



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

"www.vinhlongoutlaws.com"

Vinh Long Outlaws Summer 2021 Newsletter

April-June

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

2nd. Quarter 2021

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National Director's Corner

By- Bert Rice



Greetings and best of health to everyone! I hope this finds you all doing well and planning to attend our VLOA Reunion in San Antonio from 23 to 27 September. Things are looking up. I encourage you, if you have not done so yet, to register as soon as possible. There are still rooms available!

As of June 23, we have a total of 87 people who have registered to attend. 53 rooms have been reserved thus far. The hotel is holding 70 rooms for our reunion but we do have a little flexibility to increase that number, if needed. As a reminder, the full registration fee is due by not later than August 19. Having said that, I still encourage those who wish to attend to register as soon as possible. I want to assure you we have an adequate number of rooms available at our selected hotel. If anyone has any questions about our reunion, please contact me or other members of the VLOA leadership.

I continue to be in contact with Armed Forces Reunion, Inc (AFR) to make final detailed arrangements. It is a matter of finalizing specifics like table size, number of persons per table at the seated functions, US flag available when needed, hospitality room accommodations, arrangements for breakfast, podium and mic requirements and the list goes on. In general, I am fairly satisfied so far with AFR's support.

Based on availability of river barges for the River Sightseeing Cruise, this cruise is now scheduled on Sunday and the Texas Ranger Museum tour is switched to Saturday. This may work out better since there is a lot to do on Sunday to prepare for the banquet that evening.

As I have written before, please read the newsletter carefully since there are additional articles related to the reunion and the future of VLOA.

And, by the way, if you have not ordered a reunion shirt yet please read Tom's article in previous newsletters and consider purchasing one soon. They are very attractive!

This my final big push to have those who are contemplating attending to register soon! It is critical that we have an accurate number for both room accommodations and in making final plans for the reunion. Many details are involved to assure a successful reunion. Come and enjoy the camaraderie and fun with fellow Outlaws and guests.

I look forward to seeing you in September!

God Bless each and every one!

Bert L. Rice



**VLOA Reunion !!
Sept. 23-27-2021!**

**See you in San
Antonio, TX!!**

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Bert Rice, - National Director
Odenton, MD.

Irwin Katz,- Deputy Director
Buffalo Grove, IL.

Doug Wilson, -Secretary
Costa Mesa, CA

Frank Estes, -Treasurer
Ozark, AL

Jim Donnelly, -Historian
Virginia Beach, VA

Bill Hensinger, -Member-At-Large
Palmyra, PA.

Irwin Katz, Member-At-Large
Buffalo Grove, IL

Eric Ragsdale, Member-At-Large
Mesa, AZ.

Bob Allen, Member-At-Large
Piqua, OH.

Fred Rosenberg, Member-At-Large
Leesburg, FL.

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

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

Ernest Isbell, -Chaplain
Paducah, TX..

Terry Khachadourian, -Distaff Advisor
Lilburn, GA.

Tom Anderson, -Permanent Advisor
Springfield, VA.

Ernie Isbell, -Ex Officio (2002-04)
Paducah, TX.

Tim Bisch, -Ex Officio (2004-06)
Huntsville, AL

Joe Clelan, -Ex Officio (2006-08)
Mechanicsburg, PA. (deceased)

Frank Estes, -Ex Officio (2008-10)
Ozark, AL.

Bob Koonce, -Ex Officio (2010-12)
Tacoma, WA.

Angelo Spelios, -Ex Officio (2012-14)
Weatherford, TX.

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

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

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA) Financial Statement-2021.

Balance effective 01/01/2021 \$36,845.84

REVENUES:

Dues - Annual \$125.00
Dues - Lifetime \$400.00
Dues - Patriot Lifetime \$400.00
Sales - reunion shirts \$759.64
TOTAL: \$1,684.64

EXPENDITURES:

Newsletters & bank statements \$1,500.62
TOTAL: \$1,500.62

CASH BALANCE - as of 6/15/2021 \$36,896.22

Details: 3 months period ending 6/15/2021

Revenues Detail

Sales - reunion shirts \$626.00
Sub-Total \$759.64

Dues: - 2021**Annual Memberships (AM): - 2021**

Robert Tidd \$25.00
John Salzer \$25.00
Gary Bradford \$25.00
Fred Jacobs \$25.00
John Diamond \$25.00
Sub-Total \$125.00

Lifetime Memberships (LM): - 2021

James Martinson \$100.00
Gary Groth (Associate Life Member)\$100.00
Bill Quinn \$100.00
Raymond Hoff \$100.00
Sub-Total \$400.00

Patriot Lifetime Membership (PLM) - 2021

Phil Van Alst \$400.00
Sub Total \$400.00

Total Revenues - 6 months period 2021 \$1,551.00

Expenses Details

Bob Sharp - 4th Qtr 2020 - Newsletter \$679.05
Bob Sharp - 1st Qtr 2021 - Newsletter \$680.43
Bob Sharp - 2nd Qtr 2021 - Newsletter
Bob Sharp - 3rd Qtr 2021 - Newsletter

Paper bank statements \$7.50
Postage & supplies \$133.64
Total Expenses - 6 months period 2021 \$1,500.62

INCOME (LOSS) - 6 months period ending 6/15/2021 \$50.38

NOTE: The required IRS Form e990 Income Tax Return was filed on February 25, 2021 for calendar year 2020.

OUTLAWS REUNION FORMAT

by Frank Estes

The purpose of this article is to inform our membership of the history behind and rationale for conducting our Outlaws reunions the way we do. The length of this article is necessary to respond to comments about and questions why it can't be done differently. Our experience and rationale in conducting reunions is documented in our Policy Files, but the following will highlight a few important points of policy and interest.

By way of background, the first Outlaws reunion resulted from nearly two years of searching by a handful of original Outlaws for former soldiers who deployed with the 62nd Aviation Company to Vietnam in September 1964, and those who served with the Outlaws during 1964 and 1965. This was to be a "one-time only" reunion with the purpose of renewing the friendships and camaraderie formed in the Outlaws while serving together in an armed combat environment.

Al Iller and a Steering Committee coordinated and conducted the very first Outlaws reunion in Branson, MO (2000). The Steering Committee planned each of the next three Reunions by visiting the reunion site a year in advance and finalized the schedule of events. Since this required the Steering Committee members to actually attend a reunion every year at their expense, the practice was dropped. The following years saw all the planning/scheduling efforts being accomplished via Steering Committee emails after the Membership's selection of the reunion site during the biennial reunion.

