

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

"www.vinhlongoutlaws.com"

## Vinh Long Outlaws Fall 2022 Newsletter

July-September

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

3rd. Quarter 2022

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## National Director's Corner

By- **Bob Allen**



Hello everyone. Since our last reunion we have seen changes in leadership and have continued to plan for the future of the V.L.O.A..

As your new National Director I am honored and invigorated to serve, and blessed to stand on the shoulders of the fine leaders who have gone before. I especially want to thank Bert Rice, our outgoing National Director, for his untiring work and strong leadership on behalf of this organization during the pandemic years. Bert's patient and directed approach to formalizing the eventually successful reunion in San Antonio, was a strength admired by many. Who would have thought that when we left Charleston in March 2019, that we wouldn't be able to meet again until four years later! But Bert, and the steering committee, withered the pandemic storm and brought us to sunny Texas to reunite once again in 2022.

I also want to thank those who stepped up to leadership positions within our organization: Ivan White volunteered for the Deputy Director slot, and Mindy Smith volunteered to head up the Anderson Auction for 2024. Jim Donnelly and Frank Estes reinvested their time to us by holding down the Secretary and Treasurer positions, and many thanks go out to those of you who continue to assist our efforts going forward.

(Cont. on Pg.2)

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

Bob Allen, - National Director  
Columbus, Ohio.

Ivan White- Deputy Director  
French Village, MO.

Doug Wilson, -Secretary  
Costa Mesa, CA

Frank Estes, -Treasurer  
Ozark, AL.

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

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

Ernest Isbell, -Chaplain  
Denton, TX..

Jim Donnelly, -Historian  
Virginia Beach, VA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Terry Khachadourian,  
Distaff Advisor  
Lilburn, GA.

Tom Anderson, -Permanent Advisor.  
Springfield, VA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Cont. from pg. 1)

During our most recent steering committee meeting we discussed what I believe to be the most critical question facing our organization – How long will we continue to hold reunions as attendance declines? As a “Last man Standing” group, and as age and infirmities prevent many from attending our get-togethers, we need to consider what the future is telling us. An open and frank discussion of the committee brought up the timeframe of 8 years until closing. This means 4 more reunions, unless the situation changes for better or for worse.

So, my charge is to establish the start of the fabulous four – the last season of great opportunities to meet as a much honored and respected group, through 2030.

Our next reunion location will be voted on by the general membership. A survey will be sent out by email which will include the three locations voted for during our general meeting in San Antonio. A separate article in this newsletter will highlight the possible locations and the voting process. However the vote is decided, the next reunion will be a milestone in V.L.O.A. history – our 60<sup>th</sup> year unit celebration!

More will be discussed about this special emphasis reunion once the next location has been selected. It will be exciting and special.

2022 is coming to a close. I wish for all of you good health and happiness as we approach the season of giving thanks, and for celebrating Christmas, or whatever faith you hold dear.

Respectfully yours, National Director. Robert (Bob) Allen.

**From the Editor:** Hello!, and welcome to the 2022 Reunion edition. On a personal note, I would like to say that Gloria and I had a most wonderful vacation with the Reunion being right smack in the middle of it. We did around robin to Fort Worth with a 2 day stay at friends and then on to a stay in Bandera. Then to San Antonio for 4 days and on to Laguna Vista and 4 days at her sisters. We headed north and stopped to see Al and Marguette w/ Stefie and they said to say hello to everyone. They are doing quite well and so glad to see them. Then on north to Missouri to see the Truman family and Robbie Taylor. Then thru Branson and east and stayed with some very dear (new) friends for 2days and finally north back to Minnesota. It was a long but very exciting time. Wonderful to go but really nice to get home to our own bed. I hope that you can see all the pictures and I hope I got everyone in. Looking forward to the next two years and the next reunion. Please, if you can, plan on attending. So nice to see old friends. Thank you. Bob Sharp.

**VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION (VLOA) Financial Statement - 9/30/2022**

Balance effective 01/01/2022 **\$31,880.96**

**REVENUES:**

Dues - Annual	\$150.00
Dues - Life	\$100.00
Dues - Patriot Live	\$400.00
Reunion Shirt sales	\$434.00
Reunion Anderson Auction (Note: credit card fee of \$95.59 deducted by cc co.)	\$4,956.28
50/50 Raffle	\$750.00
50/50 Winners' donation back to VLOA	\$725.00
Donations	\$1,350.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$8,865.28</b>

**EXPENDITURES:**

Newsletters, external hard drive, bank statements, awards, stickers, reunion incidentals, donation to VFW Post 8397.	\$4,672.96
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$4,672.96</b>

**CASH BALANCE - as of 9/30/2022**

**\$36,073.28**

**Details: 9 months period ending 9/30/2022**

**Revenues Detail**

Donation by Josiah Austin	\$500.00
Donation by Tim Bisch	\$150.00
Donation by Carol Chambers - Memory of Bill Chambers	\$500.00
Donation By Bert Rice	\$200.00
Reunion Shirt sales	\$434.00
Credit card payments for Anderson Auction items	\$3,481.28
Payment by check/cask for Anderson Auction items	\$1,475.00
50/50 Raffle Income	\$750.00
50/50 Raffle Winners' donation back to VLOA	\$725.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$8,215.28</b>

**Dues: - 2022**

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

John Diamond	\$25.00
David Arsanis	\$25.00
William Gregorius	\$25.00
Harry Bauman	\$25.00
Larry Wolf (2 years)	\$50.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>

**Lifetime Memberships (LM): - 2022**

Peter Sweers	\$100.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

**Patriot Lifetime Membership (PLM) - 2022**

Bert Rice	\$400.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>

**TOTAL REVENUES - 9 months period 2022** **\$8,465.28**

(Cont. on Pg. 4)

(Cont. from Pg. 3)

**Expenses Details**

Bob Sharp - 4th Qtr 2021 - Newsletter	\$828.40
Bob Sharp - 1st Qtr 2022 - Newsletter	\$816.17
Bob Sharp - 2nd Qtr 2022 - Newsletter	\$825.32
Bob Sharp - 3rd Qtr 2022 - Newsletter	
External Hard Drive for storing VLOA Historical Records	\$94.64
Reunion postcard reminders - reimburse Frank Estes	\$386.77
Bumper stickers - reimburse Jim Donnelly	\$336.43
Reunion expenses - reunion indicentals: Bert Rice	\$401.57
Reunion expenses - reunion indicentals: Pat Hall	\$120.66
Donation to VFW Post 8397 for support on arrival & banquet dinners	\$400.00
Awards statues - Bluestone Designs	\$449.50
Paper bank statements	\$13.50
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSES - 9 months period 2022</u></b>	<b>\$4,672.96</b>
<b>INCOME (LOSS) - 9 months period ending 9/30/2022</b>	<b>\$3,792.32</b>

**Here is the whole group at the farewell dinner. I dare say that we all had an excellent time. The only sad part was that you weren't all there to join us. The food was great, the accommodations were very nice and the camaraderie was the best of all!!**



The San Antonio VFW Post 8397 Honor Guard accompanied by Commander Vieyra graciously volunteered to Post the Colors at the farewell dinner. Cmdr. Vieyra also did a personal appreciation presentation to all the Vietnam Veterans. After the dinner the VFW Post also retired the Colors. God Bless America!





## It's Time To Vote!



At the last general business meeting in San Antonio, it was decided to have the general membership vote on the next reunion location for 2024. The three recommended cities, described below, are offered for selection to become the site of our 60<sup>th</sup> year celebration event. The order of description is alphabetical, and is not representative of any preference by the San Antonio group. Voting will be conducted by an emailed survey sent out within one week of your receipt of this newsletter.

### **Branson, MO**

When you gather with your military reunion buddies Branson will put you center stage. After all, there's no place that brings people together like Branson, Missouri. Experience star-studded performances at live shows and explore the sights and sounds of one of the world's top 10 theme parks – Silver Dollar City. Branson hosts one of the nation's largest Veteran Tributes annually, known as Branson's Veterans Homecoming Week. Discover pristine lakes and the majestic beauty of the Ozark Mountains. The Showboat Branson Belle, themed after the majestic showboats of the 1800s, offers an unforgettable experience with its spirit of a bygone era when river boat adventure, glamorous travel and dazzling entertainment converged.



(Cont. on Pg. 6)

(Cont. from Pg.5)

## Dayton, OH

As we like to say, every day is veteran's day in Dayton, the Birthplace of Aviation & So Much More! Home to the Wright Brothers and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton offers numerous world-class military sites that are popular with reunion groups such as the Korean War and Vietnam Memorials.

