



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

## Vinh Long Outlaws Summer Newsletter

April-June .

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

2nd. Quarter 2016

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**VLOA Reunion  
September 15/19.  
Branson, MO.  
Don't miss it!**

## National Director's Corner

By- **Larry Jackson**

Greetings to all Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners, 28th Avionics Sig. Det, B Troop 1-158th Outlaw Aviation and 175th Bushwhackers.

This will be my last Directors Corner article as we will have a new director named at the reunion. It has been an honor to be the director of such a great organization. We have been able to contact well over 200 soldiers and add them to our roster of those who served with the Outlaws from 1964-1973 and later years in Iraq. We owe a debt of gratitude and thanks to Jim Donnelly and Doug Wilson for their efforts in locating new members. It takes a lot of effort from a significant number of members to keep the Association running.

The following members have made significant contributions to operations of the VLOA. Tom Anderson has helped me at every step of the way to put a plan together for our reunion in Branson and provided advice on many matters required to keep the VLOA in excellent shape. Frank Estes has kept our fabulous web site up and running and worked with a contractor to upgrade the capabilities. Chester Voisin has kept our finances in excellent order and Chuck Wren has spent numerous hours keeping our roster up to date. Bob Sharp has worked tirelessly for several years in putting together and getting our quarterly newsletter mailed out to our members. It is a monumental effort to put all the pieces together. I venture to say that we have one of the finest newsletters that I have ever seen. Also, the members of the Steering Committee have contributed when we have asked them for recommendations. We are looking forward to the new members stepping up to help support all of the activities required to keep the VLOA a viable entity. The organization will only be as strong as the members who are entrusted with the running of it. Thank you all very much.

Welcome to summer. We were driving into Douglas, Wyoming on the first day of summer and the temperature was 108 degrees.

Cont from pg. 1. The heat has been oppressive so far and it is forecast to be that way for the foreseeable future with no cool down in sight. I'll need to plan for more time at the ocean or the pool. It is less than 3 months until our Branson 2016 reunion. We currently have 127 signed up for the reunion. We have extended the registration period to August 14th. You will be guaranteed to get a room at the hotel and admission to all of the shows. Your registration also includes the opening dinner on Thursday night, September 15th, access to our hospitality room with beer, wine and snacks when it is open, and the Farewell dinner on Sunday night. Registrations received after the 14th of August will be considered on a case by case basis depending on availability of rooms and tickets to the shows so make sure to get your registration completed. I'm positive that everyone who attends the reunion will enjoy the camaraderie and the chance to bond again with fellow soldiers whom you served with and to make new friends. Take a look at the listing of attendees and see if there is someone you would like to see. Life is so short to put off something that you would like to do. We are not getting any younger.

I want to urge everyone to find something that you think would be of interest to our members that you can donate to the silent auction to help defray some of our expenses such as gifts for the attendees in the welcome bag, snacks and drinks for the hospitality room, award statues and a variety of other expenses that may arise. Please take a picture of your items and send them to Jack and Fran Konopka at [jkonopka624@gmail.com](mailto:jkonopka624@gmail.com). For those of you have not attended one of our reunions, the silent auction is one of the highlights. We always have a great variety of items that can satisfy most anyone's appetite for unique gifts or mementos for your knick knack cabinet. Each item has a bid sheet where you can enter your bid and after the bidding closes, the highest bidder gets to purchase the item.

Polly and I traveled to Charlotte, NC to visit with our daughter, Katy. We went up for Mother's day weekend and a Cinco de mayo celebration hosted by a childhood friend of hers that she has known since 4th grade. Quite the party with a taco truck, margarita dispensers and many other drinks and Mexican foods. Katy had planned on having us help her build a rail fence around her deck but then decided that she would order a pre-fabricated fence. She then decided to buy a ceiling fan and light set for the guest bedroom. It should have been easy to install but as most home improvement projects go, it took most of the day as we had to manufacture a place in the attic to attach the electrical box. We finally finished the project and it worked really well. We will spend part of the summer dog-sitting her 2 dogs as she will be going TDY to Quantico to mentor the students going through the training program. Polly and I took a trip to Canada and Alaska in June. Read the Chronicles of Your Directors travel to Alaska in this issue.

I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones in September. I know that we will have a wonderful Return to Branson-2016. Hoping each and everyone will have a great summer and enjoy the warm weather. Be safe and see you in September. A registration area will be set up somewhere in the lobby and everyone needs to come in to register Thursday afternoon starting at 1:00 PM. You can pick up your welcome bag which includes gifts, 50/50 lottery tickets, reunion shirts if purchased, and various other information about where and when the reunion activities will take place. God Bless all of you and thank you for your service. Larry

# VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION

## Branson, Missouri Reunion

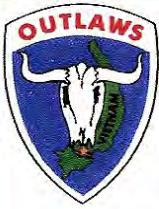
### September 15-19, 2016

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
 <p>Check into <b>THE RADISSON HOTEL</b></p> <p>1:00-6:00 pm Arrival and Registration</p> <p>Hospitality Room Open</p>  <p>7:00-9:00 pm CASH BAR and WELCOME BUFFET DINNER</p>	<p>Hot Buffet Breakfast</p> <p>Hospitality Room Open</p>  <p>2:00 pm #1 HITS OF THE 60's AND 50's, TOO SHOW</p> <p>Hospitality Room Open</p>  <p>7:30 p.m. THE CLAY COOPER SHOW</p>	<p>Hot Buffet Breakfast</p> <p>8:00 am STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING</p>  <p>9:00 am VLOA GENERAL MEETING</p> <p>Hospitality Room Open</p>  <p>4:00 pm THE SHOWBOAT BRANSON BELLE DINNER, SHOW AND CRUISE</p> <p>Hospitality Room Open</p>	<p>Hot Buffet Breakfast</p>  <p>9:00 am CHAPEL SERVICE</p>  <p>Hospitality Room Open</p>  <p>6:00 pm CASH BAR, MISSING COMRADES CEREMONY &amp; FAREWELL BANQUET with Entertainment</p>	<p>Hot Buffet Breakfast</p> <hr/> <p><b>INCLUDES:</b> Lodging x 4 Nights Hot Breakfast Hospitality Room Welcome Dinner Hits of the 60's Show Clay Cooper Show Showboat Branson Belle Chapel Service Farewell Banquet with Entertainment Transportation to Group Activities Reunion Website All Taxes and Gratuities</p>

