



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

“www.vinhlongoutlaws.com”

Vinh Long Outlaws Winter 2021 Newsletter

October-December

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

4th. Quarter 2021

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VLOA Reunion !!

See you in San Antonio, TX.!!

National Director's Corner

By- **Bert Rice**



Happy New Year everyone! I hope this finds each and every one of you doing well and free of COVID and the variants. I am beginning to wonder when this will end. With that being said, we are continuing the plan for the VLOA reunion in San Antonio from 22 to 26 September 2022. I believe we will make it this time!

Armed Forces Reunion, Inc (AFR) has helped finalize arrangements with the Holliday Inn in San Antonio. As I mentioned in my last comments, the hotel agreed to host the reunion but with a small increase in room rate. The initial room rate was negotiated three years ago in 2019. I don't believe the increase is unreasonable.

You will find the reunion registration form in this edition of the newsletter. I encourage you to complete and submit the registration form prior to the first payment deadline of June 4. If you are able, please consider payment in full as that will be beneficial to both yourself, not having to make a second payment, and to those of us planning the reunion – provides a better picture of attendance and possible need for additional rooms. Just a thought!

Links to register will be available on the website soon. Just a comment! There are two links. One will be used to make the initial payment of 50 percent along with more detailed information. The second to be used to make final payment of 50 percent by August 19, 2022. Please be careful when registering using the links to make sure all information is provided.

An agenda and information about the tours are also included in the newsletter. I believe that all information is correct and will be useful for our purposes. I am looking forward to the tours!

I cannot finish my comments without taking a moment to thank all who are actively engaged in making VLOA a wonderful organization. Tom, Frank, Jim, Bob, Phil, Bob A., and Ernie and more fellow Outlaws make VLOA function in superior manner. Thanks to each of you for doing all that you do for all of us.

After limited activities for nearly two years, I am really looking forward to seeing you in September! Please plan to come and enjoy the camaraderie and fun with fellow Outlaws and guests. My pleasant and memorable experiences from past reunions compel me to attend the coming and all future reunions.

God Bless each and every one!

Bert L. Rice

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.

VLOA Quartermaster

Jim Donnelly

The VLOA Quartermaster web page is up and ready for your donations of items. On that page is a detailed description of the processes of donating and purchasing, but here is a short version. We are looking for Vietnam related items and other items of interest to the members and others. It's simple to do! Take a picture of your potential donation item, write up a short description and come up with a price for your item. Don't forget you will be responsible for shipping the item to the buyer when formulating your asking price. Email that information to vloa.quartermaster@gmail.com and your item will be posted on the Quartermaster webpage if selected.

To those seeking to purchase a listed item, email the quartermaster the number of the item and your complete contact information. I will email the purchaser instructions how to pay for the item via PayPal. I will, after verification of payment and shipping by donor, email the buyer a tracking number for their item.

It is my hope that at a later date the quartermaster will carry VLOA Outlaw patches, decals and other items which are requested by the membership in sufficient quantity to warrant their inclusion.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the quartermaster, Jim Donnelly at 757-469-8168 or send an email to vloa.quartermaster@gmail.com. Thanks for your support of this effort to keep the VLOA financially viable.

CORRECTION

The "Outlaws' Quartermaster Revived" article in the previous *Outlaws Newsletter* had a sentence that began: "To replace the lucrative Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle revenues...." This sentence should have begun: "**Not** to replace the lucrative Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle revenues...." The author apologizes for the error.



VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION (VLOA) Financial Statement - 12/31/2021

Balance effective 01/01/2021

\$36,845.84

REVENUES:

Dues - Annual	\$250.00
Dues - Lifetime	\$600.00
Dues - Patriot Lifetime	\$400.00
Sales - reunion shirts	\$1,390.00
TOTAL:	<u>\$2,640.00</u>

EXPENDITURES:

Newsletters, reunion expenses, shirt purchases, annual webhosting, annual domain names renewals, bank statements, & postage	\$7,604.88
TOTAL:	<u>\$7,604.88</u>

CASH BALANCE - as of 12/31/2021

\$31,880.96

Details: 12 months period ending 12/31/2021

Revenues Detail

Sales - reunion shirts	\$1,390.00
Sub-Total	<u>\$1,390.00</u>

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
William Cotham	\$25.00
Frederick Stetson	\$25.00
William Cotham	\$25.00
Robert Tidd	\$25.00
John Salzer	\$25.00
Sub-Total	<u>\$250.00</u>

Lifetime Memberships (LM): - 2021

James Martinson	\$100.00
Gary Groth (Associate Life Member)	\$100.00
Bill Quinn	\$100.00
Raymond Hoff	\$100.00
James Bloxsom	\$100.00
John Scott	\$100.00
Sub-Total	<u>\$600.00</u>

Cont. on Pg. 4)

Cont. from Pg. 3

Patriot Lifetime Membership (PLM) - 2021

Phil Van Alst		\$400.00
	Sub Total	\$400.00
<u>TOTAL REVENUES - 12 months period 2021</u>		<u>\$2,640.00</u>
Expenses Details		
Bob Sharp - 4th Qtr 2020 - Newsletter		\$679.05
Bob Sharp - 1st Qtr 2021 - Newsletter		\$680.43
Bob Sharp - 2nd Qtr 2021 - Newsletter		\$751.38
Bob Sharp - 3rd Qtr 2021 - Newsletter		\$784.02
Armed Forces Reunion (AFR) 2022 Reunion Deposit		\$1,500.00
Reimburse AFR for 2021 Reunion registrants' admin fee		\$1,350.00
Reunion shirt purchases & mailing to 2021 reunion registrants		\$1,372.58
Paper bank statements		\$18.00
Frank Estes - annual domain names renewals		\$95.90
Harlow Media - annual webhosting		\$239.88
Postage & supplies		\$133.64
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES - 12 months period 2021</u>		<u>\$7,604.88</u>
INCOME (LOSS) - 12 months period ending 12/31/2021		<u>-\$4,964.88</u>

