



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)

# Vinh Long Outlaws Summer Newsletter 2018

April-June.

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

2nd. Quarter 2018

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## National Director's Corner

By- James Donnelly



Well we are a little over a month away from the VLOA reunion and it looks like we have sixty-three Outlaws with their families or significant others attending so far. Gatherings plus has set the registration deadline as August 1<sup>st</sup>, so if you have not registered yet HURRY! I only hope The Charleston reunion lives up to your expectations and we all have a great time. Things are still falling into place and looking good.

We are still in need of silent auction items, so dig deep and see if you can come up with anything. Our Silent Auction Chair Person, Tom Anderson is waiting and ready to accept your donations. As you have heard numerous times, the silent auction is one of our biggest fund raisers and looked forward to by all. Your donations are and will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.

On a personal note I am still working long late hours on my hobby of stained glass. Joint pain keeps me up and the glass work takes up the awake time. Between the glass at night and the yard work during the day I am keeping me semi-busy. The rest of my time is taken up with VLOA business. This latter I consider an honor and would like to take this time to thank you all for your confidence in me over the last two years. Also I would like to thank all the Officers and Steering Committee members for all of their hard work. Their efforts are what make the VLOA a viable association and one I am extremely proud to be a member of. Again thank you all.

*James Donnelly*

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

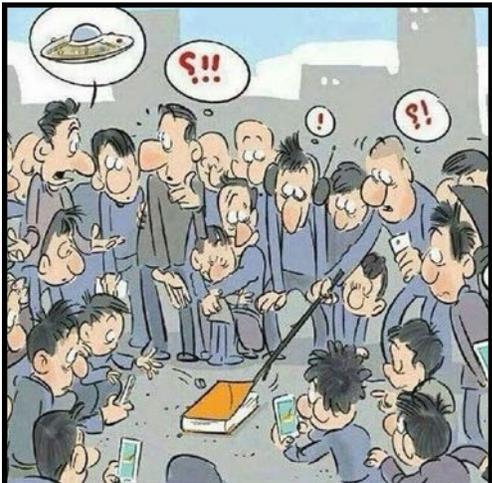
- Jim Donnelly, National Director  
Virginia Beach, VA
- Bert Rice, Deputy Director  
Odenton, MD
- Doug Wilson, Secretary  
Costa Mesa, CA
- Frank Estes, Treasurer  
Ozark, AL
- Jim Donnelly, Historian  
Virginia Beach, VA
- Bill Hensinger, Member-At-Large  
Palmyra, PA
- Irwin Katz, Member-At-Large  
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  
Albert Lea, MN
- Phil Van Alst, Web Master  
Hau'ula, HI
- Bert Rice, Interim Chaplain  
Odenton, MD
- 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

**FOR SALE !**  
**Outlaw Reunion Shirts**  
 Use the SHIRT ORDER FORM in the Newsletter  
 Order must be received by August 17<sup>th</sup>  
 See order and payment details on Order Form

**Annual 2018**

**Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)**

<b>Balance effective 01/01/2018</b>	<b>\$35,377.44</b>
 <b>REVENUES:</b>	
<b>Dues - Annual</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Dues - Lifetime</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Sales, Silent Auction, &amp; Miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$654.08</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2,347.08</b>
 <b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
<b>Newsletters, website mgmt, admin, supplies, bank acct, misc.</b>	<b>\$1,355.76</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,355.76</b>
 <b>INCOME (LOSS) - 6 months ending 6/30/2018</b>	 <b>\$601.24</b>
 <b>CASH BALANCE - as of 6/30/2018</b>	 <b>\$35,978.68</b>



## 2018 Reunion Shirts

Ready for ordering!

Each Outlaw reunion gathering has been filled with colorful polo shirts worn by both the men and women. Of course, the reunion shirts are a long way from the “same color” uniforms we wore together over half a century ago. However, the identical-colored reunion shirts worn by so many of the reunion attendees, make the statement that there is still a “oneness” between all those who wore the Outlaw uniform and patch “way back then”.

This 2018 reunion shirts are a refreshing departure from the traditional shirts from previous reunions. First, it is one solid color, verdant green, with no alternating color sides or collar. It will comfortably blend in when in a crowd. Second, it has the naturally soft feel of cotton. It will also feature the Outlaw logo patch embroidered on the left front. Men’s shirts have a three-button collar placket. Ladies shirts have an attractive open “Y” neckline.

The price for each shirt remains at \$30, same as at the Branson reunion. (larger sizes slightly increased cost).

