



Vinh Long Outlaws Summer Newsletter

April-June-2014

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

2nd. Quarter 2014

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National Director's Corner

Greetings fellow Outlaws:

Reunion time is just around the corner. I cannot wait to be among my fellow Outlaws, especially in our Nation's Capital, Washington, D.C. If you have not made or firmed up plans to attend, please do so now. As I described in previous columns, this will not only be our fiftieth year of deployment, but the events and sites that are scheduled are unsurpassable.

This will be my last column as National Director, and I want to acknowledge and thank the Officers and Directors that have made the Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA) into a great organization. First of all, I want to thank Tom Anderson, Permanent Advisor, for his guidance by providing continual advice that was accumulated since our deployment and the first Roundup. Many thanks go out to Bob Sharp, for publishing this great VLOA Newsletter. He has spent many hours in gathering material for publication. Chester Voisin, treasurer, for keeping our finances in tact. Tony Clemente, Deputy Director, for his assistance. Frank Estes, Web Master, for upgrading and maintaining our web site. Larry Jackson, Secretary, for keeping and posting our minutes of our meetings. Jim Donnelly, Historian, for collecting and maintaining our history. John Doyle, Chaplain, for his inspiring religious messages printed in our Newsletter and for the invocations and Sunday services he has so passionately delivered at our biennial Roundups. I want to thank Jim Kelly and Pat Theriot, for serving as Members-At-Large. Also I want to acknowledge our past National Directors: Ernie Isbell, Tim Bisch, Joe Clelan, Frank Estes and Bob Koonce for their advice and guidance. It takes a lot of persons to contribute some of their time to making the VLOA such a great organization.

We need some of us to "step up to the plate" and volunteer to take up some of these positions. We have had many volunteers in the past, such as Jack and Fran Konopka take charge of a very important position of VLOA Auction Coordinators. Among the vacancies will be The National Director's position. This is a critical position for the continuance of the VLOA, as we have today.

With as many persons that are listed above, the individual positions are not very time consuming. As in other organizations, e-mails are exchanged among the Officers and Directors with great advice and guidance. Please consider volunteering for any open positions that will be announced at our business meeting.

I am looking forward to be with my fellow Outlaws and their families in Washington, D.C. in September.

Angelo Spelios

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To: Mr. Angelo Spelios, National Director:

On behalf of the Vinh Long Outlaws Association and myself, we want to thank you for your service to our organization and to our country, The United States of America.

VLOA Newsletter Editor, Bob Sharp.







Silent Auction: Why It's Important By Frank Estes

This is just a reminder that the Silent Auction we conduct at each of our reunions is a lot more important than many realize. This is one of the three fund raisers we use to ensure that sufficient funds are available to pay for the quarterly *Outlaw Newsletter*, our website, and general operating expenses. your participation in providing items for use in the Silent Auction is pivotal to the continued success of our national Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA) and the financial underpinning it needs to get the tasks accomplished.

Time is running out on finding something you can tribute to the 50th Anniversary Reunion's Silent Auction. Take some time to look around your house and find that item that is lurking there, an item you have but probably won't ever use or need or your spouse hates. We'll even take an item your spouse has and you hate and want to get rid of. Maybe your area of the country specializes in a product or products that could be put together in a basket and that would be of interest to some of our reunion attendees. Further, you may know the owner of a local business that might want to contribute an item for the auction. Approach them and ask; nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Of course, all these items need to be of some interest to others, in excellent condition, monetarily worth something, and of a variety that would peak the interest of our membership who attend the reunion.

Jack and Fran Konopka are running our Silent Auction for this reunion and have been giving us reminders periodically through the year and especially in each newsletter. They can only do so much; **YOUR** involvement is critical, too. So, please, come up with a few items, take a photo of each, write a brief description, and email the information to Jack and Fran at jkonopka624@gmail.com. I am sure they will appreciate your support and assistance with the Silent Auction.

As you have seen in our *Outlaw Newsletter* from time to time, our membership dues make up a good portion of the funds we need to keep the VLOA operating, including publishing the Outlaw Newsletter, maintenance of the Outlaw Website, and general operating expenses.

Well, we have received quite a bit of support from a number of former Outlaws, Mavericks, Bushwhackers, and Roadrunners who submitted their membership application and dues, with a few joining as Life Members. Here are the most recent ones:

Life Members:

Gregg A. Biggins, Gregory, SD Glen N. Nelson, Highland, NY Anthony R. "Tony" Villarruel, Harrisville, UT

Regular Members:

Robert C. "OB" O'Brien, Duncanville, AL William L. "Bill" Fryant, Phoenix, AZ Donald J. "Don" Kreshtool, Roanoke, TX Dale A. Roland, Hollister, MO Richard A. "Rick" Little, Morgantown, WV Kenneth E. "Ski" Bemowski, Stevens Point, WI

Regular Membership Renewals:

John N. Diamond, Clarkesville, GA Cullis L. Holub, Mobile, AL Joe Clelan, Mechanicsburg, PA Eddie McGuire, Midway, GA John Dovle, Inverness, FL Donald Palmer, Plymouth, NH Robert Tidd, St. Marys, OH

Membership "Tip" (see previous newsletter):

Jerry F. Wade, Corpus Christi, TX (Life Member) Bert Rice, Odenton, MD (Life Member) Pete/Carolyn Fredriksson, Azle, TX (Life & Associate Life Members)

Corporate Sponsorships: (see separate article herein)

Mr. Lee Lee's Carpentry Works, Morava, Hendersonville, NC

Barney Trucking Company, Inc., (in memory of Craig Barney - former Outlaw), Salina, UT

American Legion Post #883, Andrew Hoder, Adjutant, Moreno Valley, CA

Mathiowetz Construction Company, Sleepy Eye. MN 56085

Bob & Gloria Sharp (in memory of his son Joel Sharp), Albert Lee, MN 56007

Flower Mound Financial Services, LLC (Ernie & Linda Isbell), Flower Mound, TX

Bill & Becky (Bergquist) Quinn, Huntsville, AL

Wow! That is great support for the VLOA. Thanks to every one of you for your contribution to making the VLOA financially sound. If you are reading this and have not paid your 2014 dues, please do so now, and consider joining us in Washington D.C. for our 50th Anniversary Reunion.

