participate at some level.

God Bless you all and good health!

Bob Sharp.

VLOA Editor.

(Cont'd. on Pg.8)

Mr. Cris Vieyra, Jr.
 Post Commander, VFW Post 8397
 2541 W. Southercross Blvd.
 San Antonio, Tx. 78211

1-10-2023

Dear Sir:

Hello again. My name is Robert J. Sharp, and I am the Post Commander of VFW Post 447 of Albert Lea, Mn. 56007. I met you when you and your men posted the Colors at our Viet Nam Veterans reunion of the "Vinh Long Outlaws" at the Holiday Inn in San Antonio in September of this year, 2022.

I am also the editor of our newsletter, The VLOA Newsletter. I was the one who took all the pictures and I introduced myself and we had a little time to visit. I want to tell you and your Post members how very grateful we were to have you come and do the presentation and give us the honor of your presence there with the Flag of our great nation.

I also want to say how very touching it was that you presented us all with a hand salute and a "Welcome Home!" I am sure that many of us there had never received that in all those many years. Thank you so very much!

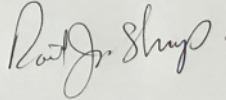
I thought that I would send you each a copy of the Fall Newsletter featuring the reunion with all the pictures and the articles included. You will notice that we are a great organization, and they treat their members and their spouses and families with great respect.

I am including enough copies for each of you who attended and enough pictures so each of you can have a keepsake of your own. Again, we are so very grateful and want to wish you well. I do hope that we will be able to meet again someday.

It was a memorable reunion, and we surely enjoyed the tours of your historic and beautiful city. For some of us it was the second time we have attended a reunion there as we were there in 2002 and it was a very good reminder of another awesome time.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Sharp, Cmdr.
 VFW Post 447,
 17489 US Hwy. 65
 Albert Lea, Mn. 56007.



Editor,
 Vinh Long Outlaws Newsletter.



Cont. from Pg.8

Mr. Cris Vieyra, Jr.

1-10-2023

Post Commander, VFW Post 8397

2541 W. Southcross Blvd.

San Antonio, Tx. 78211

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Respectfully,

Robert J. Sharp, Cmdr.

VFW Post 447,

17489 US Hwy. 65

Albert Lea, Mn. 56007.

Editor,

Vinh Long Outlaws Newsletter.



“Anosognosia”

What in the world is that? If you are over 65 and reading this e-mail, I guess you are one of the few fortunate people! ——Read below for all the details.

Earth's Population Statistics in Perspective.

The population of Earth is around 7.8 billion. For most people, it is a large figure. However, if you condensed 7.8 billion into 100 persons, and then into various percentage statistics the resulting analysis is relatively much easier to comprehend.

----Out of 100:

——11 are in Europe

——5 are in North America

——9 are in South America

——15 are in Africa

——60 are in Asia

——49 live in the countryside

——51 live in cities

——75 have mobile phones

——25 do not.

——30 have internet access

——70 do not have the availability to go online

——7 received university education

——93 did not attend college.

——83 can read

——17 are illiterate.

——33 are Christians

——22 are Muslims

——14 are Hindus

——7 are Buddhists

——12 are other religions

——12 have no religious beliefs.

(Cont. on Pg.11.)

(Cont. from Pg.10.)

—26 live less than 14 years
 —66 died between 15 - 64 years of age
 —8 are over 65 years old.

—If you have your own home, Eat full meals & drink clean water, Have a mobile phone,
 Can surf the internet, and have gone to college,
 You are in the miniscule privileged lot. ——(in the less than 7% category)

Amongst 100 persons in the world, only 8 live or exceed the age of 65! If you are over 65 years old, be content & grateful. Cherish life, grasp the moment.

If you did not leave this world before the age of 64 like the 92 persons who have gone before you, you are already the blessed amongst mankind.

Take good care of your own health! Cherish every remaining moment!

