



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

"www.vinhlongoutlaws.com"

## Vinh Long Outlaws Spring 2020 Newsletter

January-March

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

1st. Quarter 2020

### Inside this Issue:

National Directors Corner.	Pg.1
VLOA Treasurers report 1st. Qtr. 2020	Pg.2
The Reunion Agenda	Pg.3
Reunion Tours and Reservation Form.	Pg. 4-5
The Silent Auction	Pg.6-
Lost Outlaws and correct addresses.	Pg.7
Thinking about the End!	Pg.8-9
2020 Reunion Shirts and order form.	Pg.10-11
"The Back Pew" Ernie Isbell, Chaplin	Pg.12-13
Richard D. Benjamin Obituary.	Pg.13
WO Richard D. Benjamin in VN.	Pg.14
John H. Horn- Obit and VN Vet's.	Pg.15

## National Director's Corner

By- Bert Rice



We are in a war! This comment has been made by the President on numerous occasions. I sincerely hope and pray this newsletter finds you and your loved ones doing well. Please follow the guidance provided which, I believe, will help keep you from contracting the CORONAVIRUS.

In my lifetime, the only thing that comes close to our current situation is how I faintly remember what happened during World War II. Then, the Nation came together to defeat an enemy. There was full mobilization. People sacrificed, looked out for one another, and were dedicated to defeating an enemy. That same effort is required now in my humble opinion. We are strong with a will to win, so hang in there!

When I wrote last, I stated that we are pretty well prepared for our reunion in San Antonio during the period 17 to 21 September 2020. We are still prepared for our reunion. Having said that, I have been in touch with Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) to determine a way forward should the CORONAVIRUS issue persist. I believe it too early to make any changes right now but that we need to be prepared to make changes should the situation dictate. We felt it prudent to wait until 15 May to make a decision regarding the reunion. We feel that by then we will have a much better understanding about the long-term impact and persistence of the CORONAVIRUS.

If a decision must be made to make any changes, we will notify you promptly. We will do that through another edition of the newsletter and emails, as appropriate. It will provide guidance regarding registration and next steps.

I know how important having an Outlaw reunion is to all of us. As we learn more, I commit to you that I will do all that I can to conduct a reunion worthy of each and every one of you. You deserve the best because you are the best!

In closing, I want to encourage you to take all necessary measures to remain healthy and safe. I am remaining away from crowds to maximum extent possible. Of course, our individual situations are different but one thing is certain, this disease is serious and, so, it requires precaution so as not to contract it. 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- 1st. Quarter. 2020**

By: Frank Estes.

<b>Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)</b>		
<b>Balance effective 01/01/2020</b>		<b>\$35,307.74</b>
<b>REVENUES:</b>		
<b>Dues - Annual</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	
<b>Dues - Lifetime</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	
<b>Sales, reunion income, &amp; miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$398.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,098.00</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
<b>Newletters, bank statements</b>	<b>\$642.51</b>	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$642.51</b>	
<b>CASH BALANCE - as of 3/31/2020</b>		<b>\$35,763.23</b>
<b>Details: 3 months period ending 3/31/2020</b>		
<b>Revenues Detail</b>		
<b>Reunion shirts</b>	<b>\$398.00</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$398.00</b>	
<b>Dues: - 2020</b>		
<b>Annual Memberships (AM): - 2020</b>		
<b>John Diamond</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	
<b>Frederick Jacobs</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	
<b>Norris Marshall</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	
<b>George Storer</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	
<b>Lifetime Memberships (LM): - 2020</b>		
<b>Greg Wordman</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	
<b>Harold Feathers</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	
<b>Walter Bogdanowicz</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	
<b>Mark Fontenot</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	
<b>Roger Foust</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	
<b>Angus Desveaux</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	
<b>Total Revenues - 3 months period 2020</b>	<b>\$1,098.00</b>	
<b>Expenses Details</b>		
<b>Bob Sharp - 4th Qtr 2019 - Newsletter</b>	<b>\$638.01</b>	
<b>Bob Sharp - 1st Qtr 2020 - Newsletter</b>		
<b>Bob Sharp - 2nd Qtr 2020 - Newsletter</b>		
<b>Bob Sharp - 3rd Qtr 2020 - Newsletter</b>		
<b>Paper bank statements</b>	<b>\$4.50</b>	
<b>Total Expenses - 3 months period 2020</b>	<b>\$642.51</b>	
<b>INCOME (LOSS) - 3 months period ending 3/31/2020</b>		<b>\$455.49</b>



