



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

"www.vinhloutlaws.com"

Vinh Long Outlaws Winter 2019 Newsletter

October-December

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

4th. Quarter 2019

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National Director's Corner

By- Bert Rice



Happy New Year everyone!

As I have stated in the past, I hope this finds you and your loved ones are doing well. I am doing better and look forward to all that 2020 has to offer. I am planning to travel more in 2020 to check off some bucket list items. Hooah!

I believe we are pretty well prepared for our reunion in San Antonio during the period 17 to 21 September 2020. I worked with Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) to finalize information they needed to develop an agenda, plan tours, and provide a registration form that we can use for making reservations. You can make reservations now through AFR (for both hotel accommodations and reunion activities to include meal preference for the dinner on Sunday evening, 20 September). Please use the registration form for making payments and hotel accommodations. The address for AFR and the web sites are provided on the registration form. Do NOT call AFR for hotel accommodations, rather use the registration form.

At this point, I highly encourage you to register. It is always helpful to know as early as possible regarding how many will be attending. This will greatly facilitate securing additional rooms, if needed, for meal planning, and to meet transportation requirements for tours, etc. I thank you in advance for being prompt related to these matters.

On 13 to 15 November, I visited with the San Antonio Holiday Inn Riverwalk Hotel management personnel to get a first-hand look at the venue and to see if it will accommodate our needs. They were most gracious and showed me the layout of the hotel and how the space can be used for such things as dinners, meetings, hospitality room activities and the Sunday morning non-denominational church service. From what I saw and we discussed, I believe the venue will meet our needs quite nicely.

As I have stated before, I greatly appreciate the support of all who have been assisting with the operation of VLOA. I learned very quickly that "it takes many hands to make light work" and so it is with our organization. Special thanks to Frank for serving as Treasurer (very big job!), Tom for making arrangements for shirts and hats, Jim for his knowledge of the details related to VLOA (great resource!), Bob S. for publishing our fine newsletter, Doug for keeping the roster current, Phil for updating the web site, Ernie as our Chaplain, and Bob A. for coordinating the silent auction. I likely missed others who just do the work without fanfare but please know that what you do is appreciated.

In closing, I really do expect a good turnout for the reunion. With that being said, I, again, encourage you to take a few minutes NOW to register and make hotel reservations using the registration form. If it looks like we will need additional rooms, the earlier we know the more likely it is that the hotel will be able to accommodate us. Again, thanks in advance!!

God Bless each and every one!

Bert Rice

Make Reservations!!

Save The Date !!

Sept. 17-21, 2020 !!

VLOA Reunion !!

San Antonio, TX.!!

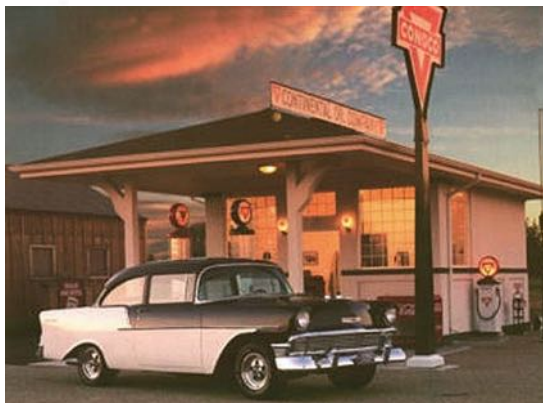
OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- Bert Rice, - National Director
Odenton, MD.
- Irwin Katz,- Deputy Director
Buffalo Grove, IL.
- Doug Wilson, -Secretary
Costa Mesa, CA
- Frank Estes, -Treasurer
Ozark, AL
- Jim Donnelly, -Historian
Virginia Beach, VA
- Bill Hensinger, -Member-At-Large
Palmyra, PA.
- Irwin Katz, Member-At-Large
Buffalo Grove, IL
- Eric Ragsdale, Member-At-Large
Mesa, AZ.
- Bob Allen, Member-At-Large
Piqua, OH.
- Fred Rosenberg, Member-At-Large
Leesburg, FL.
- Bob Sharp, -Newsletter Editor.
Albert Lea, MN.
- Phil Van Alst, -Web Master
Hau'ula, HI..
- Ernest Isbell, -Chaplain
Highland Village, TX..
- Terry Khachadourian, -Distaff Advisor
Lilburn, GA.
- Tom Anderson, -Permanent Advisor
Springfield, VA.
- Ernie Isbell, -Ex Officio (2002-04)
Highland Village, 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..

