



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

"www.vinhlongoutlaws.com"

Vinh Long Outlaws Spring 2021 Newsletter

January-March

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

1st. Quarter 2021

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

See you in San Antonio, TX.!!

National Director's Corner

By- **Bert Rice**



First, I hope this finds you doing well and that you have been able to get the COVID shots! Pat and I received our last on Saturday, 20 March and had only minor side effects. Now, we feel more comfortable in starting to socialize and, of course, doing so as safely as possible.

Again, I have been in contact with Armed Forces Reunion, Inc (AFR). regarding our reunion to make some final arrangements. I believe we are pretty well set to get registered. I have mailed in my registration form with the initial deposit and am really looking forward to seeing everyone in September in San Antonio, TX. We will try to make this reunion as memorable as all previous ones!

I want to offer a few reminders. First, the initial 50% registration package deposit is due by not later than 4 June. Because it so critical to determine the final number of rooms required, please register by 4 June so that we can be assured by our selected venue (Holiday Inn on the River) that we will be accommodated. Second, if you plan to arrive early or stay after the reunion, you will need to include that amount with initial deposit. The cost per night is stated on the form and is shown as Payment # 2. Third, the final payment is due by not later than 19 August. Be sure to read the registration form carefully!

Please read the newsletter carefully since there are additional articles related to the reunion. If you haven't ordered a reunion shirt yet please read Tom's article and consider purchasing one soon. I think they are very attractive! Cont. on Pg.2.

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..

Cont. from Pg.1 Here are a few thoughts as I close. I have noted over the years that many organizations have changed the frequency of holding meetings. They will go from monthly to quarterly and then maybe to either a six month meeting or an annual meeting. Often the result is that that organization or sub-elements of the organization die for lack of interest.

My point is that the same could happen to VLOA if we don't make the effort to keep our reunions on a two year schedule. This helps keep the organization vibrant and its members engaged. Tom's article gives good reason for getting more of our members actively engaged which will help assure the long-term survival of VLOA. I, too, invite you to step up and assume responsibility for one of many positions. The assistance provided by those who have or are currently serving in key positions is wonderful. Their support has certainly helped me serve as the National Director. In any case, please consider getting more actively engaged!

I am hoping that we get a large turnout for our reunion and believe we can hold it in a safe, responsible manner. I look forward to seeing you in September! God Bless each and everyone!

See You in San Antonio!!



Bert Rice

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set alarms to wake up. That is hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

This shit deep

The more chances you give someone the less respect they'll start to have for you. They'll begin to ignore the standards that you've set because they'll know another chance will always be given. They're not afraid to lose you because they know no matter what you won't walk away. They get comfortable with depending on your forgiveness. Never let a person get comfortable disrespecting you.

3am thoughts

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA) Financial Statement - 2021

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

REVENUES:

Dues - Annual	\$75.00
Dues - Lifetime	\$400.00
Dues - Patriot Lifetime	\$400.00
Sales - reunion shirts	\$92.00
TOTAL:	<u>\$967.00</u>

EXPENDITURES:

Newsletters & bank statements	\$683.55
TOTAL:	<u>\$683.55</u>

CASH BALANCE - as of 3/31/2021 \$37,129.29

Details: 3 months period ending 3/31/2021

Revenues Detail

Sales - reunion shirts	\$92.00
Sub-Total	<u>\$92.00</u>

Dues: - 2021

Annual Memberships (AM): - 2021

Robert Tidd	\$25.00
John Salzer	\$25.00
Gary Bradford	\$25.00
Sub-Total	<u>\$75.00</u>

Lifetime Memberships (LM): - 2021

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

Patriot Lifetime Membership (PLM) - 2021

Phil Van Alst	\$400.00
Sub Total	<u>\$400.00</u>

Total Revenues - 3 months period 2021 \$967.00

Expenses Details

Bob Sharp - 4th Qtr 2020 - Newsletter	\$679.05
Bob Sharp - 1st Qtr 2021 - Newsletter	
Bob Sharp - 2nd Qtr 2021 - Newsletter	
Bob Sharp - 3rd Qtr 2021 - Newsletter	
Paper bank statements	\$4.50
<u>Total Expenses - 3 months period 2021</u>	<u>\$683.55</u>

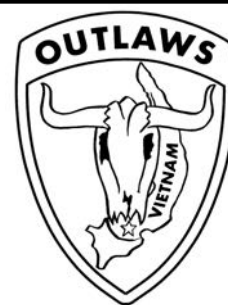
INCOME (LOSS) - 3 months period ending 3/31/2021 \$283.45

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



How has the VLOA Continued to Function, and Grow, for over 2 Decades?