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> deposit at [www.afr-reg.com/outlaws2020deposit](http://www.afr-reg.com/outlaws2020deposit) and then to make final payment at [www.afr-reg.com/outlaws2020final](http://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 _____

<b>FINAL CUT-OFF DATE IS 08/20/20</b>		<b>Price</b>	
<b>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</b>			
Double Occupancy (2 people)		\$1398.00	\$
Single Occupancy (1 person)		\$1004.00	\$
<b>50% of Registration Package Deposit due by 6/5/20 Payment #1</b>			\$
<b>50% of Registration Package Final Payment due by 8/19/20 Payment #3</b>			\$
<b>PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR BANQUET DINNER ENTRÉE FOR EACH PERSON</b>			
Grilled Sirloin Filet	#		
Chicken Piccata	#		
Vegetarian Option	#		
<b>Additional Nights at the Hotel beyond 9/17-20/20 (optional)</b> <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	\$
			<b>Payment # 2</b>
			\$
<b>Hotel Arrival Date:</b> _____		<b>Hotel Departure Date</b> _____	
Room Type <input type="checkbox"/> One King Bed <input type="checkbox"/> Two Beds			
Hotel Special Needs? (Handicapped accessible?) _____			
<b>50% Deposit paid by 6/5/20 ** Payment LINE # 1 + Payment LINE # 2</b>		\$	
<b>50% Final Payment paid by 8/19/20 **Payment LINE # 3</b>		\$	
<b>Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</b>			\$

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

FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Update! San Antonio, Texas.



Outlaws and Mavericks know how to fly into a headwind. As our country and our world face strong winds ahead, we want you to know you are not alone! We don't know what the next few months will bring in terms of closure on the current pandemic, but we still look forward to the promise of getting together in San Antonio at some point. As we keep the faith, I ask you to proceed with a mindset of meeting in September until we know otherwise! So, let's continue to consider your contributions to help make the Silent Auction a consistent success.

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](mailto:bandsallen@att.net), or phone or text at 937-216-6564.

Thank YOU in advance for your support!

*Bob Allen.*

## **Correct Addresses & Lost Outlaws**

By Frank Estes, Treasurer

Bert Rice (National Director), Doug Wilson (Secretary) and I have been working to notify VLOA members of their due's requirements, and in the process found 19 currently on our active roster that had incorrect contact information. Doug and Jim Donnelly are currently trying to find these 19. There are 27 more on our roster reflecting prior personal information is outdated.

This brings up a very important point: ***when VLOA members change their address or other personal information, they should provide the new information to Bert Rice, Doug Wilson, or myself.***

Currently, the following list of former Outlaws that were on our roster have not been found because their information is now outdated. If you know any of these individuals or will assist Doug and me in trying to find these individuals, the VLOA would be most appreciative.

Berkley F. Badgett, Mineral Wells, WV

Robert C. "OB" Codney, Phoenix, AZ

William P. Cotham, Parsons, TN

Robert G. Deppey, Reno, NV

Randy Diuguid, Fuquay-Varina, NC

Lloyd L. Dyal, Brocker, FL

Charles E. Dominy, Brookings, OR

Paul D. Elmore, Temple, TX

Therman A. "Shorty" Farley, Sugar Land, TX

Robert E. "Bob" Friar, Shinglehouse, PA

Steven M. "Steve" Gray, Selden, NY

Alvin R. Guthery, Weirsdale, FL

John J. Hand, Jr. Aurora, CO

Floyd G. Hartrick, Enterprise, AL

John Horn, Lake Charles, LA— Deceased.

