

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

"www.vinhlongoutlaws.com"

Vinh Long Outlaws Summer 2022 Newsletter

April-June

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

2nd. Quarter 2022

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See you in San Antonio, TX.!!

National Director's Corner

By- **Bert Rice**



What a spring it has been with a lot of travel and time with family and friends. We had a fantastic 4Th of July weekend in Bozeman, Montana. We plan to spend about two months at my home in Choteau, Montana. Choteau is located about half way between Great Falls, MT and Glacier National Park. We can view the lovely Rocky Mountain front from my Choteau home!

My friend Pat Hall and I are looking forward to the VLOA reunion in San Antonio from 22 to 26 September 2022. We are registered along with 62 other attendees. I am hoping for those who have not registered yet that you do so soon but not later than August 19 which is the deadline for final registration. At this time last year, we had 87 registered.

We will be driving to from Montana as I need to bring along a number items needed at the reunion. I know that we have had a difficult time during the past two years in trying to conduct the reunion in a safe, responsible manner. I am quite certain that the upcoming reunion can be held safely.

I tend to be optimistic but do want to share that holding reunions in the out-years may continue to be difficult because of our aging membership. If you have not registered yet, I urge you to consider attending our reunion in September this year. Our health situations are quite unpredictable and, as such, may preclude you from attending reunions in the future. Please consider joining us in September in San Antonio, TX, Let me make it a plea that you attend!

Armed Forces Reunion, Inc (AFR) provides recurring updates regarding registration. They have been very supportive and are assisting in any way possible. I believe our venue, the River Walk Holiday Inn in San Antonio, will provide a pleasant stay for attendees.

The reunion registration form is again included in this edition of the newsletter. If not registered yet, please complete and submit the registration form prior to the final payment deadline of August 19. You will find additional valuable information in the Newsletter. Bob Sharp has done a great job in publishing our Newsletter. Thanks Bob!

A sequence of events and information about the tours are included in the newsletter. I believe that all information is correct and will be useful for our purposes.

I am looking forward to seeing you and enjoying the fun and fellowship. In the meantime, please take care and stay safe.

God Bless each and every one!

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



Here's hoping that you all had a very wonderful 4th of July celebrating our Great Country's Independence.

God Bless America!!!

I would like to share with you what I see when I look out to the south out of my window, not just on the 4th of July but everyday!

This is what you call "America the Beautiful".

Not everyone that lives in this country celebrates it, but we who have served our country know why we hold it so dear.

God Bless America and God Bless you all !!!

By: Bob Sharp, Editor.



VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION (VLOA) Financial Statement - 6/30/2022

Balance effective 01/01/2022

\$31,880.96

REVENUES:

Dues - Annual	
Dues - Patriot Live	\$150.00
Donation	\$400.00
TOTAL:	\$500.00

EXPENDITURES:

Newsletters, external hard drive, bank statements, awards, stickers	
TOTAL:	\$2,919.41

CASH BALANCE - as of 6/30/2022

\$1,050.00
\$2,919.41

Details: 6 months period ending 6/30/2021

\$30,011.55

Revenues Detail

Donation by Josiah Austin

Sub-Total \$500.00
\$500.00

Dues: -2022

Annual Memberships (AM): - 2022

John Diamond

David Arsanis

William Gregorius

Harry Bauman

Larry Wolf (2 years)

Sub-Total \$25.00
\$25.00
\$25.00
\$25.00
\$25.00
Sub-Total \$50.00
\$150.00

Lifetime Memberships (IM): - 2022

Sub-Total

Patriot Lifetime Membership (PLM) - 2022

Bert Rice

\$0.00
Sub Total \$400.00
\$400.00

TOTAL REVENUES - 6 months period 2022

Expenses Details

Bob Sharp - 4th Qtr 2021 - Newsletter

Bob Sharp - 1 st Qtr 2022 - Newsletter

Bob Sharp - 2nd Qtr 2022 - Newsletter

Bob Sharp - 3rd Qtr 2022 - Newsletter

External Hard Drive for storing VIOA Historical Records

Reunion postcard reminders - reimburse Frank Estes

Bumper stickers - reimburse Jim Donnelly

Awards statues - Bluestone Designs

Paper bank statements

TOTAL EXPENSES - 6 months period 2022

\$650.00
\$828.40
\$816.17
\$94.64
\$386.77
\$336.43
\$449.50
\$7.50

INCOME (IOSS) - 6 months period ending 6/30/2022

\$2,919.41
-\$2,269.41

I Am a Veteran

by Andrea C. Brett

You may not know me the first time we meet
I'm just another you see on the street
But *I* am the reason you walk and breathe free
I am the reason for your liberty