My wife and I coordinated and conducted two reunions, one at Fort Rucker, AL (2004 – 40th Anniversary of Outlaws deployment to Vietnam) and one in Nashville, TN (2010). Tom Anderson coordinated and conducted two reunions; one in Pigeon Forge, TN (2006) and one in Washington D.C. (2014 – 50th Anniversary). This collective experience provided an intimate knowledge of the inner workings of a successful reunion.

We learned early on that 3-day reunions (Thursday afternoon arrival and Sunday afternoon departure) did not provide enough time for mingling, venues, meals, business meeting, and important rest breaks especially for the aging and those running the reunions. So, we changed to a 4-day reunion by a Thursday afternoon arrival and

Monday morning departure, with a slightly less tiresome schedule, more time for socializing, mingling, meals, free- or on-your-own time, personal touring and dining, and popular venues that attendees would enjoy.

During the reunion's Business Meeting, the Membership determined the reunion site. Then the Steering Committee did all the initial planning, scheduling, and handed it off to an Outlaws member in the city near the site to administer the rest of the reunion. As we became wiser, we found it better for our size reunions to hire a Reunion Planner/Coordinator familiar with the selected site, available venues, and local administrative support.

Over the years, we have quite often discussed the desire of a few Outlaws to be able to pick and choose what parts of the reunions they want to participate in, and have found no easy way to permit attendees to pick and choose as the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) does. The VHPA has an enormous staff who can select, plan, coordinate, track, and control all aspects of a very large reunion where there are literally hundreds of attendees participating in a wide variety of activities. Their reunions are for a wide variety of military organizations, and usually each numbered unit mingles mostly with themselves. Our Outlaws reunions are for one unit - - the Outlaws, and usually have from 80 to 150 attendees, but usually average about 120.

The purpose of our reunions has been and continues to be: to renew and build on the camaraderie of all Outlaws, repeat ALL Outlaws, in ALL ranks - - - no recognition of rank is permitted; we use first or nicknames only - - - in ALL year-groups from 1964 on through assignment in the US, Germany, and Iraq. Permitting attendees to split up and go to different venues detracts from available time for renewing our full Outlaws camaraderie. This camaraderie is pivotal to the VLOA's longevity, because we need the right members to assume leadership positions. The best way to identify those leaders is through comradeship and development of personal knowledge of VLOA members during our reunions. We have found the KISS principle works best for us. That means "one size fits all," which is easier to plan for and control, requires fewer Outlaws volunteers, usually gives us something free for number of rooms, meals, venues, etc. that

(Cont. on pg. 4)

(Cont. from pg. 3)

we use, and supports our central Reunions' purpose of renewing and building Outlaws' camaraderie. In other words, because we make it easier for the reunion provider services, they give us something in return, such as: "X" number of rooms results in a cheaper room rate and getting the Hospitality Room free, thereby reducing reunion costs; "Y" number of venues or meals results in a lower cost for the venue or meals; use of preferred hotel/motel reduces transportation costs for buses; and use of centralized facilities and services results in more free time for attendees and for Outlaws to mingle.

We have experienced "walk-ins" at a number of our reunions, who want to just "pop in" the hospitality suite sessions, have a few beers and snacks with their close friends, pay nothing, only mingle, and then depart. There are costs related to the hospitality room and refreshments. Some have wanted only to come for the arrival or farewell dinner, spend an evening only with their year-group Outlaws and depart. That limited participation in the reunions precludes Outlaws from getting to know and appreciate other year-group Outlaws they have never met. Every scheduled activity provides an opportunity to mingle and renew/build that camaraderie, from meals together, to bus rides together, to libation together, to passing the torch of leadership of the VLOA to other Outlaws who can keep the VLOA moving into the future.

The Silent Auction, now a mainstay of our reunions has two critical purposes: raises much needed funds for yearly operations, and just as important, causes Outlaws to mingle and get to know each other better.

Some would say that options other than full registration are available. We have found through experience doing 10 previous reunions reflects that our approach is the best for our size organization. However, we know there is probably someone who has a real personal situation that would limit their participation. In such cases, they can contact the VLOA National Director and present their justification for variation from the established process. Essentially, these exceptions are on a case-by-case basis, and will be supported only if the National Director and the Steering Committee can work it out and approve it.

As it is, there is a handful of volunteer Outlaws that will arrive two days early at the

reunion site just to fill Welcome Bags, set up the registration area, set up the Silent Auction, prepare the 50/50 Raffle tickets, get audio equipment at the right places, set up the Hospitality Room, proposition and prepare refreshments, etc., for all the Thursday afternoon arrivals. During the reunions, this handful of volunteers will also be working behind the scenes on monitoring the Silent Auction, selling 50/50 Raffle tickets, preparing for the business meeting, replenishing the refreshments in the Hospitality Room, coordinating and preparing the Sunday nondenominational service, preparing and practicing the Sunday evening Missing Man Ceremony, preparing and practicing the Sunday evening Awards Program, and just as important, collecting for Silent Auction bids at mid-afternoon on Sunday.

In closing, suggestions, changes, and other proposed solutions are welcomed. We continue hearing them and try to find a way to make each of them happen. What I've described above is the way our experience has shown to work best for our size reunions. As the years go by, the VLOA will become a "last man standing" organization, and will need a simpler way to do things (such as our reunions) the closer we get to that date. Hopefully, our leadership has prepared the VLOA for that eventual date and enough Outlaws volunteers will continue filling the much-needed VLOA Steering Committee positions and work during the reunions and during the intervening years to lead our national organization, produce our quarterly *Outlaws Newsletter*, keep our quality website updated with current software and information, keep our Outlaws roster up to date, keep our financial records up to date, and annually file the IRS e990 tax returns to maintain our 501(c)(19) tax-exempt status. Why don't you consider getting involved somewhere in all the things the VLOA has to do to make it the vibrant, active veterans' organization it has become?

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio this September and at future Outlaws Roundups.



Why No Vendors at Outlaw Reunions?



Those of you who have attended an Outlaw Reunion will recall that there have never been commercial vendors in our halls. Several times in the past, commercial vendors of one form or another, have requested to set up a booth, provide displays, give a sales presentation to the group or offer some form of inducement to purchase their product.

The Steering Committee was canvassed for their thoughts on the issue and voted to set a policy to deny all such requests. Their reasoning was as follows.

First, it was recognized early on in our reunion planning that allowing vendors would markedly distract from the real reasons we hold a reunion, i.e., to further solidify the comradery we once felt for each other during our combat tour. Our reunion planners work hard to provide a reunion environment where we can rekindle those old friendships. The VLOA is open to all former unit members and no rank is ever used to identify anyone.