Treasurers Report– 4th. Quarter. 2019

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)	
Balance effective 01/01/2019	\$30,019.42
 REVENUES:	
Cashbox \$ return from reunion	\$600.00
Dues - Annual (19)	\$475.00
Dues - Lifetime (39)	\$3,875.00
Reunion - coin sales	\$421.00
Reunion - Silent Auction (119 items)	\$4,264.00
Reunion - Verbal Auction (2 items)	\$175.00
Reunion - 50/50 raffle	\$700.00
Donations	\$100.00
TOTAL:	\$10,610.00
 EXPENDITURES:	
Bob Sharp - 4th Qtr 2018 - Newsletter	\$713.11
Bob Sharp - 1st Qtr 2019 - Newsletter	\$635.64
Bob Sharp - 2nd Qtr 2019 - Newsletter	\$646.75
Bob Sharp - 3rd Qtr 2019 - Newsletter	\$632.56
Paper bank statements	\$18.00
Cashbox \$ for reunion	\$600.00
Printing reunion handouts	\$81.99
Reunion expenses for Welcome Bags	\$902.91
Dues postcards, labels, printing, postage	\$199.87
Armed Forces Reunion (ARF) 2020 reunion deposit	\$600.00
Harlow Media - Webhosting	\$239.88
Aplus.new - Domain names	\$50.97
TOTAL	\$5,321.68
 INCOME (LOSS) - 12 months ending 12/31/2019	 \$5,288.32
 CASH BALANCE - as of 12/31/2019	 \$35,307.74

Some of the things we longed for but were half way around the world and completely out of our reach in 1964/1965. We could not call home and when our children were born it was “days” before we were notified. Times change!





Vinh Long Outlaws Association

September 17-21, 2020

San Antonio, TX



Thursday, September 17

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

Friday, September 18

9:00am	-	3:00pm	CITY TOUR	
12:00pm	-	11:00pm	Hospitality Room Open	
12:00pm	-	11:00pm	Silent Auction Open	
6:00pm	-	10:00pm	RIO CIBOLO RANCH TEXAS BBQ DINNER	

Saturday, September 19

8:00am	-	9:00am	Executive Committee Meeting	
9:00am	-	11:00am	VLOA General Membership Meeting	
1:00am	-	3:00pm	RIVERBARGE SIGHTSEEING CRUISES	
1:00pm	-	5:00pm	Hospitality Room Open	

Sunday, September 20

9:00am	-	10:00am	Non-Denominational Church Service	
			Hospitality Room Open	
			Silent Auction Room Open	
11:00am			Silent Auction Closes	
11:00am	-	3:00pm	EL MERCARDO & TEXAS RANGER MUSEUM	
6:00pm	-	7:00pm	Cash bar and social hour	
7:00pm	-	9:00pm	Farewell Banquet	
			Hospitality Room open after Farewell Banquet	

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the final payment date (8/16/20), Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after 8/16/20 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 2020 REUNION TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

CITY TOUR

Friday, September 18

From the earliest Spanish Missionaries in 1691 to today's traveler, San Antonio's appeal continues to draw attention. Relax and enjoy a fully narrated tour of San Antonio's unique blend of rich heritage, traditions and natural beauty. Points of interest include stops at the San Jose Mission which is still an active church and is part of the National Park service, the largest of the missions; San Fernando Cathedral, the original church of the Canary Island settlers; From there you'll enjoy some time at the San Antonio River Walk or River Center Mall. Enjoy lunch on your own, possibly at Casa Rio, the first Mexican Restaurant on the River Walk. Its beautiful location and colorful umbrellas have come to symbolize the serenity and romance of the San Antonio River Walk.

9:00am board bus, 2:00pm back at hotel

Includes bus, guide and admissions. Lunch on your own.

RIO CIBOLO RANCH BBQ DINNER

Friday, September 18

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

5:00pm board bus, 10:00pm back at hotel

Includes bus, escort, dinner, and entertainment.

RIVER BARGE SIGHTSEEING CRUISE

Saturday, September 19

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.

**1:00pm board bus, 3:00m back at hotel
TIMES WILL VARY BASED ON # OF PEOPLE.**

TEXAS RANGER MUSEUM AND EL MERCADO

Sunday, September 20

Enjoy lunch at El Mercado, the largest Mexican marketplace outside of Mexico. It occupies three blocks of plazas and historic buildings full of shops, restaurants, art galleries, and more! The shops feature a wide range of products including leather goods, piñatas, jewelry, Mexican dresses, stained glass, art, pottery, and blankets. There are also authentic Mexican restaurants, many with open air patios. The plazas are alive with music, dancing, mariachis, and other entertainment. After lunch we'll head to the Texas Ranger Museum which contains priceless artifacts documenting the history and lore of the Texas Rangers. A Must-See Museum!