If you think you are suffering memory loss.....Anosognosia, very interesting... In the following analysis the French Professor Bruno Dubois, Director of the Institute of Memory and Alzheimer's Disease (IMMA) at La Pitié-Salpêtrière - Paris Hospitals, addresses the subject in a rather reassuring way:

"If anyone is aware of their memory problems, they do not have Alzheimer's."

1. forget the names of families.
2. do not remember where I put some things .

It often happens in people 60 years and older that they complain that they lack memory.

"The information is always in the brain, it is the "processor" that is lacking."

This is "Anosognosia" or temporary forgetfulness.

Half of people 60 and older have some symptoms that are due to age rather than disease.

The most common cases are:

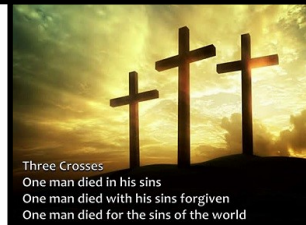
- forgetting the name of a person,
- going to a room in the house and not remembering why we were going there,
- a blank memory for a movie title or actor, an actress,
- a waste of time searching where we left our glasses or keys ..

After 60 years most people have such a difficulty, which indicates that it is not a disease but rather a characteristic due to the passage of years.

(Cont. on Pg.12)



The Back Pew



The Chaplains Corner- Winter 2023

Happy New Year!!!!

This part of Texas (Dallas area) underwent very cold and icy weather the week before Christmas. It seems that a great deal of the Nation experienced nasty weather as well. Heavy snow storms trapped many people in the Northeast in their homes without electricity and multiple deaths resulted. Since most of the Outlaws are in our senior years my prayers are for everyone to plan for severe weather and take precautions as necessary. Better safe than sorry.

Christmas is a time for families to make memories and enjoy the season. The good part about grandchildren is that they grow up and make memories of their own and you get the pleasure of watching it all happen. Linda and I have three grandchildren. One is a male age 35, who has never married. We have a set of 18-year-old twin granddaughters, both of whom are enrolled in college in the Oklahoma City area. I'll brag just a bit about these two very intelligent young ladies as both are pursuing degrees that will serve them very well.

I encourage everyone to continue to take precautions regarding exposure to Covid. Seem that the virus continues to mutate and I encourage everyone to get vaccinated and take the booster shots as they are available.

Plans are underway to determine where our next reunion will be located. Each of you should have received emails asking for your input regarding the location. Please let the leadership know your views and plan on attending. Linda and I will be there—God Willing.

May the Lord Bless you and your family.

Ernie Isbell

Chaplain
Vinh Long Outlaws



Then & Now: The Money Side of the VLOA

by Frank Estes



Sometimes, it makes a lot of sense to look back to see where we came from. It's been 25 years since a handful of former Outlaws decided to get together for a mini-reunion. That led to an effort to find as many of the original Outlaws as possible. The work of this small band of Outlaws resulted in finding over 100 former Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners, and 28th Signal Detachment members. It led to the first ever Outlaws Roundup in 2000 in Branson, MO.

Well, any effort like this requires resources, in addition to personal hours invested in the effort. Here is the first financial report of the newly formed Vinh Long Outlaws Association.

Report From Our Treasurer (September 1999)

Ernie Isbell

Income:

Dues	\$200.00
Seed Money	\$475.00
Total Income	\$675.00

Expenses

1st Newsletter	\$ 70.00
Total Expenses	\$ 70.00

Balance **\$605.00**

The VLOA has come a long way since the day our bank balance was \$605. Today it stands at \$37,130.31 (see VLOA Financial Report elsewhere in this newsletter).

We have conducted 11 biennial reunions at numerous locations, which along with our quarterly *Outlaws Newsletter* has brought many new members to our organization. The more members we had, the more we found that our financial situation improved.

In the early years, we had very limited funds. As a result, we had to add a 15% kicker to the reunion registration fees to help defray some of the reunion preparation and incidentals cost, such as banners, signage, refreshments in hospitality room, taxes, ball caps, welcome bags, pads, pens, etc. Getting membership dues payments was always a struggle, but that was the only revenue we had, other than anything left over from the reunion.