I am a Veteran

I work in the local factory all day
I own the restaurant just down the way
I sell you insurance, I start your IV
I've got the best-looking grandkids you'll ever see

I'm your grocer, your banker
Your child's schoolteacher
I'm your plumber, your barber
Your family's preacher
But there's part of me you don't know very well
Just listen a moment, I've a story to tell

I am a Veteran

I joined the service while still in my teens
I traded my prom dress for camouflage greens
I'm the first in my family to do something like this
I followed my father, like he followed his

Defying my fears and hiding my doubt
I married my sweetheart before I shipped out
I missed Christmas, then Easter, the birth of my son
But I knew I was doing what had to be done

I served on the battlefield, I served on the base
I bound up the wounded, and begged for God's grace
I gave orders to fire, I followed commands
I marched into conflict in far distant lands

In the jungle, the desert, on mountains and shores
In bunkers, in tents, on dank earthen floors
While I fought on the ground, in the air, on the sea
My family and friends were home praying for me

For the land of the free and the home of the brave
I faced my demons in foxholes and caves
Then one dreaded day, without drummer or fife
I lost an arm, my buddy lost his life

I came home and moved on, but forever was changed
The perils of war in my memory remained
I don't really say much, I don't feel like I can
But I left home a child, and came home a man

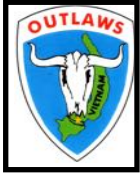
There are thousands like me, thousands more who are gone
But their legacy lives as time marches on
White crosses in rows, and names carved in queue
Remind us of what these brave souls had to do

I'm part of a fellowship, a strong mighty band
Of each man and each woman who has served this great land
And when Old Glory waves, I stand proud, I stand tall
I helped keep her flying over you, over all

I am a Veteran

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call (877) 252-7388

Also the website is (Iamaveteran.net)



VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION 2022 REUNION TOUR DESCRIPTIONS



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 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 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 |
| | - | 4:00pm | The Buckhorn/Texas Ranger Museum |
| 1:00pm | | | |
| 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 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 | River barge 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: _____

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

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Here's where we are; Where are we going?



Our Outlaw heritage began back in 1964 when a collection of young soldiers learned they would be banded together to move from a comfortable place called CONUS, to a not-so-lovely vacation village called Vinh Long. In all wars, soldiers in a combat environment are certain to have a special bonding with each other. However, that 50+ years ago banding together, ultimately resulted in a life-long relationship between those soldiers. And, that banding together was further cemented with the formation of a unique “club” now known as the Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA).

The VLOA “club” is now in its 33d year of continuing to cement the bond between all those now-old soldiers. Unfortunately, the passage of time has also brought us face to face with some certainties none of us even thought about when the VLOA was formed those three+ decades ago.

One certainty is that all those young 20 -year-olds, who deployed to Vinh Long Vietnam with the early Outlaws are now in their mid- to late=70s! A majority of our old soldiers are in their 80s. (BTW – the “old man” is in his 90s). The obit pages in our Newsletter remind us of the increasing number of Outlaws who have left our ranks.

A look at the number of 2022 attendees, planning to attend the Outlaws’ Reunion, is a major concern. The attendee numbers, from previous Reunions, are smaller than we had hoped to see. This smaller number directly impacts the status of a significant number of issues regarding the near-term, and long-term, status of the continuance of the organization.

For the past decade, VLOA leadership has again and again appealed to the membership for volunteers to step forward and fill critical leadership roles. For the past 10-15 years, the same members continue to donate their time (and talents!) to ensure that the Association is managed on a professional and legal level. In some cases, because no one would step forward to fill these roles, for years, the same person has had to fill two or more critical positions. The good thing is, the VLOA has been able to function remarkably well with the few who continue to make the Association “happen.” But this can’t continue.