11:00am board bus, 3:00pm back at hotel

Includes bus, escort, and admission.

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

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

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION – SEPTEMBER 17-21, 2020

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/outlaws2020deposit and then to make final payment at www.afr-reg.com/outlaws2020final (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 08/20/20		Price	
All registration packages include 4 nights lodging (September 17-20, 2020), Buffet Breakfast every day, Welcome Buffet Dinner, 4 Tours, Farewell Banquet, and Hospitality Room expenses			
Double Occupancy (2 people)		\$1398.00	\$
Single Occupancy (1 person)		\$1004.00	\$
50% of Registration Package Deposit due by 6/5/20 Payment #1			\$
50% of Registration Package Final Payment due by 8/19/20 Payment #3			\$
PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR BANQUET DINNER ENTRÉE FOR EACH PERSON			
Grilled Sirloin Filet	#		
Chicken Piccata	#		
Vegetarian Option	#		
Additional Nights at the Hotel beyond 9/17-20/20 (optional) <i>Additional nights at hotel will need to be paid in full with registration</i>			
Double Occupancy (2 People Price per night)		\$172.50	\$
Single Occupancy (1 Person Price per night)		\$162.50	\$
			Payment # 2
			\$
Hotel Arrival Date: _____ Hotel Departure Date _____			
Room Type <input type="checkbox"/> One King Bed <input type="checkbox"/> Two Beds			
Hotel Special Needs? (Handicapped accessible?) _____			
50% Deposit paid by 6/5/20 ** Payment LINE # 1 + Payment LINE # 2		\$	
50% Final Payment paid by 8/19/20 **Payment LINE # 3		\$	
Total Amount Payable to <u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u>			\$

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: _____



Silent Auction San Antonio 2020



Our next reunion is about 8 months away in beautiful and historic San Antonio. It promises to be a delightful time of renewing friendships, making new friends, remembering those not with us, and strengthening the bond which has made the VLOA a very special organization.

Everyone who has attended an Outlaw reunion has generally agreed that the Silent Auction has been one of the most popular features of the reunion. The Auction tables, which fill the walls around the Hospitality Room, have featured a variety of interesting and curious attractions which have drawn us to purchase items and take them home. To all those who contributed items for our Charleston Reunion Silent Auction, I thank you for your support! And, a big Thank You to all our members who purchased the many great items we had up for bid. We had the most successful Silent Auction ever – 31 donors, 120+ items, 102 bids out of 119 bidders, and a total of \$4,264 contributed to the VLOA treasury!

Of course, we would like to beat those totals of our last auction and we have set higher goals for San Antonio. The Silent Auction has become a prominent part of income revenue for the VLOA. Many of our expenses, including those special touches of each reunion, are covered by the proceeds from the Silent Auction. So, let's make the next Silent Auction both fun as well as a financial success.

Your association needs each of you to provide one or more items for San Antonio. And, even if you can't come to San Antonio in September, you can still show your support for the VLOA. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact me and we can discuss how to get it there. Our goal is to have at least 140 items up for bid in San Antonio. Based on what we experienced in Charleston, this next reunion will continue to have more attendees and potential bidders.

The only criteria for auction items is that they be things you would like to take home, plus things that have a quality that will stimulate others to bid for the right to take that item home. When you have items to contribute please take a picture of each item, write a brief description of each, and what you think the opening bid should be for each item. Then, send the information to me at the following address:

bandsallen@att.net, or phone or text at 937-216-6564.

Thank YOU in advance for your support! Remember, Now is the time for all good Outlaws/Mavericks to come to the aid of their association (my apologies to Charles Weller).

Bob Allen.



The Original Outlaw Skull



Many of you know the name **Bob Bergquist**. For those who don't, Bob was one of the original Outlaws who comprised the Advanced Party and who deployed from Fort Benning to Vinh Long in late 1964. Additionally, Bob was in the first Maverick platoon. But, to fill out this story, about the Outlaw skull, we have to go back many years, all the way to WWII.

In 1947 Captain Al Kinder, US Army Air Corps (later the US Air Force) was assigned to Davis Monthan Air Base in Tucson, AZ. Al was a seasoned combat veteran who had served in both the Pacific and European Theaters as a bombardier/navigator flying in both B-26 Marauders and B-17 Flying Fortresses. He had been awarded the DFC, Air Medal with 7 Oak Leaf clusters and his unit the Presidential Unit Citation. Little would he realize, as a University of Texas graduate in 1942, how future world events would change his life and his new assignment would eventually link him to the Vinh Long Outlaws.