By Frank Estes and Tom Anderson



Recently, we saw humorous video clip of the now-retired NFL quarterback Peyton Manning who was supposedly becoming a resident in a **Florida Seniors** home. The Home Director told Peyton “*Remember, everyone in here is in their 4th Quarter - with no time-outs left*”. Guys, that’s where WE are, whether we will admit to it or not.

However, on a more positive note, the VLOA is **NOT YET** in that 4th quarter! Everyone seems to agree that our great Association can remain viable, hold reunions, maintain a positive cash position, and continue with our newsletter and website, for at least another 10 or more years! But..... that viability will absolutely require members to continue to step up and make themselves available for positions now being held by some of those who are already “well into their 4th quarter”.

The last Outlaw Newsletter featured an article which pointed out the obvious, that **volunteers** are what makes the Association run.

Since its inception, literally dozens of Outlaw “**volunteers**” have participated in “making things happen” in the Association. These tasks range from minor items to major components of our VLOA structure. A “look-back” at some of the tasks that have performed over the past two decades, and by how many different individuals, identified at least 104 individual members who have contributed their time and effort to the dozens of functions needed to keep the Association running so smoothly. Without naming individuals, here’s a very unscientific summary of a number of the functions and tasks which those 104+ Outlaws have performed.

To begin with, we have been fortunate to have had 10 extremely capable **National Directors**. Additionally, 4 members have served as the **VLOA Secretary**. The **VLOA Treasurer**, an appointed position, has been fortunate to have had 5 members manage this crucial, and time-consuming task. Additionally, more than 25 members have served as **Steering Committee Members-at-Large**.

11 different **Reunion Coordinators** donated hundreds and hundreds of hours, over at least a year’s time, to plan, coordinate and manage the hundreds of activities required for successful reunions. At the reunions, several members have served as the **Master of Ceremonies**. Additionally, at each reunion Farewell dinner, 3 members have traditionally narrated the stirring **Missing Comrades Ceremony**.

Our acclaimed **VLOA website** has been managed by 5 different, and extremely talented, members. The **VLOA Newsletter**, one of the most visible, but time-consuming, components of our Association, has had 6 members take on this VERY demanding position.

A number of years ago, 1 of our members volunteered to be the **VLOA Historian**. The Historian has taken on the herculean task of collecting and historically documenting literally thousands of military records, photos, videos etc. relating to the founding, growth and history of our Association. These files will ultimately be forwarded to the Texas Tech Viet Nam Center and Archives.

The largest money source for the VLOA treasury, the Reunion **Silent Auction**, has been managed by 5 different members. The second most lucrative financial source, the Reunion **50/50 raffle**,

Contd. On pg.5

Contd. From pg.4

it has been coordinated by 3 different members. The VLOA could not continue to exist **without** these two vital activities.

No organization could function if it does not know WHO its members are. Our current VLOA roster of more than 600 names began with 6 or 7 members researching dozens of sources to form the initial roster of a few dozen names. Since then, the vital **VLOA Roster** has been diligently maintained by 6 members. Each dues-paying member receives an official **Membership Card**, prepared and mailed by one of the 4 members who have taken on this activity over the years.

2 members designed our 5 Outlaw logos. Later, 1 member spent months obtaining government approval for **copyrighting our VLOA logos** which protects the artists proprietary rights, protects VLOA's right to these logos and prevents the possibility of others using our logos for commercial gain.

4 members contributed to obtaining the **IRS 501(c)(19) tax-exempt war veterans** organization status for the VLOA. Moreover, for over 20 years, 1 of these members has continued to ensure that VLOA's **Federal Income tax report** is submitted on a timely basis.