Only in Dayton can your group experience "dinner under the wings" of the airplanes inside the famous National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. The world-renowned Free National Museum of the U.S. Air Force is a must, showcasing 19 acres of enclosed exhibits featuring over 360 aerospace vehicles arranged chronologically and by military conflict period.

Special traveling exhibitions, a large memorial garden, a large screen 3-D theatre, cafeteria, extensive gift shop and flight simulators are just a few of the interactive experiences the museum offers.

You'll find that Dayton's central location at the "Crossroads of America"—the intersection of I-75 N/S and I-70 E/W—makes it a highly accessible destination for your groups. In fact, over 60% of the U.S. population is within a one-day drive of Dayton.

The Dayton International Airport provides easy "to and through" service by the major carriers. Dayton offers over 7,000 hotel rooms from full service to limited service that have the proud expertise of hosting military reunions.



(Cont. on Pg. 7)

(Cont. from Pg.6)

## Nashville, TN

Music City evokes vivid images – a single spotlight illuminating a microphone, skyscrapers towering protectively over the Mother Church of Country Music, stately Southern mansions, a Greek temple sitting serenely on a grassy knoll.

The area's many attractions paint a picture of this unique Southern city and leave an indelible impression on all who visit. In the heart of the SoBro district of Nashville is the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, with its vast collection illustrating country music's story through the years.

Visit the beautifully preserved home of our nation's 7th President at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage: Home of the People's President.

Bring your group to together for an unforgettable Nashville experience aboard the General Jackson Showboat—complete with delicious dining options, scenic cruises on the beautiful Cumberland River and world-class entertainment.



### **Please Take time to complete this survey**

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Your response will be welcomed even if you choose not to attend. Other questions are presented on the survey which may affect how the V.L.O.A. proceeds into the near future, so please take a few moments to complete it.

This important survey, from **Super Survey**, will be sent out as a mass mailing to our known membership. Because it will be a mass mailing, it might be sent to your junk email by mistake, so please check all your mail options over the next week or so for this to hit. The surveys will be automatically tabulated, and when the counting is done the winner will be announced in the next newsletter.

Thank you in advance for taking part in this membership wide event! This will reflect your preferences and will allow the Steering Committee to make our 60<sup>th</sup> year celebration the most rewarding reunion possible.



## V.L.O.A. Reunion Survey

Please take a moment to fill out the survey questions. Your answers will shape the activities and events we plan for at the 2024 reunion. We would like all responses by 11/18/2022, so we can continue to organize our efforts and make this the best V.L.O.A. reunion yet!

I look forward to your responses and will communicate the results in an email at a later date. If you have any questions about this survey, please feel free to email me at [bluemax33@gmail.com](mailto:bluemax33@gmail.com)

### General Questions

Which of these three cities interest you most for our 2024 reunion?

- Nashville, TN
- Dayton, OH
- Branson, MO

Providing your selection is the chosen site, would you plan on attending the 2024 reunion?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Would you be bringing friends/family?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

If yes, how many

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended any previous V.L.O.A. reunions?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, which was most recent? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the most important reason for you to attend this reunion?  
(Check all that apply)

- Catch Up With Others
- Vacation
- Activities



Cont. from Pg.8



What is the maximum you would be willing to spend on a hotel per night?

- Less than \$100
- \$101-\$125
- \$126-\$150
- \$150+

What kinds of non-military activities interest you? Please check all that apply.

- Museums
- Sports (Golf, Basketball, Baseball etc.)
- Arts/Crafts
- Performing arts
- Watching sporting event (Baseball games, basketball games etc.)
- Amusement/Theme Park
- Board Games
- Outdoor Activities (Zoo, Parks, Gardens)
- Hiking/Camping
- Shopping
- Sightseeing
- Nightlife



## Thanks from 6



I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the entire VLOA for the wonderful tribute that was paid to me at the Reunion dinner. The Outlaw unit, and the VLOA, have been extremely close to my heart for nearly 60 years.

What accomplishments I may have had, both in VN and in later VLOA years, is because of the total support I have always had from all of you. Thank you!