Nomination of Officers & Directors By Frank Estes

During each of our Biennial Reunions, our membership selects the Officers and Directors who compose our Steering Committee. Those selected will serve for the coming two years, beginning at the end of the reunion.

Our Constitution and ByLaws state that only members in our Active or Life Member categories may be elected to the respective Steering Committee positions. These positions are:

- >National Director
- > Deputy Director
- > Communications Director Website
- > Communications Director Newsletter
- > Two Directors-at-Large
- > Secretary
- > Historian

The National Director appoints the Permanent Advisor, Treasurer, and Chaplain. Incumbents in these three positions are normally considered to be permanent until or unless otherwise replaced by resignation or released by the National Director.

Request you provide your nominations of Active or Life members to fill the eight elected positions identified above, and have the information to me prior to September 1, 2014. Please send your nominee information to: estesf@troycable.net.

These nominees will compose the initial slate that will be presented to the General Membership during our reunion's Business Meeting, Saturday September 20, 2014. Nominations from the floor may be made during the Business Meeting where Officer and Director nominations are being discussed. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Nominations for Awards

By Frank Estes

Anyone wishing to submit a nomination for the Directors Award or the Outstanding Outlaws Award to be presented during our 50th Anniversary Reunion should send an email to Ernie Isbell at the following: ernest.isbell@lpl.com or submit a letter of nomination to the Awards Committee, c/o Ernie Isbell, 2904 Corporate Circle, Flower Mound, TX 75028. If you require additional information, contact Ernie at his email address.

These nominations, one for the Directors Award and up to eight for the Outstanding Outlaw Award, need to be submitted not later than 15 August, 2014 and should contain the following information about the nominee:

- >Name,
- >Address,
- >Phone numbers, and
- >A narrative commentary regarding why the nominee should receive an Award.

Specifics regarding service in the Outlaws, Mavericks, Bushwhackers, Roadrunners, Signal Detachment, or the associated support organizations should be provided.

Of particular interest should be the reasons that make the nominee worthy of receiving an award, such as service to the VLOA, service to veterans or civic organizations, including positions of leadership or support in any of the activities being used to support the nomination.

Please give this some thought; there are a number of our members who work diligently to keep the VLOA and other veterans' and civic organizations operating smoothly. These individuals are deserving of consideration.

(On The fighter Side.) A tough looking group of bikers were riding when they saw a girl about to jump off a bridge so they stop. The leader, a big burley man, gets off his bike and say's, "What are you doing?" "I'm going to commit suicide," she say's. While he did not want to appear insensitive, he didn't want to miss an opportunity he asked, "Well, before you jump, why don't you give me a kiss?" So she does and it was a long lingering kiss. After she is finished, the biker says, "Wow! That was the best kiss I have ever had. That's a real talent you are wasting. You could be famous. "Why are you committing suicide?" Well she says," My parents don't like me dressing up like a girl______"



The Back Pew

By: John Doyle



The Back Pew

Fall 2014



HOW MANY DOES IT TAKE?

The other day, I did something I try hard to avoid. I caught myself thinking. Nothing spectacular; I was just thinking

how many doctors \mathbf{I} am making rich. \mathbf{I} have a General Practice doctor, \mathbf{I} have an Oncology doctor, \mathbf{I} have an eye

doctor, I have an Ear, Nose and Throat doctor, I have one that I go see once a year at VA. I tell her I'm feeling

great, and she says, "Fine. I'll see you next year."

Ruth also is helping to build the retirement fund of several other doctors. I won't even go into what would happen if we had a dog.

But hey! Cheer UP! I have some great news for you! I know someone who can heal all ills, bring great joy and hope

into your life, and if that is not enough, He will will look after you in good times and bad times. He will make life joyful, and death something you need not fear. He will be your all seasons' friend, comforter in times of sorrow and sickness! He will be the best friend you will ever have. His Name is Jesus. Now get this! He will never bill you.

I can remember how loud the congregational singing would get when we would sing, "What a Friend We Have In Jesus." It's true. He is the Best Friend you will ever have. Good times and bad He will stand by you. He is waiting for you to invite him into your life. Like the old hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", says, "..all our sins and grief to bear." Others may "feel your pain", but they can not ease it or take it away. He stands at the door and knocks. The choice is yours, You can say, "Come in!," or you can send Him away! He will not force you to open the door. If you don't answer his knock, He will leave. I believe there will be tears on His cheeks.

Can you really not invite him into your life?

John Doyle

Details: 6 mont period - 1/1/2014 thru 6/30/2014

Treasurers Report by Chester Voisin



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

			Revenues		
			Inventory Sales - (Majority Reunion Shirts)	1,736.00	
		Balance \$	Miscellaneous - Donations		
			Ilir (Lee) Morava	300.00	
Cash Balance - 01/01/2014		16,114.28	Jerry Wade	50.00	
			Pete Fredrickson	50.00	
			Bert Rice	50.00	
	2014		Barney Trucking	500.00	
	6 Months		Total	950.00	
	6/30/2014		Annual Dues:		
Revenues:	\$				
	<u> </u>		Robert Tidd	25.00	
Dues - Annual	375.00		Donald Palmer	25.00	
Dues - Lifetime	300.00		John Doyle	25.00	
Dues - Associates Lifetime	300.00		Eddie Mcguire	25.00	
Sale of Inventory Items (Majority - Shirts)	1,736.00		Kenneth Bemowski	25.00	
Silent Auction Proceeds	1,730.00		Richard Little	25.00	
Ticket Sales - 50/50 Raffle			Dale Roland	25.00	
Miscellaneous	950.00		Joseph Clelan (2 years)	50.00	
miscenarieous	950.00		John Diamond	25.00	
Tetal December			Cullis Holub (2 years)	50.00	
Total Revenues:	3,361.00	3,361.00	Donald Kreshtool	25.00	
	1		William Fryant	25.00	
			Robert O'Brien	25.00	
Expenditures:			Total	375.00	
Newsletter Costs	881.68		Life Time Memberships (LTM):		
Inventory purchases & costs					
2012 Reunion Costs			Gregg Biggins	100.00	
2014 Reunion Costs	558.86		Glen Nelson	100.00	
Prizes - 50/50 Raffle	•		Anthony Villaruel	100.00	
Administration	38.97		Total	300.00	
Miscellaneous	128.62		Life Time Associate Membership (ALTM):		
Total Expenditures:	1,608.13	1,608.13	5.5		
	(None		
Net Income - 6 months 2014	1,752.87	1,752.87	Total		
			Total Revenues	;	3,361.00
Cash Balance - 06/30/2014		17,867.15			

Expenses



How can we raise more - MONEY????