Membership Renewals

by Frank Estes

Membership renewals are due each January. However, we follow each individual member's date of renewal. In turn, you get credit for paying your dues anytime during the year. For the annual dues paying members, we would appreciate you marking your calendar to pay your dues in January of each year. Here are the important reasons for paying your dues. The VLOA distributes a quarterly ***Outlaws Newsletter*** that is sent to all former Outlaws, Mavericks, Bushwhackers, Roadrunners, 28th Signal Detachment, 25th ID door-gunner platoon, and attached support personnel. Further, the VLOA operates a Vinh Long Outlaws website, www.vinhlongoutlaws.com. Additionally, the VLOA conducts a biennial Outlaws Roundup in a location as convenient as possible to all former members of the aforementioned units/attachments. These activities require funds to keep them in operation. We want to recognize and thank all of those who paid their dues during 2021.

Patriot Life Member:

Phil Van Alst

Life Members:

James Martinson
 Gary Groth (Associate Life Member)
 Bill Quinn
 Raymond Hoff
 James Bloxsom
 John Scott

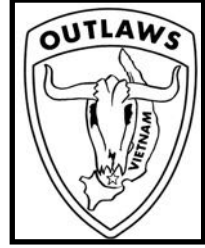
Regular (Annual) Members:

Robert Tidd (dues for 2 years)
 John Salazer (dues for 2 years)
 Gary Bradford
 Fred Jacobs
 John Diamond
 William Cotham (dues for 2 years)
 Frederick Stetson

Thanks to all of you who continue supporting the VLOA by keeping your dues payments current. A special thanks goes to all who joined as a Patriot Life, Associate Life, and Life Member.



September 22-26, 2022 San Antonio, TX Schedule of Events.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR / HISTORIC FREDERICKSBURG

Friday, September 23

Enjoy a scenic ride to Fredericksburg to tour the National Museum of the Pacific War which is dedicated to everyone who served in the Pacific under Admiral Nimitz. The Museum includes over 4,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space including the George Bush Gallery, Admiral Nimitz Museum, Plaza of Presidents, Veterans' Walk of Honor, Japanese Garden of Peace, Pacific Combat Zone, and the Nimitz Education and Research Center. A 43,000 square foot expansion was added in 2010, where you can explore the impressive display of Allied and Japanese aircraft, tanks, guns and other artifacts made famous during the Pacific War campaigns. Afterwards, enjoy walking around downtown Main Street which features local shops and enjoy lunch at one of several restaurants and delis.

**9:00am board bus, 5:00pm —back at hotel
Includes bus, guide, and admission. Lunch on your own.**

TEXAS RANGER AND THE BUCKHORN MUSEUM

Saturday, September 24

Enjoy the full Texas experience – The Buckhorn Museum and Saloon and the Texas Ranger Museum! From the exotic animal collection to priceless artifacts documenting the history and lore of the Texas Rangers. A Must-See Museum Attraction! Enjoy a late lunch at the Café or a refreshing cocktail before you depart at the Buckhorn Café/Saloon. See where it all began.

**1pm board bus, 4:00pm —back at hotel
Includes bus, escort, and admission. Lunch/drinks on your own.**

RIVER BARGE SIGHTSEEING CRUISE

Sunday, September 25

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 your 35-minute tour along the San Antonio River. The barges will pick up right at our hotel.

**12:00pm & 12:15pm board barges, 1:00pm & 1:15pm —back at hotel
40-person max per barge**

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.

Vinh Long Outlaws Association September 22-26, 2022 San Antonio, TX

Thursday, September 22

1:00pm	-	7:00pm	Registration Open
1:00pm	-	7:00pm	Hospitality Room Open
1:00pm	-	7:00pm	Silent Auction Open
7:00pm	-	9:00pm	Welcome Buffet Dinner

Friday, September 23

6:30am	-	11:00am	Breakfast buffet served in the restaurant .
9:00am	-	5:00pm	Fredericksburg/National Museum of the Pacific War
5:00pm	-		Free Time – Dinner on your Own
5:00pm	-	11:00pm	Hospitality Room Open
5:00pm	-	11:00pm	Silent Auction Open

Saturday, September 24

7:00am	-	12:00pm	Breakfast buffet served in the restaurant.
8:00am	-	9:00am	Executive Committee Meeting
9:00am	-	11:00am	VLOA General Membership Meeting
11:00am	-	1:00pm	Free Time – Lunch on your Own
1:00pm	-	4:00pm	The Buckhorn/Texas Ranger Museum
4:00pm	-		Free Time – Dinner on your Own
4:00pm	-	11:00pm	Hospitality Room Open
4:00pm	-	11:00pm	Silent Auction Open

Sunday, September 25

7:00am	-	12:00pm	Breakfast buffet served in the restaurant.
9:00am	-	10:00am	Non-Denominational Church Service
9:00am	-	11:00am	Hospitality Room Open
9:00am	-	11:00am	Silent Auction Room Open
11:00am			Silent Auction Closes
12:00pm	-	1:00pm	Riverbarge Sightseeing Cruise
1:00pm	-	6:00pm	Hospitality Room Open
1:00pm	-	6:00pm	Free Time – Lunch on your Own
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 26

Farewells & Departures

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION – SEPTEMBER 22-26, 2022

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/outlaws2022deposit and then to make final payment at www.afr-reg.com/outlaws2022final (a 3.5% convenience fee will be added each charge).