Second, we found that some prospective vendors would also want to display our unit logos with a numerical designation. As we know, the original 62d Aviation Company was soon redesignated as Company A, 502d Aviation battalion and still later as the 175th Assault Helicopter Company. Showing any Outlaw patch at our reunion, with a specific unit number, would unfortunately create a cleavage between those who were the Outlaws when it was designated with a different number. We are “Outlaws” and our policy is that there is only one patch, that which is without any unit number designation.

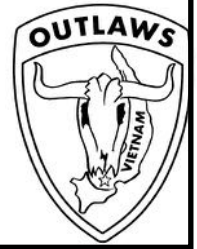
Third, we conduct two fund-raising events at our reunions: Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle. Permitting vendors to sell their wares at our reunions would clearly decrease the potential moneys that would be spent on our two fund-raising events.

So, we have no commercial vendors. However, you will most certainly be contacted regularly (read: *again and again*) by the team who will be pushing hard to allow you the opportunity to win at the big **50-50 drawing**. Be prepared for their not-so-subtle pleas, urgings, appeals, entreaties, relentless requests and other nefarious means of pulling money out of your pocket for the VLOA treasury as well as possibly enriching your own wallet if you are a winner!

But, NO vendors!



September 23-27, 2021 San Antonio, TX Schedule of Events.



Thursday, September 23

1:00pm - 7:00pm

Registration Open-

Hospitality Room Open-

Silent Auction Open-

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Welcome Buffet Dinner-

Friday, September 24

CITY TOUR

9:00am-2:00pm

2:00pm - 11:00pm

Hospitality Room Open-

2:00pm - 11:00pm

Silent Auction Open-

6:00pm - 10:30pm

RIO CIBOLO RANCH TEXAS BBQ
DINNER

Saturday, September 25

8:00am - 9:00am Executive Committee Meeting.

9:00am - 11:00am VLOA General Membership Meeting.

1:00pm - 4:00pm Texas Ranger Museum.

4:00pm - 11:00pm Hospitality Room Open.

Sunday, September 26

9:00am - 10:00am Non-Denominational Church Service.

Hospitality Room Open.

Silent Auction Room Open.

11:00am Silent Auction Closes.

12:00pm 1:00pm River barge Sightseeing Cruise.

6:00pm - 7:00pm Cash bar and social hour.

7:00pm - 9:00pm Farewell Banquet.

9:00pm - 11:00pm Hospitality Room open after Farewell Banquet.

Monday, September 27

Farewells & Departures.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the final payment date (8/19/21), Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$15 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after 8/19/21 will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

San Antonio City Tour

Friday, September 24-9:00am.

From the earliest Spanish Missionaries in 1691 to today's traveler, San Antonio's appeal continues to draw attention. Relax and enjoy a fully narrated tour of San Antonio's unique blend of rich heritage, traditions and natural beauty. Points of interest include stops at the San Jose Mission which is still an active church and is part of the National Park service, the largest of the missions; San Fernando Cathedral, the original church of the Canary Island settlers; From there you'll enjoy some time at the San Antonio River Walk or River Center Mall.

Enjoy lunch on your own, possibly at Casa Rio, the first Mexican Restaurant on the River Walk. Its beautiful location and colorful umbrellas have come to symbolize the serenity and romance of the San Antonio River Walk. 9:00am board bus, 2:00pm back at hotel. Includes bus, guide and admissions. Lunch on your own.

RIO CIBOLO RANCH BBQ DINNER

Friday, September 24- 6:00pm.

Head out for some Western-style Texas hospitality in an authentic ranch setting. The Rio Cibolo Ranch is a working Longhorn cattle ranch and pecan orchard located a short 25 minutes northeast of downtown San Antonio. Family owned and operated, Rio Cibolo Ranch provides unparalleled Texas Hospitality along the Rio Cibolo with horses, cattle, wild game, and wide-open pastures interrupted only by three miles of winding river and century old pecan trees – not to mention a host of fun-loving people! Barbeque is the Ranch's specialty with plates piled with mesquite smoked beef brisket, chicken quarters, and smoked sausage, beans, salad, homemade breads and condiments galore. For the sweet tooth how about some fresh baked pies, cakes, and cobblers?

There's plenty of room to dance to your favorite country tunes. 6:00pm board bus, 10:30pm back at hotel.

Includes bus, escort, dinner, and entertainment.

TEXAS RANGER MUSEUM AND EL MERCADO

Saturday, September 25- 1:00pm.

Head to the Texas Ranger Museum which contains priceless artifacts documenting the history and lore of the Texas Rangers.

A Must-See Museum!

1pm board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel

Includes bus, escort, and admission.

RIVER BARGE SIGHTSEEING CRUISE

Sunday, September 26- 12:00pm.

Step aboard a River Walk barge for an exciting and entertaining narrative of the rich history of the San Antonio River Walk. The cruises are about 35 minutes long and cover one and a half miles of the beautiful San Antonio River Walk. The River Walk boat tour connects you to the city's timeless charm! The enthusiastic, knowledgeable boat captains will share fascinating stories about the city's culture, history and architecture during our 35-minute tour along the San Antonio River. The barges will pick up right at our hotel.

12:00pm - 1:00pm back at hotel.



Please be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time. All tours require a minimum of thirty-five people. Driver and Guide gratuities are included in tour prices.

NOTE: There is a limit of one hydraulically lifted scooter or wheelchair per handicap accessible bus. If you use a scooter but can climb the steps to board the bus, either you and/or a person traveling with you must be able to put the scooter in the bus's luggage compartment. Due to liability issues, drivers and tour guides cannot assist with scooters.

Registration Form—VLOA, San Antonio, Texas Reunion. Sept. 2021.

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION – SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2021

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card for 1st deposit at www.afr-reg.com/outlaws2021deposit and then to make final payment at www.afr-reg.com/outlaws2021final (a 3.5% convenience fee will be added each charge).