**Tom Anderson — Outlaw 6**

**Col. Thomas Anderson, US Army Ret. (Outlaw-6), was presented a Proclamation of Recognition at the farewell dinner for his continued leadership and insight to the Vinh Long Outlaws Association. The list of attributes was long and so well deserved. Mr. Frank Estes was instrumental in authoring and preparing it. Frank also read it aloud and then presented it to Tom (6). As he read the many “Where as,” It reminded us all of what a great leader he was and still is an awesome advisor.**

**Thank you Tom from all of us “Outlaws”!**





## Our Missing Comrades



We recently capped another great VLOA reunion and I think all who attended agreed that it was as meaningful, and enjoyable, as all previous reunions. We've all agreed, many times, that the reason our reunions are so successful, is the shared **comradeships** we developed with each other during our combat tour.

National Director Bob Allen, and the VLOA Steering Committee, are already planning the 2024 reunion. It's obvious that the VLOA continues to remain, and will for some period of time, a viable organization. And so, with the memories of our 2022 reunion still fresh in mind, I thought I'd share some memories, and experiences in in the VLOA.

For example, back when we arrived in Vinh Long, I would watch with pride those 20 year old pilots and crewmen, who unhesitatingly flew into hot LZs and firefights. I'd think, what motivates these young men to take such risks? It certainly wasn't for self-serving, or altruistic, reasons. No, it was because the grunts on the ground, our **comrades-in-arms**, needed the help we could provide.

How were these young men prepared for combat when they were so young? Intense training and shared motivation helped a lot because every one of us was concerned about measuring up, wondering if we had the right stuff.

We all may have been in social situations where we've felt somewhat isolated, like a stranger even around people we may have known for a long time. And yet, when we'd walk into a room full of Viet Nam vets, **comrades** we'd never met, it would feel like we were coming home. Our reunions do this for us!

Now that we are decades into being part of our communities, we have mostly put behind us those calendar days in Viet Nam. Some days were boring, some days were exciting, some were dark with anguish. And, we all fantasized about going home, getting away from the anguish of the war. But, we are the fortunate ones. Some did not come home with us.

At each reunion, we narrate a remembrance to "**Our Missing Comrades**". During our ceremony, we do not refer to our lost members as friends, as fellow soldiers or as fallen members. We prefer to use only the word "**comrades**". We feel that's the most heartfelt praise we can give to those with whom we served with in VN.

For some, the Wall in Washington is a place to ease the pressure of the past. To bring back some feelings we may have chosen to suppress, where we can talk to our fallen **comrades** to tell them they are not forgotten. It's a place to confess our guilt that we lived through it and they did not,

We have all lived in different worlds from the Vietnam of 60 years ago, but our shared history will always draw us to each other. We know that that draw is much deeper than merely remembering the past and swapping laughs and stories.

As I looked at us at the Reunion, it was obvious that we are all older, all grayer, some with less hair and somewhat more belly. But, we have done our duty. To our families, our communities, to our country. And, above all, **to our missing comrades.**





## My time at the VLOA Reunion at San Antonio.



After all the COVID related delays, the VLOA Reunion finally happened. I was a little apprehensive at first not knowing what to expect, but the initial reception was so welcoming and could not have gone better.

Meeting so many new comrades who were there before me really opened my eyes to the history of the Outlaw Mavericks and the Bushwackers.

My experience with the Outlaws in country (71-72) was something I look at with pride. Being 19 years old and my first deployment,

I will admit I was scared in so many ways. My first duty started as a hanger rat and then transitioned to operations. Luckily I met a band of brothers and found we had each others back.

After returning to the world it took some time to reunite with some of these new friends. But they are now life friends. It was a great experience for me. Now that I have attended the Reunion there is a whole new group of friends to enjoy. The wives were so welcoming to my wife Sheila and had a great time with her new friends.

If you are considering attending, maybe for the first time as I did, do not hesitate. Our time together is measured everyday and this experience is well worth the time.

A special thanks to all the staff who worked to make the Reunion a success. I am really impressed with all the leadership for their continuing efforts. My vision is to assist as an Outlaw and hopefully assist with future projects with our new National Director Bob Allen.

God be with us,  
Ivan White  
Dep. Nat. Dir.