**May I have everyone's attention please!!!! --After reading this information hopefully you will have decided to attend the reunion so would you Please email the Reunion coordinator at [pamb@gatheringsplus.com](mailto:pamb@gatheringsplus.com) or the National Director, Larry Jackson at [jackson3605@roadrunner.com](mailto:jackson3605@roadrunner.com) and give them a head count of how many will be attending to help them both establish a closer estimate of how many plan on attending. This will be a great help to them and may help the VLOA save an unknown amount of expense. Thank you all in advance for your helpful consideration!!!**

**We hope to see you all in Branson in September!!!!**





**VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION**  
**OUTLAWS RETURN TO BRANSON**  
**September 15-19, 2016**



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NAME TAG NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 GUEST/SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ NAME TAG NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 Any Physical Disabilities? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Any Dietary Restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_

**HOST HOTEL: RADISSON HOTEL**  
**120 S. Wildwood Drive, Branson, MO**

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ King Bed \_\_\_\_\_ Two Queen Beds

Special Requests and Additional Guests \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 person single: \$675.00 (check) or \$702.00 (credit card) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 persons double: \$930.00 (check) or \$967.00 (credit card) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 persons triple: \$1247.00 (check) or \$1297.00 (credit card) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 persons quad: \$1520.00 (check) or \$1581.00 (credit card) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(includes hotel x 4 nights, welcome packet, hospitality room w/refreshments, breakfast, and all meals and activities listed on itinerary)*

Banquet Meal Choice : \_\_\_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Additional Nights at Hotel x \$105.00 per night including tax and breakfast = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card *AE, Visa, MC, Discover credit cards only.*

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL DUE : \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

A 50% deposit is required by June 10 with final payment due by September 8. *No refunds on cancellations after September 8, 2016.* If you have questions please contact us at 417-338-4048 or [pamb@gatheringsplus.com](mailto:pamb@gatheringsplus.com). **MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK PAYABLE TO:**

**GATHERINGS PLUS**  
**P. O. BOX 1023**  
**BRANSON WEST, MO. 65737**

Go to: [www.reunionpro.com](http://www.reunionpro.com), click on "reunions" link, type in "Vinh Long Outlaws," & hit "enter" to go to the Gatherings Plus (reunion planner's) website.

**HURRY-HURRY ! - You still have time to order your VLOA Reunion Shirts!**



*Branson*



*2016*

Here is your “LAST” chance to get your shirts ordered before the reunion and get them included in your welcome bag that will be waiting for you at the VLOA registration table when you check in. As in the past they will be an attractive and comfortable shirt with our Outlaw logo attached.

Fill out the shirt order form on the next page (6) and mail to Larry Jackson and make the check to the VLOA please—not Larry. Good luck and enjoy!

*Branson***RETURN TO BRANSON 2016 OUTLAW ROUNDUP***2016***SHIRT ORDER FORM**

The Men's and Women's shirts are Carolina Blue. The shirts are Posicharge Micro-Mesh Polos which are snag-resistant, moisture-wicking, odor resistant, and tag free for comfortable wear! Made by Sport-Tek, all shirts will feature the Outlaw logo embroidered on the left breast.

**Cost for each shirt is \$32.** NOTE: Added cost for sizes 2XL, 3XL, 4XL as shown below 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****MENS' SHIRT SIZES:**

	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL*	3XL*	4XL*		
	32-34	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49	50-53	54-67	<b>TOTAL#</b>	<b>COST</b>
Qty	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**LADIES' SHIRT SIZES**

	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL*		
	0-2	4/6	8/10	12/14	16/18	20/22	<b>TOTAL#</b>	<b>COST</b>
Qty	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Note: Cost for sizes 2XL = \$33.00 3XL = \$34.00 4XL = \$35.00 Men's or Women's**

For Reunion attendees, please indicate name(s) and sizes needed, below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

(Use the reverse side of this form for any additional information or comments)

If you are not attending the Reunion, please add \$5.00 for shipping costs and provide the following information:

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Phone #) \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL ORDERS ARE PRE-PAID AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 15, 2016.**

**Send this shirt Order Form, with payment – made payable to VLOA, to :**

**Larry Jackson**

**7 Fort Walker Drive**

**Hilton Head Island, SC 29928**

**Make checks or money orders payable to: VLOA . . . . . not to Larry !**

## The Back Pew

By: Paul L. Martin



### Religion / Medicine



I still take a daily newspaper. Not long ago it had a reprint of an article from the Washington Post. It was a review of a study reported in JAMA International Medicine ([bit.ly/27ASfmZ](http://bit.ly/27ASfmZ)). “It found that women who attended church service more often were less likely to die over the course of 20 years than were women who never went to church. ... The study surveyed a group of more than 76,000 female nurses, most of whom were Catholic and Protestant. At the end of 20 years more than 13,000 of them had died. The women who went to religious services more than once a week it turned out, were 33 percent less likely to be in that group that died, compared to those who never attended services... Those who attended services once a week were 26 percent less likely to die than those who never went.”