There are a number of things that obviously indicate a growing lack of interest in keeping the VLOA alive and functioning. Among the more important things are: increasing number of deaths of members; increasing number of members who do not keep their roster information up-to-date; decreasing number of members who desire to attend our biennial reunions; lack of sufficient volunteers to fill the pivotal officer/director positions; significant decrease in number of membership renewals; increasing costs to publish the quarterly *Outlaws Newsletter*; a negative cash flow for the last three years due to Covid19 impacts; and the like.

Our National Director is key in holding the organization together, pulling the strings to ensure the right things take place at the right time and to the standards outlined in our VLOA Policy Files. We have never had to beg someone to hold this position in prior years. Yet, this time, numerous members were asked to fill this position but none accepted. In turn, one of our former National Directors has offered to take the position again in order to keep the organization alive for the time being.

The Deputy National Director’s position is critical to filling in when the National Director is unable to function, and even more importantly, following up on “Lost Outlaws” and leading the Directors-At-Large in the search effort. The previous Deputy National Director resigned, and no one has offered to fill this position.

Cont. from Pg.8

The Secretary is responsible to ensure the Outlaws Roster is accurately maintained because it is the document that drives the communications efforts between the VLOA and its membership.

Additionally, the accurate roster is extremely important because it is the document that provides the justification to the IRS that our membership levels meet IRS requirements. Finally, the Secretary is responsible for capturing the minutes of our Business Meetings during our biennial reunions. Again, no one has offered to assume this position, so the current Secretary continues to perform these duties, and has done so for more than eight years.

The Treasurer is appointed by the National Director, but as with other positions, the current Treasurer has been performing that duty for more nearly 12 years, due mainly to no one offering to fill that position. Additionally, the Treasurer must audit the VLOA Roster to ensure its accuracy, so he is just as involved in the roster upkeep as the Secretary. Currently, the Treasurer is performing one of the Secretary's duties of making and sending Membership Cards to dues paying members, mainly because the Secretary does not have the computer programs to do professional membership cards. The Treasurer has also assumed the duties as Chair, Awards Committee which is responsible for evaluating candidates for the Directors' Award and the Outstanding Outlaws Award. Finally, the Treasurer performs a very key effort during the spring of each year by filing the IRS tax return for the organization. By way of interest, he is closer to 85 years of age than he is to 84.

This discussion can go on further for many other positions; the *Outlaws Newsletter* editor has been doing that job for more than 10 years; the Outlaws Website manager has been in that position for more than six years; and our Historian has been in that position for more than 20 years.

Don't you think these volunteers deserve a "thank you" for keeping this organization alive? I do! Don't you think that you younger folks ought to step up and fill these pivotal positions so the "old folks" filling the positions now will have some time to transition the jobs to you? I do! Because, if the offers are not forthcoming, then there is but one way the VLOA can move. And, that is to make the decision to dissolve the Vinh Long Outlaws Association, and close it out in the manner we finalized in our Constitution and By Laws that we provided to the IRS for approval of our 501 (c)(19) war veterans organization.

Some who were asked to fill a position stated that they would not know how to perform in any of the positions. Thankfully, that problem was solved many years ago when two "volunteers" spent the better part of six months documenting a set of Policy Files that discuss everything that is done by and for the VLOA. All officer and director positions are discussed in detail, as are every action that someone must take. So, there is plenty of written guidance for anyone to step in and take over one of the officer/director positions. These Policy Files were specifically developed to resolve the "transfer of leadership" situation as all of us ultimately pass on. It's time for the younger year-group members to step up and assume that leadership.

In closing, it took herculean efforts on the part of a few original Outlaws to get the VLOA formed, financially sound, and worth the effort to keep the camaraderie spirit alive and grow the organization. We have lived of the eagerness and esprit of the relationships and camaraderie for many years. Now, we have migrated to a handful of volunteers trying their dead-level best to keep the organization alive. We have come full circle. It is up to you, the membership, to determine "where are we going." Is it time to lower the curtain on this wonderful play we have all participated in for more than 50 years? We sincerely hope not!

(Compiled by Mr. Tom Anderson and Mr. Frank Estes.)