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
OFFICE USE ONLY

322 Madison Mews

Check # _____ Date Received _____

Norfolk, VA 23510

Inputted _____ Nametag

Completed _____

ATTN: VINH LONG OUTLAWS

	Price	
FINAL CUT-OFF DATE IS 08/19/21		
<u>All registration packages include 4 nights lodging (September 23-27, 2021), Buffet Breakfast every day, Welcome Buffet Dinner, 4 Tours, Farewell Banquet, and Hospitality Room expenses</u>		
Double Occupancy (2 people)	\$1411.00	\$
Single Occupancy (1 person)	\$1011.00	\$
50% of Registration Package Deposit due by 6/4/21 Payment #1		\$
50% of Registration Package Final Payment due by 8/19/21 Payment #3		\$
PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR BANQUET DINNER ENTRÉE FOR EACH PERSON		
Grilled Sirloin Filet	#	
Chicken Piccata	#	
Vegetarian Option	#	
Additional Nights at the Hotel beyond 9/23-27/21 (optional)		
<i>Additional nights at hotel will need to be paid in full with registration</i>		
Double Occupancy (2 People Price per night)	\$172.50	\$
Single Occupancy (1 Person Price per night)	\$162.50	\$
Payment # 2		\$
Hotel Arrival Date: _____ Hotel Departure Date _____		
Room Type <input type="checkbox"/> One King Bed <input type="checkbox"/> Two Beds		
Hotel Special Needs? (Handicapped accessible?)		
50% Deposit paid by 6/4/21 ** Payment LINE # 1 + Payment LINE # 2		\$
50% Final Payment paid by 8/19/21 **Payment LINE # 3		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.		\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR
ON YOUR NAMETAG

FIRST

LAST

That's An Order !

(From Tom Anderson)

As the years have gone by, Agent Orange has become recognized as a major source of cancers in Viet Nam veterans. Agent Orange was usually sprayed from either helicopters or from low-flying USAF C-123 aircraft. On several occasions, over 8+ years, Outlaw aircraft were fitted with sprayers and used to defoliate specific areas not appropriate for USAF aircraft. At that time, we were led to believe that the chemical was not harmful.

There is no way of knowing how many Outlaws may have contracted some form of cancer or other medical issues since their tour in Viet Nam. And sadly, we have no knowledge of how many have been lost because they didn't know that Agent Orange may have been the cause of their illness.

Prostate cancer is one of the predominant forms of cancer in Viet Nam veterans. Let me tell you about my personal experience over the past two years.

For nearly 25 years, I used the same Primary Care Physician who regularly gave me blood tests which identified my PSA number. My PSA was generally in the 2.5 to 4 range, appropriate for my age. However, about six years ago my PCP retired and I changed to another doctor. Although Regrettably, I should have been aware of it but it did not occur to me then that he was **not** regularly checking my PSA. About 2 years ago, when he finally gave me a PSA test, my PSA was found to be **124!** Not good!

Biopsies showed I had prostate cancer which had metastasized to the hip and spine. Since then, I have had multiple tests: biopsies, MRI's, CAT scans, 4 weeks of radiation, injections, more blood tests, etc. Fortunately, my PSA has gradually dropped from that frightening 124 down to about 6.0. The doc's tell me that I'll always have prostate cancer but, with the decrease in the PSA, it can be somewhat controlled. All those "ologists" tell me that I'm not going to die of prostate cancer but something else. (When I ask them "what" and "when", in typical MD fashion, they are quite evasive about answering).

The VA has determined that my cancer is attributable to service in Viet Nam and has given me a 100% VA disability rating. Although the rating comes with a financial compensation from the VA, I would gladly forego that compensation if it were ever found that I was no longer entitled to it because the cancer was gone. (Not going to happen),

Obviously, I was far too casual, for too many years, about remembering the importance of that critical PSA test. But the lesson learned here is that you **MUST** have regular blood tests, at least once a year, to include PSA readings! Don't let happen to you what I allowed to happen to me.

So, my urgent admonition to you, **NO**, my direct order to all of you is, get that PSA test, now!



That's an ORDER!





Urgent, Urgent! Silent Auction for San Antonio



As our reunion in San Antonio moves ever closer, it is High time to be thinking about making your contribution(s) to the next successful Outlaw Silent Auction. Let your imaginations turn to those items you can contribute to this most worthy cause. What things do you have in your possession, or could make, that a proud member of the Vinh Long Outlaw Association would enjoy taking home with them? What item would you treasure taking home? Whatever you may offer, please do so with a sense of urgency.

Our current load of treasure totals 32 items from 7 people and is far short of the 120 items projected for San Antonio Auction success. Please search your options and your hearts and plan to make at least one contribution between now and September 22nd.

Just take a picture of the item(s) and send it to my email: band-sallen@att.net. Please include a brief description of each item, and a suggested starting bid. I will collate everyone's contribution and include them in an auction catalog to be made available in each welcome packet upon arrival. Then, let the bidding begin with your individual bid number, also included in your packet.

If you would like to contribute to the Auction but will be unable to attend, or would prefer to ship your item ahead, I also have an option for you! Please send your item description to my email (as listed above), and then send your item to the following address: Outlaw Auction, C/O Autohaus Stuttgart INC., 2020 Antoine Dr., Houston Texas, 77055. We will make sure your contribution arrives on time in San Antonio!

It is so exciting to be gathering once more for our reunion! Let's make sure we support the V.L.O.A. by donating to the Silent Auction, and by bidding on the wonderful items which have been contributed.

See you in San Antonio!



Bob Allen.



2021 reunion Shirts Order Now!



Still Time to Order Reunion Shirts

The long-anticipated Outlaw Reunion is almost here! All Reunion Shirt Orders must be received not later than August 31st! That date will allow the embroidery company to complete the shirts in time to have them transported to San Antonio.

An alert! As the Shirt Order Form stipulates, “if you cannot attend the reunion, provide a mailing address and **add \$5 for postage and packaging costs.**” We have received a number of Shirt Orders that did include a mailing address but did not include the \$5 for mailing. Therefore, we are assuming that those who wrote in their mailing address on the Order, but did not include postage, **will be** attending the Reunion. Those shirts, therefore, will be at the reunion and will be included in the Welcome Bag. If you think this applies to you, send an email to Tom at teander@cox.net and let’s get it sorted out before the Reunion.

Last year, before we were forced to postpone the Reunion, we had orders, and payments, for 46 Reunion shirts. Because we had no indication at that time if, or when, the Reunion would be held, we had all those shirts made up and mailed out.

At this writing, (early June) we have orders, and payments, for approximately 20 more shirts. You still have lots of time to send in your order but we’d appreciate your order sooner, rather than later, so we can give a heads-up to the embroidery company on the anticipated number to be made. They have to order from the shirt manufacturer and we’d like to avoid any potential delay on some sizes.

The Order form is included in this Newsletter. Cut it out or make a copy and get your order on the way.



Tom Anderson.



2021 SAN ANTONIO - OUTLAW ROUNDUP

SHIRT ORDER FORM

The official **2021 Outlaw Roundup** shirt is likely to be the most appealing reunion shirt we have ever had. The colors were selected to match the authorized Army Aviation branch colors, ultramarine blue and golden orange. The polo shirt is a polyester micropique sport-wick t. To accentuate the vivid shirt colors, the Outlaw patch will also be trimmed in gold.