Robert Sharp - 4th Quarter 2013 Newsletter	555.07
Robert Sharp - 1st Quarter 2014 Newsletter	326.61
Administration	38.97
Tom Anderson - Inventory Expense	-
Tom Anderson - 2014 Reunion Expense	558.86
Frank Estes - Callender Floral Spray	128.62
Total	1,608.13

	Otal L	-xheiiae				
Income 6 month period ending 06/30/2014	ncom	e 6 mon	th period	ending	06/30/2014	

(1,608.13)

1,752.87

REUNION SPONSORS

By Frank Estes

Barney Trucking Company, Inc. In Memory of Craig Barney 235 S. State Road 24 Salina, UT 84654 435-529-3701 www.barneytrucking.com

American Legion Post #883 Andrew Hoder, Adjutant PO Box 940 Moreno Valley, CA 92556 Lee's Carpentry Works, Inc. Mr. Lee Morava 406 Landon Road Hendersonville, NC 28739 828-696-2141





Mathiowetz Construction Co.

30676 County Road 24 Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 507-794-6953 www.mathiowetzconst.com



Bob & Gloria Sharp

In memory of his son, Joel 17489 US Highway 45 Albert Lee, MN 56007 Flower Mound Financial Services, LLC 2904 Corporate Circle Flower Mound, TX 75028 972-410-0206 / 877-747-4729 www.lplflowermound.com

Bill & Becky (Bergquist) Quinn In Memory of Bob Bergquist 46 St. James Street Huntsville, AL 35801

The corporations and individuals listed above responded to our advertisement on the VLOA website, with contributions totaling \$3772. Our advertisement provided the following information:

"The Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA) is a 501(c)19 war veterans organization consisting of former members of the 62nd Aviation Company, later designated as A Company 502nd Aviation Battalion and afterwards as the 175th Aviation Company that served in Vietnam from 1964 through 1972, and succeeding organizations such as B Troop 158th Aviation Regiment that served in Iraq.

"Currently, the VLOA consists of members located in 41 states. The VLOA was formed in 1998 with the intent of locating as many of the Outlaws' former members as possible. It has conducted biennial reunions beginning 2000, and is taking great pains to make the 50th Golden Anniversary in the Washington D.C. area the best of all, in hopes of attracting the largest attendance and honoring those who served with the organization. The VLOA is seeking sponsors to help defray the costs of conducting the 50th Golden Anniversary Reunion in the Washington D.C. area.... All contributions to and for the use of the VLOA are IRS approved as tax exempt."

The following categories of Sponsorship, along with applicable benefits were available:

- __ \$1,000 (Name will be shown on website (1 year), newsletters (1 year), venue displays, & reunion programs.)
- __ \$500 (Name will be shown on website (1 year), newsletters (1 year), venue displays, & reunion programs.)
- \$250 (Name will be shown on website (6 months), newsletters (6 months), & reunion programs.)
- \$100 (Name will be shown in newsletters (6 months) & reunion programs.)
- \$50 (Name will be shown in newsletters (6 months).)
- Other: (Name will be shown in newsletter prior to reunion.)

Thanks to these corporations and individuals for providing funds that will help reduce our reunion expenses in conducting our 50th Anniversary Reunion in Washington D.C.







Obituary: Dan Duff – former Maverick Lead 1970-71

Vietnam War Army veteran Thomas Daniel "Dan" Duff, 65, of Great Falls, a retired civil engineer and Montana Air National Guard lieutenant colonel, died of natural causes Saturday at a local care facility. Dan died Oct. 23, 2010 after a 17-month struggle with cancer. He was born March 15, 1945, in Harrison, MT, and lived there until age 5, when the Duff family moved to Butte. He attended St. Patrick's Grade School, Boys Central High School, East Junior High School, and graduated from Great Falls High School in 1963.

Dan played football for the GFHS Bison and was selected All-State center in 1962. He played in the East-West Shrine Game in 1963, and coached the Shrine game five years later. With a football scholarship to the University of Montana, he played for the Grizzly freshman team, and then transferred to Montana State University, where he played center for the Bobcats for the next four years. The starting center in 1966 and 1967, Dan earned Big Sky All-Conference honors in 1966. He graduated from MSU in 1968 with degrees in history and physical education, and was commissioned as an Army second lieutenant. He and Paula Marie Eminger were married at St. Gerard's Catholic Church in Great Falls.

Dan reported for military service at Fort Knox, KY, completed helicopter training at Fort Walters, TX and Fort Rucker, AL. He was then assigned to 175th Assault Helicopter Company in Vietnam in 1970. Wounded by hostile fire in January 1971, he was hospitalized at Fort Lewis, WA for five months. Dan was awarded the Purple Heart for his wartime service. Until his discharge in 1972, Dan was stationed at Fort Dix, NJ. The family moved to Maryland, where Dan joined the Army National Guard and continued to fly helicopters for the next eight years. During this time, he also earned an engineering degree from the University of Maryland.

After a divorce in 1980, Dan moved to Alaska, where he worked for the Army Corps of Engineers and later for the Alaska Air National Guard. He moved back to Great Falls in 1987, taking a job as a civil engineer for the Air Force. He also transferred to the Montana Air National Guard, where he was an officer for the civil engineer squadron. Later, Dan married the love of his life,

Vicki (Malmberg) Kuntz, on Dec. 27, 1992, at St. Luke's Catholic Church. After he retired in 1997 from the Montana Air National Guard as a lieutenant colonel, he continued working for the Air Force. He and Vicki lived in Germany in 2000, and then Hawaii where he worked at Hickam Air Force Base. He spent his last two years back at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, where he retired in 2006.