## The Back Pew



For those who attended the San Antonio reunion, we can all agree that it was very well done. Bert Rice provided excellent planning and follow-up. Many thanks to Bert for hanging in there during the turmoil brought about by the Covid Pandemic. Every part of this reunion was enjoyable. The silent auction was a huge success and the meals, entertainment, and accommodations were wonderful, thus ensuring that every attendee had the opportunity for a great experience.

Frank Estes provided a wonderful biblical message and I'm sure all who attended the Sunday church services will agree. As the unit chaplain, it is always terrific to have the assistance and support that Frank brings to the organization. FYI Frank and I were the original section leaders of the Maverick gun platoon and he became Maverick Lead upon the death of Jack Sanford. Later in his career, Frank was a key planner in the process of establishing Army Aviation as its own separate branch. He and I first met at Fort Benning, GA while assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division Aviation Company and then to the 11th Air Assault Division. Wow! Has it really been 60 years?

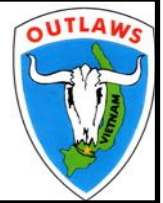
The VLOA is now undertaking planning for the continuation and future of the organization. My prayers are for the success of this process and I encourage each member to participate so that we can pin down the future of this organization for this wonderful group of valorous soldiers.

Best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas season. May God bless you and yours and keep you safe.

Ernie Isbell  
Chaplain, VLOA  
Fall 2022



**2022 San Antonio Outstanding Outlaws and the National Directors Award and presentation.**



**L/.  
National Directors Award by Frank Estes to Bert Rice.**



**R/.  
Outstanding Outlaw Award by Bert Rice to Bob Allen.**

**Outstanding Outlaw Awards presented by Outgoing Director Bert Rice to Doug Wilson———Jim Donnelly———and Bob Sharp.**



# San Antonio Reunion– Silent Auction and the Welcome Dinner Pics.



**Reunion sites visited-Fredericksburg, (Pacific War Museum), Texas Ranger and the Buckhorn Museum, The Alamo, and the Riverwalk sightseeing cruise.**





# The 2022 Reunion final day Farewell Dinner.





**L/R:**

**Mr. Frank Estes-Treasurer.**

**Mr. Bert Rice-National Dir. 2019-2022.**

**Mr. Bob Allen- National Dir. 2022-2024.**

**The 2022 VLOA San Antonio Texas Reunion was as success! It was a great time and business was attended to and new officers were elected.**

**Mr. Bert Rice was awarded the National Directors Award for his outstanding leadership and dedication handling the reunion and leadership as it included an extra year and many changes. The award was presented to him by Mr. Frank Estes and he was accompanied by the new National Director Mr. Bob Allen.**

**Congratulations to you all and thank you for your dedication.**



## **The VLOA Quartermaster Int'l. Jim Donnelly.**

The VLOA Quartermaster web page is adding items. Also, on the page is a detailed description of the processes of donating and purchasing. We need your support so take a few minutes to check out the new offerings, so you don't miss anything.

To those seeking to purchase a listed item, email me the quartermaster the number of the item and your complete contact information and I will call you to complete the process.

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](mailto:vloa.quartermaster@gmail.com). Thanks for your support of this effort to keep the VLOA financially viable. Check out the Quartermaster International page of the <https://www.vinhloutlaws.com> website. Stay safe and well!

Come check-out the latest additions to the VLOA Quartermaster International page found on the VLOA website.

These decals are ready to ship to your door. Shipping \$2.00 for up to any four stickers. Limited quantities of 50 each have been produced.

Outlaw Unit Crest Decal  
Die Cut, Measures 3 x 4  
Cost \$2.00 each



Outlaw Veterans Sticker  
Measures 8 x 5  
Cost \$2.00 each



Outlaw Bumper Sticker, white vinyl with unit logos, measures 12 x 3.6  
Cost \$2.50



Quartermaster Information following on page 18.



## Outlaw Aircraft Memorialized On Headstone.



Bill Chambers enlisted in 1968 with the objective of flying Army helicopters. He attained that objective when, after finishing initial helicopter training, he was assigned to Viet Nam and subsequently to the Vinh Long Outlaws as Maverick 31. Bill flew with the Outlaws for more than half his Army service, regularly flying Maverick 31.