In 1948 Al met Mary Ann Adams and they were married. Al separated from the service and went to work for Mary Ann's aunt in the warehouse and transfer business.

Along came 1951 and, through a connection with Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Al was asked to help an Air Force widow find a house in Tucson. The lady was Gertrude "Babs" **Bergquist**, widow of Colonel Ehrling **Bergquist** who had been killed in a tragic airplane crash in February 1948 at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. By then, Babs had two children, Barbara (14) and **Bob** (10). They settled in Tucson in a house not far from Al Kinder and the two families established a life-long friendship.

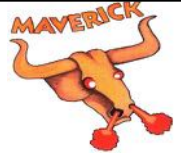
As the **Bergquist** children grew, Al became somewhat of a surrogate father to them. He watched them grow up and attend college. **Bob** enlisted in the Army, completed OCS and Army Aviation rotary wing training at Fort Rucker. As a newly minted helicopter pilot, he was assigned to the 11th Air Assault Division at Fort Benning and, when the 62d Aviation Company was activated, assigned to that unit which was bound for Viet Nam.

1st Lt. **Bob Bergquist** accompanied the Advanced party to Vinh Long. Very soon after their arrival, the Advanced group selected the call sign Outlaw for the unit and the very appropriate name of Mavericks for the gun platoon. Shortly thereafter, Bob set about designing the Outlaw patch and the Maverick logo, both of which were quickly adopted as official emblems of the unit. Not satisfied with just the patch design, and with the skull as the pre-dominant feature of the patch, Bob started thinking about how to get a real southwestern steer skull for the unit in Vinh Long.

In one of many frequent tapes and letters to his mother about his experiences in Viet Nam, he asked her to see if she could obtain a real steer skull and have it sent to him. His mother, "Babs", frequently included the Kinders in reading and playing Bob's tapes because of their friendship and interest in the family. Perhaps Bob, in his always optimistic thinking, thought his mother could simply comb the Arizona desert and easily find the desired skull. It soon became apparent that the task of finding a skull somewhere out in the desert was not to be. So, Bob's mother "Babs" turned to the Kinders for help.



Contd. From pg. 7



Al, being a practical man, immediately went to a local slaughter house and purchased a newly severed head from a steer. He then took on the project of reducing the head to a skull. The task was, by no means, simple. Al fashioned a cauldron to contain the head, built a large fire in his back yard, and began boiling the head in order to remove the flesh. Naturally, the odor coming from Al's back yard did not endear him to some of his closest neighbors. After several days of boiling, and the head had cooled, Al had to remove the cooked flesh. He carefully scraped the head and sun-dried the skull for several weeks before it was fit to send to Bob in Vinh Long.

When the skull was ready for shipment, the next hurdle was sending it to Vinh Long. Al again turned to some of his remaining connections at Davis Monthan AFB for help. Once the story of the skull, and the helicopter unit in Viet Nam became known, the Air Force made transportation arrangements for the skull to be sent to Travis AFB, then on to Than Son Nhut AFB, and finally to Vinh Long by C-123 aircraft. Soon after the skull arrived, a large painted sign of the Outlaw patch was fashioned and the skull permanently affixed, it was placed immediately outside the 62d Aviation Company's orderly room.

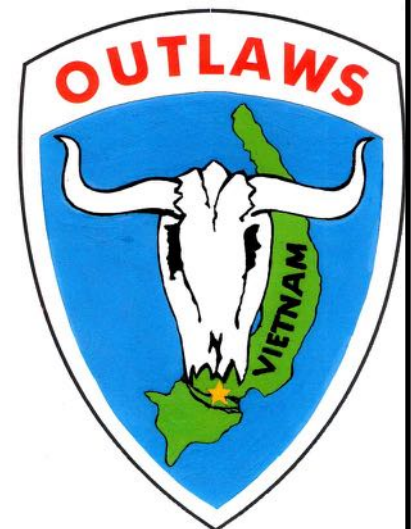
A mystery remains to this day as to the whereabouts of the Outlaw's original skull, which had such an interesting tale and journey to Vinh Long. It should be noted here that the original patch design, featuring a southwestern steer skull, designed by Bob Bergquist, was "bastardized" and a water buffalo skull appeared on later renditions of the patch. Who did this??? And, where is the original Outlaws steer skull today?