Most members may not be aware that, when we know of a member loss, the VLOA sends **Condolence Cards** to the families of our deceased members. 6 members have taken responsibility for performing this rewarding task over the years.

A VLOA Memorial Committee, consisting of 3 members plus the VLOA Steering Committee, several years ago, designed, had constructed, and obtained approval to emplace a large **Outlaws Memorial Stone** in Veteran's Park at Fort Rucker. Moreover, the same group was responsible for obtaining approval to also mount a beautiful 12X18 **Outlaw Memorial plaque** just inside the main entrance to the Fort Rucker Army Aviation museum.

A massive 55+ page **VLOA Policy File**, which outlines procedures, policies and history for literally every facet of managing the VLOA structure, was developed over two years primarily by 2 VLOA members. 3 members collectively established a membership-approved **VLOA Awards Program** for recognizing deserving members at Reunions. Additionally, 2 members have taken on the task of **Reunion Photographer** at several reunions.

As you can see, the VLOA organization has continued to thrive, and grow, based on the willingness of its members to step forward to assume a wide variety of roles necessary to perpetuate our fabulous veteran's organization.

The purpose of outlining all this VLOA history is to, hopefully, encourage members to offer their service and time to the operation of the VLOA in any appropriate way. At the general membership meeting at the (hoped-for) 2021 reunion in San Antonio, there will be a floor discussion of the need for members to do just that.

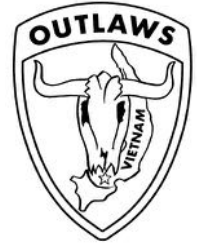
Bottom line The genesis of our wonderful Vinh Long Outlaws Association came from that long-ago, amorphous group of a few old Outlaws, who got together in Pigeon Forge, TN in 1998.. Let's help keep it going for at least another decade!

See you at the Reunion in San Antonio !!





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



Thursday, September 23			
1:00pm	-	7:00pm	Registration Open
			Hospitality Room Open
			Silent Auction Open
7:00pm	-	9:00pm	Welcome Buffet Dinner
Friday, September 24			
9:00am	-	2:00pm	CITY TOUR
2:00pm	-	11:00pm	Hospitality Room Open
2:00pm	-	11:00pm	Silent Auction Open
6:00pm	-	10:30pm	RIO CIBOLO RANCH TEXAS BBQ DINNER
Saturday, September 25			
8:00am	-	9:00am	Executive Committee Meeting
9:00am	-	11:00am	VLOA General Membership Meeting
1:00pm	-	3:00pm	RIVERBARGE SIGHTSEEING CRUISES
3:00pm	-	11:00pm	Hospitality Room Open
Sunday, September 26			
9:00am	-	10:00am	Non-Denominational Church Service
			Hospitality Room Open
			Silent Auction Room Open
10:00am	-	3:00pm	EL MERCARDO & TEXAS RANGER MUSEUM
11:00am			Silent Auction Closes
6:00pm	-	7:00pm	Cash bar and social hour
7:00pm	-	9:00pm	Farewell Banquet
9:00pm	-	11:00pm	Hospitality Room open after Farewell Banquet
Monday, September 27			
			Farewells & Departures

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

*For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the final payment date (8/19/21), Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$15 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after 8/19/21 will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.***

Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.



CITY TOUR Friday, September 24

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

**9:00am board bus, 2:00pm back at hotel
Includes bus, guide and admissions. Lunch on your own.**

RIO CIBOLO RANCH BBQ DINNER Friday, September 24

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

**6:00pm board bus, 10:30pm back at hotel
Includes bus, escort, dinner, and entertainment.**

See you in San Antonio!!



RIVER BARGE SIGHTSEEING CRUISE Saturday, 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.

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

TEXAS RANGER MUSEUM AND EL MERCADO Sunday, September 26

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!

**10:00am 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.

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

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION – SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2021

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST _____ LAST _____

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).