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: VINH LONG OUTLAWS

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

FINAL CUT-OFF DATE IS 08/19/22		Price	
All registration packages include 4 nights lodging (Sept. 22, 23, 24 and 25, 2022). Buffet Breakfast every day. Welcome Buffet Dinner. 3 Tours. Farewell Banquet and Hospitality Room expenses			
Double Occupancy (2 people)		\$1368.00	\$
Single Occupancy (1 person)		\$1013.00	\$
50% of Registration Package Deposit due by 6/4/22 Payment #1			\$
50% of Registration Package Final Payment due by 8/19/22 Payment #3			\$
PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR BANQUET DINNER ENTRÉE FOR EACH PERSON			
Grilled Sirloin Filet		#	
Chicken Piccata		#	
Vegetarian Option		#	
Additional Nights at the Hotel prior to 9/22/22 or beyond 9/25/22 (optional) <i>Additional nights at hotel will need to be paid in full with registration</i>			
Double Occupancy (2 People Price per night) with breakfast		\$192.31	\$
Single Occupancy (1 Person Price per night) with breakfast		\$178.31	\$
			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 6/4/22 ** Payment LINE # 1 + Payment LINE # 2			\$
50% Final Payment paid by 8/19/22 **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 _____

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) _____ 1st TIMER? YES NO

GUEST NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____ PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? YES NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Visa /MC/ Discover Card/ # _____ Exp: _____

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VLOA TAX EXEMPT STATUS

by Frank Estes

Sometime around the middle of 2009, we began an effort to find the documents that formed the VLOA as a nonprofit organization. After a search by all the former officers and directors we were able to find the original documents that set up the VLOA and obtained an Employee Identification Number (EIN).

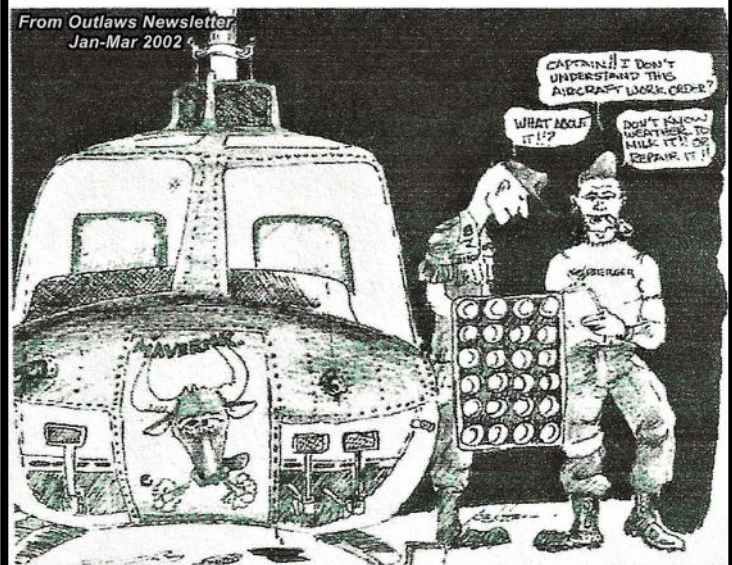
However, no action had ever been taken to submit our application for IRS approval of the VLOA as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. In turn, Tom Anderson and I began a hard-pressed effort in October 2009 to gather the necessary information and documents, and complete the application process.

This effort took between October 2009 and January 27, 2010, the date we submitted the application to the IRS for designating the VLOA as a 501(c)(19) war veterans' organization, tax-exempt status. Our request received IRS approval on April 30, 2010. Now, all your contributions and donations to and for the VLOA's use are tax exempt. However, you should discuss this matter with your tax preparer before taking the deduction.

With the Quartermaster International web page up and working, and the reunion Silent Auction coming up, please consider donating items for use on these two money-making venues. You can get a certificate of donation to use as a tax write off under "contributions or donations," and if you purchase a donated item, the same can be done. Your dues are also tax-exempt. These things help keep the VLOA financial status in a sound position.

Ann and I look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio, TX during September 22-26, 2022 at our next Outlaws Roundup.

Bob Koonce cartoon was in the Winter VLOA Newsletter 2004--Oct/Dec. (Below)



Another Bob Koonce cartoon as it appeared in Spring VLOA Newsletter 2002. (above)

THE OUTLAWS REUNION

Big Jim Kirkley (now deceased) contributed the following poem for our November 2002 *Outlaws Newsletter* after the San Antonio Outlaws Roundup in San Antonio, TX, aimed at getting ready for the next Outlaws Roundup in 2004 at Fort Rucker, to celebrate the 40th year since the Outlaws were formed at Fort Benning, Georgia. I've taken a few liberties to modify it for our upcoming San Antonio Outlaws Roundup. I hope you enjoy. *Frank Estes*

Every two years, as autumn-time nears
An announcement arrives in the newsletter or mail.
"A reunion is planned; it'll be really grand;
Make plans to attend without fail."

I'll never forget the first time we met;
We tried so hard to impress.
We drove Fancy cars, smoked big cigars,
And wore our most elegant dress.

It was quite an affair; the whole Outlaws group was
there. It was held at a fancy hotel.
We wined, and dined, and we acted refined.
And everyone thought it was swell.

The men all told war stories, and who had been first
To achieve great fortune and fame.
Meanwhile, the spouses described their fine houses
And how beautiful their children became.

Some of the ladies, who once had been lean,
Now weighed in at one-ninety-six.
The pilots who were there, most had lost their hair.
And the Roadrunners could no longer do their tricks.

The Maverick we'd decreed to be so rough and
tumble, Was now a lay-speaker and very humble.
So just shows that all of us can change, so be light
of heart and never grumble.