Dan was passionate when it came to Bobcat football, sobriety, travel, flying, and spending time in Hawaii and the outdoors. Dan loved spending time at the family cabin in Lincoln, working, relaxing, and playing fiery games of cribbage. His other passion was flying and he was very active in the GTF Aero Club as president before its dissolution, when he and his flying buddies invested in their own plane. Dan logged countless hours in the 172 Cessna, flying around the state for breakfast and lunch meetings, taking family members for joyrides, and an occasional long trip with Vicki to visit friends and family.

Surviving are his wife, Vicki, of Great Falls; daughter and son-in-law Shauna and Mark Hyde of San Jose, CA; stepson Brock Kuntz of Gardiner; stepdaughter Kerri Kuntz of Sandpoint, ID; and granddaughters Helena and Juliet Hyde of San Jose, CA. Other survivors include nephews, nieces, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, and numerous cousins.

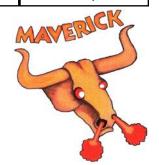
He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and June (McKeown) Duff; a brother, Michael Duff; and a sister, Mary Kay (Duff) Baker. Dan was a member of a 12-step program and was proud to be sober for well over 27 years at the time of his death. He also had a personal mission of visiting the sick and the imprisoned. Dan was loved by many and will be greatly missed.





A Tribute to Dan Duff Maverick Lead

By Bill Fryant



I'd like to tell you about a great soldier, leader, and friend. The following are my recollections from 43 years ago about this very special person.

Dan Duff was the first platoon leader for the Outlaws when I arrived in April 1970. Near the end of 1970, Dan was selected to be Maverick Lead, the Maverick Platoon Leader. In early January 1971, I was transferred to the Mavericks and began pilot training. Early one January morning, the Outlaws and Mavericks were tasked with a combat assault on a known enemy position. Dan was flying the lead gunship with a newly assigned captain. CW2 Ray Prycz was flying as Dan's wingman with me in the left seat.

Our gunships arrived at the designated area and began a low orbit as Dan performed a recon of the PZ. While observing the PZ from the right seat of his UH-1 Charlie model, someone in the formation of friendly troops (ARVN's) fired his weapon at Dan's aircraft. A round came up through the nose of the aircraft, passed between the altimeter and artificial horizon, and exited through the roof. But not before it struck Dan a glancing blow to the left side of his head. The end result was that Dan was medivaced to a hospital and ultimately sent to the States to recover. He did recover, but the damage to his eye was too great and he ended up losing his left eye. The only reason he was not killed outright was that he had his head turned to the right and was leaning a bit towards the right window for a better view.

The last time I saw him was at the briefing that morning. I think we flew to Chao Duc, and got him out of the aircraft. The C&C aircraft transported him to the Bien Thuy hospital. They wouldn't allow us inside, so I wandered back to his ship to get an idea of what happened. I found the bullet holes and couldn't believe the flight of that round. I sat in Dan's seat and stretched the chord from a helmet by putting one end where it came through the instrument panel and the other through the exit point in the roof. If Dan had not moved his head to look out the right window, the round would have caught him right between the eyes. It just wasn't his time.

After returning to the States, we did not keep in touch. Through the years, I ran into guys we worked with and heard that Dan was doing well and working in Hawaii. He sent a post card to the first platoon stating that he was the best one-eyed skier in Montana and was still flying. I'm guessing Dan was probably given a medical waiver for the loss of the eye and could not operate an aircraft unless he had another pilot with him.

My sister and brother-in-law live in Kalispell. My wife was born and raised in Cody WY and I've worked in Montana in the '70's and 80's. I went to visit my sister last year and planned on looking Dan up during the trip. I Goggled his name and was shocked to discover that he had died October 23, 2010. I regret that I didn't get to thank him for mentoring me and others during our tour in Vietnam. Dan was a gifted leader and would not take "no" for an answer. Dan's obituary can be seen elsewhere in this issue of the *Outlaw Newsletter*.

NATIONAL CEMETERY INFORMATION

Eligibility for Burial in National Cemeteries

By the time most of us Viet Nam veterans reach the age where we all are now, we have probably made a decision as to where we want to be put to rest for eternity. However, it may not be common knowledge that veterans are eligible for burial in National Cemeteries, or more specifically, how to find out the details about such a burial.

Veterans with a discharge other than dishonorable, their spouses, and eligible dependent children may be buried in a national cemetery. Burial benefits include a burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate, and a government headstone or marker regardless of where they are buried. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the Internet at www.cem.va.gov or by calling VA regional offices at 1(800) 827-1000.



2014

VINH LONG OUTLAWS * GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ROUNDUP



Washington DC Area September 18–22, 2014

Come and join the celebration of 50 years of Vinh Long Outlaws history at the Marriott Tyson's Corner hotel in Fairfax, Virginia. Registration fee of \$1074 per couple or \$792 per single covers all expenses. Reduced hotel parking rate. Registration fee includes:

Welcome bag with name badge, itinerary, list of attendees and much more!
One-of-a-Kind Commemorative Keepsake Gift
Hospitality Room Stocked with Snacks and Beverages all 4 days
Complimentary breakfast Friday-Saturday-Sunday-Monday
Thursday Welcome Back Dinner
Friday Wreath-laying at the Viet Nam Memorial
Tour of Arlington National Cemetery
Saturday visit to the Huge Dulles Air & Space Museum
Lots of "On-Your-Own" time for Sightseeing
Sunday Evening Farewell Banquet

VIET NAM VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

Attendees will gather at "our" memorial to pay tribute both to the members of the Outlaws who were killed in action but to all US service people who were lost in that conflict. A short ceremony will conclude with the laying of a wreath of remembrance at the apex of the memorial.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Among the nearly 300,000 burials in Arlington are a number of our fellow Outlaws who are at their eternal rest in this, a national shrine and the most hallowed ground in our nation. The tour will feature stops at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Kennedy grave site while a narrator will fill in facts about the cemetery itself.