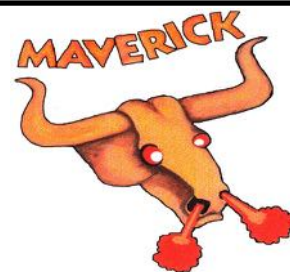
CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

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



VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION (VLOA) “COPYRIGHTS REVISITED”

(Extracted from *Outlaws Newsletter, Jan-Mar 2007*)



Recently, issues about the use of patches and logos representative of the Outlaws and related sub- and attached-units have come up, and bodes well for republishing an article that addressed these issues some 14 years ago. Essentially, any item provided for use by the Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA), such as pictures/photos, articles, logos, and similar items become the property of the VLOA and cannot be used by other individuals or organizations without the written consent of the VLOA. Before approving such use by others, the VLOA will seek release by the provider of the items. However, with regard to the logos for the Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners, and 28th Signal Detachment, these logos have been copyrighted to protect the VLOA and the individuals who designed, finalized, and provided them to the original Outlaws in Vietnam. The following article explains further the VLOA policy for use of these copyrighted logos.

Comments by Frank Estes

“The lead article (page 1) of the VLOA Newsletter, January - March First Issue 2007 provided background, decision process and final approval by the U.S. Copyright Office for the copyrights to the original artwork of the Outlaws patch, 150th Cargo Helicopter Field Maintenance patch, 28th Signal Detachment patch, and the Maverick and Roadrunner logos. In that article, it was stated that the purpose and intent of the copyright effort was to preserve and protect historically the artwork and designs of the patches and logos as originally created by members assigned and/or attached to the 62nd Aviation Company (later re-designated Company A, 502nd Aviation Battalion, and then 175th Assault Helicopter Company), 150th Cargo Helicopter Field Maintenance Detachment and 28th Signal Detachment when first deployed from CONUS to Vietnam in late 1964.

“These five patches/logos were approved by the U.S. Copyright Office in August 2006 as of September 2005 submission. Since the approval of the VLOA copyrights, there have been comments and concerns from various sources as to the intent of VLOA’s copyright action. As set forth in the above earlier referenced article, and reiterated above, the purpose was to historically preserve and protect the original artwork and designs through the copyright action. As quoted in that same article, “The wearing, display, reproduction, use, etc. by any former members of the 62nd Aviation Company; Company A, 502nd Aviation Battalion of the 1964-1965 era, the follow-on 175th Assault Helicopter Company and all their attached units/detachments, throughout their service in Republic of Vietnam, of these original designs and derivatives thereof would not be infringed upon nor inhibited in any way by reason of VLOA holding the copyrights to the original designs.” However, the VLOA would discourage the use of designs for commercial purposes and profit, except by organized groups of former members of the referenced units and detachments for the benefit of their group or membership and for other philanthropic purposes. Contributed by: Al Iller.”



ROADRUNNER





Silent Auction San Antonio, 2021



Our next reunion is finally about to happen and is 6 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 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!

Bob Allen

See you in San Antonio!!





2021 reunion Shirts Order Now!



Well, it now appears that the **2020**, no....make that the **2021** VLOA Reunion, will be a "GO". Fortunately, we had already selected the official Reunion shirt more than a year ago. In anticipation of the Reunion being in 2020, a number of members ordered, and received, their shirts almost a year ago. So now it's again time for us to think about ordering our shirts for the September 2021 Reunion in San Antonio, TX.

A picture of a VLOA geezer, wearing the 2021 Reunion shirt, is on our web site under the Reunion header. (The shirt is far better looking than the geezer). We've had nothing but compliments about the shirts from those who earlier received theirs.

A Shirt Order Form is also included in this issue of the Newsletter. Either clip it out or make a copy. All shirts ordered from now until the cut-off date will be placed in your Welcome Bag at Reunion Registration. Your check will be deposited in the VLOA treasury.

Please note several items regarding your shirt order.

- 1). All orders are pre-paid. There will be no "extra" shirts for sale at the reunion.
- 2). The Order Form is self-explanatory regarding such things as men's, ladies, sizes, additional cost for 2XL, 3XL and 4XL, where to mail your Order Form and check, etc.
- 3). All orders, payable to the VLOA, must be received by August 31st 2021 in order to give our supplier time to make the shirts and get them to us in time for the Reunion.
- 4). You can order a shirt even if you do not plan to attend the Reunion. In that case, your shirt can be mailed to you.... However, you are asked to add \$5 to your order for postage.