Editors Note: Al Iller, the second Outlaw 6, wrote the original story of the Outlaw skull which appeared in the April-June 2006 edition of the Outlaw Newsletter. Al obtained information for that story which was originally provided by Mrs. Al Kinder of Tucson, AZ and Mrs. Rebecca **Bergquist** Quinn of Huntsville AL, through several telephone interviews.

If anyone has a picture of that original skull, please send a copy to Tom Anderson (teander@cox.net)



**Bob
Bergquist
And
His
Beloved—
Outlaw Patch.**





The Indispensable Huey Crew Chief...



In Viet Nam, the typical helicopter pilot would complete a day's mission over Viet Nam by putting his aircraft in its overnight location, hit the battery switch, scrawl his name in the flight log and seek a remedy for the hazards of a day's mission.

His confidence had to have come from his knowledge that the next day, early in the morning, he will preflight the same aircraft in the half-light of another morning and fly it over a country not known for its "hospitality" to pilots who "drop in" unexpectedly. His confidence was more than justified by the continuing efforts, skill and competence of a 67N20, otherwise known as the "**Crew Chief**". Crew Chiefs were responsible for maintaining every aspect of the Huey.

Pilots often thought that an aircraft was THEIR aircraft. In reality, they were only renting the machine for the day. When the day was over, they would return the aircraft to the REAL owner of the machine, the Crew Chief.

On arrival in the Outlaws, a new crew chief might normally have been assigned to the Service Platoon to work in the hangar to familiarize himself with the procedures and techniques used in Viet Nam. After proving himself in the hangar, he was assigned his own aircraft as the Crew Chief.

In the Outlaw unit, the duties of a crew chief were enormously important! The complexity of the aircraft and equipment he was responsible for, and the proficiency expected of him, placed him, among an elite group on whose shoulders rested the life and safety of every crewmember who was in the bird when pitch was pulled.

His day normally began early, usually about two hours before dawn. To ensure that the aircraft was mechanically ready, he might start by checking the head and stabilizer bar, then check the oil gauges, the hydraulic system, the electrical systems and the fuel intake. He supervised all loading of the aircraft to insure a safe center of gravity.

In flight, he monitored the pilot/crew intercom to know the mission, current situation and potential dangers. He would watch below for the enemy, and along with the door gunner, lay down suppressive fire when needed. He was constantly on alert for abnormal noises from the engine or transmission. He was responsible for ensuring clearance for the tail rotor in tight landing zones. Whenever the aircraft would be shut down, he didn't have the luxury or time to grab a "C" and relax. He would inspect every potential problem area.

When the mission was completed and the aircraft shut down at the end of the day, his work just began. He would start by making his daily inspection, clean and grease the head, clean the air filters by running water through them, check the engine for loose or worn fuel and oil lines, grease the tail rotor, check the engine for loose or worn parts, check the oil gauges, the hydraulic and electrical systems and the stabilizing bar. His job was to make sure all components were functional for the next day when the pilot would return to again rent the Crew Chief's aircraft for the day.



2020 Reunion Shirts Something NEW!



One of the most vivid, and memorable, scenes from each Outlaw reunion is seeing the dozens of Outlaws and their ladies wearing their new Outlaw reunion shirts. Plus, we'll be in San Antonio where the warm weather in September should allow wearing the shirts indoors or outdoors every day.

This year the reunion shirt is a three-color pattern featuring the official Army Aviation branch colors, Ultramarine Blue and Golden Orange with a narrow white stripe separating the blue and gold colors across the shoulder and sleeve. For those who are desperate to know more detailed information regarding the color, a little research reveals that "ultramarine" is a deep blue color pigment which was originally made by grinding lapis lazuli into a powder. The name itself comes from the Latin *ultramarinus*, literally "beyond the sea", because the pigment itself was imported into Europe from mines in Afghanistan by Italian traders during the 14th and 15th centuries. (Yes, that's probably more information than you ever cared to know, but at least now you are much more historically educated!)

The reunion shirts are a Sport-Tek polo tri-color micropique material. We've had this style shirt in the past and it has been very popular. This year a unique, and very attractive shirt feature will be the Outlaw logo trimmed in gold, to match the gold stripe on the shirt.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find the Shirt Order Form with which to place your order. Yes, there are several months remaining before the reunion. However, to give our supplier as much advance notice as possible regarding the approximate number of shirts to be purchased and embroidered, we're asking that you place your shirt order request as early as possible, well ahead of the reunion. All orders are pre-paid, of course, and we must receive your order **no later than August 30, 2020**.

The price for each shirt remains at \$30, same as at the Charleston reunion with larger sizes at a slightly increased cost.