Jerry L. Jobski, Page, AZ

Launie Jones, Huntsville, AL

James A. Koepfelle, Clearwater, FL

Robert F. Lannerd, Avinger, TX

Anthony C. Law, Bellview, FL

Jack A. Lawson, Redondo Beach, CA

Talmadge Ledford, New Brunswick, NJ

Brian L. Long, Lancaster, PA

William P. Lowie, Orlando, FL

Jim Martinson, San Antonio, TX

Wayne McCarthy, Massillon, OH

Herbert D. Merritt, Oro Valley, AZ

Robert J. Morgan, Baytown, TX

Keith D. Ohm, Auburn, WA

Larry F. Page, Charleston, SC

Larry Parsley, Nobleville, IN

Ron Petty, Prescott, AZ

Gil Procter, Tucson, AZ

Richard H.E. Schiederer, Marysville, OH

Jimmie J. Scoles, Oklahoma City, OK

Louie Seagers, Ashford, AL

Steven K. Smith, Tampa, FL

Jim Spiers, Gainesville, GA

Ronald L. Stamschror, Kellog, MN

Charles W. "Chuck" Struemke, River Falls, WI

Charles R. Sturtevant, Centreville, VA

William "Bill" Washburn, Flint, TX

Robert E. "Bob" Weathersby, Tupelo, MS

Lee J. Williams, Watonga, CT

Fred Wilson, Malvern, AR

James "J.R." Wright, West Plains, MO

Please take a good look at these names and contact Doug Wilson

([junglecruiser335@gmail.com](mailto:junglecruiser335@gmail.com)) or myself.

([estesf@troycable.net](mailto:estesf@troycable.net)) if you feel you can help find any of these individuals.

***FINALLY, PLEASE GIVE US A NOTIFICATION OF ANY CHANGES TO YOUR PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION SO WE CAN KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU.***



## Thinking About the End.



Since the Vinh Long Outlaws Association was established in 1998, it has lived up to the objectives laid out in its Constitution. Primary among those objectives is to “renew and preserve the camaraderie and esprit-de-corps” among those soldiers who were a part of a small Viet Nam helicopter unit whose service together forged a kinship and bond that could never be duplicated in any other form of career endeavor. Sharing combat service is a life experience known only by those who choose to serve their country and, if called upon, to give their life in that service.

In late 1964 the first members of the unit which became known as the “Outlaws”, deployed to Vinh Long, Mekong Delta, South Viet Nam. Those original members laid the groundwork for the hundreds of other dedicated soldiers who would serve with the Outlaws for the next nine years.

The Vinh Long Outlaws Association began its history in 1998 when seven or eight of those original members located each other, began telephoning each other and, in short order, worked out a plan for getting together with each other, just one time, to renew those old friendships. The elations felt by that initial small gathering were so great that they immediately decided to try to locate as many of that original group as they could and have a one-time, full- unit reunion and relive those memories.

Well, it didn’t happen quite that way. At that initial 2000 reunion in Branson, every attendee felt they should do it again. And they did. That first reunion led to another two years later in San Antonio, then another two years later at Fort Rucker, then Pigeon Forge, TN, and on and on for over 20 years.

That small roster of original members soon expanded to incorporate anyone who ever served in the Outlaws or its affiliated units between 1964 until the time unit stood down in 1972. In short order, the roster of former Outlaws rapidly expanded, as did attendance at subsequent reunions as well. At this time, the VLOA roster of 62d, A/502d and 175<sup>th</sup> personnel, who served at some time with the Outlaws, now exceeds well over 500. Most certainly, there are hundreds of others who do not know about the VLOA nor are their names known to us as well. Additionally, the VLOA roster of known deceased Outlaws, both KIA as well as “died after tour” is more than 125 and quite obviously is probably many more..