Then, we started the 50/50 raffle and silent auction that brought in enough funds to operate for the following two years to pay for all the expenses the VLOA had begun to accrue, such as an improved *Outlaws Newsletter*, updated and improved Outlaws website, blocking five domain names that used the Vinh Long Outlaws name, and covering some of the cost of incidentals for each of the reunions.

In conclusion, our financial underpinning is the result of a lot of factors, such as membership dues, registering for and participating in reunions, individual donations, participating in the 50/50 raffle, and contributing to and bidding on items in the Anderson Silent Auction. So, if you are one of the foregoing, pat yourself on the back for keeping the VLOA financially viable well into the future.



Membership

by Frank Estes



Membership in the Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA) is a pivotal part of our organization. Here are a few ways it impacts us:

- ▶ Provides the basis for being an IRS approved nonprofit, tax-exempt war veterans' organization [“...all contributions made to and for the use of the VLOA are tax-exempt...” IRS letter, 30Apr2001].

- ▶ Membership dues provide one revenue stream that helps keep the VLOA financially sound.

- ▶ Provides a forum and biennial reunion for former Outlaws, Mavericks, Bushwhackers, Roadrunners and allied/attached units' members to keep up-to-date with their comrades.

- ▶ Provides input for and maintains a history of our heritage: the 62nd Aviation Company, A Company 502nd Aviation Battalion, 175th Aviation Company, B Troop 1st-158th Aviation Regiment, and 175th Aviation Company (Europe).

Beyond the foregoing, the following will discuss the status of dues paying, and what the dues and other revenue streams are used for.

Well, it's that time of year again when we remind you of your duty to renew your annual membership or join as a Life Member or Patriot Life Member. ***Over half of the members listed on our roster are not paying dues, with less than half financially keeping our VLOA afloat.*** If you are one of the members on our roster who is not current in paying dues, we ask you to be a part of the supporting members by joining us as an annual or lifetime dues-payer. Doing so will help ensure a financially sound future for the VLOA as our membership numbers will continue to decline. The last page of this newsletter contains a membership application form or you may download one from www.vinhlongoutlaws.com.

We often hear the question: “Well, what are our dues used for?” Please take a look at our annual financial report contained in this newsletter and you will quickly see the variety of expenses we incur: quarterly newsletters to everyone on our active roster (including Honorary Members), mailing out reunion shirts, biennial reunion preparations, annual webhosting, annual website domain names renewals (we pay for five even though we only use one in order to block attempts by someone to use a website name similar to ours), postage, supplies, bank statements, administrative support, and biennial reunion incidentals.

During our reunion years, we experience other expenses that quite often are not covered just by our annual and lifetime dues payments. In turn, we conduct two revenue generating events during the reunion to help cover annual and additional expenses. These are the “Anderson Silent Auction” and the “50/50 Drawing.” The Anderson Silent Auction contains items donated by our own membership or items donated by someone who wants to help in this event. Therefore, the Anderson Silent Auction costs us virtually nothing and is a 100% income-producer. The 50/50 Drawing is where we sell tickets during the Annual Roundup and then split 50% of the income for the event with members whose winning tickets are drawn. The remaining 50% goes into our general fund for payment of expenses.

In closing, membership in the VLOA is pivotal to the successes we have had and helps provide a financially sound base for continuing our heritage into the future. Please consider paying your annual dues or join as a Life Member or Patriot Life Member. Further, you can also help financially by registering to attend our next Outlaws Roundup in Nashville, TN at a date to be determined.

If you have not paid your dues, please do so in the next couple of weeks.



Winter in Minnesota.