Tom Anderson is again coordinating shirt orders, payments and delivery. For those who attend the reunion, your shirts will be in your Welcome Bags at the VLOA Registration desk. If you cannot attend the reunion but would like to have one of these attractive Outlaw-logo shirts, please fill out the appropriate portions of the Order Form and add \$5.00 for shipping and packaging costs to your total. And, please ensure that you have provided your name and mailing address on the Order Form. As it says on the Order Form, make your checks out to VLOA, not to Tom. (He can't be trusted with your money).



2020 SAN ANTONIO - OUTLAW ROUNDUP

SHIRT ORDER FORM

The official **2020 Outlaw Roundup** shirt is likely to be the most appealing reunion shirt we have ever had. The colors were selected to match the authorized Army Aviation branch colors, ultramarine blue and golden orange. The polo shirt is a polyester micropique sport-wick t. To accentuate the vivid shirt colors, the Outlaw patch will also be trimmed in gold.

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

MENS' SHIRT SIZES:

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

LADIES' SHIRT SIZES

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

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, 2020 !.

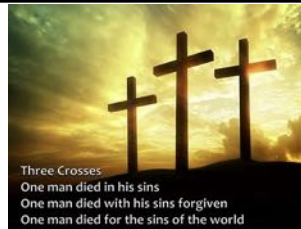
Send this shirt Order Form, with payment – made payable to VLOA, to :

Tom Anderson
7880 Rolling Woods Ct #308
Springfield, VA 22152

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

The Back Pew

By: Ernest Isbell



When I agreed to become the VLOA Chaplain for this period of our organizations existence I decided not to portray myself as an actual minister, but rather someone who seeks out anecdotes that are worth sharing. The following is from the January-March 2003 Outlaws Newsletter and was provided by Chaplain John Doyle as a story that he ran across. It has a great message.

“There was a woman who was diagnosed with a terminal illness and was given three months to live. As she began to get her things “in order”, she called her pastor and asked him to come to her house and discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him what songs she wanted sung at her service, what scriptures she would like to be read, and what dress she wanted to be buried in. She also asked that she be buried with her favorite bible in her left hand.”

Everything was in order and as the pastor was preparing to leave the woman remembered one final request that was very important. “Please Pastor, just one more thing.” “Sure, what is it?” came the Pastor’s reply. “This is very important to me,” the woman continued, “I want to be buried holding a fork in my right hand.” The Pastor gazed at the woman, with a loss for words. “That surprises you doesn’t it? the woman asked. The Pastor replied, “Well to be quite honest, I’m puzzled by your request.” The woman explained, “You see pastor, in all my years of attending church socials and pot luck dinners, I remember that when the dishes were being cleared after the main course, someone would inevitably lean over to me and say, “Keep your fork.” “It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming, like velvety chocolate cake, or deep dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance to end a great meal.”

The pastor listened intently, and a smile came over his face. The woman continued, “So, I just want people to see me in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder why. “What’s with the fork?” I want you to tell them, “Keep your fork, the best is yet to come.”

The pastor’s eyes welled with tears of joy as he hugged the woman goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times that he would see her before her death. But he also realized that the woman had a better grasp of Heaven than he did. She KNEW and trusted that the best was yet to come.

At the funeral everyone that walked by the woman’s casket saw her wearing a beautiful dress with her favorite Bible in her left hand and a fork in her right hand. Over and over the pastor heard people ask the question. “Why is she holding a fork?” During his message the pastor told of the conversation he had with the woman before she died. He explained the fork and what it symbolized to her. The pastor told everyone how he could not stop thinking about the fork and that he hoped they would not be able to stop thinking about it either. This had quite an impact on everyone and he hoped they would not stop thinking about the meaning as well. Won’t you share this message?

A footnote – During this past summer I was diagnosed with cancer of the bladder. My doctor removed the cancer in late October and at his office last week he reexamined the site and told me that it appeared to be in good shape. He changed his prognosis and recommended no chemotherapy treatment at this time. I have my fork in my hand and the future looks brighter. I wish the best for all of you.

God Bless, Ernie Isbell, Chaplain VLOA, Spring 2020



Daniel T. Lassner

Daniel T. Lassner, age 68, resident of Ridgway, IL passed from this life, Sunday, October 20, 2019 at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale, IL. Daniel was born in Detroit, Michigan on April 13, 1951 to the late Robert and Alice (Herships) Lassner.