It’s hard to believe that we are now into the fourth numbered decade as an organization! (late 90s, through the 10s, through the “teens” and now in the early 20s.) Think about it..... even those young 18 year old pups who, in 1964, served on the flight line,, or refueling, or in the hangers, or in the air, are now in their mid to late 70s! (One VLOA member, who shall remain nameless, will be nearly 90 at the time of the 2020 reunion.)

Where is all this leading???? Well, first, we have to face the fact that we are a “last man” organization. The VLOA has become a wonderful organization and has perpetuated those memories of shared combat service. Many of our members have departed on that long run-way.

Contd. On Pg. 9 .



(Contd. From Pg. 8)—to the sky to hopefully deploy to an afterlife of happiness and contentment. But the specter of that “last man standing” has to be recognized. The VLOA must have plans put in place when, down the road, the ultimate dissolution of the VLOA must be faced.

In any organization, good leadership is vital. The VLOA has been fortunate to have had a number of members who, over the years, continue to provide the leadership needed to not only keep the organization viable but also to plan and prepare for the future. In this regard, VLOA leadership has recognized, and planned, for that future date when the organization can no longer sustain enough members to continue. However, we must all be assured that current VLOA leadership feels strongly that that date is still well into the future and should not have to be faced for a number of years.

Moreover, the VLOA still has a viable general membership with both a “youthful” outlook on life as well as members who have shown their willingness to step forward and keep the VLOA on course for a good number of years into the future.

A number of years ago, the VLOA filed, and was approved, for recognition as a 501(c)19 War Veterans organization. That designation provides guidelines that must be followed, both to retain that status as well as how the assets of an organization must be handled when the group is dissolved.

Our VLOA Constitution therefore includes specific guidelines what actions must be taken when the organization must be dissolved. Such guidelines provide for paying off any financial obligations the organization might have and a process for liquidating any remaining assets.

Those remaining assets, of whatever nature, are to be donated to a recognized charity, as determined by the remaining members of the then-Steering Committee. The law also requires that, under no circumstances shall any member of the Association receive any benefits from the remaining assets of the organization.

But what happens to the history of the Outlaws? You may be more than surprised to learn that the VLOA historian, Jim Donnelly, has amassed an absolutely fantastic wealth of Outlaw historical records. Started over a decade ago, Jim’s history files now include over 17,616 photographs, 1684 document pages, 82 audio videos and 24 videos! Just think of what this amazing history, of that small little helicopter company, could mean for future historians researching Viet Nam history! To ensure they will not be lost, it is planned that these historical records will ultimately be donated to both the U.S. Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker as well as to the Vietnam War Project at Texas Tech University.

When that “last man, or men, standing” have sorrowfully laid the memory of the Vinh Long Outlaws Association to rest, they can look back and solemnly agree, among themselves, that the Vinh Long Outlaws Association certainly achieved its objective of “preserving camaraderie and esprit de corps”, as well as having perpetuated the objectives of love of country, respect for the flag of the United States of America and reinforcing a strong sense of patriotism. That day is still many years into the future!

Submitted by: Tom Anderson.



## 2020 reunion Shirts Order Now!



At this writing, the 2020 Outlaw reunion is still a GO although there is still a possibility it may have to be delayed, like had to be done for Charleston. However, even though the current crisis may require that it to be cancelled, you will still be able to order the good-looking reunion shirt. The embroidery company informs us that they will be happy to make up the shirts for us, whether it's a GO or a NO GO.

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

This year's shirt is again a Sport-Tek tri-color, micropique material, which we have had in previous years. This material has been found to be very acceptable with our members.

As always, both men's and women's shirts are available. The Shirt Order form, found in this Newsletter, shows pricing, sizing and order instructions. Assuming the reunion can, and will, be held, the NLT date - August 31, 2020 - for ordering, still remains valid. That NLT date applies if the Reunion can be held in September as planned. If the Reunion is decided to be pushed back, a later NLT date will be announced. Remember, when ordering make your check out to "VLOA", and mail it to Tom Anderson at the address shown on the Order Form.