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find the Shirt Order Form with which to place your order. Although there are several months remaining before the reunion, you are asked to place your shirt order early if possible, well ahead of the reunion, so our supplier can be given an approximate number to be made. All orders are pre-paid, of course and your order must be received no later than August 17, 2018.

Tom Anderson is coordinating shirt orders, payments and delivery. Those who attend the reunion will find their shirts in their Welcome Bags at the VLOA registration desk. If you cannot attend the reunion but would like to have an attractive Outlaw-logo shirt, please add \$5.00 for shipping costs to your total.

And, be sure to provide your name and mailing address on the Order Form.

As it says on the Order Form, make your checks out to VLOA, not to Tom.



**Don't forget to order your Reunion Shirt.**

**Verdant green cotton with Outlaw logo**

**If not attending the reunion, you can still order**

**See the Shirt Order form in this Newsletter.**



## 2018 CHARLESTON OUTLAW ROUNDUP

## SHIRT ORDER FORM

The official 2018 Outlaw Roundup shirt is a rich, verdant green color. Made by Port Authority, the shirts are made of Meridian Cotton and have the naturally soft feel of cotton, which is a departure from shirts in some past reunions. Men's shirts have a three-button collar placket. Ladies shirts have an open "Y" neckline. The very attractive shirt will again feature the Outlaw patch embroidered on the left front.

Cost for each shirt remains at \$30. (NOTE: Added the 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 your welcome bag at the VLOA registration desk. If you will not be able to attend the reunion, but would like a shirt, see info below \*\*. A limited quantity of additional shirts may be available for sale at the Reunion.

Please Indicate Quantity Desired by Size:

## MENS' SHIRT SIZES:

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

Qty \_\_\_\_\_

## LADIES' SHIRT SIZES

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

Qty \_\_\_\_\_

\* Note: Cost for sizes 2XL - \$32 3XL - \$34 4XL - \$36 Men's or Women's

For Reunion attendees, please indicate name(s) and sizes needed, below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

(Use the reverse side of this form for any additional information or comments)

\*\* Note: If you are not attending the Reunion, and would like an Outlaw shirt, please add \$5.00 for shipping costs and provide the following information:

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Phone #) \_\_\_\_\_

ALL ORDERS ARE PRE-PAID AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 17, 2018 !.

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

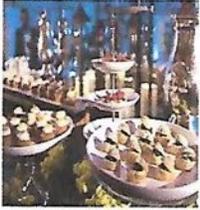
Tom Anderson

7880 Rolling Woods Ct #308

Springfield, VA 22152

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

## Vinh Long- Itinerary Charleston Reunion September 13-17, 2018

THURSDAY 13	FRIDAY 14	SATURDAY 15	SUNDAY 16	MONDAY 17
 <p><b>Check in at North Charleston Marriott HOTEL</b> Check-in: 4:00 PM</p> <p><b>12:00 Noon Hospitality Room Open</b></p>  <p><b>7:00 p.m. WELCOME DINNER at Hotel</b></p>	<p><b>Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m. City Tour/ Lunch on own</b></p>  <p><b>Return to hotel at 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Group Photo 4 p.m. Outside Hotel</b></p> <p><b>Hospitality Room Open</b></p> <p><b>Evening Free</b></p>	<p><b>Breakfast 8:00 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Executive Meeting</b></p>  <p><b>9:00 – 11:00 a.m. VLOA General Membership Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Group Photo Pickup</b></p> <p><b>12:00 a.m. Boone Hall Plantation Tour</b></p>  <p><b>Return to hotel at 4 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Free Time Before Dinner 7 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Carolina Queen Dinner Cruise</b></p> 	<p><b>Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m. Chapel Service</b></p>   <p><b>12 p.m. Patriots Point Tour: Includes USS Yorktown, Medal of Honor Museum/ Lunch on own</b></p> <p><b>Return to hotel at 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Hospitality Room Open</b></p> <p><b>6:30-9:00 p.m. Farewell Banquet at Hotel</b></p> <p><b>Last Silent Auction Item Pickup</b></p> 	<p><b>Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>Depart</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>FULL PACKAGE</b></p> <p><b>Single: \$1070</b> <b>Double: \$ 748</b> <b>Triple: \$ 642</b> <b>Quad: \$ 589</b></p> <p><b>Includes:</b> <b>Hotel Stay</b> <b>Hospitality Room</b> <b>Chapel Service</b> <b>Meals Listed</b> <b>Events Listed</b> <b>Transportation</b> <b>Reunion Website</b> <b>All Taxes and Gratuities</b></p>