Dan, as most knew him, was an Army Veteran serving his country as a pilot during Vietnam and Desert Storm. On Nov. 26, 1977 he married Elaine (Olivier) Lassner. Dan retired as a commercial pilot; he flew helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, and just about every other flying conveyance out there. He worked many years for Downen Enterprises as their helicopter pilot. He was a member of the Civil Air Patrol, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and several other aviation-related organizations. Dan possessed a Bachelors Degree in Aviation Management. He was a Presbyterian by faith and one of the most generous people in the world, always helping and giving to the needy and poor. He loved his family very much, but he really enjoyed his grandchildren, being with them almost every day. Dan will be sorely missed.

Dan is survived by his wife Elaine of Ridgway, son, Nick (Amy) Lassner of Ridgway, daughter, Sara Lassner (Scott Sandoval) of Los Angeles, CA., his two precious grandchildren, Elliott and Isabella Lassner of Ridgway, and four brothers, George, Michael, Joe and Bob Lassner.

Per Dan's wishes, he will be cremated and his ashes spread over Lake Michigan in the spring of 2020.

To send flowers to Daniel's family, please visit our [floral section](#).



Rosalie Jeannette Smith

1935-2019

Rosalie Jeannette Smith, age 84, of Powder Springs, Georgia passed away Friday, October 18, 2019. A Memorial Service was held at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at West Cobb Funeral Home and Crematory in Marietta. A long-time resident of Powder Springs, Mrs. Smith retired after a career as a government employee ending at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. She was also involved with the Powder Springs Woman's Club, and served as treasurer for the West Princeton Home Owner's Association. She was a lover of all animals, an avid reader of the Marietta Daily Journal and the Atlanta-Constitution, and was a connoisseur of coffee. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Beal Smith, in 2014. Survivors include: a son, Brenton K. Smith and wife Hannah Layton, Powder Springs, GA; a daughter, Alycia J. Smith and husband Eric Anderson, Atlanta, GA; grandson, Jaxon Anderson; sister, Mary Gatipon, Arlington, TX. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cobb County Humane Society. The family received friends on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 from 3:00 pm until 4:00 pm at the funeral home. Online guest book at www.westcobbfuneralhome.com.

Who was Jeannette Smith?

As most of you know, Jack Sanford was the first Maverick Lead. He was an outstanding soldier. He was 33 years old when he was KIA on 16 June, 1965 and already had 18 years military service. He enlisted in the USMC at 15, was found out when he was 16 and serving in China. He was sent back to the US, discharged but enlisted in the Army at 17. As a platoon sergeant in Korea he received his first purple heart. Jack met and married Jeannette when he finished OCS and later went to flight school. He earned a black belt in TaeKwonDo. He finished his college degree through the Army's Boot Strap program. Three weeks before he was killed, he took a round into the side of his neck, was hospitalized for four days before insisting that he was OK and demanded that he be returned to Maverick duty .

His wife, Jeannette, was just as driven, ambitious, outgoing and outstanding as Jack. When Jack deployed to Viet Nam with the Outlaws, Jeannette wanted to be near him. As a dependent, she couldn't come to Viet Nam, so she did the next best thing. She obtained employment with the huge Viet Nam civilian construction company RMK/BRJ and asked to be sent to Viet Nam as a civilian. It was early in 1964 and rules could be slightly bent to allow Jeannette to occasionally come to Vinh Long to visit Jack and the Outlaws. She was working in Saigon when Jack was killed. A close friend, Captain Bryce Kramer flew to Saigon to break the news to Jeannette, and then accompanied Jack's body back to Arlington Cemetery where he is interred beside thousands of other American heroes. Jack was posthumously promoted to Major. Although Jeannette remarried another Army aviator, who also predeceased her, she never lost touch with the Outlaws. Over the years she attended many of the reunions and became friends with numerous Outlaws who never knew Jack but were delighted by her charm. She also made sure that she regularly submitted items for the Silent Auction. She insisted that she receive the Outlaw Newsletter.

Sadly, Jeannette's obituary made no mention of her first husband, Jack. A number of her friends wanted today's Outlaws to know who she was, that Jeannette Sanford Smith was very much a member of the Outlaws and will be fondly remembered by her many Outlaw friends.

God rest her soul.

Daniel M. Bustamante

Daniel M. Bustamante, 78, passed away Sunday, February 24, 2019 in Fort Worth Texas.

Service was 2 p.m. Friday, March 1, in the Baum-Carlock-Bumgardner Chapel. Burial will follow at Woodland Park Cemetery. Visitation was from 12-2 Friday at the funeral home.