Several shirt orders have already been received, some for Reunion pick up, some for mail-out to those who cannot attend. If you find you cannot attend, please note the \$5 added for packaging and mailing. If you are attending, your shirts will be in your personal Welcome Bag at the Registration Desk.

As a reminder, you can keep up to date with Reunion date status by looking at the VLOA website at [www.vinhlougoutlaws.com](http://www.vinhlougoutlaws.com) . Phil Van Alst, webmaster, will keep you informed. Thank you.



**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:**

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

**LADIES' SHIRT SIZES**

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



The following is taken from the October-December 2004 VINH LONG OUTLAW NEWS, submitted by then VLOA Chaplain John Doyle. It was provided to him by his daughter in 1999. I believe it is an excellent message and is worth being repeated during these very troubling times. Especially considering the current plague called CORONA 19. I hope you will agree. Ernie Isbell, VLOA Chaplain.

“A minister passing through his church in the middle of the day, decided to pause by the altar and see who had come to pray. Just then the back door opened and an old man came down the aisle. The minister frowned as he saw the man hadn’t shaved in a while. His shirt was kind of shabby and his coat was worn and frayed. The man knelt, bowed his head, then rose and walked away. In the days that followed, each noon he returned. He knelt for just a moment, a lunch pail in his lap.

Well, the minister’s suspicions grew, with robbery a main fear. He decided to stop the man and ask him. “What are you doing here?”

The old man said he worked down the road, lunch was half an hour. Lunchtime was his prayer time, for finding strength and power. “I stay only moments, because the factory is so far away; as I kneel here, talking to the Lord, this is kind of what I say:

“I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, LORD, HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN. SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHER’S FRIENDSHIP AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN. DON’T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY. SO, JESUS, THIS IS JIM CHECKING IN.”

Past noon one day the minister noticed that Jim hadn’t come. As more days passed, he began to worry. At the factory, he asked about him, learning he was ill in the hospital. He learned that the hospital staff was also worried, but he had given them a thrill.

The week that Jim was with them had brought changes in the ward. His smiles, were a joy contagious. Changed people, were his reward. The head nurse couldn’t understand why Jim was so glad, when no flowers, calls, or cards came, and not a visitor he had.

Contd. On pg.13.

Cont. from pg. 12.

The minister stayed by his bed; he voiced the nurses concern: No friends came to show they cared. He had nowhere to turn.

Looking surprised, old Jim spoke up with a winsome smile; “The nurse is wrong. She couldn’t know that in here all the while every day at noon, HE’s here, a dear friend of mine. You see, he sits right down, takes my hand, leans over and says to me:

“I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, JIM, HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND THIS FRIENDSHIP, AND I TOOK AWAY YOUR SIN. I ALWAYS LOVE TO HEAR YOU PRAY, I THINK ABOUT YOU EACH DAY, AND SO JIM, THIS IS JESUS CHECKING IN.”

It is my wish that this story touches your heart as much as it did mine.  
May Chaplain John Doyle rest in peace.

Ernie Isbell, Chaplain, VLOA  
March 21 2020

## Richard D. Benjamin,

78, passed away Sunday, January 12, 2020, (just one day after his 78<sup>th</sup> birthday) at Hope Hospice in Bonita Springs, Florida, suffering from PSP.

A Memorial Service was held in the Hope Hospice Chapel in Bonita Springs, Florida on January 17, 2020.

Dick was born in Kansas City Missouri on January 11, 1942, the son of Buena and William Benjamin. He married Elisabeth Becker on May 20, 1977, in Gelnhausen Germany.

He is survived by his wife Elisabeth, his sister Deanna Schuyler, his nephew Michael Frilot and his niece Dawn Dowling.



After his Military time Dick has served 16 more years as a DOD Civilian and held the positions as the Deputy to the Commander of the 98<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group in Wuerzburg, Germany; Advisor to the Commander for Sustaining Base Operations, U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Florida; and last position was also Advisor to the Commander for Sustaining Base Operations at U.S. AFRICOM in Stuttgart, Germany , where he retired as a SES in 2009.