You may have read this or heard of it, yourself. (I don't take the JAMA, myself.) I did not see a thing about it on the evening news show, neither local nor national. Can you imagine with me, what would happen if one of the major drug manufactures could make such a claim about their product. I could not get through the news without seeing their advertisement twice, if not more.

This article also had some critics reporting on the original study. One fellow warned that such a study does not prove, in any way, that God exists. Just the support of each other and the fellowship of like belief was what contributed to their longevity. You know where I stand on this. I believe my Lord hears and answers prayers. I do whole heartedly agree that coming together and seeing fellow believers face to face helps one feel stronger and do better. In light of this I hope to see you each at the next reunion in Branson. As you see, the time to make plans is getting shorter, but I do pray we get to see each other and have some good fellowship.

Looking forward to the reunion.

God bless,

Paul L. Martin (the Arkie)



VLOA REUNION

SUMMER 2016

# Silent Auction

## Branson, Mo.

September 15 - 19, 2016

**To all our existing members and especially our new members.....**



The Silent Auction conducted every two years during our National Reunion, has not only become a much anticipated feature of the reunion but, more importantly, an absolutely primary source of revenue income for the VLOA. We could not continue to support the variety of demands

placed on our treasury without the auction. All our operating expenses plus the costs to organize and supplement the registration fees of the attendees is supported by this auction. That's why we are

**asking for your help!!!!**

### Auction Coordinators

Fran & Jack Konopka  
[jkonopka624@gmail.com](mailto:jkonopka624@gmail.com)

516-676-4313 Home  
 516-426-4056 Cell

1. Let us know what your items are.
2. Take a photo of the item
3. Send a brief description of your item and a starting bid .

\*\*\*\*\*



We have received a few donations for the auction but we are way off our projected mark to make this our best auction ever! We would like to hear from our comrades of the VLOA and find that special item to contribute. Remember the items should be something that your fellow members would like to own keeping that bidding war going. We have had a



wide variety of items in the past from home made crafts, military memorabilia, books, gift baskets, wines, etc. There are no restrictions on what or how many items you can donate.....please donate! Also, if you are not able to join us for this momentous occasion you can still donate a item of your choice which we would most gratefully appreciate.

***We have had many email addresses rejected when we sent out our monthly reminders. If you did not receive our monthly Silent Auction reminders, please contact Chuck Wren [no.ibuckeyefan@yahoo.com](mailto:no.ibuckeyefan@yahoo.com) and update your email address.***



## **Nominations for VLOA Steering Committee Still Open**

The Spring 2016 VLOA newsletter contained an article indicating that a motion to amend the VLOA Constitution will be proposed to the attendees at the upcoming 2016 General Membership meeting. The amendment is designed to expand the structure of the Steering Committee to incorporate representation from all year-groups in which anyone served with the Outlaw unit (and its affiliates) during their Viet Nam tour of duty. (1964 – 1972).

The Steering Committee is the VLOA's sounding board for the National Director, the Reunion Coordinator and others to maintain contact with, and obtain consensus for, activities and actions during the time between the biennial reunions.

Each reunion new Directors at Large are elected to serve a two-year term on the Committee. The Steering Committee becomes involved with such issues as authorizing expenditures, reviewing additional programs and approving reunion meeting sites. Nothing is time-consuming, no previous experience is necessary and there is no salary or remuneration.

Nominations are still being sought for the following VLOA Steering Committee positions:

National Director

Deputy Director

Directors-at-Large

Distaff Advisor (non-voting)

I am again asking for your support to either nominate someone you know to the Steering Committee or, better yet, offering your own name as a candidate. Office holders must be Active or Life Members of the VLOA.

I considered using some heavy-handed cajoling, pleading, wheedling and other such efforts in hopes of bringing in some candidates. But, that's not my style. I'll leave it up to YOU to help keep the VLOA alive and prospering by either serving on the Steering Committee or nominating someone you feel would be an asset to the organization. I'm hoping to hear from YOU with a nomination.

Please send your nominations to:

Nominations Committee Chair

c/o Tom Anderson

7880 Rolling Woods Ct. #308

Springfield, VA 22152

email [teander@cox.net](mailto:teander@cox.net)

Phone 703-451-4015

I have extended the time to receive nominations to 10 August. Thank you. Tom Anderson.



## Your Heritage



A few years ago, an Army Aviator friend mentioned to me that his daughter, who was a junior high school teacher, related an interesting anecdote to him. She said that in a history class, the subject of “Viet Nam” came up and the class had only a vague idea what “Viet Nam” was and how it was part of the history of our country. She asked her dad if he would come to the school and describe a little about Viet Nam, his experiences there and how the conflict actually came about.

It became clear to my friend that these young people had no way to relate to something that happened over half a century ago. To them, Viet Nam, (and our helicopters of the time) were now more a part of history than we ever gave a thought to at that time. Not only were these young people not even born in the late 1960s and early 1970s, in most cases, neither were their parents!

In attempting to place a time frame they could relate to, he suggested that they might view Viet Nam as shortly after covered wagons and Indians, and LONG before cell phones.

Because he felt that patriotism was something our schools no longer emphasize, my friend showed up wearing his old green uniform jacket, (yes, it STILL fit!) with appropriate ribbons and patches. In describing some of the ribbons, he made clear that the reason that some of those were earned was because our military was there to project the message that declared death to anyone who messed with the U.S.!