Cost for each shirt again starts at \$30. (NOTE: Additional cost * for sizes 2XL = \$32 3XL = \$34 4XL = \$36 men's or women's.) Please pre-order your shirt(s) on the form below. Shirts ordered by Reunion attendees will be in each welcome bag at the VLOA registration desk. If you cannot attend the reunion, but would like a shirt, see info below **. **Please Indicate Quantity Desired by Size**

MENS' SHIRT SIZES:

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

LADIES' SHIRT SIZES

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

* Note: Cost for sizes 2XL - \$32 3XL - \$34 4XL - \$36 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)

**** Note:** If you cannot attend the Reunion and would like to order an Outlaw shirt, please fill in the information above, add \$5.00 for postage and packaging costs and provide the following information:

Your name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

(Phone #) _____

ALL ORDERS ARE PRE-PAID AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 31st, 2021!

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

Tom Anderson

7880 Rolling Woods Ct #308

Springfield, VA 22152

Make checks or money orders payable to: VLOA not to Tom !

The Back Pew

By: Ernest Isbell



Linda and I hope that this newsletter finds everyone in good health and making plans to gather in San Antonio in September. We will be there and we are bringing our daughter Cheryl, a child of the Viet Nam era, now age 58.

She and her older brother were ages 1 and 2 when the Outlaws and Mavericks and others deployed from Fort Benning in August /September 1964. When I came home the following September, I arrived at the house unannounced (remember, cell phones did not exist back then) to find the kids in bed and my in-laws there for a brief visit. Thought they would never leave. I had other things on my mind. My mother-in-law finally prevailed in getting my father-in-law to leave. He was a retired Navy Commander with a mischievous streak.

After they left I was walking down the hall to our bedroom when Cheryl, now a year older, got up for a bathroom visit and saw me. She grabbed me around the knees and would NOT let go. Finally, she yelled to her brother, got him up, and they joined us in our bed. They finally went to sleep and I carried them to their beds.

How many of you have similar stories? Come to the reunion and let's all share our memories of those days long ago.

Another subject is regarding Agent Orange. On January 1, 2021, Congress passed the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. Part of this act added bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism to the list of ailments that are presumptively associated with exposure to herbicide agents i.e. Agent Orange and others.

If you are suffering from any malady that can be tied into your service in Viet Nam, please file a claim with the Veterans Administration. You are owed this care and compensation but you'll not receive anything unless you apply and get an Agent Orange assessment. Take care of yourself and get the benefits that you are entitled to receive.

That is all I wish to cover for this edition of the Chaplain's Corner. May God Bless you and your family.

With warmest regard's,

Ernie Isbell



Directors' and Outstanding Outlaw's Award Nominations

By Frank Este

The VLOA has an established awards program to recognize those individuals who have contributed significantly to the VLOA organization. Each of these awards has certain criteria which must be met to receive either of the awards.

Directors' Award: This award is the highest award the VLOA gives during any reunion year. This award is not an award that must be mandatorily presented at each biennial reunion. Only one of these awards may be given because it is to clearly recognize the one individual or couple who has made the greatest contribution to the VLOA organization over an extended period of time. The Directors' Award is reserved for any member or couple who gives substantial, quantifiable, long-term support to the VLOA through his/her contributions, time, energies, ideas, and accomplishments in promoting and furthering the aims and goals of the VLOA as a war veterans, not for profit organization.

Outstanding Outlaw Award: For those nominees whose contribution does not rise to the level of the Directors' Award, the Outstanding Outlaw Award may be given when a nominee has given service to the VLOA, such as meaningfully holding an officer/director's position and rendering recognizably important service concerning the furtherance of the VLOA's goals, objectives, history documentation, membership location, and preservation of the organization.

Anyone wishing to submit a nomination for the Directors' Award or the Outstanding Outlaw Award to be presented during this year's Outlaws Roundup in Charleston, SC should send an email nomination to Frank Estes, Awards Committee Chair at the following: estesf@troycable.net or submit a letter of nomination to:

Awards Committee Chair
c/o Frank Estes
407 Country Club Drive
Ozark, AL 36360.
334-797-9196 (cell)
334-774-5571 (home)



The **nominations need to be received by the Awards Committee Chair not later than August 1, 2021 by email or letter** as discussed above, and should contain the following information about the nominees:

Name

Address

Phone number, and

A narrative commentary regarding measureable justification of why the nominee should receive the Directors Award or the Outstanding Outlaws 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 this 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.

Women Helicopter Pilots

A Little History

By Tom Anderson and Lt. Johnna (Sims) Hall



When the Outlaws served in Viet Nam, none of us would have thought that, in a few years, Army Aviation would include women as contemporaries in the heretofore all-male fraternity of helicopter pilots. However, in 1974 the Army began training female helicopter pilots and, by 1993, had integrated women Aviators into combat unit assignments.

Women now fly every type of Army helicopters and Army fixed-wing aircraft. Although women Army Aviators are no longer viewed as “unique”, as perhaps they were in earlier years, today’s women Army Aviators are a proud part of the lineage of women pilots (especially helicopter pilots) from the past.

History tells us that on August 1 1911, **Harriet Quimby** was the first woman to receive a license to pilot an airplane in the United States. However, it took the US military 65 more years to recognize and train women as pilots. Even then, it took an additional 17 years to permit women to “invade” the sacrosanct area of piloting combat aircraft. Those of us who flew, serviced and crewed Outlaw helicopters in Viet Nam came several years before women would be part of the unit personnel structure.

Helicopter history records that a German woman pilot, **Hanna Reitsch**, was the **first female helicopter pilot**, and flew a Focke-Achgelis FA-61, the first fully controllable helicopter. Interestingly, in 1938, making daily flights, she flew the FA-61 during an International Auto Exhibition **inside** a large exhibition hall in Berlin. However, Hanna was a close friend of Adolf Hitler which made her a star of Nazi propaganda. After a career of dubious achievements, she died in 1979.

Also, looking way back, Viet Nam helicopter pilot history describes an exceptional French Army woman helicopter pilot who served in Viet Nam many years before the Outlaws arrived. **Valerie Andre**, holds that distinction. Not only was she a **medical doctor (a neurosurgeon!)** she also trained as a “medevac” helicopter pioneer—and was **the first woman to fly a helicopter in combat**. Between 1951 and 1953 Andre flew 129 combat medevac missions in Viet Nam, rescuing 165 wounded French soldiers. Fast-forward to the early 1960s. André, now serving with the French Army fighting in Algeria, flew an additional 236 combat missions flying Sikorsky helicopters.