2022 reunion Shirts Order Now!



As was stated in the previous Newsletter's, the Reunion shirt is a three-colored pattern featuring the official Army Aviation branch colors of brilliant Ultramarine Blue and Gold Orange with a narrow white stripe separating the blue and gold colors across the shoulder and sleeve. The Outlaw logo will, of course, be displayed on the front of the shirt, and trimmed in gold to match the gold stripe on the shirt.

This year's shirt is again a Sport-Tek tri-color, micropique material, which we have had in the previous years.

As always, both men's and women's shirts are available. The shirt order form, found in this Newsletter, show pricing and order instructions. Assuming the reunion can, and will, be held, the NTL (No Later Than) date-August 31st, 2022- for ordering, still remains valid. That NLT date applies if the reunion can be held in September as planned. If the Reunion is decided to be pushed back, a later NLT date will be announced.

Remember, when ordering, make your check out to the VLOA and mail it to James Donnelly at the address shown on the order form.

Several shirt orders have already been received, some for Reunion pickup, some for mailing out to those who cannot attend. If you find you cannot attend, please note the \$5.00 added fee for packaging and mailing.

If you are attending, your shirts will be in your personal Welcome Bag at the Registration Desk.

As a final reminder, you can keep up to date with the Reunion date status by looking at the VLOA website at www.vinhloungoutlaws.com . Phil Van Last, webmaster, will keep you informed. Thank you so very much and hope to see many of you at the reunion if at all possible.

Stay safe and God Bless!!



2022 San Antonio – Outlaw Roundup

Shirt order form



The official **2022 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. 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
32-34	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49	50-53	54-67		
Qty _____									

LADIES' SHIRT SIZES

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

* 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: _____

(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, 2022 !.

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

Mr. James Donnelly, 2413-General Longstreet, Virginia Beach, VA. 23454-2611



Urgent, Urgent!

Silent Auction for San Antonio



As our reunion in San Antonio moves ever closer, it is critical 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 is short of the 100 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: bluemax-33@gmail.com. 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, 7106 Halfpenny Rd. Houston, TX 77095. 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

The Back Pew

By: Ernest Isbell



As I write this edition of The Chaplains Corner there are several points that I wish to share with everyone. Each of us has our own views on our personal situation as we prepare daily to go about our personal and family chores.

Some thoughts from an 81-year-old.

These are the worst conditions that Linda and I have ever experienced. We have been married 63 years as of 5 September 2022 and I'm sure all of you will agree that the Corona Virus Pandemic is the worst situation that any of us has ever endured.

We know that our medical experts have developed vaccines that provide good protection from the virus. Linda and I are both vaccinated and we have received two boosters. As I have mentioned before, we encourage everyone to be vaccinated. It only stings for a few minutes and the protection provided could save your life.

The economic conditions that the country is now enduring are difficult for everyone, whether you are working or retired. The cost of gasoline varies by your location yet it hits everyone square in the pocketbook. Hang in there and don't let the cost of travel deter you from coming to the September reunion in San Antonio.

Regardless of your political views, share them with your state and federal elected officials. My personal belief is that this country has sufficient resources to provide all the energy and gasoline that we need.

In the interim, we can take several actions, such as #1) First and foremost, Prayer. It doesn't cost anything; it can help you feel better; it can be done at all hours; It works, #2 Be active and let your elected officials know your views on matters that are important to you and your family. Don't just grouse and moan about your personal situation, let your government officials at all levels know your views, #3 Vote early and often. Voting is both a privilege and a responsibility.

And finally, be hopeful, don't despair, time changes everything. For instance, look back at our world during the VietNam war – certainly, we can all agree that there have been many changes. Some are good and some are not so good. Keep the faith, work on changing the not-so-good, and support what you believe to be good.

God bless you and your family,

Ernie and Linda.



Lesson's learned in Charleston, NC.

By Sherry (John) Diamond



After the Branson Roundup, (our first), I wrote about learning and understanding for the first time the true bond among combat veterans. During the Charleston Roundup I learned a few more lessons. Our leaders once again did a great job of planning an interesting itinerary.