SMITHSONIAN DULLES AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

Among the thousands of aircraft and space artifacts in this HUGE museum, is the B-29 Enola Gay, a Lockheed SR-71, a Concorde, the space shuttle Discovery and a Viet Nam battle-tested UH-1.

Come to the 50th Anniversary reunion, share old memories and make new ones!!

Complete the Registration Form on the website (<u>www.vinhlongoutlaws.com</u>) or for more information, contact

SLM Events, LLC 6848 Tiddle Way Lorton, VA 22079 Ph: 703-627-7992



50™ GOLDEN ANNIYERSARY ROUNDUP

SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2014 MARRIOTT TYSON'S CORNER 8028 LEESBURG PIKE, VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22182

NAME: NAM	ME ON NAMETAG:
MAILING ADDRESS:	ASSOCIATION OF THE PROPERTY OF
PHONE: EMA	UL:
NAME(S) OF YOUR SPOUSE/GUEST(S):	
NAME(S) OF YOUR SPOUSE/GUEST(S): CHICK	(EN: VEGETARIAN: FISH:
HOTEL ROOM CHOICE: KING: TWO DOU ARRIVAL DATE: DEPARTURE DATE:	BLES:
ARRIVAL DATE: DEPARTURE DATE:	TOTAL NUMBER OF NIGHTS:
PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS (DIETARY, WHEELCHAIR, ET	rc):
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY: NAME:	PHONE:
REGISTRATION	FEE INCLUDES
 Hotel room with breakfast daily (maximum 2 per room) 	Tours of:
Welcome packet	 Air and Space Museum – Dulles Airport
 Hospitality room stocked with snacks and beverages 	Viet Nam Memorial
Thursday night welcome dinner	 Arlington National Cemetery
Friday Lunch	 Commemorative 50th Anniversary gift
 Saturday lunch voucher at A&S museum 	
 Sunday Farewell banquet dinner and program 	
REGISTRA	tion fees
Price per Person (2 per room/by check: \$537 each)	Total \$1074
Price per Person (2 per room/by credit: \$557 each)	Total \$1114
Price per Person (1 per room/by check: \$792)	Total \$792
Price per Person (1 per room/by credit: \$822 each)	Total \$822
Add'l persons (3 rd or 4 th) in 2 person room: \$354 (check)/	
Add'l Hotel Nights (max 3 nights prior/after): \$128 (chec	
DECISTRATION FORM AND FOR DI	Total:
REGISTRATION FORM AND 50% DU	
Final Payment due No Later than September 1, 20	14 – Prices will increase after September 1, 2014
Credit Card #: Expir	ation Date: Security Code:
Name on Credit Card:	Signature:
Billing Address for Credit Card:	
I am paying by personal check. Check#en	closed.
A cancellation fee of \$20 per person will apply for all cancell	lations received from 30 days prior to the event until
10 days prior to the event. Cancellations received after 10 d	lays prior to the event are non-refundable.
Note: Parking fee \$3 per night not included in registration f	ee.
Send this Form – Along With Chec	k or Credit Card Authorization to
SLM Ever	nts, LLC
6848 Tide	
Laston W	A 22070

Phone: 703-627-7992

Schedule of Events - 50th Anniversary Reunion - Vinh Long Outlaws

18	als	_	
Sept. 18	n Arriv	In and	ration
SDAY	1:00 - 6:00 pm Arrivals	Hotel Check-In and	VLOA Registration
THURSDAY	1:00	Hotel	VLOA

3:00 pm Hospitality Room opens

Refreshments in Hospitality Room 3:00 - 6:00 pm

3:00 pm Silent Auction open for bidding 7:00 - 9:00 pm Welcome Hospitality Room open Room - Marriott Hotel 9:00 - 10:30 pm

Silent Auction bidding

10:00 - 12:00 am Visit Breakfast at Marriott 9:00 Buses Depart for 8:45 am Board buses Viet Nam Veterans Memorial

12:00 - 1:00 Box Lunch and wreath-laying by Veterans Memorial VLOA at Viet Nam

- picnic in the park depart for Arlington National Ccemetery 2 pm Buses

Tour Air & Space

Hospitality Room open 5:00 pm Buses Return to Marriott hotel 6:00-10:00 pm

Silent Auction bidding Evening - Open Time Dinner on your own SATURDAY Sept. 20 **Breakfast** at Marriott

FRIDAY Sept. 19

denominational chapel service - Hospitality Room Committee meeting 8:00 am Steering

ocation TBD

9:00-11:00 am VLOA Seneral Membership Meeting Hospitality Room Everyone velcome

Jdvar Hazy Air & Space Junch at A&S restaurant Museum, Dulles Airport 2:00 Board buses for w/discount coupons

for return to Marriott 4:30 pm Board Buses Museum

6:00-10:00 Hospitality Dinner on your own Room open

SUNDAY Sept. 21

Breakfast at Marriott

All those hard-to-say Departures -

goodbyes

Open time until dinner

5:30 Cocktail hour open 6:30 - 8:30 Farewell Banquet ? bar

9:30 Silent Auction Hospitality Room Winning Bids in

'cold-ones", laughs and Final hours for sharing memories.

MONDAY Sept. 22

Breakfast at Marriott

Business Meeting Agenda (Tentative) 50th Anniversary Roundup – 2014

The Business Meeting for our 50th Anniversary Roundup looks like it will be a very active, lively, and important one. As you who have attended prior reunions know, we have about three hours on Saturday morning and one hour Sunday morning to complete our annual business. Since this agenda might take longer than we normally spend, we are providing a copy of it so that you can give thought to all the items, especially the critical ones associated with the VLOA's future (items 11 & 12).

The following provides the current tentative agenda:

Call to order/opening prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

Opening comments by National Director Approve Minutes of 2012 Roundup

Treasurer's Report

Election of Officers & Directors

Policy Files Update

Changes to Constitution & ByLaws

Website Update **History Update Newsletter Update**

Where Do We Go From Here:

Future Reunions - continue with them?