He related a few eventful days as a young Wobbly One turned loose in a combat environment, strapped into a Huey seat at age twenty one. He related descriptions of a combat assault, in formation, extraction under fire at night, a smoke ship screening a Dust-off medevac mission, a wild round that emptied the transmission oil one dark night.

He is a good speaker. The young people listened intently, a few even spellbound, some with big eyes and open mouths.

One young woman asked, “Where did you ever find the courage to do all this?” He was struck by the thought that, in all the years since he was in Viet Nam, and relating his stories to many others, it was the first time anybody had associated the word “courage” and his year in Viet Nam in the same sentence. He responded that he never had a feeling of “courage” and that he was scared the day he got there and was scared the day he left.

My point in relating this story is that our time in Viet Nam is as much a part of a current-day student’s heritage as is Antietam in the Civil War or the Chosin Reservoir in Korea. If we do not relate our experience in Viet Nam to the younger generations, the lessons we learned, the angst and the grief we felt, is likely to stay suppressed in our memories where we learned to hide it decades ago. In my own family, my sons have never asked much about my time in Viet Nam and I have not pushed it onto them. However, I encourage all of you, when you have the opportunity, let your children, your grandchildren and any other young people know about what you did, what other true Americans did and the feeling we had that we were responding to our country’s calling. Describing your thoughts to the current generation can give meaning to the reason why there are over 58,000 names on “The Wall” in Washington D.C.





# HAPPY 4TH OF JULY OUTLAWS

**HOPE YOU ARE ALL HAD A GREAT FOURTH!**

**The count down is moving fast. Two and a half months to go. The response to donating items for the Silent Auction has been very slow. Up to now we only have a few items.**

**It's time to step up and let us know what your items are. Remember our future reunions depend on the success of the Silent Auction. Items handmade, military, or house hold treasurers. Please send us a photo, a description of the items and starting bid so that we can enter them in the catalogue.**



**We are counting on your support!!**

*Silent Auction Coordinators:*

**Jack & Fran Konopka**  
[jkonopks624@gmail.com](mailto:jkonopks624@gmail.com)

**515-676-4313**



Ty  
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**WARNING, WARNING,  
WARNING!!!!!!**

The cutoff date for reunion registration is August 14<sup>th</sup>! Please use the registration form in the newsletter or visit [www.vinhloungoutlaws.com](http://www.vinhloungoutlaws.com) Reunion Page and click on the Registration Form, fill it out, and send it to the Reunion Coordinator along with 100% of your registration fee. See you in Branson on September 15!







Here is a list of the people that are registered to attend the VLOA Reunion. Check it out and maybe there is someone you want to see and you still have time to make plans to attend. Please consider it and come and enjoy yourself!!! You are all WELCOME here.



VINH OUTLAWS Reunion Attendees  
SEPTEMBER 15-19, 2016

Allen, Bob

Amason, David & Gary Blackmon

Anderson, Tom & Pat

Biggins, Gregg & Be

Campbell, Malcom

Cieslak, Walter & Cindy

Clelan, Joe & Fay Shiflet

Clemente, Anthony & Roseann

Diamond, John & Sherry

Donnelly, James & Vickie

Estes, Ernest & Ann

Fair, Curtis & Maxie

Feathers, Harold & Marilyn & Sara

Frontera, Milton & Bev

Fudala, Lanny & Lynn

Greve, Daniel & Katherine

Hawthorne, Wayne & Christine

Hawthorne, Ryan & Paricia

Hennessy, Gary

Hensinger, William & Grace

Hershey, Michael & Kay Frost

Hiemstra, Dennis

Hoff, Virgil & Sharon

Horne, Phillip & Lynn

Hudgins, Daniel & Judy Birdwell

Iller, Alfred & Marguerite & Steffie

Jackson, Larry & Polly

Katz, Irwin & Eileen

Kelly, James & Becky

Kelly, Robert & Gary Kluting

Keltner, Richard & Cheryl

Kendall, Shelia & Cindy VonRotz

Khachadourian, Harry & Terry

King, Jimmy & Sharon

Kirk, Phillip & Patricia

Konopka, John & Fran

Lopez, Marti Roberts & Rita Ezell



Cont. from pg 12.

Madigan, Michael

Madigan, Robert

Martin, Paul L. & Carolyn

Martin, Paul L. & Anne

McAhren, Larry & Vicki

Miller, Larry

Milko, Carl

O'Brien, Robert (OB), & Susan

Osterland, Leon & Virginia, Sherry

Davis, Scott & Dahlia

Perry, Lyle & Christina

Phillips, Chuck & Lori

Ragsdale, Erick & Donnie

Reece, James & Janice Smith

Rice, Bert & Deanna

Schmit, Neil & Patti

Schroeder, Martin & Christine

Sharp, Robert & Gloria

Shreve, Ernest (E.P.) & Angela

Simpson, Melvin & Margaret

Smith, David

Smith, Rosalie (Jeannette) & Mary  
Gatipon

Stephens, Robert & Dale Stephens

Strand-Holm, Anders & Jetta

Sturtevant, William & Elaine

Torre, Joe & Liz

Van Alst, Phillip

Villarreal, Tony & Cathy

Voisin, Chester & Emmadell

Wade, Jerry & Charmaine

Williams, Gary & Debbie

Williams, Robert M. & Dixie & Sousa

Theriot, Patrick & Elaine

Truman, Jan & Robbie Truman Taylor

Wilson, Doug

As you can see, there is still room to add your names to the list! They have more rooms and do not miss the chance of a lifetime to reunite with old friends and comrades. Enjoy yourself now and make memories for later!