Vinh Long Outlaws  
Registration Form  
Charleston, South Carolina  
September 13<sup>th</sup> ~ 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name on nametag \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) Spouse/Guest (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday Banquet Meal Selection Beef: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken: \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Fish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hotel Room Choice: King: \_\_\_\_\_ Two Doubles: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
List any Special Needs: Wheelchair Access \_\_\_\_\_ Dietary Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**HOST HOTEL: North Charleston Marriott, 4770 Goer Drive, North Charleston, SC 29406**

**REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES REUNION ACTIVITY PACKAGE:**

Hotel room with Breakfast, Welcome Packet, Name Badge, Hospitality Room,  
Thursday Welcome Dinner, Shows and Attractions, Transportation and Taxes. See Itinerary Attached.

**Registration Fee Hotel Room Occupants & Activity Package**

Single: \$1070.00 (Single Person)

Double: \$748.00 (Per Person)

Triple: \$642.00 (Per Person)

Quad: \$589.00 (Per Person)

**Please Circle Which Package**

**For activity package only contact Jim Donnelly 757-481-6196**

**\$160 Per Night with Breakfast at Hotel if staying Before or After Reunion Dates**

**TOTAL DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

A 50% deposit is requested by May 3, 2018 and final payment must be received by August 1, 2018. To guarantee reservation for tours/meals you MUST register by August 15, 2018. We cannot "add-on" at the reunion. No refunds on activity package after August 15, 2018.

**MAIL REGISTRATION & CHECK PAYABLE TO:**

GRAY LINE GATHERINGS PLUS, 155 Industrial Park Drive, Hollister, MO 65672

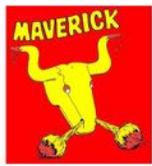
**TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD PLEASE COMPLETE BELOW:**

I authorize Gray Line Gatherings Plus to charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on my card

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Add \$10 Per Person if paying with a Credit Card**

**417-338-4048** Visit your website home page at [gatheringsplus.com](http://gatheringsplus.com) to register online Click "MY EVENT" then on your logo or name enter **vloutlaws** for your password



# VINH LONG



## OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION

### Welcome to Roundup Charleston 2018

A letter from a prior attendee: 2016-Branson,MO.

Attending the 2016 Outlaw Reunion in Branson was an amazing experience for me!

My husband John Diamond was a crew-chief/door gunner on a Huey in Vinh Long. His tour of duty in Vietnam was from December 65 to January of 67.

John has always been very open with me about his combat experience, so I thought understood a lot. I also “THOUGHT” I understood about the bond between combat veterans. However, my first ten minutes in the “snack room”, I realized that I had not a clue! As I watched my husband of nearly 50 years connect with Gary Blackman and Neil Schmit, whom he had not seen for over 50 years, like he had just seen them yesterday, I fully understand that bond.

We had a wonderful time and met many new friends. The reunion planners had done a great job! A special “thank you” to Patty and Neil Schmit for “taking us under their wing” and “showing us the ropes”. Also, a thank you to Bert Rice and his lovely wife, who were great table-mates, and for his many inspiring words. It was a great pleasure to meet Marti and her mother in person. John previously only had contact with Marti by phone.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Charleston! Thank you!!

Sherry Diamond.

## 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 either of the awards.

**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 veterans, 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 the Directors' Award or the Outstanding Outlaw Award to be presented during this year's Outlaws Roundup in Charleston, SC should send an email nomination to Frank Estes, Awards Committee Chair at the following: [estesf@troycable.net](mailto: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 1 August 2018 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.

*Frank Estes*



## **Reunion Silent Auction Needs YOUR Support !**



Several years ago, the Vinh Long Outlaws Association undertook the lengthy and arduous process of applying for an IRS status of a 501(c) 19 veterans organization. Without going into lengthy detail, our application outlined in detail, and confirmed, that the Association met the legal definition, purpose, membership requirements and activity programs of the IRS statute. Our tax exempt status was ultimately approved. What did that mean to the VLOA? It meant that our primary fund-raising effort, the Silent Auction could now provide a legal means for VLOA members to tax-deduct contributions and donations made to the Silent Auction.

So, with that Silent Auction in mind, this article is another appeal to all Outlaws, (whether you can attend the reunion or not), to help keep our treasury solvent for the next two years. The response to our requests for contributions to the 2018 Silent Auction has thus far has been disappointingly low and is of serious concern to the Steering Committee and officers of the organization.