Newsletters – who gets one, how much longer? Website – how managed, by whom, how long?

Dues - leave as is or change?

2016 Reunion Site (if decision is to continue them)

Open Discussion From the Floor **Install New Officers & Directors**

Angelo Spelios/John Doyle/Angelo Spelios

Angelo Spelios

Angelo Spelios Chester Voisin Angelo Spelios Frank Estes

> Frank Estes Frank Estes Jim Donnelley

Bob Sharp Tom Anderson

> **Angelo Spelios Angelo Spelios Angelo Spelios**

If you have any items you feel need to be discuss, relative to the VLOA organization and operations, please let me know at estesf@troycable.net so that I can include them in the final agenda prior to arriving at the reunion site.

National Cemetery Grave Locator – Not just Arlington National Cemetery

To make it easier to locate the graves of more than three million veterans and dependents buried in national cemeteries, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has updated their data base. Maps of burial sections, online, can be printed from home computers and at national cemetery kiosks. The gravesite locator http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov finds the cemeteries where veterans are buried. With this online feature, you can enter a veteran's name to search, click on the "Buried At" (burial location) link and a map of the national cemetery is displayed, showing the section where their grave is located. The locator also identifies the cemeteries in which 1.9 million veterans were buried with VA grave markers. These are mostly private cemeteries.

To everyone involved with the Vinh Long Outlaws Association and wherever you came from and whenever you were part of the organization and to wherever we go from this point on, I do hope that you have enjoyed the time and the camaraderie and feel like I have, that this has been some of the best time in my life. I can say that our spouses feel the same. What the future holds for us we do not know, but I do know it will be what we make of it. So here is to the Future—including the VLOA.

From the Editor: Bob Sharp.



















PAGE 13	VINH LONG OUTLAWS	APRIL-JUNE-2014
	"Eminent Domain at Work" by Tim Bisch.	

Sixty-one years ago during 1953 my Dad, already a successful but retired farmer and residing in town, took advantage of an opportunity to purchase a small farm he claimed was the "best farm in the county". My Mom wasn't pleased. She already had enough of being a farmers wife; she enjoyed the calm and less stressful life of city living. The "for better or worse" part of their marriage vows taken many years prior still applied so it was back to the "good old days' for her too. Personally it didn't matter that much to me. I had just graduated from high school and was headed off to college in the fall. Mom took it in stride and Dad was happy as could be being a real farmer again. Compared to his previous farms, this one was only 80 acres of prime soil on fields almost as flat as a table top.

Our farm is close to the nearby city of Baraboo, Wisconsin and located only two miles from the town square. A major highway U.S. 12 that was previously the main route from Chicago to the Twin Cities is located down the hill one quarter mile from our farm. It's traffic was greatly diminished with construction and opening of interstate highway 90 about 15 miles north-northeast of us during 1961. U.S. 12 is still the major route for traffic from Madison to Baraboo and Wisconsin Dells, an attractive tourist center. A major attraction is Ho-Chunk gambling casino located several miles south of the Dells. Locally, business and industry firms were expanding. Adjoining our farm to the east are various business locations including a VA office, credit union, a large Slumberland furniture warehouse. Neighboring farms have mostly disappeared. The farm formerly across the road now consists of a Wal-Mart Super Store, Menards Hardware/Building Supplies, Teal Plastic Factory and an industrial park. There are also a myriad of commercial businesses along highway 12. To satisfy these areas of increasing traffic requirements, especially for the Ho-Chunk casino, a four-lane highway south from Wisconsin Dells is in it's final stage of completion.

A key publication, the "Agricultural Impact Statement" published August 24, 2004 and distributed by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection includes recommendations to mitigate potential adverse impacts associated with bypass routes. Obviously the planners didn't believe they applied to our property. Selecting a route that goes through property causing undesirable land use, i.e., bypass cutting through a large farm field is a major impact due to severance and access. Plans were changed, i.e., road access to the new bypass would formerly be through a diamond interchange requiring 12.4 acres and maintaining existing access. This was unilaterally changed by Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) due to including two roundabouts increasing acreage to 21.02 acres, removing our house and eliminating prior entry/exit routes. The engineer representing WisDOT surmised the 12.4 acres was probably cropland and differences were considered "homestead" under right of way provisions. (Thought the Homestead Act gave land to citizens, not take it away.) Roundabouts are not a practical means of road travel for farm equipment. As a farm, with a house and fields separated on opposite sides of a bypass highway, it no longer exists. From one of the best farms in the county to become just two dis-jointed plots of land separated by a four lane bypass highway was unbelievably unfortunate, especially for our traditional, once proud piece of farm property.

The two major entry/exit driveways to our property were eliminated. An "Agricultural Impact Statement" recommendation stated "WisDOT should consult with landowners whose access must be altered to ensure safe and efficient access to their property is provided." The WisDOT Project Manager stated arrangements would be completed for an entry/exit drive through city property from the east side together with work on county road W. This proposed entry/exit was considered by the appraiser to be considered as acceptable as a replacement access driveway despite commenting that the grade of 10% is generally considered to be at the outside edge suitable for vehicle traffic and likely unacceptable for long-term use as business park development land. To me, the replacement driveway even if approved, is neither safe nor efficient especially for large sized farm equipment needing access and faced with roundabout limitations. Per "Agricultural Impact Statement" recommendations, this landowner certainly wasn't consulted with regarding safe and efficient access. An on-time entry/exit requirement for both pieces of our property isn't just "nice to have", it is a must.

Construction is scheduled to begin during early 2015 yet negotiations for our property with WisDOT have not yet begun. They delivered an appraisal regarding value of our property on February 14, 2014 but rescinded their offer March 25, 2014. They delivered a second appraisal July 2nd. My best interests will be served to also have an appraisal completed on my property. It provides an objective, non-prejudiced position to counter opposing value opinions of WisDOT. It is only when these appraisal documents become available, negotiations may proceed.