### Outlaw Commemorative Coins



Every male who attended the Washington DC Outlaw reunion received one of the colorful and artistically crafted Outlaw Commemorative Coins. The remainder of that initial order of 100 (approximately 30) were sold during and shortly after the reunion. More requests for coins required an additional order for 50 more. Those, too, have also now been sold.

A few requests the coins continue to be received but not enough to justify another order at this time. A minimum order of 50 is required for another order. Also, at that level, the follow-on cost-per-coin would be slightly higher than earlier orders.

At this time, there is no plan to order more unless there is an indication that a commitment of at least 50 more could be sold. If you would commit to purchasing one or more additional coins, please contact Tom Anderson. Tom will maintain a list of all requests and, if there are a sufficient number of commitments, an additional Commemorative Coin order will be placed. No money would be required until a sufficient number of commitments are obtained. At that time, you would be contacted and asked to forward a check. If you are interested, contact Tom Andersons by email at [teander@cox.net](mailto:teander@cox.net). Or by mail at 7880 Rolling Woods Ct #308. Springfield, VA 22152.

**!!!!!!ATTENTION EVERYONE!!!!!!**

We need everyone to please update your information on the main roster. Please make sure that your snail mail address and your e-mail address is correct, cell phone numbers and spouses names included. We need to be able to contact you for info. and mail you your newsletter. We also will have a master roster at the reunion for your to check and/or correct. Thank you so much. Bob Sharp.

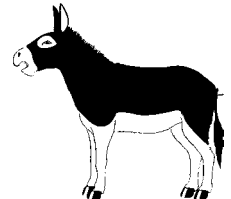
Father/Mechanic and daughter conversation.

Daughter to Father:

“Dad, there is something my boyfriend said to me that I didn’t understand. He said that I “have a beautiful chassis, lovely airbags, and a fantastic bumper.”

Father/Mechanic’s response:

“Tell your boyfriend that if he opens your bonnet and tries to check your oil with his dipstick, that I will tighten his lug nuts so tight that his headlights will pop out and he will start leaking fumes from his exhaust pipe.”



*A roadrunner’s top speed is 20 mph while coyotes can reach speeds of up to 43 mph*



*My whole childhood was a big lie...*



## Road Trip—Hilton Head Island, SC. to Alaska—and Back!

Sub. By: Larry Jackson.

Polly and I have been extremely fortunate in our life and one of the things that we are passionate about is traveling around the world. We have traveled to six continents and more than 40 countries since we retired. This spring we set off on a driving trip to Alaska and it turned out to be the trip of a lifetime.

We departed Hilton Head Island on May 26<sup>th</sup> and took 2 days to drive to Sherman, Texas where we met up with Polly's siblings. Mollie Schulz, her sister, and Randy and Joe Reeves, her brothers, and Donna, Joe's wife and our sister-in-law who joined us on our trip. We drove for 2 days with a stop in Kearney, Nebraska and then on to Rapid City, South Dakota. That evening we visited Mt. Rushmore and walked around the trails and walkways to get different views of the presidents. They then put on a light show and at the end the crowd said the Pledge of Allegiance and we then sang God Bless America. They invited all the active military and retirees to come down on the stage to help retire the colors and to fold the flag. They asked everyone on the stage to announce their name and where they were from. A really nice gesture.

The next day we drove out to the Badlands National Park. It is very impressive but extremely desolate. (See picture) We saw big horn sheep, antelope, bison, prairie dogs, mule deer, red winged black birds and meadowlarks in the park. We then drove over to the site where they are carving out a memorial to Crazy Horse. They only have the head completed but are getting ready to carve his horse where he will be mounted on it. His head is larger than the whole Mt. Rushmore. Very impressive. While returning to our hotel, we were passing through a small village when 2 buffalo's walked across the road and one started to come right at us but veered off at the last moment.



We departed SD on May 31<sup>st</sup> on our way to Glacier National Park in Montana. We took a side trip to Devils Tower National Monument on our way. It is a very large obelisk formed by a volcano. It was over 500 feet high and about 1/2 mile in diameter. (See picture) We visited the Little Big Horn National Monument where Custer's last stand took place. From there we continued on to Butte, MT where we spent the night. We are on our way the next morning with the temperature at 46 F. I'd like to have some of that temperature now. We drove thru the Elkhorn Mountains near the former home of the unbomber. We passed through Helena, the capital, and the Blackfoot Indian Reservation, just outside the park. We arrived in Browning where we spent the night. We drove out to the park where there were 9 Indian ponies in the road.



You don't want to hit one of them. There were millions of trees that had been killed by the pine borer. We saw waterfalls, glaciers, St. Mary's Lake and the Jackson Glacier. We took off for Canada via Glacier NP. We saw Lake Sherburne and Lake Swiftcurrent and numerous glaciers. The weather was 49 F and windy and rainy.

Cont. from pg.15

We saw a herd of buffalo along the highway right before the Canadian border.

We arrived in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on June 2<sup>nd</sup> where we stayed in the Hotel Blackfoot. We saw the Tsuu T'ina First Nation tribe lives in Calgary. The next day we took a guided tour of Calgary. Our guide, Joyce, took us around the old city and we visited the rodeo ground where the Calgary Stampede is held each summer. They have a lot of art works there with the western themes. We also visited the winter Olympics site where they have turned it into an amusement theme park. They have the bobsled from the Jamaican team which received a lot of publicity. We also visited the historical city park which has replicas of homes and businesses of the early days in Calgary.