(Cont. on pg. 16)

(Cont. from pg.15) It would be extremely unlikely that an Army medical doctor, flying “Dustoff”, would happen in today’s military services.)

Today, all US military services have women helicopter pilots. Women Army Aviators have more than proved their ability to perform on an equal basis with their male counterparts. Women helicopter pilots have seen duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and all major conflicts in the army’s recent history.

In July 2009, Air Force Major **Mary Jennings Hegar**, on her third tour in Afghanistan, although was severely wounded and shot down while piloting a Med-Evac Black Hawk helicopter in Afghanistan. Nearby Army helicopters rescued her, along with other soldiers, but the rescue helicopter was full and she and a few others had to fly out standing on the skids. She received a DFC with combat V for her actions on that day.

Today’s women Army Aviators continue to build a legacy of their own. For example, **Tammy Duckworth**, an Army Black Hawk pilot, was among the first handful of Army pilots to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. She lost both legs when she was shot down over Iraq on November 12, 2004. About 120 hours into her tour, her Black Hawk was struck by an RPG. As a fireball tore through the cockpit, Duckworth tried to help land the chopper but was unable to use her legs and feet on the foot pedals. She was the first American female double amputee from the Iraq War. Duckworth is now a US Senator from Illinois.

An early prominent woman Army Aviator is now-retired **Colonel Sally Murphy**. She joined the Army in 1972 and immediately entered flight training when Army Aviation opened its ranks to women. Murphy was awarded her Army Aviator wings on June 4th 1974 and became the **first female Army helicopter pilot**. (An interesting side-note of her career was that, while stationed in Germany several years later, she commanded the **62d Aviation company**, the original designation of the H-19 and H-34 Outlaws when they arrived in Viet Nam in 1964.) Colonel Murphy had an outstanding career, at all Army levels, with Army Aviation. She retired in 2009 after a distinguished 37-year career in Army Aviation.

Captain Shay Haver is one of the more well-known examples of women’s ability to excel. In the footsteps of her Army Apache-pilot father, she also started her Army aviation career as an Apache pilot. In 2015 she became one of the two first women to ever graduate Army Ranger School. (Cont. on pg. 17)

(Cont. from pg.16)

After completing Ranger School, Shay branch-transferred to Infantry, where she commanded an infantry company at Ft. Bragg, NC. Haver was honored to lead the military honor guard that carried the casket of US Supreme Court Justice [Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#) when she died and [laid in state](#) at the US Capitol.

Another distinguished woman helicopter pilot is now-**Lieutenant General Laura Richardson**. Laura was a Blackhawk pilot who flew combat missions during the first year of the Iraq war in 2003. Her husband, also an Army Aviator, (and also a Lieutenant General) flew Apaches in seven combat deployments. Laura became the first female, combat arms General officer and together, they hold the distinction of being the first “dual-military” three-star General Officer couple.

To continue her massive success, in 2019 Lt. General Laura Richardson, was selected as commander of United States Army North. She is the first woman to hold this position and is one of only a handful of female officers to achieve that rank. On March 6, 2021, President Biden announced the nomination of (Army Aviator) Laura Richardson to become the next commander of United States Southern Command. Indeed, quite a distinguished career for a woman Army Aviator.

These paragraphs recognize the accomplishments of only a few of the women now in Army Aviation. It should be remembered that literally hundreds of other officer and enlisted women contribute daily to the success of today’s Army Aviation force without special recognition or acknowledgement.

Each month more exceptional women graduate flight school and begin their journey of conquering their world as Army Aviators. They tolerate incredible stress and balance work and flying in both their personal lives and in their families. And, they thrive on adversity! Women have long ago shown, and continue to demonstrate, that they are more than capable of performing as competent pilots and impressive leaders. Their achievements and successes will continue as their numbers grow and their legacy continues to shine.

The co-author of this article is 1/Lt Johnna (Sims) Hall. Johnna flies Back Hawks at Hunter AAF and is the daughter of an Army Officer and the granddaughter of Army Aviator Bill Sims (RIP).



San Antonio Reunion List of Names and number of guests.—

“With guests, spouses, significant others, children, etc. our total attendee list now stands at approximately 87..... Still time to add your name to the list, but hurry !”



Bob Allen-2	
David Amazon-1	Larry McAheren-2
Tom Anderson-2	Ken McElroy-1
Josiah Austin-1	Carl Milko-2
Dennis Baker-2	Hans-Peter Naegele-2
Vaston Steve Brooks-1	Mike Nord-1
Ron Cone-2	Ted Opiola-1
John Diamond-2	Lyle Perry-2
Bill Dietrich-2	Erik Ragsdale-2
Jim Donnelly-2	Steve Rice-1
Frank Estes-2	Bert Rice-2
Curtis Fair-2	Cindy Robinson-1
Carolyn Fredriksson-1	Peter Sawyer-1
Daniel Hudgins-2	Neil Schmit-2
Ernie Hunter-2	Robert Sharp-2
Ernie Isbell-3	Terry Smith-3
Larry Jackson-2	Allen Theriot-1
Bob Kelly-1	Michael Vernet-1
Sheila Kendall-2	Tony Villaruel-1
Thomas Kennedy-2	Jerry Wade-2
Harry Kachadourian-2	Richard Waldo-1
Gary Kluting-2	Bill Washburn-2
Glenn Klutz-2	Ivan White-2
George Kokendoffer-1	Gary Williams-2
DuWayne Liebe-1	Douglas Wilson-1
Marti Lopez-2	Charles Wren-1
Jack Mankin-2	Total attending= 87.

THE LORD'S BASEBALL GAME

Freddy and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team.

The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the 9th inning with two outs. They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate named 'Love.'

Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single, because “Love never fails.”

The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love.

The next batter up was named Godly Wisdom. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch.

Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass: Ball one. Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked because he never swings at what Satan throws.

The bases were now loaded. The Lord then turned to Freddy and told him He was now going to bring in His star player.

Up to the plate stepped Grace. Freddy said, “He sure doesn't look like much!”

Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace.

Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen! But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by.

He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; the roaring crowds went wild as the ball continued over the fence . . . for a home run!

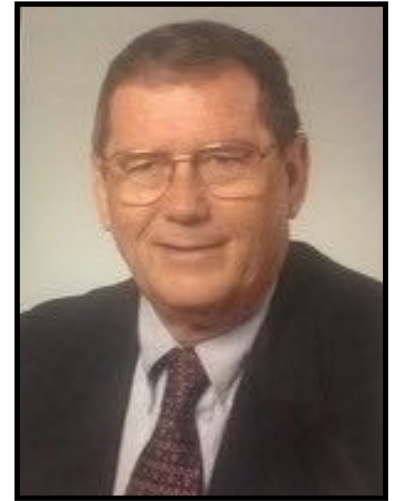
The Lord's team won!