My Mom and Dad have both passed on but they had planned for me and Mitzi to return home, not to actually farm but at least reside on the property, rent the farmland to a good farmer and keep it in the Bisch name. Well Mom and Dad, we tried, spending fifteen wonderful summers here maintaining the property, making improvements, planting and harvesting a garden, picking raspberries and keeping the home place looking like you would have wanted. We worked with and became re-acquainted with our many relatives seen but briefly and sporadically during my 29 years of military service. Unfortunately planned highway routes carry unintended consequences. Other nearby neighbors have been precluded from short distance drives to town or to receive timely emergency services due to additional time consuming miles due to their roads being cut off by the bypass.

Regarding our farm, we certainly didn't decide to return here for monetary purposes. Improvements to our house and property were costly but we take pride in hearing favorable comments like those received last week. They were from a niece who lives in Milwaukee. After visiting us with her two sons subsequent to our annual Bisch Bash picnic held recently at a local park, she wrote a short note to us. It said "Thank you all for allowing us to stop in. The state's indecisiveness must be torture for you but it's given us opportunity to cherish the love and memories that are the spirit of the place. I hope grandma and grandpa know our gratitude. Your stewardship allowed that legacy to be appreciated for much longer than any of us could ever anticipate. Thank you so much." She is right, our wonderful farm with it's rich topsoil and beautiful view will soon become just two separate pieces of property, one that may continue to be useful but across the bypass highway to the east is a smaller piece of land with no house to bind the farm and it's buildings together.

Eminent domain at work? It is a disaster! It reminds me of that less than humorous quip we are all familiar with - "It is a free country, do as you are told."

A POTPOURRI OF REUNION INFORMATION

Here's some random information for those who will attend the 2014 50th Anniversary reunion in Washington, DC.

How to find a name on the Viet Nam Veteran's Memorial Wall

One of the highlights of the VLOA reunion will be a ceremony at the Viet Nam Veteran's Memorial, where we will recite the names of all Outlaw KIA's as well as lay a remembrance wreath at the apex of the memorial. While at the Memorial, many will want to locate a friend whose name is on the Wall. It's easy to locate a name on the Wall. You can start by using one of the catalogs available near the entrances of the memorial. Names are listed alphabetically, by last name, in the catalog. Each listing provides a panel number and a row number. To locate the name entry on the Wall, look on the bottom corner of each panel for its panel number (e.g. 24//W) and then count down the rows, starting from the top. As an indexing aid, every other panel has pip marks on every tenth row to help users count the rows. Typically five names appear on each row (six appear where names have been added to the wall since 1982). Rangers and volunteers are always available to assist you.

Viet Nam Memorabilia Items at the Reunion

The hospitality suite will have a table to display any items you would like to share with the other attendees. You are welcome to bring your pictures, photo albums, patches, unique clothing, flight gear, club chits, one-of-a-kind items from Vinh Long, or anything at all which you think might bring back some memories for others who attend. The Hospitality Suite will be secured at all times when we are away from the hotel but don't forget to pick up your items before the end of the reunion.

Reunion 50/50 Drawing -

The 50/50 drawing has been an integral part of each VLOA reunion. Half of the proceeds taken in go to the VLOA, and someone who attends the reunion takes home the other half, always a lucrative cash prize. The 50th Anniversary Reunion will continue this tradition! Emmadel Voisin and/or Patty Theriot will again be at the Registration table to attempt to pull a little cash from each registrant as they signin, in exchange for a strip of tickets, any one of which could be the WINNING ticket! Reunion attendees should be prepared for some strong-arm tactics from Emmadell and Patty, but you are cautioned - DO NOT resist too strongly. Both of these veteran reunion ladies have their own, sometimes unorthodox, but always-legal, methods of helping to convince you why you should be eager to participate in the drawing.

Reunion Silent Auction

Jack and Fran Konopka have done a tremendous job of preparing for the 2014 Silent Auction. However, reunion attendees have been slow in getting information about their auction items to the Konopkas. **The VLOA NEEDS your support on this**. Every year the auction tables have been filled with an array of eclectic, diverse and interesting articles. Every reunion, every one of the auction items has found a purchaser who is overjoyed to find that little something they've always been looking for, but just didn't know where to find it. Every one of us has some sort of a whatchamacallit that aunt Gertrude sent for a birthday gift several years ago, and you've been wondering what to do with it. PLEASE, consider writing up a description of the item, send it to Jack and Fran Konopka, and bring it to the reunion.



In Memory of Myra "Nell" Moist.

She was born in Cuthbert, Georgia on April 29,1937 to the late Ernest James Smith and Eula Shellhouse Benefield.

Nell became a military wife in 1959 and accompanied her husband around the world before settling in Marianna, Fl. in 1985. She retired from Bannerman Surveying as an office manager. Nell loved crafts, gardening, reading, and was an avid quilter and member of the local quilting guild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and two brothers. Nell is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Alvin R. Moist Sr., U.S.Army (Retired) of Marianna, Fl., three daughters, Lori Poindexter and husband Rick of Salisaw, OK., Tina Boyd and husband Don of Cottonwood, AL,.Amy Strawn and husband Christopher of Defuniak Springs, FL, son Richard Moist of Tucson, AZ, grandchildren Rick Poindexter(Emily0, Samantha Meredith(Josh), David Poindexter, Brad Philpot (Amanda) Tad Crowson(Amy), William Dunway, Colton Batterson, Hannah Sutfin, Christian Strawn, Ashton Strawn. She was Me-Maw to Emerson, Evelyn, Eliza, and Jacob.

A celebration of life was held at 5:00p.m. on Wednesday, July 16,2014 in the Marianna Chapel Funeral Home. A time of remembrance was held from 4:00 p.m. until time of service.