The next day we headed out to the Banff National Park where the traffic was very heavy. We went to the visitors center where they have a museum and then drove to Lake Minnewonka and Two Jack Lake. We tried to get to Lake Moraine but ran into road construction and then the parking lot at the lake was full you couldn't get there or to Lake Louise. We finally were able to get to Lake Moraine in the afternoon and everyone took hikes around the lake. We took the Bow Valley Parkway back to Banff. We saw a WW1 internment camp that housed 8,600 prisoners from the Axis country's. We left early the next morning for Lake Louise. We had coffee and muffins at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise Hotel before heading out for a walk around the lake. It was really beautiful. It was so still that it was a perfect mirror. We heard an avalanche while out walking.

We took the Iceland Parkway on the way to Jasper National Park. We drove through Kootini Park and passed Bow Lake and Crowfoot glacier. We saw Big Horn Sheep crossing the road and a black bear on the roadside. We saw a beautiful waterfall and the Columbia Ice-field in Jasper National park. There was a small avalanche while we were taking pictures of the glacier. Back on the road to Hinton, Alberta where we saw 9 Rocky Mountain goats. We passed Whistler ski area but decided against riding the cable car to the top. We saw 7 more goats/sheep. We also saw a large Bull Elk on the roadside and he then swam across the river. I think this 125 miles through Banff and Jasper National Parks is the prettiest scenery that I have seen in all of my travels. The route parallels the snow covered Rocky Mountains all the way. It has been named one of the most scenic roads in the world.

The next morning we headed out for Dawson Creek. Saw Mule deer along the roadside while traveling through a provincial Park. Also saw our first moose. We stopped at a very nice visitors center in Grand Cache. We had to cross over the Smoky River on a one way bridge on our way to Grand Prairie. There was a very large coal strip mine just outside of town. Randy and I saw a small black bear running down a dirt road adjacent to the highway. Also saw a road crew collecting a large dead moose along the highway. They have a special truck with a long winch to hoist them into the truck. There are lots of farms between Grand Prairie and Dawson Creek. The oil industry is really depressed in Canada and you see oil service yards everywhere that have been abandoned.

Dawson Creek is mile 0 on the Alaska Canadian (Alcan) Highway. This 1,523 mile Canadian-Alaskan highway was roughed out by American Army engineers in just seven months from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to the already completed Richardson Highway connecting Fairbanks to Delta Junction, Alaska. It was built as a supply route for military forces in Alaska during World War II. There were 10's of thousands of soldiers and civilians who worked tirelessly in lengthy shifts, sometimes in temperatures of -40 F. A record temperature of -79 F was set during construction. This major effort helped open Alaska to the rest of the world.

We set off for Fort Nelson on June 7<sup>th</sup>. We took the van to a splash and dash car wash. It was covered in mud from driving through all of the construction areas. You couldn't tell what color it was. Most of the construction was replacing the asphalt over the new base covered with gravel. They would wet it down to try and keep the dust down. When you met an 18 wheeler, the dust cloud was so thick that you

Cont. on pg. 17.

Cont. from pg. 16

couldn't see the road. They only have about 3 months to complete all of the work. We took a small detour to drive across the only remaining bridge from the initial construction. It is now in the Kiskatinaw Provincial Park. The bridge crosses the Peace River with the longest wooden span on the highway. When we arrived in Fort Nelson, the ladies went to the Old Quilt Shop and the guys went to the Fort Nelson Historical Society museum. The museum was a mix-mash of everything you could imagine. They had antique cars, tractors, oil field equipment and too many other items to mention. Cici said the quilt shop had the largest inventory she had ever seen.

The next day we set off for Whitehorse in Yukon Territory. We followed the Alcan highway. We saw a black bear and a deer on the side of the road. There were patches of snow along the road in the shady areas. We passed Summit Lake at 4,250 feet at the top. This is the highest point on the Alcan highway. We were driving through the Muncho Lake Provincial Park. We saw a grizzly bear crossing the road. We were able to get a great picture of Muncho Lake with a reflection of the mountains. We saw several more black bears and a buffalo. The road out of Watson Lake was unpaved, just gravel. We finally arrived in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory about 11:00 PM after 595 miles.

The next morning we headed out toward Dawson City, Yukon on the Klondike Highway. We crossed the Yukon River at Carmacks and stopped to have ice cream for lunch. We stopped at Pelly River and visited a First Nation visitors center and museum. The staff showed us around the museum and talked to us about how they are trying to educate the younger generation about their artistic endeavors such as beading moccasins and ceremonial clothing. It was very interesting. The roadway was lined with beautiful purple flowers but very few vehicles along the way Dawson City was the center of the gold rush and still tries to maintain that character. They have honky tonk saloons and most of the buildings look like they are 100+ years old .

The next morning we headed for Alaska. First we had to take a ferry across the Yukon River as they do not have a bridge across the river. We took the Top of the World Highway to Tok, Alaska. The road is unpaved, just gravel all the way. Our final destination today is Delta Junction which is the termination point of the Alcan Highway. The drive over the Top of the World was very scenic. It was mountainous with very few trees. We were within 100 miles of the Arctic Circle. We arrived at



the Alaska border where the Customs and immigration post is the furthestmost north entry to the US. We continued on our way to Tok. Beautiful mountains and rivers along the way. We stopped at Chicken, AK for lunch. Their main dishes were chicken pot pie and chicken soup and had homemade blueberry/cherry pie. Lore has it that they wanted to name the town ptarmigan but nobody could spell it so it became Chicken. They were having a music festival so there were tents everywhere as they do not have a motel. The population is 23 in the summer and 7 in the winter.

We are on our way to Fairbanks. We saw a large female moose along the road. We had decided to drive for awhile before having breakfast. Not such a good idea. We finally found a restaurant that had an open sign. We were near North Pole, AK. We found out that we were their first customers as they had

Cont. on pg.18.