One important final note..... The 2010 Reunion Registration Form is also found in this Newsletter. Registration requires us to send in **50% of our Registration cost by June 4, 2021**. It is expected that everyone in our age group will have received their 2 coronavirus shots by that time. Start planning your trip to the Reunion!!!

See you in San Antonio !





2021 SAN ANTONIO - OUTLAW ROUNDUP

SHIRT ORDER FORM

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

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

MENS' SHIRT SIZES:

	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL*	3XL*	4XL*		
	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, 2021!

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

Tom Anderson

7880 Rolling Woods Ct #308

Springfield, VA 22152

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

The Back Pew

By: Ernest Isbell



Hello everyone,

Linda and I hope that all of you are social distancing, getting vaccinated, and staying healthy. As an old expression states – “Hope Springs Eternal.” And that expression is the basis for this issue of:

“ The Chaplain’s Corner.”

We moved to my hometown of Paducah, TX last November in order to get away from the problems facing the Dallas/Fort Worth area in view of the Covid epidemic. Paducah is a small, rural, farming and ranching community of a little over 1100 population, positioned at the eastern edge of the Texas Panhandle, midway between Wichita Falls and Lubbock.

When I was born here in 1941 the population was around 3600 and it was a vibrant town, with lots of happenings, three grocery stores, at least six car dealerships, lots of churches, good schools, several doctors, two dentists, and a JC Penney store. In short it was a great place to grow up. My older brother Bob, and I hunted birds and rabbits with our shotguns and .22 caliber rifles without adult supervision, starting at age seven for me and nine for him. Both of us became expert marksmen and when I entered the Army, I qualified expert with every weapon that I trained with while in basic training.

As the expression says, we all get older and things change. Life, Covid, aging, children, Viet Nam, etc, etc. bring each of us to where we are today. My hometown has changed and I’m sure yours has changed as well. For good or bad, change is a constant in our lives.

However, we can have things as they are and wish they were better, or we can count our blessings and MAKE things better in any way we can. Linda and I noticed that Paducah has more than its share of indigent citizens, old and not so old. We discussed this situation and decided that since we have been blessed with success in our lives, we could make a difference in other’s lives. We approached the local grocery store owner and arranged for both Thanksgiving and Christmas that he and his staff provide complete grocery supplies, complete with turkeys, for twenty families so that these families could have a nice holiday meal at no expense to the family. Afterwards, when I paid the bill, I asked the manager how this action was received. He and his staff stated that it was one of the better things they had participated in all year.

We wished to remain anonymous for this effort, but I’m sharing this information with each of you as an example of how any of us can help. The needs of our fellow citizens are not restricted to the annual holiday season. Especially now, during this terrible pandemic, I urge each of you to look about and find a way to make a difference in someone’s life.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

Ernie and Linda Isbell, Chaplain, VLOA, Spring 2021

PS. All of you are invited to come to Paducah, TX and see for yourself how life in a small town in Texas can be so fulfilling. Just give us a call at 214-529-3778. We’ll keep a light on for you.

SILENT AUCTION & 50/50 RAFFLE

By Frank Estes

Those of you who have attended prior Outlaw Roundups know the joy we get from and importance of the Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle to our biennial Roundups. The important part of conducting these two activities is that they usually raise enough funds to offset the costs of the quarterly *Outlaws Newsletter*, operating the Outlaws' website, and protecting our website's domain names on an annual basis.

Silent Auction: Prior to the Roundup this September, each attendee is asked to find at least one item to contribute for the Silent Auction. Two important criteria for the items are: be of general interest to Roundup attendees, and be reasonably affordable but valuable enough to raise funds.

In the past, we have had such items as: wine (of many varieties & quantities), clocks, knives, books & pictures about US Forces in Vietnam, logoed clothing, logo pins, pen/pencil sets, clay statues, figurines, watches, German beer stein, collector's hatchet and axe, logoed hats, coffee table, tote bags, metal garden hose, VC flag, framed artwork, framed paintings, stained-glass rendering, limited edition art, gift baskets, model helicopters & airplanes, purses, shawls, blankets, MacDonald's Happy Meal toy collection, liquor, afghans, "Beer33" 6-pack, flight clothing, plaques, gift certificates, and similar items.