Well, all you people that do not have the benefit of cold weather and DEEP snow, I want to tell you what you are missing! Yes, it has some benefits, like not having to fill your wardrobe with insulated undergarments, Carhart hooded jackets, coveralls, Thinsulate lined gloves and Wolverine packs for your feet. But! You don't know what you are missing! I know that some folks from the big cities down south think that we live in Igloos year around here but that isn't quite true. Some of our neighbors to the north do that, but believe me we live in regular houses, ours may differ from yours a little as we have lots of insulation in the walls and the ceilings. Yes, we do drive on the ice that covers the thousands of lakes that we are famous for. I did one time during a conversation with a businessman from out east get asked about that. He said, "You don't really do that do you?" I asked him if he ever watched a movie called "Grumpy old men." He said sure, but that is just in the movies! I said that I have enjoyed that sport for many years, sitting in a fishing shack out on the ice with either a wood stove or if you were well to do, you could buy a gas heater. I had a fish house that was 4'x 8'x 6' tall that I had built. It had carpet on the floor with insulation on the walls and a battery powered light on the ceiling and a radio out of a car. All the comforts of home.

The heater was upright, and you could put a coffee pot on it or a frypan if you wanted to fry fish or something for a meal. This was an angling house and it had four holes on one side to fish through and we sat on chairs on the other side with a door between them. Very comfy it was. I also had a spearing house which is quite different as the hole is usually 2'x4' wide so you can look down into the water and see the fish, if they show up! You also cannot have a light on, or you can't see down into the lake! You use a live chub or hand made lures that you suspend down into the water to entice the fish to the hole where hopefully you are able to spear the ones you want and are legal to take.

But I digress, I really need to tell you a story about when my granddaughters were young, and Grandma Bonnie and I would go fishing with the boat in the summer. The girls just loved to go along. We went many times during that summer and then fall came, and then winter.

I got my fish house ready and the ice was thick enough to drive on safely so I put it out where I thought was a good spot and gave it a try.

Cont. on Pg.17

(Cont. from Pg. 16.)



I caught some Sunnie's and some Crappies. It was a good spot so the weekend came, and I called the girls to see if they would like to go fishing with us and they were thrilled! We packed some food and into the old pickup and off we went.



Now this was many years ago, before seat belts and all that safety stuff. The girls were young, four and six maybe. We were driving down the road and the little one on the seat turned around and let out a scream! **“Grandpa! You forgot the BOAT!”** We laughed and told her not to worry as we were going ice fishing. Well, she didn't understand. As I drove out onto the lake, I tried to explain that we were driving on the lake, and she did not think that was right. We got to the fish house and opened it up. I started the heater, cleaned the ice out of the holes, we got in and I told them to sit down on the carpet. I turned the light off and told them to look down into the holes. They were so excited, and she said “Grandpa! There's the lake! So innocent and so wonderful they are and then they grow into adults.

Contrary to what you may believe the snow and the ice does melt here in the Spring and we have beautiful Summers where the temperatures do go up and over 100 degrees at times and it gets uncomfortable. Falls with the most beautiful show of colors as the leaves on the trees turn and get ready for winter. It is also the time to harvest the many grains that we grow here. We make hay and usually get three cuttings that we put in the hay sheds to feed our animals during the winter. If you have not heard, I do own riding mules and had a team that rode and drove. We pulled our carts, wagon, and our sleighs with them.

That's where this story was leading to. I have a few different sleighs and what great fun it is to go on a sleigh ride. That is something that even a lot of people around here never get to do. We have a lot of friends that own mules and horses. We know a couple that own a farm north of town. They have a place back up the hill behind their home place where they have a huge grove of oak trees and over the years, they built a log cabin back in the woods. It is a one room cabin with a loft. It has a cast iron wood burning stove to cook with and an open fireplace. They have no electricity there so the lights they have are oil lamps. There is a huge wooden table with chairs to sit around it.

On Christmas Eve their children come home after church with their children and Grandpa Gene has his team of Belgian horses hooked to the big bobsled and loads them all up and he heads out to the cabin in the oak woods where the whole family spends Christmas Eve.

(Cont. on Pg.18)

(Cont. from pg. 17) In the years past when their kids were young they all spent the night, (as there was room for them) and then spent Christmas Day there also. with no electricity, no internet, AND NO cell phones! What a wonderful holiday they had!