A prize should have been awarded to the one's
Who seemed to have aged the least,
And another one to the one's who had driven
The farthest to attend the feast.

They all took pictures, a curious mixture
Of crew cuts, bald heads, and beards.
Tall, short, or skinny, the style was the pits;
You never saw so many thighs, pots, and
oversized hips.

At our next get-together, no one cared whether
They impressed their group or not.
The mood was informal, a whole lot more normal;
By this time we'd all gone to pot.

In 2002, one event was held out-of-doors, at a
Texas ranch;
We ate Bar-B-Que, potato salad, and beans.
Then most of us took a ride on the hay,
in our boots, cowboy hats, and jeans.

By the fifty-fifth year, it was abundantly clear,
We were definitely over the hill.
Those who weren't half dead had to crawl back to
the bus,

And be back at the hotel in time for their pills.

And, now I can't wait; they've set another reunion
date;

Our next reunion is coming, I'm told.
It should be a ball, they've rented a hotel and a hall,
At the San Antonio rest home for the old.

Repairs have been made on my hearing aid;
My pacemaker's been tuned up on high.
My wheel chair is oiled and my false teeth have
been boiled;
And I've bought a new rope, and new knots I have
learned to tie.

I'm feeling quite hearty, and I'm ready to party;
I'm gon'na dance 'til dawn's early light.
It'll be lots of fun, I just hope there's other Outlaws,
Mavericks, Bushwhackers, Roadrunners, door-
gunners, and signalers
Who can make it on that glorious night.



Financials Comparison 2000 vs 2022

by Frank Estes

Every now and then, it's a good thing to look back and see where our organization was and where it has come to. Our end-of-2021 Financial Statement is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

After looking at all the financial actions our VLOA now takes, take a look at the financial statement below for the early-2000 timeframe. As the song says, we've come a long way baby.

We should take pride in what our earlier officers and directors did to lay a good financial underpinning, and for those Outlaws now on-board (and those who have departed this earth) who have built a solid financial foundation that will bode well for the VLOA's future.

VLOA 01/09/2000 - 03/09/2000

Income and Expenses

by Ernie & Linda Isbell

Income:

Beginning Balance	\$1,102.63
Dues	80.00
Seed Money	10.00
Patches	160.00
R2K	<u>1,396.50</u>
Total Income	\$5,749.13

Expenses:

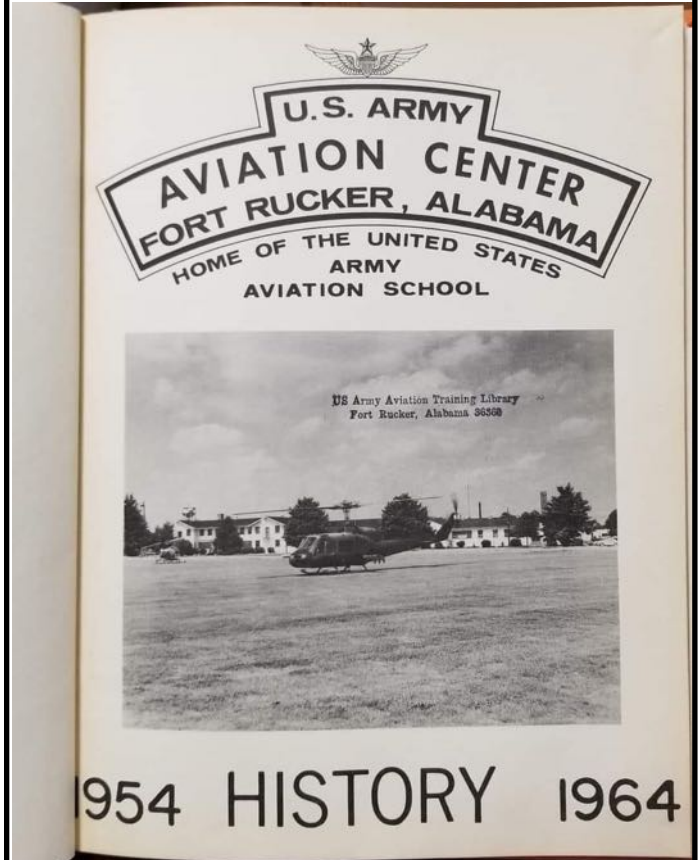
Postage & Envelopes for Patches	
\$25.26	
Newsletter Supplies	<u>59.07</u>
Total Expenses	
\$84.33	

Current Balance
\$5,664.80

We currently have had the following since inception:

- New Members - 42 @ \$10 = \$420
- Seed Money = \$1,151
- Patches - 17 sets @ \$20 = \$340
- R2K Reservations - 8 couples: half & full payments=
\$4,376.50

Some old memories for some of us!





San Antonio Reunion Silent Auction



Greeting from sunny and warm Arizona! The Allen's are wintering here from Ohio, and what a pleasant change this has been. I hope those who are in the cold weather areas stay safe and healthy until we meet again in September.

As Bert has announced, we are GO for San Antonio, and I just wanted to encourage those who have yet to contribute to the silent auction to do so in the time we have before arrival. Many have already donated and have forwarded their items to the holding address in Houston, TX:

This is the address: **Outlaws Auction, C/O Autohaus Stuttgart Inc. Houston, TX. 77055.** Rest assured your items are safe and will be delivered to the auction on time. If you have not yet contributed, but will be bringing items with you to San Antonio, please send me an email with a picture of the item(s) and with a suggested starting bid.

My email address is: bluemax33@gmail.com. If you are not able to attend, but would like to donate an item or two, just send your contribution to the Houston, TX address. I will be compiling a bid brochure with each item which will be included in your welcome packet.