If you have a hobby making something, please offer one or more of your hobby items. In the past, we had a member whose hobby was making mantle clocks, and he made one for our Silent Auction. We are looking for anything of interest to our Roundup attendees. Bob Allen is working on the Silent Auction for the Roundup and will spend a lot of his Roundup time administering to the Silent Auction, while the rest of us are off doing our own things. He will need your help in identifying your items with a picture and description well

ahead of time, so he can prepare the bid sheets and labels for the tables and Silent Auction booklet for the Welcome Bags. So, please donate one or more items, and get your information to Bob Allen as soon as possible at: bandsallen@att.net.

50/50 Raffle: Ernie and Linda Isbell ran the 50/50 raffle at our Charleston, SC Roundup, and have agreed to do it again this year. They will be spending a lot of time during the reunion, squeezing you to buy more 50/50 raffle tickets; not just once a day, but usually hour after hour of shaking you down. Ernie and Linda say they didn't frisk anyone, but politely and tactfully demanded attendees open their wallets and buy more raffle tickets. If they had something on you, I'd suspect they would be blackmailing you into donating more of your wealth to the VLOA by purchasing more raffle tickets. Only kidding!

Thanks goes to these stalwart Outlaws members who perform the Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle duties for their dedication, unselfishness, and pride in what they do for the VLOA. They need your help in making both these very important activities truly successful. Thank you all!



See you in San Antonio!!



Directors' and Outstanding Outlaw's Award Nominations

By Frank Estes

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

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

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

Anyone wishing to submit a nomination for either of these awards to be presented during this year's Outlaws Roundup in San Antonio, TX should send a letter or email nomination to Frank Estes, Awards Committee Chair at the following: estesf@troycable.net or submit a letter of nomination to:

Awards Committee Chair

c/o Frank Estes

407 Country Club Drive

Ozark, AL 36360.

334-797-9196 (cell)

334-774-5571 (home)

The nominations need to be received by the Awards Committee Chair not later than July 15, 2021 by email or letter as discussed above, and should contain the following information about the nominee(s):

Name

Address

Phone number, and

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

Specifics regarding service in the Outlaws, Mavericks, Bushwhackers, Roadrunners, Signal Detachment, or the associated support organizations should be provided. Of particular interest should be the reasons that make the nominee worthy of receiving this award such as service to the VLOA, service to veterans or civic organizations, including positions of leadership or support in any of the activities being used to support the nomination.

Thank you for your help.

The Game of Life

Even if you were not a golfer, you will easily recognize the "game of life" spoken here.

You know....time has a way of moving quickly while we either ignore, or are unaware of, the passing years. It seems just yesterday that we were young, just married and embarking on a new life with our new wife.

Now, it seems like eons ago, and I often wonder about where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I had a good career, sometimes life-threatening, always challenging, but always with a wonderful family to give me purpose for the future. These things allowed me to play a good game of life.

But, now, here I am on the "back nine" of my life. I don't think it caught me by surprise...but I still wonder....how did I get here so fast? Where did the years go? Where did my youth go? And, although I'm still playing the game of life am I now on the 17th

I remember, through the years, seeing older people and thinking they were years away from me. My life seemed to be always on the "front nine" even playing the first hole. The "back nine" was so far away that I could not even think about it coming, or what it would be like.

But here I am....on that back nine! And, through God's grace and care, I'm still here. Many of my friends have finished their 18 and are gone. Most others are retired.....most are grey. They move slower and, when I see them, they are now those "older persons". Some are in better, and some worse, shape than me...but, I see the change in them. It's hard to remember them now as young and vibrant but, just like me, their age is showing.

And me...I now admit that I am also one of those older folks that I used to see and never gave a thought that I'd be one of them. But I'm still a member of one of the "foursomes" of the game of life.