We are so fortunate as when Gene decides to have a sleigh ride he invites his friends to bring their horses and mules and if they have a sled of sorts to bring that also. They usually have a great turnout with anywhere from 5-10 teams and sleds. They invite other friends also just to come along to experience what an awesome time it is to be drawn through the woods all bundled up in your winter gear in an ages old sleigh like people were transported around all the time many years ago.



You arrive in the farmyard and bring your food you brought to share and soon a team and a sled will appear out of the woods and stop. You climb aboard and off you go. As you go through the woods you will see more sleds heading in different directions making the rounds. As you get back to the cabin you will see all kinds of people standing around a big fire ring visiting and laughing with old friends and making new ones. (Cont. on pg. 19)

(Cont. from pg. 18) They are drinking hot coffee or hot chocolate they got from in the cabin where Gene's wife Diane is visiting with everyone and making hot beverages in big old pots on the stove. She also has a "huge" pot of her homemade chili on the stove if you care to have some. The table is full of sandwiches, deviled eggs, salads, bars of all sorts. Cookies, cake, and anything else you can imagine. You won't go away hungry.



You then can sit around and visit, or you can get on board another sled and head out for another ride. This goes on all afternoon with people coming and going and everyone has an excellent time. No one complains about the cold, although there is always talk about the weather, either past or future.



It really is a once in a lifetime experience for most folks as you can imagine. We are fortunate to have access to awesome friends, the animals, the equipment, the location, and most of all, the climate! For those of us that were born and raised here feel as if we were lucky as we have four wonderful seasons! They are all beautiful!

(Cont. on pg. 20)

(Cont. from pg. 19.) Family affair. Note– 1-2-3-4!



I sure hope you enjoy this article and the pictures that go with this great experience. If you ever get to Minnesota in the winter we will be more than happy to show you one of the better things in life! Bob & Gloria Sharp. (Cont. on pg. 21.)

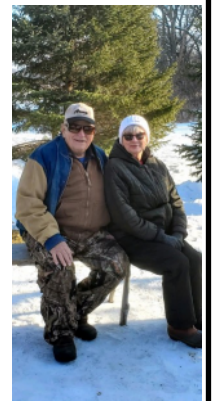


(Cont. from pg. 20.)



**Thanks and
"That's All
Folks"!**

**Happy
Valentines Day
to you all!!**



**SOMETIMES I LOOK BACK
ON MY LIFE AND**



**I'M SERIOUSLY IMPRESSED
I AM STILL ALIVE**

Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right and the other is the husband.

"Never fight until you have to. But when it's time to fight, you fight like you're the third monkey on the ramp to Noah's Ark... and brother, it's startin' to rain."



13th Avn. Bn., Attached Units, Cited for Valor

WASHINGTON—The 13th Aviation Bn. and attached units have been awarded the Army's Valorous Unit Award for "extraordinary heroism" in support of Vietnamese forces during April 1965.

The 13th and other units, the Army says, "demonstrated indomitable courage and professional skill while providing direct support for elements of the 21st Div. of the RVN."

Receiving the award are:

- The 13th Aviation Battalion
- Headquarters Detachment, 13th Aviation Battalion
- 114th Aviation Company (Airmobile Light)
- 544th Transportation Detachment (Cargo Helicopter Field Maintenance)
- 96th Signal Detachment (Avionics)
- 83d Medical Detachment
- 121st Aviation Company (Airmobile Light)
- 80th Transportation Detachment (Cargo Helicopter Field Maintenance)
- 257th Signal Detachment (Avionics)
- 82d Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance)
- 2d Medical Detachment (Surgical Hospital)
- A Company, 502d Aviation Battalion
- 28th Signal Detachment (Avionics)
- 150th Transportation Detachment (Cargo Helicopter Field Maintenance)
- 5th Machine Gun Platoon (Provisional), 25th Infantry Division
- 7th Machine Gun Platoon (Provisional), 25th Infantry Division
- 8th Machine Gun Platoon (Provisional), 25th Infantry Division
- 5th Quartermaster Petroleum Detachment
- 53d Quartermaster Petroleum Detachment
- 62d Quartermaster Petroleum Detachment



Steven James Hopkins

03/29/1946--09/10/2022

A simple man, a humble servant.