Cont. from pg.17. just purchased the restaurant and remodeled it. The guy was the waiter and his wife was the cook. He came out with an electronic tablet to take our orders. He said that he had programmed the functions. The orders were supposed to be sent to the kitchen but that part of the program didn't work. We were finally able to get our breakfast but it took 2 hours. Drank lots of coffee but the breakfast was really good. We stopped at the North Pole visitors center near Fairbanks. Cici sent her 7 year old grandson a picture but he said that wasn't really the place because there was no snow. Can't fool kids anymore.

Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, day 15 of our trip. Went to McDonald's for breakfast while I had the car serviced at Wal Mart. We had driven over 7,000 miles so far. We visited Museum of the North at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. They had lots of exhibits showcasing how the Native Alaskans lived. We then took the Discovery II river tour on a paddle wheel river boat. We went down the Chena River to the Tanana River. There were many new log homes along the rivers. We stopped at a Native Chena Athabascan Indian village where we were able to see how they lived before Alaska became populated. We also stopped along side of a dog sled training center. David Manson and Susan Butcher raised and trained the sled dogs of Trail Breaker Kennel. Susan won the Iditarod four times. Granite was her lead dog for many of her races. She took a dog team to the top of Denali, the highest peak in North America. This feat has never been repeated. She died from leukemia in 2006. David is still running the kennel and put on the show for us.

Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> we are off to Denali. We stopped in Nenana where the Nenana and Tanana Rivers come together. They had a nice visitors center there and there was a train museum at the depot. We drove into the park to the visitors center at about the 15 mile point. This is as far as you can go in a private vehicle. We saw a large caribou in a field. The next morning we boarded a bus at 6:30 for our tour of Denali National Park. The park has over 6 million acres of land. The Kantishna Wilderness Trails tour will take us 95 miles to Kantishna at the end of the Park road. We saw several herds of Caribou, Dahl sheep, a golden eagle, a moose and a grizzly bear that came across a field and came up to the bus and then walked along it to the rear and continued down the road. The day was pretty cloudy and we thought we would not get to see Denali (formerly Mt. McKinley) but in mid-afternoon the clouds broke up and we had a perfect view of Denali above the clouds with sun shining on it. Denali is the highest mountain in North America at 20,310 feet. What a magnificent view. (see picture).



Cont. on pg. 19.

Cont from pg. 18.

The next day we were on our way to Anchorage. It was a bright sunny day and we had views of Mt. Denali for about 100 miles while traveling through the Alaskan Range. We visited an art museum and took a trolley



tour of Anchorage. Very clean and nice city. Saw where the worst of the 1960s earthquake took place. They say there are 1,200 moose in the town and everywhere you go they have signs warning you to be careful if you see one. There are hundreds of small planes in Anchorage. Most of them are Piper Super Cubs with pontoons or large tires that allow them to land in short fields. In the winter they put skis on them so they can land in the snow. The next day we drove to Portage to take a cruise out to see the Portage glacier. We drove along the Cook Inlet on the Bering Sea. They have very large tidal changes there. We had a very nice cruise out to the glacier. The glacier has had a lot of melting but there is still quite a bit left. There are also other glaciers in the area. Cici and Randy had decided that they had spent enough time on the road so they decided to fly home. We took them to the airport this evening.

Polly, Joe, Donna and I started home on June 17<sup>th</sup>. We left Anchorage heading for Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. It was a scenic drive through the mountains with lots of glaciers. We stopped for lunch in Tok, AK which is the oldest inhabited community in North America. We saw a black bear with her cub on the roadside. There was lots of road construction going on in Yukon. We stopped at Destruction Bay where there was a large glacier. People were hiking on the glacier. We drove 720 miles this day. We arrived in Whitehorse about midnight but it was still daylight.

We continued on towards Texas. We went to Fort Nelson, Edmonton, Great Falls, Montana, Douglas Wyoming and Salina, Kansas. We traveled 10,000 miles from Texas to Alaska and back to Texas. Polly and I had an additional 2,000 miles for a total of 12,000 miles. It was an awesome trip with so many wonderful memories. Larry



Happy Birthday Army Aviation Branch!

33 years ago today, on 12 April 1983, Secretary of the Army, John O. Marsh, Jr., approved the recommendation of then Army Chief of Staff, GEN Edward C. Meyer, forming a separate Army Aviation Branch.

MG Carl McNair was the first Branch Chief.



**Army Aviation Association of America, Inc.**  
593 Main Street, Monroe, CT 06468  
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*Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family*





2nd. Qtr.- 2016- VLOA Treasurers Report by Chester Voisin



**Vinh Long Outlaws Association - (VLOA)**

		<b>Balance</b>
		<b>\$</b>
<b>Cash Balance - 01/01/2016</b>		<b>30,951.59</b>
	<b>6 Months</b>	
	<b>6/30/2016</b>	
<b>Revenues:</b>	<b>\$</b>	
Dues - Annual	375.00	
Dues - Lifetime	1,700.00	
Dues - Associates Lifetime	100.00	
Sale of Inventory Items - Reunion Shirts	464.00	
Miscellaneous	-	
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>2,639.00</b>	<b>2,639.00</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Newsletter Costs	1,074.74	
Inventory purchases & costs	-	
Administration	47.00	
Miscellaneous	-	
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>1,121.74</b>	<b>1,121.74</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss) - 6 months 2016</b>	<b>1,517.26</b>	<b>1,517.26</b>
<b>Cash Balance - 06/30/2016</b>		<b>32,468.85</b>

Cont. from pg. 21.