Since we have not met in a few years, our coffers are in great need of additional funds to support the various things the VLOA requires to stay active. The cost of this newsletter is a prime example of one such need.

Let's do our best to support our organization with our attendance and our contributions as we gather together in San Antonio this September.

Looking forward to seeing you there. Stay healthy and generous!

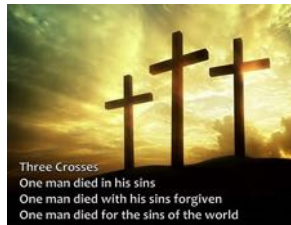
Bob Allen.





The Back Pew

By: Ernest Isbell



This has been a most interesting and yet exasperating year with the aging process for all of us, Covid-19 problems for the nation, politics that please some and make others upset. Yet as the expression says, “Life goes on, live with what you are blessed to have.”

I want to encourage everyone to make the best of everyday and look for the bright side of life. It’s been my experience that good things happen when we least expect them. In fact, Linda and I have been surprised with something in our lives that makes us very proud. I’m sharing this as an example of how good things occur at the most unexpected times and I’m challenging all of you to share some of the good things that are going on in your lives as well. Bob is asking for submittals of things that you can share with our fellow VLOA Outlaws. This current experience is a story that I thought you might enjoy.

Linda and I spent Christmas at our daughter Cheryl’s home in Denton, Texas and it was marvelous. As luck would have it, I came down with a severe cold and was under the weather a good part of the time. One evening while I was napping, Linda came in and said that Cheryl wanted to show me something. I joined them and Cheryl showed me a realty listing of a home in the Denton area that was for sale. She then turned to us and said she wanted to buy it for us to live in so that we could all be closer at this stage in our lives. I said, “Go for it.” She made the offer the next day and it was accepted the following day. The house comes fully furnished right down to the silverware, dishes etc., thus we won’t have to move anything but our clothes and the dogs. It’s in a development called Robson Ranch, on the west side of Denton and it allows us to be closer to everything we need plus a lot more. No more three hour drives to medical appointments as well as having all the benefits that we don’t presently have here in Paducah, TX. We move in on or about the 27th of January. We will keep our home in Paducah and come out here periodically to check on things as we have done over the last 19 years that we have owned this house.

Life is full of surprises, both good and bad. My challenge to all of you is to look on the bright side and help others when you can. Please share your biggest surprises with all of us. I look forward to hearing from you and I’m sure others would like to hear your stories as well.

May God bless each and every one of you and yours.

Ernie Isbell Chaplain, VLOA Winter 2022

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 San Antonio 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, 2022 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.



A letter to the editor.



I, (Bob Sharp), received a response to a request for information for an article for the VLOA Newsletter. It piqued my interest in as how it reminded me of my experience that happened so many 50+ years ago.

My history with the Outlaws is that I served with the 11th. Air Assault Division from its inception at Ft. Benning, GA in 1963 and was assigned to the 62nd Assault Helicopter Co. and deployed in September 1964 to Vinh Long, So. Viet Nam. I was soon transferred to Soc Trang to the 121st. Aslt. Hel. Co. Home of the Soc Trang Tigers. The A/C I was assigned to was "White Tiger 9." I tell you this because I covered all of the Delta resupplying outposts, on many assault operations, and recovery missions of the wounded and the dead. We picked up soldiers, ARVN and American after the firefights. We also ferried dignitaries, high ranking officers (ARVN and American) and a Catholic Priest named Father Hoa. And there is the beginning of the article. Father Nguyen Lac Hoa. (When-Lock-Wah.)

I received a letter from a member of the VLOA and his name is Joseph J. O'Neil LTC (RET). In this letter was a print off from Wikipedia about a Catholic Priest, Father Augustine Nguyen Lac Hoa (c.1908 -c.1989) He was a refugee Chinese Catholic Priest, who arrived in South Vietnam in 1959 and led a militia called the "Sea Swallows" resisting the Viet Cong in the Ca Mau Peninsula. The "fighting priest" and his "village that refused to die" attracted admiring media stories in the United States, and in 1964 he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in the Public Service category.

Father Hoa fled from Kwangsi Province in Communist China in 1950/51 with over 2,000 parishioners and spent eight years in Cambodia. In 1959 Hoa, with 450 of the refugees settled in Binh Hung on the Ca Mau Peninsula. (Pg.1)



(Cont. from Pg.1) They created a village and Hoa established a defense force -the Sea Swallows- against the Viet Cong who were active in the area.

Father Hoa's success inspired others to join his Sea Swallows, including a company of "Nung tribesmen." Declassified documents would reveal that the Nung fighters were actually a contingent of the Nationalist soldiers from the Republic of China.

As the political situation in Saigon deteriorated, Father Hoa saw the battle turning and little chance of winning. Discouraged, he left Binh Hung, and retired to a parish in Taipei.

(Back to the letter from Mr. O'Neil.) Dear Robert-

In the latest Outlaws Newsletter, there was a request for information. I came across this story after looking up "Father Hoa" from memory. On my second tour in Vietnam, I ended up as Outlaw 5 when my predecessor, Charles R. Latta, was killed in amid-air near Saigon. I rotated on 30 January 68, and my replacement, James Vrba, was killed at Vinh Long the first night of the Tet Offensive. I hadn't even reached the US yet.

On my first tour I was stationed in Soc Trang (62&63). My unit was attached to the 93rd. Trans. Co., which later became the 121st AHC (Soc Trang Tigers). Since I was not rated in the CH-21c, the only flying I did was in the O-1's, but they were used quite a bit for C&C, vectoring and observation.