The Lord then asked Freddy if he knew why Love, Faith and Godly Wisdom could get on base but couldn't win the game. Freddy answered that he didn't know why. The Lord explained, If your love, faith and wisdom had won the game, you would think you had done it by your self. Love, Faith and Wisdom will get you on base but only My Grace can get you Home:

For by Grace you are saved, it is a gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. Psalm 84:11,

LTC C. Douglas Eady, Ret. U.S.
Army
June 13, 1935 - April 8, 2021



LTC C. Douglas Eady, Ret. U.S. Army
June 13, 1935 - April 8, 2021

North Richland Hills, Texas - LTC C. Douglas (Doug) Eady, Ret. U.S. Army, passed away on Thursday, April 8th, 2021. He was born in Chattanooga, OK in 1935 to Clarence Douglas Eady and Frances Idell (Dell) Eady.

Doug graduated from Midwestern University ('57) and began a career in the United States Army. He served his country for 27 years which included one tour in Korea and two tours in Vietnam. He was awarded many individual and group decorations including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldiers Medal, Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Doug retired from the military in 1983.

Doug earned a Master of Business Administration in Aviation from Embry-Riddle in 1983 and began a second career at Martin Marietta (Lockheed Martin). He retired in 2003 after 20 years of service.

Doug is predeceased by his wife Alice Miller Eady. He is survived by his wife Linda L. Eady; his four children, Craig Douglas Eady (LouNell) of Greenville, SC; Jana Lynn Eady (Michael) of Euless, TX; Kirk Gregory Eady of Hurst, TX; Kelli Waigand (Tommy) of Destin, FL; and four grandchildren, Austin Eady, Hunter Eady, Erin Eady and Jude Waigand.

A private memorial service will be held at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to be made to the Gary Sinise Foundation or the Fisher House. Words cannot express how much he will be missed. Always in our hearts.



Robert "Bob" J. Wegner

10/7/1949--6/22/2021



Jet-pilot and golfer, Robert J. Wegner, has died at the age of 71. He was born to Helen and Donald Wegner on October 7th, 1949 in Queens, New York, where he matriculated until leaving for active duty at 19. Bob Wegner's aviation career began with The United States Army, as a helicopter pilot during The Vietnam War in South East Asia. During his service, he was shot down several times; not only did he survive but he saved the lives of several other service men in the aftermath.

The Army Commendation Medal and The Distinguished Flying Cross were awarded to him for, "single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight." He began a nearly fifty year marriage to Terry Monica Kraus at a Long Island celebration hall in 1973. They had two children together, Nicole and Zach. Although the family spent the majority of their lives as residents of Gaylordsville, CT, Bob was a man of the world, traveling to almost every continent during his storied career as a jet pilot for Time Magazine and The Rockefeller Family's *Wayfayer Ketch Company*. He flew Gulfstream jets for decades and later became one of the *NetJets* company's pilots. In his early forties he began his journeyman pursuit of golf: a sport which he mastered up to a 4 handicap.

Many in the New Milford community knew him as a carpenter, a handy-man, chef, and baker, notably through the abundance of loaves of bread and "to die for" chocolate croissants baked for friends during the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic. His handiwork lives on in The John Pettibone School's wooden playground and backdoor patios across the tri-state area. An avid learner, reader and seeker, Bob often reminded those around him that, "Nobody ever learned anything while they were talking." For almost thirty years he led a life of sobriety, and shepherded many others to do the same in the meeting spaces of Alcoholics Anonymous. Some of the local men in recovery are said to have never missed a meeting helmed by "Bob the Pilot." Ever since his October diagnosis he fought to live against the growing metastasis with the same passion he had done everything. Only in his final months could he ever be observed lying down.

He left his body on Wednesday June 22nd, 2021 after the 10-month battle with esophageal cancer had ended. He is survived by his daughter Nicole, his son Zach, his wife Terry, his mother Helen, and his brother-in-arms Joseph Sheeran. Bob will be honored next to the 18th hole in a celebration of life at *The Club at River Oaks* at 2 Evans Hill Road, Sherman, Ct on July 11th, 2021 from 1-5 pm.

Michael D. Thompson Sr.
12/2/1948—6/12/2021



QUEENSBURY/TICONDEROGA - Michael D. Thompson, Sr., 72, of Queensbury and formerly of Ticonderoga, passed away on June 12, 2021 in the loving arms of his son and family by his side.

Michael was born on December 2, 1948 to Chandler and Frieda (Winkler) Thompson, Sr. in Mount Kisco, NY.

Our beloved father joined the Army on December 2, 1966. Whereafter, he completed his Army training, he served two Active-Duty Tours with Outlaws 175th AHC. Michael was the Crew Chief on helicopter Outlaw 22 at Vinh Long Airfield, IV Corps, South VietNam.

Michael later met the love of his life, Shirley (Waters) Thompson and he married her on September 26, 1970. They spent the next 51 years together raising their children and making many memories.

He was predeceased by his parents, and step-mother, Helen Thompson, brother-in-law, Roy West, sister-in-law Bonnie Thompson, and brother-in-law, Bernie Potter.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley (Waters) Thompson; his children: Jenny E. Thompson, Michael D. Thompson, Jr., Nicholas (Jessica) Thompson and Tara Thompson; his brothers and sisters: Stephen Thompson, Lois (Dale) Hammond, David (Marica) Thompson, Charles McCarthy, Emmaline Nolan, Chandler (Crystal) Thompson, Jr., Emmitt (Shelly) Thompson and Sarah Potter; his grandchildren: Ashlee Thompson, Lee Beckwith II, Jordan Van Ness, Aryan Thompson, Blair Thompson, Nicholas Thompson II, Sarah Mc Cray and Jeremy Danahy, Jr.; and his great-grandchildren: Hannah LaBelle and Maddox Wright. He is also survived by in-laws; and many nieces, nephews, cousins; and many friends.

A Memorial Service with Military Honors will take place at the family plot of the Valley View Cemetery of Ticonderoga on June 26, 2021 at 12:30 p.m.

A Gathering for family and friends will take place following the services at 155 Cronin Road, Queensbury.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home of Ticonderoga. To offer online condolences, please visit www.wilcoxandreganfuneralhome.com.