Bill's pride in his Outlaw service, along with his assignment as Maverick 31, likely played a role in his request that, after his death, his headstone include an etching of a Huey. Maverick 31, is clearly displayed on the tail number shown on the Huey on his headstone. Military honors were accorded to Bill at his graveside service 31

Additionally, Bill included in his will that donations could be made to his favorite charities. To honor his request, Bills wife Carol has made a generous \$500 contribution to the VLOA in Bill's memory. In turn, the VLOA has made Carol an Honorary Patriot Life Member.

Coincidentally, Frank Estes, was the original Maverick 31.



### **In Loving Memory**

**William (Bill) Matthew Hensinger**

**April 29, 1940 - October, 13, 2022**



Raised in Queens, New York with his German parents, Matthias and Lena, and went to St. Thomas church and school in Woodhaven, NY.

Bill kept his sense of humor till the very end. Had a knack for one liners even up to his last days. Loved telling jokes especially the Lufthansa one. Every place we went whether with friends, social events, professional or military reunions, he would ask me if he had ever told his favorite joke to that group. Even when I told him that he already did, somehow before the event ended, he managed to stand up and start the joke with a big smile. His German accent is what everyone loved; SO, they politely listened again and again.

His first ambition was to be a baseball player thanks to his stick ball days but it was not to be. He wanted to become a commercial airline pilot. But in June of 1963, Bill enlisted in the US Army and Uncle Sam and the US Army, because of the Vietnam War, had different plans for Candidate Hensinger. So off to Mineral Wells, Texas he went to helicopter flight school. He called me from a phone booth on the post and said he would not hang up and go outside because the Sergeants and Tack Officers were waiting there just to harass the candidates to test their resolve. It was a long phone call.

His helicopter career began from there; first graduating flight school to a year in Vietnam, to a Flight Instructor while still on active duty, to a helicopter traffic patrol reporter on CBS evening news. Then the Nassau County Police Department on Long Island, New York hired him as the first Chief Pilot in the new Aviation Bureau. 30 years later he retired. His Army training provided the skills for his safe landings but his drive for Safety and Perfection mandated the constant practice hours. He passed his expertise on to all the pilots he trained. A fellow Police Officer called to say that Bill's professional safety skills have been passed down to countless pilots.

During all those years, Bill studied to complete his Bachelor's degree in criminology while always holding down a part time job. He rose to the rank of Sergeant in the Police Department.

The New York Yankees and NY Giants were his teams and Jack Nicklaus his golf idol. Music was an enjoyable pastime.

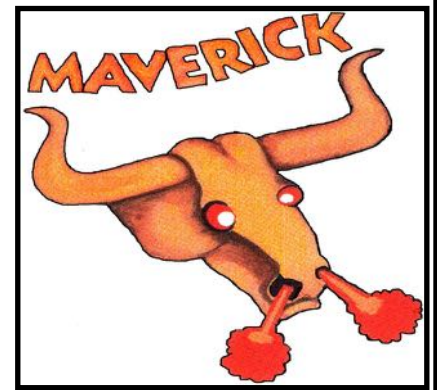
Golf was his passion. From its science to making his own clubs, reading endless "How-To" books, watching instructing videos and his favorite players on TV or in person at tournaments, practicing usually more than playing a round of golf was fun for him. The game brought him golfing buddies that lasted his lifetime.

Bill is survived by his daughter, Robin and his son, Robert and daughter-in-law, Debra. God gave him four wonderful grandchildren to cherish and enjoy, Alexandra, Megan, Julia and Brandon. I was lucky to be his sweetheart for five years and his wife for 57 years. Our family was truly blessed with this kind, thoughtful and sensitive man.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Hershey, PA.

He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery near our home with full military honors.

May he Rest in Peace and God Bless, Love Grace.



**Thomas M. Kennedy, JR.**

**02/16/1948—05/28/2022**

Thomas M. Kennedy, Jr., beloved husband of Ingrid (nee Meljado). Dear father of Nikki Lohr (Jimmy Hanna) and Ken. Cherished grandfather of Joseph Hanna (Bethany), Jesse Hanna, Jacob Hanna (Shannon), and Jaydin Hanna.

Great grandfather of Seren. Dear brother of Michele Denbeau (deceased), Christopher, Peter (deceased), Mathew, and Philip.

Tom was the recipient of the Purple Heart award. He was a lifetime member of VFW Post 6768, member of American Legion Post 196, Amvets Post 176, and the Parma Moose Lodge 1744.