We had quite a few missions for the 93rd going into support "Father Hoa", which must be why I remembered the name. I never got to land there as it was a heliport although I did hear that a few fixed wing aircraft did get in and out ok. (Pg.2)

(Cont. From Pg.2) I treasure my “Sea Swallow” pin which most of the aviators at Soc Trang wore. The story was, if you went down anywhere near in the Ca Mau Peninsula, the pin might get you back to safety at Father Hoa’s.

Thank you. Joseph J. O’Neil

Well, that stirred my memories and I jumped up and ran down to my office and dug out a picture I knew I had of Father Hoa as we shuttled him to Saigon and back different times, and he had an advisor with him, and I believe his name was Sgt. Bergeron. I also have the cap that I wore then, it has my “Sea Swallow” pins on it and I took some pictures that I will post. (Pg.3)



Father Hoa

SFC. Bergeron



(Cont from pg.3)

Well, needless to say I had to respond and I wrote him a letter and sent pictures of my cap with my pins and told him my story about hauling Father Hoa around. He responded with another letter full of information that I thought was interesting.

He said that he had come to Vietnam in 1962 as the Ex. Off. of the 18th Avn. Operating Det. We deployed from Okinawa on an LST and spent almost two weeks getting to Soc Trang. We unloaded from the ship near the village of Dai Ngai – east of SocTrang. We road marched by vehicle (about 45 men and 15 vehicles), our job was to operate the tower, flight operations and refueling at Soc Trang. I commanded the unit from Okinawa to Soc Trang. The unit commander flew ahead as I believe he wasn't thrilled with spending 2 weeks on a LST. I was helicopter qualified but not on the H-21, so I flew it very little. One of the H-21 pilots gave me my Sea Swallow pin and everyone wore them proudly. I flew a large number recons in the Ca Mau and Rach Gia area.

On my second tour (Jan 67-68) I was stationed in Sadec for a while as the liaison officer (Delta 9) to the Ninth ARVN Div. I was then called to Vinh Long as the XO of the 175th AHC. I filled in until the new Cmdr. arrived. I was his junior and I flew with him for some time until he was accustomed to the country. Like I said before, I left Vietnam for home on January 30th, 1968 exactly 1 year to the day of my arrival and my replacement was killed the first night of TET.

On a personal note: My first wife and the mother of our six children, died of a massive heart attach on Feb 28, 1968 while I was going thru O-21 IP school at Fort Rucker. She died in the Ft. Rucker Hospital. I was enroute to Okinawa upon completion of the course but couldn't complete the course. So I took the six kids (a couple of the littlest barely knew me as I had been gone for a year) and went to Okinawa to be the OPS Officer at the airfield there.

(Pg.4.)

(Cont from Pg.4) About a year later, I was corresponding with a widow whose husband that was stationed with me at Ft. Hood. He was killed in an OV-1 Mowhawk in Germany in 1962. He is buried in Arlington near the Kennedy's graves. She had 5 children—we got married in Pennsylvania on January 25, 1969. I took her and her 5 kids to Okinawa to join up with my six so we had 11 children and the oldest was 12! Subsequently, we had a boy and a girl later to add to the crowd. So now we have 13 children, 29 grandchildren, and 9 great grandchildren.

Right now she is struggling with stage 4 breast cancer and COPD and as you can imagine the outlook is not good.

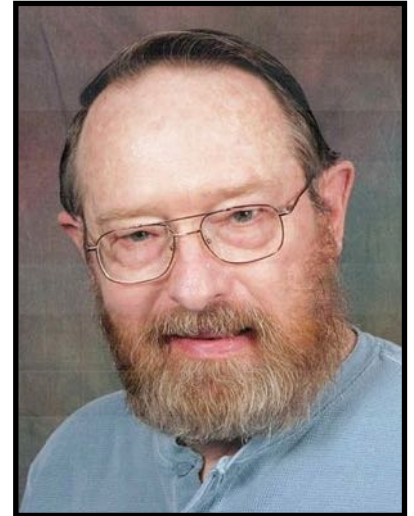
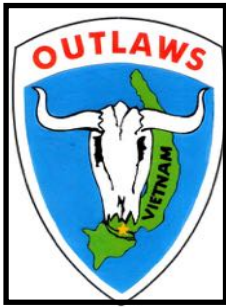
We have had 53 years together, a great marriage, and a great family. We have to focus on taking care of each other every day.

Thanks again for your letters and hope you can read this.

Sincerely, Joe O'Neil.

What a great story of his life and how two tragedies brought them together to save 11 children and give them the opportunity to have a complete family. Please join me and pray for his wife and him and their family. God bless. Thank you. Bob Sharp. The end. (Pg.5)





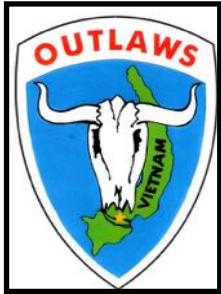
Floyd G. Hartrick, Jr., of Enterprise, passed away on Friday, February 9, 2018. He was 76. Funeral services were at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 17, 2018 in the chapel of Sorrells Funeral Home & Crematory in Enterprise. Burial followed in Meadowlawn Cemetery with Sorrells Funeral Home & Crematory directing. The family received friends at the funeral home Saturday began at 12:00 and continued until service time.

Floyd was born July 15, 1941, in Elgin, Illinois, to the late Floyd G. Hartrick, Sr. and Shirley Jorgensen Hartrick. In addition to his parents, his wife, Juanita Vickers Hartrick also preceded him in death.