But now the years have put me into a later "round" of my life. I try to either ignore or resist all the aches and pains, the loss of strength, and the ability to go do things that once were easily done, are now challenges. But, even though I know I am well into my back nine, and not at all sure how long it will last, I can still enjoy, and appreciate, the fact that my "ball is still in play".

Yes, of course I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, or at least done differently, but there are many things I'm happy to have done, some of which I'm still able to do. It's all part of what we play as the "game of life".

So, now that I have accepted the reality that I'm on that back nine, it seems to have come faster than I thought it would. My wife has finished ahead of me and I need to keep reminding myself that my last few holes are HERE. And, I have to keep reminding myself, as well, not to put things off too long. If there are still things that I would like to accomplish in my life, I have to keep reminding myself to do them NOW, not put them off.

As I said, I have no idea of what hole I'm playing, just that, as I write this, I know I'm still on the fairway.

I deeply regret that I never seemed to have enough opportunities to tell my family how much I love them or to say so many things I have wanted to say to them. I hope they can know, and appreciate, all the love I have always had for them.

Life is a gift I have been given. I know there is no assurance that I will again see all the seasons of my life. So, please, you must also remember that, after you've played the 18th hole, the game is over. Live YOUR life so as to give that life as a gift to those who you love.

JAMES VERNON HARDBECK

DECEMBER 17, 1944 - MARCH 15, 2021

James Vernon Hardbeck passed away Monday, March 15, 2021 at his care center in Cummina, GA. He had been battling complications from a severe head injury sustained in the summer of 2020.

Born in Spartanburg, SC on December 17, 1944, he was the son of Vernon and Lois Hardbeck and brother of John Hardbeck. He spent much of his formative years near Charlotte, NC and it is there where he met the love of his life, Pat. They were married in Germany on January 31, 1969. Due to his service with the Army, they were able to travel and live in many places, finally settling down in Savannah, GA while Jim was with Aviation Safety at Hunter Army Airfield. It was Savannah that they would call home and raise their son Christopher.

Jim was an accomplished pilot in the Army who flew several tours in the Vietnam War. He flew for A Company 502nd Aviation Regiment (1965 - 1966), 175th Assault Helicopter Company (1967 - 1968), and 7th Squadron / 1st Air Cavalry Regiment (1969 - 1970). Among his many honors bestowed were the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Purple Heart Medal. He went on to serve and fly in the GA Army National Guard and later retired as Chief Warrant Officer - 4.

Jim had many passions. He loved to catch sunrises at the beach as much as he loved to get away to go camping in the Smoky Mountains. He was an avid fan of Tar Heel basketball and UGA football and he certainly did not take losing well. He preferred cars that could go fast and the open roads that could handle them. His dachshunds always brought a smile to his face and pride in his heart. But, nothing compared to his love of aviation. He always said he was more comfortable in the skies than he was on the ground.

Mr. Hardbeck is survived by his son Chris, his daughter-in-law Sheri, and his three grandchildren Evan, Ansley, and Avery. He was preceded in death by his father Vernon, brother John, mother Lois, and wife Pat.

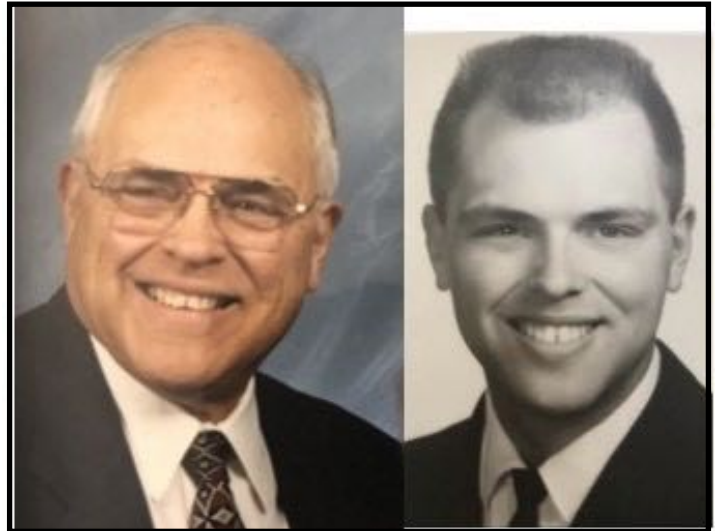
A graveside service will be held on Saturday, March 27th. It will be conducted by The Reverend John Hanev and will be in the Greenwich section of Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, GA.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a charitable donation to one of the following charities...