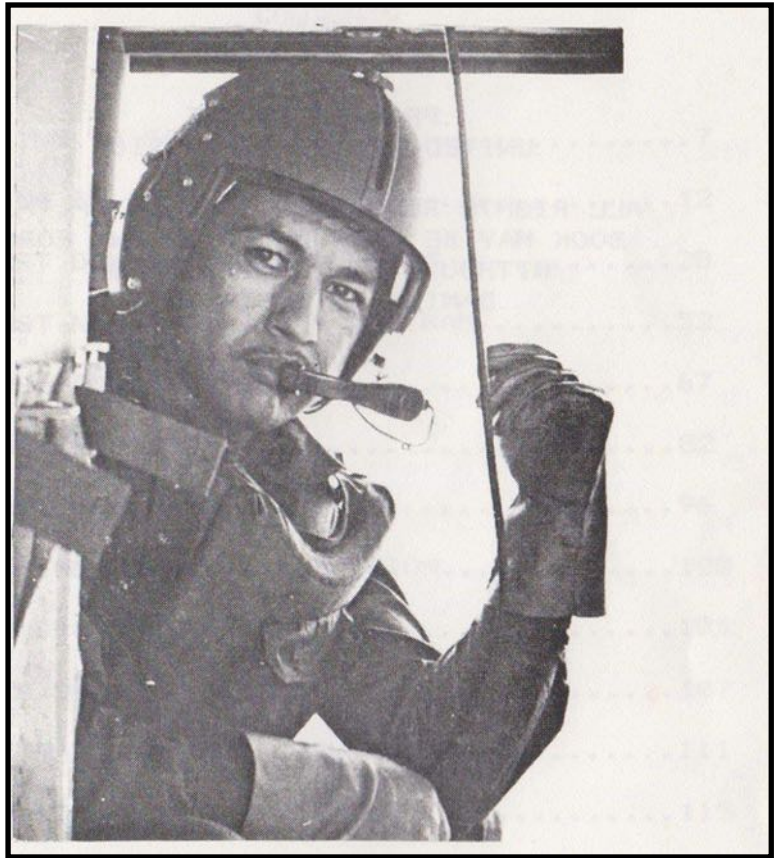
He was born September 3, 1940, in El Campo, Texas, the son of Daniel and Sebera (Mancias) Bustamante. He married Elida Trevino October 1, 1969, in Mineral Wells Texas.

He grew up on a farm in South Texas, first of ten children. He enlisted in the Army in 1962 where he learned to become a helicopter maintenance technician. He volunteered for a tour of Duty in South Vietnam from 68-69. Upon returning from his tour of duty, he was assigned to Fort Wolters, Mineral Wells, Texas. It was here that he met and married his wife Elida; and for next 49 years they spent their lives together. The both of them traveled together for next 12 years, while still serving in the Army. They lived in the countries of Panama and Germany. They also lived in Fort Lewis Washington, Fort Riley Kansas, and Fort Hood Texas. It was in Fort Hood where he decided to retire from the Army. They decided to move and live in Mineral Wells to settle down. Once in Mineral Wells, he felt the need to serve again. He eventually found new a calling, and become one Mineral Wells "finest" as a Police Officer. He was on the police force for nearly 10 years before deciding to fully retire. After retirement, they both decided to move and live in Fort Worth and Wichita Falls Texas; they finally returned to Mineral Wells to rest.

Daniel is survived by his wife, Elida Bustamante; sons & daughters-in-law Daniel & Tammy Bustamante, David & Beverly Bustamante; daughters & sons-in-law Dora Bustamante & Simon Losoya, Dolores Bustamante & Cristobal Tello; brothers Frank & Sebero; Sisters Henrietta, Mary, Olivia, & Yolanda; sisters-in-laws Margie, Pauline, Gloria, & Lupe; brothers-in-laws Carlos, Benny, Manual & Steve; grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, numerous nieces & nephews, extended family members and host of loving friends.

Daniel was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers Luis & Joe and sister Jane.

Leave condolences at www.bcbfuneralhome.com.
Baum-Carlock-Bumgardner funeral Home



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 handybobsharp@gmail.com
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Winter - 2019

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 \$25.00 annually, payable each January. A Lifetime Membership (with vote) is a \$100.00 one-time fee. A Lifetime Associate Membership (without vote) for spouses and relatives is available for a \$100 one-time donation. Higher levels of Lifetime Memberships are available; contact the National Director at: bert07@comcast.net 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) _____ to _____

Unit/plt/sect/position _____ Radio Call sign _____

- Please initiate _____ or renew _____ my Active _____ Associate _____ VLOA membership. **Make \$25.00 check payable to VLOA.**
- Please initiate my Lifetime _____ Lifetime Associate _____ VLOA membership. **Make \$100.00 check payable to VLOA.**

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

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

Comments: _____