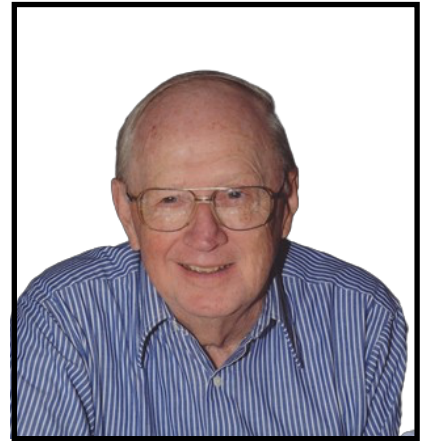
He was a member of Lee Street Baptist Church. Survivors include three sons: Rob Pesola of California, Vince Pesola (Shelley) of Minnesota and Tim Pesola (Elizabeth) of Georgia; two daughters: Kathy Gray of Birmingham, AL and Tara Walker (Ian) of Ohio; one sister, Sheila Garberding (Phil) of Illinois; thirteen grandchildren; numerous great grandchildren and four nieces and nephews. To sign a guest register visit www.sorrellsfuneralhomes.com.

Floyd G. Hartrick served in Viet Nam with the Vinh Law Outlaws from 6/1965 thru 6/1966.

(From a hometown newspaper article 1965 ?) Army Specialist Floyd G. Hartrick, Jr. 24, Huntley, has been assigned to the U.S. Army Support Command in Viet Nam as a mechanic. The support command advises the South Vietnamese armed forces in the use of equipment and tactical operation. Hartrick, whose wife resides in Freeport, entered the Army in August, 1963 and received training at Fort Knox, KY. And at Fort Benning, GA. His parents live at 310 Phillips Drive, Huntley. Hartrick was graduated from Huntley High School.



Harold Gene Isaacson
12/4/1938 –7/9/2021



Harold “Ike” Gene Isaacson, 82, of Fayetteville passed away on July 09, 2021. Ike was preceded in death by his son, Todd Isaacson, and brother Larry Isaacson.

Ike is survived by his loving wife Patricia Isaacson; son, Jon (Joanna) Isaacson; sister, Ann Williams; granddaughters Madison, Caroline, and Morgan Isaacson; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Ike graduated from The University of Wisconsin in 1962 and remained a loyal Badgers fan for the remainder of his life. He was also a huge Green Bay Packers fan and enjoyed watching and cheering them on at any opportunity.

Ike served his country as a member of the United States Army for 23 years and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. While in the army, Ike served two tours in Vietnam and was stationed in Korea for an additional tour. He put his journalism degree to work during his final assignment at Fort Bragg, working as a Public Affairs Officer for 1st SOCOM.

Ike received many decorations to include Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Aviator Badge, Sr. Army Aviator Badge, RVN Air Service Medal, and an RVN Honor Medal.

After retiring from the Army, Ike worked for many years as a Realtor alongside his wife. When not busy with work he enjoyed traveling, playing golf and spending time with family.

The family received friends at Rogers and Breece Funeral Home on Thursday, July 15th from 4:00pm to 5:30pm.

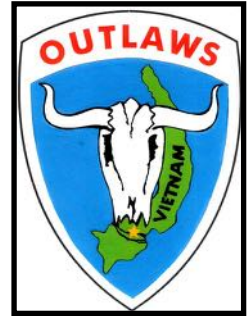
A Funeral Service was held at 5:30pm at Rogers and Breece Chapel with Military Honors.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions may be sent to Operation Smile or the Salvation Army.

Phillip Lawrence

Seith

3/17/1946 –11/19/2021



Phillip Lawrence “Larry” Seith was a loving husband, father, avid hunter and outdoorsman who passed away on November 19th, 2021 at the Stratton VA Medical Center with his loving wife at his side.

He was 75 years old. He was born in Troy NY to Florence (Haskins) and Charles Seith on March 17th, 1946. After graduating from Watervliet High School he enlisted in the US Army and served his country with honor and distinction during the Vietnam War as a crew chief operator. After returning Stateside, Phillip was stationed at the Carlisle Barracks as an MP, where he met his wife Donna.

After his discharge, they moved to Watervliet NY and Phillip worked for Gardenway for almost 30 years until it shutdown. He finished his career at UltePet in Guilderland.

Phillip is survived by his wife Donna (Frysinger) Seith, son William, sister Linda (Barry) Blumel, and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation in Phillips name to the Stratton VA Medical Center Dialysis Unit at 113 Holland Avenue, Albany NY 12208.

A visitation was held on Tuesday November 23rd from 5pm-7pm at New Comer Cremations & Funerals, 343 New Karner Rd Colonie NY.

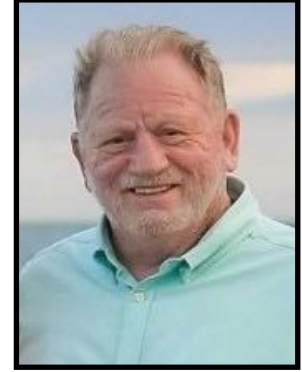
Interment will be private.

Please see Newcomeralbany.com to leave a special message for the family.



Vaston Steve Brooks

6/27/1947 – 8/25/2021



Steve was born on June 27, 1947, to Campbell and Hattie Bell Brooks in Cardinal, Kentucky. After graduating from Bell County High School in 1965, Steve joined the United States Army.

Specialist (SP4) Brooks was a member of the elite 175th Assault Helicopter Company—Outlaws Mavericks—as a door gunner, serving in Vietnam. A true war hero, the U.S. Army recognized Steve for his honorable service with the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, a Marksman badge, a Purple Heart, and an Air Medal—awarded for acts of heroism while participating in aerial flight. Steve maintained many friendships with members of his unit and greatly enjoyed participating in Outlaws reunions across the country.