National Alliance on Mental Illness www.nami.org

The Wounded Warrior Project www.support.woundedwarriorproject.org

**Richard (Dick),
Stevenson Fero**
12/31/1936 –10/4/2020



Dick Fero passed away on October 4th, 2020 surrounded by family members, from complications following a stroke. Dick was born in Plattsburgh, New York on New Year's Eve 1936 to Homer J. Fero, DDS & Mildred S. Fero.

As a teenager, Dick dreamed of becoming a "crack pilot". Like many family members, he enrolled and began studies at Houghton College. But, he finished his degree in Psychology at Alfred University then joining the US Air Force as a B52 crew member. Still pursuing his dream, he left the Air Force for the US Army.

Based in California, he returned to New York on leave, meeting the daughter of his parents' college friends. Edith & Alvin Densmore, DDS. Dick proposed to Annette and the two were married on October 31, 1964.

Dick traveled to Vietnam as a US Army Advisor to the South Vietnamese. The young couple was fortunate to meet in Hawaii for their honeymoon. Upon returning, Dick finally realized his dream to fly completing the US Army's new helicopter school in Fort Rucker, Alabama. He returned to Vietnam for a second tour.

Dick's US Army Aviation career after retirement took him to Savannah Georgia, Seoul, Korea, and then to Shelbyville, Indiana as the Advisor to the Indiana National Guard. After a brief final assignment at Fort Hood, Texas, Dick retired from the US Army and accepted his next assignment as Personnel Director at W.S. Major Hospital where he spent the next nine years.

He is survived by his two sons, John (wife, Ilyse Hillebrand) of Indianapolis and Steven (Suzanne Thomas) of Fishers, his granddaughter, Ellen Fero of Terre Haute, and her mother Lisa Fero of Fishers. Dick is also survived by his three sisters, Nancy (Arne) Dahl of East Patchogue, New York, Virginia (Marty) French of Alexandria, Virginia, and Deborah (Paul) Young of Houghton, New York.

A Memorial Service was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at the Houghton Wesleyan Church in Houghton, New York with burial in Freedom Cemetery, NY. Donations can be made in Dick's memory to the Shelby County Public Library Foundation. Online condolences may be shared on Facebook or at www.wsdavisfuneralhome.com.

Janice V. “Jan” Truman
8/4/1943 to 3/19/2021



Janice V. “Jan” Truman, age 77, of Cassville, Missouri, passed away Friday, March 19, 2021 at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Missouri.

She was born August 4, 1943 in Butterfield, Missouri the daughter of Leon and Elma (Cowherd) Jackson. On December 27, 1974 in Cassville she was united in marriage to Duane Edward Truman, who preceded her in death on October 25, 2011. Also preceding her in death were her parents.

Surviving are one son, Lane Truman and his wife Misty of Cassville, Missouri; one daughter, Barbie Truman of Mt. Vernon, Missouri; one brother, Charlie Jackson and his wife Tina of Cassville, Missouri; three grandchildren, Ashlee Rummel and her husband Travis of Mt. Vernon, Missouri and Kennedy Truman and Reagan Truman both of Cassville, Missouri and two great grandchildren, Katy and Ethan.

Jan grew up and received her education in Cassville where she graduated from Cassville High School and received her Bachelor Degree from University of Arkansas. After their marriage, she and Duane moved and lived in several states while Duane was in the military. After their return to Cassville, Jan taught school at Exeter several years. Some of her favorite pastimes were being outdoors, traveling with friends, watching her grandkids ball games and attending family reunions. She was also an avid animal lover.

Visitation was held Monday, March 22, 2021 at Fhon Funeral Home in Cassville.

Services were held at 4:00 P.M. Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pat Elsey conducted the services. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Oak Hill Cemetery, Cassville MO. in memory of Jan.

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



Spring - 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Comments: _____