Specialist 4th Class Steven James Hopkins served with Co. A 502nd BN at Vinh Long, Republic of South Viet Nam from August 1965-June of 1966 as Crew-chief on Maverick 32. He received numerous medals including The Purple Heart.



Steffen to his mother and Step to his father. Steven was the second born of eight siblings. To boot, he was the First of four auburn-haired siblings AND the only boy. He was also a model son and beloved brother of seven doting sisters.

At the young age of eighteen, in hopes of becoming a pilot. Steven left his home in southern California and voluntarily joined the Army where he bravely served his country for three years, receiving several medals including the Purple Heart.

While stationed in Ft. Eustis, VA, Steven met vibrant and bubbly sixteen-year-old Mary. This was an opposite match destined to be! After his military service, Steven and Mary married and returned to California where Steven proudly joined the California Highway Patrol. For the next thirty-three years, as a dedicated first responder and training officer, Steven protected the highways on his much loved state issued motorcycle.

Together Steven and Mary created and nurtured a God-praising, close knit family with their two daughters Monica and Amy, their spouses and five grandchildren. They were greatly blessed to celebrate their fifty-fourth wedding anniversary this past June.

Steven retired from the CHP at age sixty and soon began his much loved second career as Papa to his three grandsons, Jonah, Jackson, and Joshua. Also, his twin granddaughters Abby and Emma. They were the apple of his eye and the center of his world. Each one had the exhilarating experience of riding with Papa on his RED Harley. Steven was an avid protector of GOD, family, and country with a demonstrable presence both on and off the job. In addition, he was a devoted US Patriot often riding with the Patriot Guards to honor the families of fallen military comrades. His veteran and first responder role duly earned him the title of DOUBLE HERO.

Steven was a man of integrity who was loyal and truthful to a fault. He wore his faith on his sleeve, there was never any doubt where he stood. A little known fact unknown to most people was Steven's love of the guitar. He played whenever possible to give glory to God and to inspire his grandchildren. And, so, like his mother, he enjoyed gardening, bird watching, and coffee. His other talents included mechanics and carpentry. He created so many wonderful pieces.

His wife, his children, grandchildren, siblings, family, and good friends miss him greatly but find much comfort and joy that he is now with his heavenly Father, as well as with his earthly Mother who made the same heaven-bound flight a year ago at the age of 101.

We thank the Lord for the many endearing memories and faith inspired lessons we learned from them and we look forward to celebrating with them one day when it is our turn to meet our Maker.

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Winter—2022

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 62nd Aviation Company, A Company 502nd Aviation Battalion, 175th Aviation Company, B Troop 1-158th Aviation Regiment (Iraq), 150th Transportation Detachment (“Roadrunners”), 28th Signal Detachment, and 25th Infantry Division’s “door-gunners.”

Active (with vote) or Associate (without vote) Membership is \$25 annually, payable each January. A Lifetime Membership (with vote) is \$100 one-time dues. A Lifetime Associate Membership (without vote) for spouses and relatives is available for a \$100 one-time donation. A Patriot Lifetime Membership (with vote) is available for a one-time \$500 or more dues. Current Lifetime Members may upgrade to a Patriot Lifetime Membership for a one-time \$400 or more dues.

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) _____

Unit/platoon/section/position _____ Radio Call sign _____

- Please initiate ___ or renew ___ my Active ___ Associate ___ VLOA membership. **Make \$25 check payable to VLOA**
- Please initiate my Lifetime ___ Lifetime Associate ___ VLOA membership. **Make \$100 check payable to VLOA.**
- Please initiate my Patriot Lifetime ___ membership. **Make \$500 or more check payable to VLOA. Current Lifetime Members make \$400 or more 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/Bushwhacker/Roadrunner or other affiliated unit member and have indicated his/her name, address, and phone number on this form.

Comments: _____