Harold D Quattlebaum

February 21, 1935 ~ May 8, 2021 (age 86)

ROCKY HEAD COMMUNITY... Mr. Harold D. Quattlebaum (CW4, United States Army, Retired), a resident of the Rocky Head Community, near Arifton, died late Saturday evening at his home. He was 86.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 A.M. Saturday, May 15, 2021 in the Fuqua Bankston Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend William "Bill" Hovey officiating. Graveside services, with military honors, followed at in the Vernon Cemetery, Vernon, Florida.



Mr. Quattlebaum, son of the late Jefferson B. Quattlebaum and Thurba Elliott Quattlebaum, was born in Bonifay, Florida and moved to Central Florida while still a child. He attended Lakeland High School in Lakeland, Florida. Mr. Quattlebaum graduated from Enterprise State Junior College in Enterprise, Alabama, Valencia College in Orlando, Florida and Florida Technological University in Orlando, Florida. After high school, Mr. Quattlebaum enlisted in the United States Air Force and later transferred to the United States Army, where he retired as a CW5 after serving for 32 years. Mr. Quattlebaum served two tours in Vietnam flying Huey helicopters and Chinooks. After returning from Viet Nam, Mr. Quattlebaum served in the office of Standardization at the home of Army Aviation in Fort Rucker, Alabama. During his military career, he received numerous medals, including the Bronze Star, Silver Star and Oak Leaf Cluster. After his retirement, Mr. Quattlebaum continued to live by his sworn oath as an officer to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. He was passionate about Freedom and loved the United States of America. Mr. Quattlebaum instilled the same values in each of his children. Mr. Quattlebaum was an excellent sharpshooter during his lifetime. He enjoyed fishing and was passionate about Alabama Football. Mr. Quattlebaum was preceded in death by his wife, Frances Hartley Quattlebaum one son, Mark David Quattlebaum; one granddaughter, Lauren Virginia Quattlebaum; two brothers, Paul David Sasser and Theron Donald Quattlebaum; one sister, Carolyn Virginia Quattlebaum, and two nephews, David Lawrence Sasser and Brian Jeffery Sasser.

Surviving relatives include his three daughters, Marcia Diane Quattlebaum, Marietta, Georgia, Maria Donna Rauch, Orlando, Florida, and Melinda Debra Quattlebaum, of Arifton; three sons, Michael Duane Quattlebaum, and Marshall Dean Quattlebaum, both of Orlando, Florida, and Martin Dale Quattlebaum (Cheryl), Arifton; one sister in law, Saran Sasser, Chipley Florida ; two nephews , George Randall Sasser (Linda), Chipley, Florida and Michael Ian Sasser (Minoza) Philippines ; six grandchildren, Cory Jiminez (Samantha Jiminez), Heather Quattlebaum (Chris Holcomb), Christina Thomas, Audrey Quattlebaum, Peyton Rauch, and Josh Rauch; six great-grandchildren, Blake Jiminez, Aidan Freeman, Easton Freeman, Christopher Holcomb, Jr, Ryan Holcomb, and Mia Holcomb.

Rodney "Sam" Huff
3/12/1949—6/9/2021



On June 9, 2021, Rodney "Sam" Huff loving husband, father of two children and granddad of two, lost his battle with cancer at the age of 72.

Rodney was born on March 12, 1949 in West Virginia to William "Bud" and Edith Huff.

He served in the Army in Vietnam as a member of the 175th Outlaws. He was in law enforcement for over 35 years and retired as a Sergeant with Brownsville Police Department. On January 8, 1972 he married Irma Morales. They raised one son, one daughter, and have two grandchildren. He loved his career and was a real cowboy at heart.

Rodney was preceded in death by his father William Howard Huff, mother, Edith Huff, and his hunting buddy, father-in-law, Hugo Maya. He is survived by his brother, Patrick F. Huff, wife, Irma M. Huff, daughter, Jennifer A. Huff, son, Christopher M. (Belinda) Huff, grandchildren, Makayla and Kaitlyn Huff, along with his loving mother-in-law Aurelia Maya, and numerous nephews, nieces, brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws.

A celebration of his life was held Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 10:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at Trinity Funeral Home in Harlingen, Texas. He was placed to rest at Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery in Mission, Texas.

In Lieu of flowers please donate to The Oral Cancer Foundation

<https://oralcancerfoundation.donordrive.com/campaign/Rodney--Sam--Huff>

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)
 c/o Robert J. Sharp, Editor.
 17489 US Hwy. 65
 Albert Lea, Minnesota. 56007
 handybobsharp@gmail.com
 Cell 507-828-3062 –H Ph.507-373-6452



Summer- 2021

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

Memberships in the VLOA is open to any person of any rank who served with any lineage unit known as the “Outlaws” (and “Mavericks” and “Bushwhackers” armed platoons) or any affiliated unit at any time between August 1964 and the present. These units include the 62nd Aviation Company, A Company 502nd Aviation Battalion, 175th Aviation Company, B Troop 1-158th Aviation Regiment (Iraq), 150th Transportation Detachment (“Roadrunners”), 28th Signal Detachment, and 25th Infantry Division’s “doorgunners.”

Active (with vote) or Associate (without vote) Membership is \$25 annually, payable each January. A Lifetime Membership (with vote) is \$100 one-time dues. A Lifetime Associate Membership (without vote) for spouses and relatives is available for a \$100 one-time donation. A Patriot Lifetime Membership (with vote) is available for a one-time \$500 or more dues. Current Lifetime Members may upgrade to a Patriot Lifetime Membership for a one-time \$400 or more dues. To pay initial or renewal membership dues for this calendar year, please complete and forward this form, with dues payment, to:

VLOA Treasurer: c/o Frank Estes, 407 Country Club Drive, Ozark, AL 36360.

First Name _____ MI ____--____ Nickname _____ Last Name _____

Telephone # (home) _____ (work) _____ Spouse’s Name _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Rank (while assigned to unit) _____ E-Mail address _____

Dates assigned in Outlaws/attachments (Mo/Yr to Mo/Yr) _____

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

• Please initiate _____ or renew _____ my Active _____ Associate _____ VLOA membership. **Make \$25 check payable to VLOA.**

• Please initiate my Lifetime _____ Lifetime Associate _____ VLOA membership. **Make \$100 check payable to VLOA.**

• • Please initiate my Patriot Lifetime _____ membership. **Make \$500 or more check payable to VLOA. Current Lifetime Members make \$400 or more check payable to VLOA.**

_____ Please do not renew my VLOA membership, but keep my name on the VLOA roster. I understand I may not receive any future issues of the VLOA Newsletter unless I am a current dues paying VLOA member.

_____ I know a former Outlaw/Maverick/Bushwhacker/Roadrunner or other affiliated unit member and have indicated his/her name, address, and phone number on this form.

Comments: _____