#1- The most meaningful activity for me was going through the Viet Nam experience on Patriots Point. We have been through other Viet Nam displays and mockups, but this one, by far, was the most intense. As we “Walked” through a “street in Saigon” and “watched” battlefield activity from a bunker, and then walked around the compound, we heard the constant sound of the Huey’s and of the mortars. Is it any wonder that our guy’s still have nightmares and other forms of PTSD after 50+ year’s.

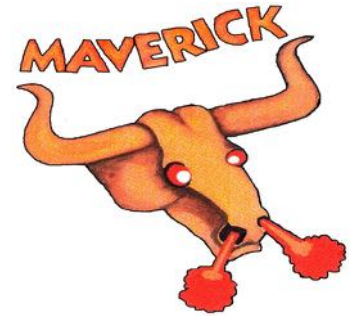
#2- I learned that we, “Outlaw Wives”, are not only proud and respectful of our guy’s, but we are also protective. I looked around the Viet Nam Experience and saw other wives doing exactly what I was doing! We all had an arm around our guy’s asking, “are you okay?”, (because most of us WERE NOT!)

#3- My next lesson came the day the reunion was over. John and I stayed an extra day and took the boat out to Ft. Sumpter. Upon returning I took my second helicopter ride. It was not yet on a Huey, (on my bucket list), but in a 4 place Robinson-R-44 Raven. The difference was that unlike my first ride, the pilot had taken the left door off because the weather was so nice. Of course, I had a lap seatbelt on, but only the door frame to hang onto. As we banked to the left over Charleston Harbor, I felt more than a little uneasy. Of course, we safely landed a few minutes later. As we walked back to our truck, I told John that I had a whole new level of respect for him! When he asked me why, I simply said, “ I was only a few hundred feet above Charleston Harbor with a door open; I can’t even imagine hanging out of an open door of a Huey with an M-60 machine gun, over the Mekong River, while being fired upon”!!

Once again, “Kudos” to ALL our OUTLAW and MAVERICK pilot’s, co-pilot’s, crew-chiefs, gunners and all the support personal!!

Now I am looking forward to San Antonio and more lessons to learn there!

The Birth of the 62d Aviation Company – Outlaws!



In early 1964 I was completing a three-year tour in Hawaii when new orders sent me to that newly activated 11th Air Assault Division at Fort Benning, GA. As we all know, almost everything about the Division was either different or new. The structure. The training. Aircraft of various models and types we were not yet familiar with. And on and on.

After reporting in, I was assigned as the S-1 of the 226th Mohawk battalion. Just as with many things about the Army in those days, the Mohawk was also new to Army Aviation. I was put on the list to go to Rucker for transition into the OV-1 Mohawk. (PS -I was never eager about flying the Mohawk.)

However, after a couple months getting comfortable with the S-1 job, (and awaiting transition into the OV-1) another job change! I was now being reassigned to 11th Aviation Group headquarters where I was to be the G-1 of the Group, a job I welcomed after several previous stints in the “people” business.

However, after several more months in that job, fortune stepped in again and I was offered command of the newly activated Company C in the 229th Aviation Battalion. Couldn't ask for a better assignment! Again, everything was new, not the least of which were all the personnel in my Company.

My new Battalion CO was Lt. Colonel Del Townsend. On a Saturday evening several weeks after taking command of C/229, Col Townson called me at home to ask what I was planning for next Sunday. My family and I had planned to spend Sunday picnicking together at a nearby Lake. So, it struck me as curious that my Battalion Commander would ask if he could join us.

Interestingly, after lunch at the lake, Colonel Townsend asked me to go for a walk with him. His purpose was to alert me that I would be getting a call the next morning to report to the 11th AAD Commanding General's office! What a distressful night that might have been. However, Colonel Townsend discretely informed me that the General's purpose was to tell me that I would be immediately activating and deploying a UH-1 company to Viet Nam.

Cont from pg 15

When I reported to the General's office the next morning, I met another Army Major, who had no idea of why we were there. (Thank you, Col Townsend for alerting me!)