Tom was a member of Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Association. He was crew chief on OL21 Satisfaction, —MAV33 Biere 33 Export —& MAV36 Satans Playmate. Tom was with Outlaws from 1968-1970.

Friends visited at the Donald A. Faulhaber Funeral Home, 7915 Broadview Road (at Sprague), Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147. The services were held on Saturday, June 4 at 7:30 PM. Visiting hours were at the funeral home Saturday, from 4-7:30 PM. Inurnment was at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, 10175 Rawiga Rd, Seville, OH 44273 on Thursday, June 9 at 9:45 am.

## Donald F. "Don"/ "Gerd" Spade

**03/04/1940—09/29/2019**

Donald F. "Don" or "Gerd" Spade, 79, of Thompsonstown, entered into rest on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019, at Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital.

He was born March 4, 1940, in Juniata County, a son of the late Arol L. and Dorothy (Rothrock) Spade. On Jan. 15, 1966, he married the former A. Lorraine Garman who survives. The couple were married for 53 years at the time of his passing.

Don attended Middleburg Joint High School and was an Army veteran, serving in the Vietnam War.

He was a truck driver and retired from Consolidated Freightways in Carlisle and was previously employed for 25 years at Central Storage and Transfer, Harrisburg.

He was a member of the AMVETS, Thompsonstown, a former member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge, Millerstown, and attended St. John Lutheran Church, Richfield with his wife.

Don enjoyed golfing, hunting, fishing, and playing baseball and softball. His biggest enjoyment was spending time with his family, especially his grandsons and great-grandsons and attending their sporting events.

In addition to his wife, Don is survived by two children and their spouses, Ryan and Staci Spade of McVeytown, and Melissa and Darren Rowe of Evenedale; five grandsons, Colton Spade and his wife Jenna, Carter Spade and his fiance Jenna Snyder, Cody Rowe and his wife Courtney, Dalton Rowe, and Seth Rowe; two great-grandsons, Owen Rowe and Grayson Orwig; seven sisters, Sandra "Pink" Neimond and her husband Rev. James Neimond, April Dock and her husband Gary, Penny Sheaffer and her husband Keith, Bonnie Fultz and her companion Tom Spriggle, Debra Dressler and her husband Jim, Lois Longer, and Holly Weaver; two brothers, Dale Spade and his wife Beverly and C. James Spade and his wife Linda; brother-in-law, Bill Gray; a sister-in-law, Vivian Spade; Lorraine's family, Ernest and Phyllis Garman and Lawrence and Eunice Garman, and Miriam "Mim" Nipple; and many nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by one sister, Vicky Gray; and one brother, Arol S. Spade.

Friends and family are invited to the visitation from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, and from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, followed by the funeral at 2:30, at Stony Run Mission Church, 2825 Evendale Hill Road, McAlisterville, with the Rev. Nick Smith officiating. Full military honors accorded by the Juniata Veterans Council will follow.

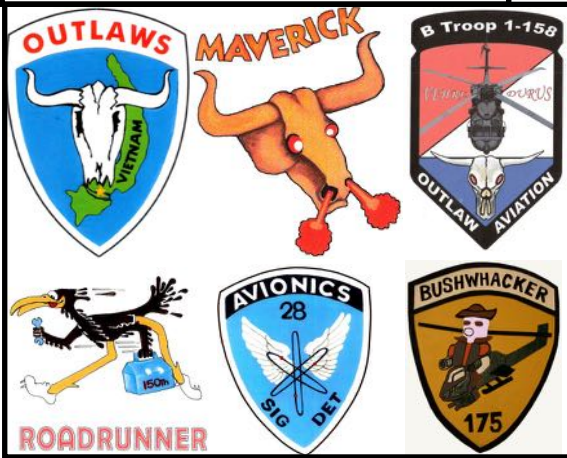
Burial will be at a later date at the discretion of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in loving memory of Don to the American Heart Association-Capital Region, Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry County, 1019 Mumma Road, Wormleysburg, PA 17043, or to a charity of the donor's choosing.

The George P. Garman Funeral Homes Inc., 9366 Route 35, Mount Pleasant Mills have been entrusted with the arrangements.



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Fall—2022

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

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

Active (with vote) or Associate (without vote) Membership is \$25 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: \_\_\_\_\_