Marianna Chapel Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Polly's 1st Helicopter Flight

By Larry Jackson

We had been married for 49 years including the time I was in the advanced training at Ft. Rucker, AL and Polly had never been for a ride in a helicopter. One of our friends is an aviation fanatic who has 6 airplanes including a Pitts Special aerobatic plane and a Czechoslovakian jet fighter trainer he had painted in US Navy colors. We play golf together and talked about my experiences in flying a helicopter. About 3 years ago, he purchased a Robinson 2 seat Trainer and became RW rated. He invited me to go flying with him which I jumped at. He took off from our airport and then asked if I would like to fly it. I hadn't flown in over 30 years and was a little leery but decided to try it. The major difference from any helicopter that I had ever flown was that the cyclic was mounted on a swivel arm with a small handle hanging down from the arm. I took the controls and was a little wobbly for a couple of minutes but soon felt like I was in complete control. It was quite a thrill.

Last year he sold his trainer and purchased a 4 passenger Robinson helicopter. I think it has the same

Lycoming engine as the OH-23 Hiller trainer that I learned to fly in. We were talking one day a I mentioned that Polly had never been up in a helicopter. We set a date for the flight and Polly and I showed up at his hanger. We pushed it out of the hanger on dolly wheels and he performed the preflight checks. It is a beautiful machine with plush leather seats and all of the necessary navigation aids and instrumentation. He Taxied out to the runway and took off and then handed the controls over to me. It was like riding a bike as

The controls were very responsive and the throttle had a governor which kept it at a constant RPM without moving the throttle grip. We flew down the east coast of Hilton Head Island and then across Calibouge

Sound to Daufuskie Island and from there down to

Tybee Island east of Savannah, GA. We flew back
along the Atlantic coast line to Lady's Island near

Beaufort, SC and I landed it and taxied over the
refueling area. I then took off and flew back to

Hilton Head where we finished the flight. What a

thrill we had and Polly thoroughly enjoyed the ride.



2014 SUMMER EDITION

SILENT auction

50TH VLOA REUNION

WASHINGTON, DC

SEPT. 18-22, 2014



Our current list of items include:

Handmade quilts & bed spread, specialty knife, books, watches, vietnam coins, framed pictures with collector stamps, women's handbags, walking stick, wooden bowl, flight jack, table linens, collector plates, baby blankets, handmade items, military memorabilia just to mention a few.

WE NEED A LOT MORE

Jack Konopka

jkonopka624@gmail.com

516 676-2017 OF 516 676-4313

* calling all vloa members *

OUR REUNION IS QUICKLY APPROACHING AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO GET YOUR ITEMS IN FOR THE SILENT AUCTION.

We have received a few items for bid but, I know you "procrastinators" have some items you would like to donate. As you are all aware, this auction is vital to the survival of our organization. I can't Impress enough that we need your help!!!

We are preparing a catalogue of the items up for bid. It will be available for viewing as an email file before the reunion so that you can study and think about your pre-auction selections



*** In order to see the catalogue your email address must be up to date.



50th ANNIVERSARY OUTLAW ROUNDUP

SHIRT ORDER FORM

The official **2014 50**th **Anniversary Outlaw Roundup** shirt emphasizes the Golden Anniversary theme of the reunion. The Men's shirt is primarily gold with a white panel spliced into both sides and inside the sleeves. Women's shirts are also gold with similar white side panels plus a white detail on the "Johnny collar" neck. The Golden Anniversary shirts are a similar material to the 2012 shirts, made from "tricot micropique" for smooth, snag-resistant, moisture-wicking, comfortable wear! Made by Sport-Tek, all shirts will feature the 50th Anniversary Outlaw logo embroidered on the left breast.

Cost for each shirt is \$30. NOTE: Added cost for sizes 2XL = -\$32 3XL = \$34 4XL = \$36 men's or women's. Please pre-order your shirt(s) on the form below. Shirt orders for Reunion attendees will be in the welcome bag at the VLOA registration desk. If you are not attending the Reunion, see info below. A limited quantity of additional shirts may be available for sale at the Reunion.

Please Indicate Quantity Desired by Size

	rease material Quantity Desired by Size										
MENS	' SHIR	T SIZES	<u>S:</u>								
	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL*	3XL*	4XL*			
	32-34	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49	50-53	54-67	TOTA	L#	COST
Qty										_	
LADIE	es' shi	RT SIZ	<u>ES</u>								
	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL*					
	0-2	4/6	8/10	12/14	16/18	20/22			TOTA	L#	COST
Qty											
		Note	Cost	for sizes	2XL =	= \$32 3	3XL = \$3	34 4X	L = \$36	Men'	s or Women's
For Re	union at	tendees,	please i	ndicate n	ame(s)	and size	s needed	l, below:	:		
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							(Phone	#)			Dandling
ALL ORDERS ARE PRE-PAID AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 15, 2014.											
	Send this shirt Order Form, with payment – made payable to VLOA, —Mail to—										
	Tom A	nderson	ι ,	7880 Rol	lling W	oods Ct	#308 .		Sprin		VA 22152
Make checks or money orders payable to: VLOA not to Tom!											

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA) c/o Robert J. Sharp, Editor. 17489 US Hwy. 65 Albert Lea, Minnesota. 56007 handybobsharp@gmail.com



Summer-2014

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

Memberships in the VLOA is open to <u>any person of any rank</u> who served with any lineage unit known as the "Outlaws" (and "Mavericks" armed platoon) 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 \$25.00 annually, payable each January. A Lifetime Membership (with vote) is a \$100.00 one-time fee. A Lifetime Associate Membership (without vote) for spouses is available for a \$100 one-time fee. Higher levels of Lifetime Memberships are available; contact the National Director at: angelo_spelios@yahoo.com. To pay initial or renewal membership dues for this calendar year, please complete and forward this form, with dues payment, to:

VLOA; c/o Chester Voisin, 1657 Dr. Beatrous Road, Theriot, LA 70397.

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)_		t	to	
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Please initiate or renew my Active Please initiate my Lifetime Lifetime Ass Please do not renew my VLOA members VLOA Newsletter unless I am a current dues pa I know a former Outlaw/Maverick/Roadr on this form.	sociateship, but kee lying VLOA	VLOA membersh p my name on the V member.	ip. Make \$100.00 /LOA roster. I un	check payable t derstand I may no	to VLOA. of receive any future issues of the
Comments:					