After Vietnam, Steve returned home and continued working in the meat industry, which led him to Heringer Meats. It is there he met his bride-to-be, Mary Catherine Heringer. They wed in 1979, and in 1981, gave birth to their first son, Steve Vaston Brooks. They welcomed their second son, Troy Tyne Paul Heringer Brooks four years later. Their family was completed in 1990 when they welcomed daughter, Olivia Catherine Lee Heringer Brooks (Hughes). Steve and Mary Catherine celebrated 42 years of marriage this past July.

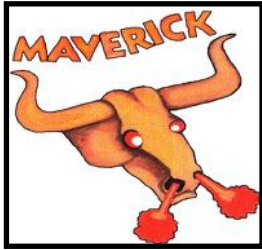
Having both worked in the meat business the majority of their lives, together, Steve and Mary Catherine built Brooks Meats, providing “Nothin’ But the Best” and serving Northern Kentucky for more than 30 years.

Steve was a force of nature, determined to provide for his family and give them the life he felt they deserved. His family meant more to him than anything else in the world, something he talked about often. Anyone who knew him knew that he was the most loving father and husband a family could ask for. He was unendingly proud of Vaston, Troy, Olivia, and Mary Catherine, and always tried his best to support them.

Steve was a man full of integrity with a larger than life, charismatic personality, a quick wit, and he’d never turned down a plate of biscuits and gravy. Steve was a devout Catholic and attended All Saints Catholic Church in Walton. He was active in church and was a Fourth Degree in the Knights of Columbus.

Steve was preceded in death by his mother, Hattie Bell Brooks, father Robert Campbell Brooks, sister Betty, brother Robert Charles, sister Ina, brother Billy Joe, sister Mary, and sister Debbie. He is survived by wife, Mary Catherine Brooks, Vaston Brooks (Kim), Troy Brooks (Kassie), Olivia (Brooks) Hughes (Corey) and five grandchildren: Cecilia, Tyne, Gus, Cullen, and Arlo; with grandchild number six expected in March 2022. Steve is also survived by his brothers Troy (Crystal), Delano (Kathy) and Dane (Norma), and sister Bebe. Steve was well-loved with numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and close friends.

Visitation was held Friday, September 3, at Stith Funeral Home in Florence, KY, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. A funeral mass was held at September 4, 11 a.m. at All Saints Church in Walton, KY. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.



William Dennis (Buff) Chambers

6/7/1949 — 1/4/2022



William Dennis (Buff) Chambers was born on June 7, 1949, to Donald and June (Hall) Chambers. He was raised on the family farm north of Anderson, Iowa where he attended grade school. He then graduated from Sidney, Iowa High School with the Class of 1967.

In 1968, he enlisted in the Army to fly helicopters. Buff spent 16 months in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged on December 31, 1970. He then worked at Eaton Corporation for almost 39 years.

He met and married the love of his life, Carol Porter in 1973. To this union two sons were born, Douglas and Darin.

Buff loved to hunt, fish and do gardening. He loved working with wood with his father-in-law at the "Splinter Shop". Buff's walnut burial urn was made by his nephew, Nathan Greenwalt.

He loved to spend time with his grandchildren and attend their sporting events. He enjoyed seeing Eaton friends and catching up and reminiscing about their days at work.

Peacefully, Buff passed away on Tuesday morning, January 4, 2022, surrounded by his family after several years of declining health as a result of agent orange use in Vietnam.

Preceding him in death were his parents; father-in-law, Duane Porter; brother, Don Chambers; and brother-in-law, Dan Chambers. He was also preceded in death by several young men that died too soon; A.D. (Albert) Benson, Charles John Hein, Robert D. Harris, James Emch, William F. Walters, Tommy H. Ivey, John T. Orrico, Ronald L. Vanlandingham and Ronald Pullman. He is survived by his wife, Carol, of Essex, IA; two sons, Doug (Melissa) Chambers of Essex, IA, and Darin (Emily) Chambers of Dexter, IA; seven grandchildren, Austine (Jordan) Behrens, Jordan, Camryn, Rhys, Hayden, Liam and Evelyn Chambers; great-granddaughter, Ellie Behrens; sister, Anne Chambers; sister-in-law, Kay Chambers; mother-in-law, Dorothy Porter; brother-in-law, David (Vickie) Porter; sisters-in-law Joyce (Mike) Portz and Donna (Todd) Greenwalt; many nieces and nephews; other relatives and many friends.

A celebration of life memorial graveside service was held on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 1:00 pm at the Essex Cemetery with Pastor Gordon Scott officiating. Military honors were accorded by the Shenandoah American Legion Post #88. The family greeted relatives and friends with visitation on Friday evening, January 7, 2022, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Nishna Valley Funeral and Cremation Service in Shenandoah.

The family requested those attending the services to wear casual attire and if so inclined, to wear their favorite plaid shirt in honor of Buff (he was fond of his plaid shirts). Memorials are being directed to the Friends of Army Aviation, the Essex Firefighters Association or to the Essex Faith Covenant Church.

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)
 c/o Robert J. Sharp, Editor.
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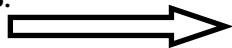
Winter - 2021

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 “door-gunners.”

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

To pay initial or renewal membership dues for this calendar year, please complete and forward this form, with dues payment, to:



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

First Name _____ MI __--__ Nickname _____ Last Name _____

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

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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

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

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

- Please initiate ___ or renew ___ my Active ___ Associate ___ VLOA membership. **Make \$25 check payable to VLOA**
- Please initiate my Lifetime _____ Lifetime Associate _____ VLOA membership. **Make \$100 check payable to VLOA.**
- Please initiate my Patriot Lifetime _____ membership. **Make \$500 or more check payable to VLOA. Current Lifetime Members make \$400 or more check payable to VLOA.**

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

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

Comments: _____