**Details: 3 month period - 1/1/2016 thru 06/30/2016****Revenues**

<b>Inventory Sales</b>	None	None
<b>Miscellaneous - Sale of Reunion Shirts</b>	464.00	464.00
<b>Annual Dues (AD): - 2016</b>		
John E. Doyle	25.00	
Dale A. Roland	25.00	
Harold E. Feathers	25.00	
Donald S. Palmer	25.00	
Frederick W. Jacobs	25.00	
Jon Elsea	25.00	
William A. Gregoricus	25.00	
Richard M. Dyer	25.00	
Norris T. Marshall	25.00	
Randall P. Smith	25.00	
Joseph J. O'Neill	25.00	
Ivan W. White, Jr.	25.00	
John W. Hughes	25.00	
Michael Colaneri	25.00	
Robert C. O'Brien	25.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>375.00</b>	<b>375.00</b>
<b>Life Time Memberships (LTM): - 2016</b>		
Harold J. Dress	100.00	
John C. Irwin	100.00	
Edmund W. Hubard	100.00	
William J. Meehan	100.00	
Frederick C. Schattauer, Jr.	100.00	
Verdis D. Sharp	100.00	
Gary D. Williams	100.00	
Lyle E. Perry	100.00	
Friedrich K. Rosenberger	100.00	
William E. Sharpe	100.00	
Joseph F. Torre	100.00	
Robert W. Stephens	100.00	
Robert L. Fleming	100.00	
Douglas G. Wilson	100.00	
Daniel M. Hudgins	100.00	
Richard D. Waldo	100.00	
Robert Allen	100.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,700.00</b>	<b>1,700.00</b>
<b>Life Time Associate Membership (ALTM): - 2016</b>		
Robert C. Madigan	100.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Total Revenues - 6 month period 2016</b>		<b>2,639.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Bob Sharp - 4th Qtr 2015 - Newsletter	539.27	
Bob Sharp - 1st Qtr 2016 - Newsletter	535.47	
U S Post Office - Postage 100 @ \$0.47	47.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,121.74</b>	<b>1,121.74</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>1,121.74</b>
<b>Income - 6 month period ending 06/30/2016</b>		<b>1,517.26</b>

## MT. Rushmore National Monument So. Dakota.



This is a picture of the amphitheater with Mount Rushmore in the background at the program that they have with the history of the making of the monument and when it is finished they retire the flag and recognize all the veterans and they bring them all up on the stage and have them give their name and where they are from like Larry mentioned in his travels to Alaska article.

Like Larry said, it is very moving and appreciated by all who participate. Very patriotic and a great recognition gesture to the veterans.

**Food for thought!! Don't forget** your contribution to the Silent Auction! It is one of the most important things that you can do for the VLOA. Please donate something of interest as it is a great fund raiser. Give it a little **thought and I'm sure you can** think of something of interest to contribute. Thank you for your generosity. -----Contact Jack and Fran Knopka.



### Dennis F. Abella

#### Obituary

Submitted by Frank Estes

Dennis F. Abella, 70, took up resident in Heaven on Sunday morning November 29, 2015. He went peacefully in his sleep at home.

Dennis was a Vietnam Veteran and a Purple Heart recipient. He worked for Coors and then retired from PG&E after 39 years.

He was a coach for Peach Bowl and Sutter Buttes Little League. He enjoyed fishing, bowling, and baseball.

Survivors include his beloved wife, Darlene Abella of 43 years; five children, thirteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren: Marcus DeSalles (Rhonda), Kyndall (Justin) Addison, and Avery, and Lacey; Robin Ritchson, Jonathan (Brittany), Cameron and Lanaya (Stephen); Lea Abella-Ruelas, Bree, Paige, and Adam; Janell Nuss (Eric), Kyle, Dylan and Sidney; Deana Abella, Adina and Kayla, Kerry (Steve) and Zachary, and Michael (Krish), Macayla, Megan, and Hannah. Brothers and sisters: Fred Abella, Johnny Abella, Tina Serusa, Press (Butchie) Abella, Geraldine Abella, Dempsey Abella, Robert Abella, and Linda Abella.

Dennis was preceded in death by his brother Don Abella, mother Gertrude Abella, father Lorenzo Abella, sister Connie Abella, and sister-in-law Judy Abella (Fred).

Graveside services were held at the Sutter Cemetery on Friday, December 11, 2015 at 2:00 PM with full military honors. Pastor Jim Anderson officiated.

Friends and relatives were invited to celebrate and honor his life and enjoy lunch at St. Isidore Catholic Church Hall, 22 S. Clark Avenue, Yuba City, directly after the graveside service.

“Gone from this world, but forever in our hearts.”



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Summer -2016

**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 62<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Company, A Company 502<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Battalion, 175<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company, B Troop 1-158<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment (Iraq), 150<sup>th</sup> Transportation Detachment (“Roadrunners”), 28<sup>th</sup> Signal Detachment, and 25<sup>th</sup> 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 and relatives is available for a \$100 one-time fee. Higher levels of Lifetime Memberships are available; contact the National Director at: [jackson3605@roadrunner.com](mailto:jackson3605@roadrunner.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) \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Unit/plt/sect/position \_\_\_\_\_ Radio Call sign \_\_\_\_\_

- Please initiate \_\_\_\_\_ or renew \_\_\_\_\_ my Active \_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_ VLOA membership. **Make \$25.00 check payable to VLOA.**
- Please initiate my Lifetime \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Associate \_\_\_\_\_ VLOA membership. **Make \$100.00 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/Roadrunner or other affiliated unit member and have indicated his/her name, address, and phone number on this form.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_