After retirement he lived with his wife during the Winter times in Bonita Springs, Florida and during Summer in Gelnhausen, Germany.

Contd. On pg.14

WO Richard D.  
(Dick) Benjamin.  
Republic of  
Viet Nam.  
1965.



Mr. Benjamin served over 33 years in the US Army. He entered the service as an enlisted soldier in January, 1959 and was promoted to Warrant Officer through the Army Flight School program. He received a direct commission in 1965 while serving in Vietnam.

During his military career, Mr. Benjamin held a myriad of military assignments, which included; Infantry Paratrooper in Fort Campbell, Kentucky; attack helicopter pilot and Aviation Section Commander in the Republic of Vietnam; Company Commander, 8th Infantry Division, Bad Kreuznach, Germany; Battalion S-4, 1-48 Infantry Battalion and Aviation Section Commander, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Armored Division; Professor of Military Science, Stetson University in Deland, Florida; Ex/O and Battalion S-3 for 7th ATC in Wildflecken; Dir. Of Personal and Community Activities for the 543rd Area Support Grp In Bremerhaven, Germany; Commander, U.S. Military Activity, Aschaffenburg, Germany; and Commander, Aschaffenburg Base Support Battalion; Deputy Garrison Manager, 98th Support Group, US Army Garrison, Franconia, Germany.

His military and civilian schooling includes; Infantry Officers Advanced Course; a Bachelors degree from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University; a Masters degree from Boston University; and he is a Graduate of the Air and Command Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

His awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Air Medal for Valor, thirty-one Air Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, eight Vietnamese Service Medals, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Cross w/palm and w/bronze star, the Vietnamese Staff Medal, the Senior Parachutist badge, the Senior Aviator badge and the Army Ranger tab. He retired from the Army in 1992 as a lieutenant Colonel.

## John Herbert Horn II,

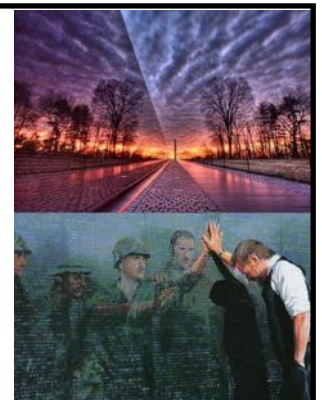


72, passed away in Lake Charles, LA on May 5, 2019. He was born in Vallejo CA, to John Herbert and Helen Shaia Horn.

John was Vietnam Veteran, earning the Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Aircraft Crewman Badge, the Vietnam Campaign Medal. John spent many years in the hotel industry as the Director of Hospitality in Las Vegas and Laughlin NV. His love for what he did took him to Louisiana. He was the Director of Hospitality at Coushatta Casino Resort in Kinder, LA for the last 12 years.

He is remembered in love by his daughters Sara Anderson, Amy Horn, Katie Horn (Dustin). 9 grandchildren Molly, Davis, Evan, Parker, Julius, Karlee, Mia, Angie, and Jr. His brother Val (Linda) Akins. Lifelong friends and the mother to his children Linda (Jim) Hayes and his life partner Angie Miller. And endless amounts of family and friends whom hearts he touched along the way. He was preceded by his parents.

Funeral Services were held at the Sothern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1900 Veterans Memorial Drive Boulder City, NV 89005 on Thursday June 6, 2019 at 12:40pm.



## Vietnam Veterans Day -March 29th, 2020

Remembering all our Brothers on this day and every day of the year. We pray for the ones lost and those suffering yet the ill effects of the Vietnam War.

A list of names of the last known to have passed on:

William H. Bisping—Jack D Lane—Charles B. Matlock—James S. Neal—  
And Steven K. Smith. ———-God Rest their souls!

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 - 2020

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

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

Active (with vote) or Associate (without vote) Membership is \$25.00 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: \_\_\_\_\_