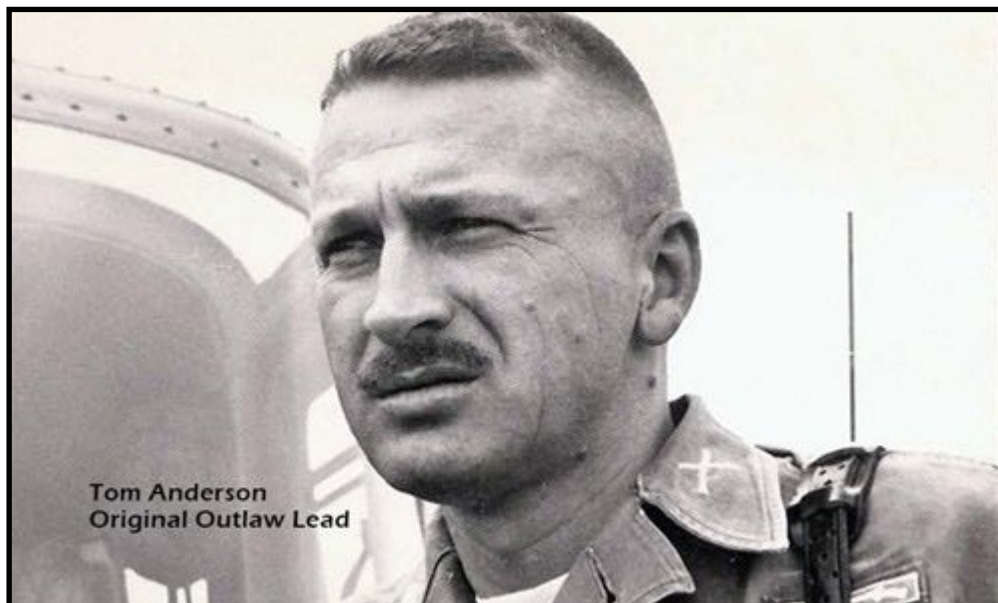
Imagine our surprise when the General met us at the door, invited us in, offered us a seat and a cup of coffee. He then went on to outline why we were there. (And, why two of us?)

The General told us that two UH-1 Aviation companies were to be activated from within assets in the 11th AAD and that he had selected the two of us to command the two units. One unit was slated to be in Viet Nam within just over a month, the other 30 days later. The unit designations were the 62d Aviation company, the other the 3d Aviation company. We had our choice of which unit number we would prefer but did not say anything about which unit would be going first.

So, the General suggested flipping a coin, the winner would have his choice of which unit designation he would prefer. I won the toss and, for no reason, selected the 62d Aviation Company! And, the rest is our Outlaw history. To say the next month+ was hectic could not come close to the reality.

As we all know, the (62d, A/502d and 175th) Outlaws amassed an outstanding combat record during their 8-year history in Viet Nam.

I have always been overwhelmingly proud to have been selected as the first "Outlaw", even before the "Outlaw" name was selected. Tom Anderson.



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.

Lost Outlaws

Periodically, we find information about some of our members that reflects they have changed their address and personal information, BUT did not notify the VLOA so we can keep our membership roster up to date. The following list reflects those we no longer have a good address for sending them the *Outlaws Newsletter* or other kinds of notices. Their previous city and state are reflected.

Patricia Badgett, Mineral Wells, TX
 James A. Boyer, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
 Charles E. Dominy, Easley, SC.
 James Duer, Hot Springs Village, AR.
 Stephen M. Gray, Selden, NY.
 Alvin R. Guthery, Weirsdale, FL.
 John J. Hand, Aurora, CO.
 Floyd G. Hatrick, Enterprise, AL.
 Sean Huggins, Fort Irwin, CA.
 Jerry L. Jobski, Las Vegas, NV.
 Richard Keitner, Springfield, MO.
 Henry D. Lockhart, Fredericksburg, VA.
 Gervase M. MacNamara, DeQueen, AR.
 Herbert D. Merritt, Aroro Valley, AZ.
 Larry F. Page, Charleston, SC.
 Walter J. Proba, Silver Springs, MD.
 Mauro Reza, Little Rock, CA.
 Randall P. Smith, Jr., San Marcus, TX.
 Robert W. Wildman, Raliegh, NC.
 James "J.R." Wright, West Plains, MO.

If anyone knows how to get in touch with any of the members listed above, please get their contact information to me at estesf@troycable.net or text me at 334-797-9196 so we can get their updated information.



The VLOA Quartermaster Int'l. Jim Donnelly.

The VLOA Quartermaster web page is adding items. Also, on the 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. Thanks for your support of this effort to keep the VLOA financially viable. Check out the Quartermaster International page of the <https://www.vinhlougoutlaws.com> website. Stay safe and well!



One of our very own!!



LOUIE SEAGERS

SIGNATURE HEALTHCARE OF NORTH FLORIDA
RESIDENT
NOVEMBER 2008



**HONORED FOR PROFESSIONAL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
&
DISTINGUISHED MILITARY
SERVICE**

**MEMBER OF THE GREATEST
GENERATION**

**SERVED IN THE KOREAN WAR,
VIETNAM WAR & THE COLD WAR**

**AWARDED NUMEROUS MEDALS
MANAGED STORE FOR TEN YEARS**

**RECEIVED TWO DEGREES
PROUD FATHER & HUSBAND**

Louie Seagers was born in Pansey, Alabama on December 18, 1930. He attended and graduated from Ashford High School in Alabama. In 1951, he enlisted in the United States Army where he would proudly serve for the next twenty-one years. His career began during the Korean War, carried through the Vietnam War, and continued through the numerous years of the Cold War. He received helicopter maintenance training at Fort Rucker, AL. Throughout his military career he was a helicopter maintenance crew chief, working on many models including the Sikorsky 34 and the notorious Hueys. His first tour to Japan in 1952, he met and married Ihoko "Linda" Seagers who he has been married too for the past fifty-five years. They proudly have four beautiful daughters. He was sent on a tour to Germany and two tours of Vietnam. His awards and honors include: Eleven Air Medals, three Good Conduct Medals, a Meritorious Unit Citation, Vietnam Service Medal, a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal 1960 with a Silver Scroll, a National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, an Army Commendation Medal, an Aircraft Crewman Badge with wings, and an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. He retired April 30, 1972.

After retirement, he attended Wallace Community College where he received two separate degrees. Afterwards, he managed a store for ten years. He enjoys fresh water fishing, especially at Lake Eufaula. He is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Ashford.

Tony M. Yoakum

11/25/1945

—

03/12/2022



Yoakum, Tony M. USA;

Flight Classes: 67 -19/ 67-17;

RVN: 68-69 57 AHC,

71 175 AHC, 71 114

AHC; Callsigns: Cougar 19/Bushwacker 34/Cobra 34.

Tony M. Yoakum rode to meet his Lord and Savior on March 12, 2022. Tony was born on November 25, 1945, in Vernon, TX.

Tony graduated from Vernon High School in 1964 and attended Hardin-Simmons University and Midwestern State University before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1966. It was there he fulfilled his dream of becoming a helicopter pilot. In 1974, Tony was hired as temporary Christmas help by the U.S. Post Office. This developed into a 40-year career that culminated with seventeen years as Postmaster, in Vernon, TX.

Tony was determined (some might say stubborn), creative and an inspiration to many. As a mentor, teacher, coach, and encourager his influence will live on in many lives.

He is survived by his wife, Sherry.

Rest in peace and God Bless.

**Robert “Bob”
Michalic
02/17/1941
To
04/09/2022**



Rest in peace my old friend.

Robert “Bob” Michalic, 81, of Plainville passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at Bristol Hospital, Connecticut. He was the husband of Krista (Piispanen) Michalic with whom he shared 58 years of marriage with three beautiful children Lia, Paul and Erik.

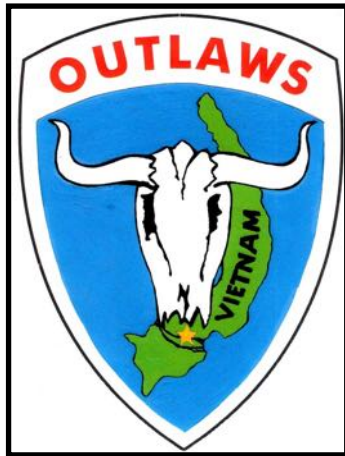
Born in Brooklyn, New York on February 17, 1941 he was the oldest of four brothers to the late John and Wanda (Bartnikowski) Michalic. He was raised and educated in Queens, New York.

Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army, proudly serving his country for 25 years. During those years he had toured Vietnam twice from 1965 to 1966 and from 1969 to 1970. He also toured in Antarctica as a helicopter mechanic and toured in Greenland working with a scientist. He retired in 1985 from the Army as a 1st Sergeant. Stateside, Bob had also been stationed in many wonderful places. Always getting involved wherever he was living with his family. In Pennsylvania he also was a volunteer firefighter. After his retirement he joined the United States Postal Service (USPS), serving 25 years and retired in 2010 as a supervisor. After his retirement from the post office, he also participated in different community services in the town of Plainville—he served as the Wetland Commission’s Secretary and as a town moderator. He enjoyed crafting and spending time with his family during his free time.

In addition to his wife, Krista, he leaves his daughter, Lia (Michalic) Martin and her husband, Wayne and their children, Sara, Amy and Mary-Kate; his son, Paul Michalic and his wife, Kemche (Donig) and their children, Ashley, Kayla, Olivia, Jack and Nicholas; his son, Erik Michalic and his wife, Stacey (Rabideau) and their children Riley and Joseph; his brother, John Michalic; four great grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his brother, Dennis Michalic with wife, Carol, brother Gary Michalic and his sister-in-law, Suzan.

Family and friends gathered on Monday, April 18 from 5 to 7 PM at the Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St., Plainville. A service in celebration of Bob’s life was held at 7 PM at the funeral home. Burial with full military honors were held on Tuesday, April 19 at 10 AM at the CT State Veterans’ Cemetery, 317 Bow Lane, Middletown. Those who wanted to follow the procession met at the funeral home for 8:45 AM on Tuesday. For more information or to leave online expressions of sympathy, please visit www.PLAINVILLEFUNERALHOME.com.

Patricia Bell Grandstaff
12/09/1935--03/08/2022



Patricia Bell Grandstaff,

86 of Woodstock, VA. Passed away March 8, 2022 at her home.

Services will be private.

Patricia was born on December 9, 1935, in Ashville, North Carolina. She was the daughter of the late Paul and Helen Noblett Bell.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Lee Grandstaff. Patricia is survived by 3 sons, Anthony Grandstaff, David Farnsworth, Jeff Farnsworth and their families, and 2 brothers, David and Michael Bell and their families.

The family is requesting no flowers but instead making a memorial donation to the American Cancer Society, www.donate3.cancer.org.

**Marilyn
(Mitzi)
Bisch.**



1936
—
03/31/2022

Marilyn (Mitzi) Bisch, age 86 of Huntsville, AL passed away on March 31, 2022 due to a rare neurological condition called Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP).

It is a rare neurological condition that causes problems with balance, movement, vision, speech, and swallowing. As a result she had been afflicted with many damaging and painful health problems for many months but was amazingly stoic throughout her illness until the good Lord called her home.

She was from Baraboo, WI where she graduated from high school in 1954 and Madison General Hospital School of Nursing as a registered nurse in June, 1957. Shortly thereafter during November 1957 she married her hometown sweetheart 2nd.LT Frederick (Tim) Bisch, beginning what would be a 29 exciting year career as an Army wife and mother of two sons and two daughters - the older daughter was born during his first tour in Vietnam.

During that period there were 27 moves of which Mitzi bore a major share of the burden as Tim was away for various schools, trainings, and deployments.

Following retirement from the Army in 1986, Huntsville, AL became their home. Mitzi was active in local garden clubs serving as President for both local and federated clubs. She was also a Flower Show judge and an Alabama Master Gardener who could identify and provide proper instruction on the care of most plants.

Mitzi, known for her beautiful smile and twinkling eyes was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, one brother, and their spouses.

She is survived by her high school sweetheart, best friend, and loving husband of 64 years Frederick (Tim), two sons Frederick and Timothy, two daughters Mary and Sarah, all with spouses, six grandchildren and one great granddaughter, two sisters-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass with reception following was held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Huntsville, AL on April 8, 2022. Burial will be on a later date (TBD) at the national cemetery, Chattanooga, TN . May she Rest in Peace. God bless her soul.

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—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 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: _____