Hey guys, this is OUR veteran's organization. Yes, we're small in comparison to other major Viet Nam veterans groups. But, as most of us feel, ours is a very personal group of a small organization of veterans who served together in that little Army Aviation company, at that little Mekong Delta Vinh Long airfield. On the other hand, the personal, and collective, contribution to the combat effort asked for by our country, by the Vinh Long Outlaws was as large as any organization in-country.

We need dollars to continue operation. Yes, we have annual dues, but dues don't come close to covering even the basic costs of the VLOA. Additionally, at our reunions, we always have a 50-50 drawing which also pulls in some \$\$\$ to the treasury. Again, helpful, but not sufficient to cover annual costs.

For the past 10+ years, we have been able to rely for most of our income from the varied assortment of items donated to our reunion Silent Auction primarily by our reunion attendees. If you feel you should donate something, but don't think you have an item to donate, here's a sampling of some items from previous auctions. Military patches, wall prints, aircraft models, knives, Viet Nam books, walking sticks, Outlaw wrist watches, baseball caps, Viet Nam coins, challenge coins, antique golf clubs, wall plaques, food baskets, figurines, photos, all sorts of military memorabilia.

With that list as a trigger, you should be able to come up with any number of items that you could donate to the auction. Maybe you're saying to yourself, "I don't have anything that anyone would want" or, worse yet, "I just don't want to take the time to get an article or two together" How about NOW, getting rid of that damned thing your cousin gave you 10 years ago and you're too cheap to throw it away?

Auction items are displayed throughout the reunion days on tables all around the Hospitality suite, where attendees can carefully pursue every treasure in the auction. Bid sheets are beside every item. Every attendee has his/her own bid number, to keep others from knowing who is bidding on the item you also want. Bidding has oftentimes become very spirited, particularly when you don't know WHO it is that's bidding against you. At the end of the Silent Auction at the reunion, you can receive a tax deduction donation receipt to recognize your contributions

Now! Today! plan to bring or send something to support the Auction. Submit something that you might bid on yourself if you didn't already have it. If you aren't able to personally bring your article to Charleston call me and we'll work out a method to get it to the reunion. But, the Auction desperately needs your support.

Let's talk! Call me - email me! Tom Anderson 703-451-4015 [teander@cox.net](mailto:teander@cox.net) Thank You!

## The Back Pew

By: Bert Rice



### The Psalms

Prepared by Bert Rice



As many of you know, the Psalms are an interesting number of poems or songs of praise, worship, thankfulness, and repentance. Each is quite complete by itself. As you read them you might experience a variety of feelings, emotions, attitudes and interests. From personal experience, I have felt one or more of these when reading most any one of the Psalms.

I will use as an example Psalm 1. It reads as follows: 1. Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sits in the seat of mockers. 2. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. 4. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. 5. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. 6. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

When I read Psalm 1, I get a feeling that the decision for me is quite simple. Because I know that one day judgment will come, I am compelled to ask myself this question: Will the Lord judge me as one of the wicked or one of the righteous? Verse 6 is helpful to me in making the decision when it states, "For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of wicked will perish!"

In my meditations, I pray that God will forgive me of all my sins and am comforted in knowing that my sins are forgiven, as He has promised, because I believe in Him and have faith and trust that His promise is true. I have often felt that maybe I am not worthy. What that really means is that I need to reexamine where I stand for it is obvious that my faith and trust need to be bolstered. God does that for me through His inspired word. In short, that brings me back to the importance of reading and meditating on God's word daily. I will close with this question: "Will you be judged as one of the righteous or one of the wicked?" Something to ponder.....!

#### Let us Pray:

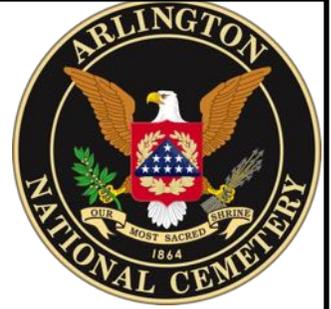
Most Gracious Heavenly Father, we pray that you will give us strength to go the way of the righteous even though we see wickedness all around us. Help us discern right from wrong and to do what is pleasing to you. We believe in your promise of forgiveness and we pray that our thoughts, words and deeds are righteous, not wicked. You give us strength to do thy will and we thank you. Lord bless all members of VOLA and their families. Comfort those who are ill or are recovering from any malady. Hold in your loving arms those who grieve the loss of a loved one or friend. Watch over our military service members and families and be with the leaders of our Nation and the World. We pray for peace and freedom for all who are oppressed.

Thank you for listening and answering our prayers. In Thy Holy Name we pray, Amen

*Bert Rice*



## Arlington National Cemetery Faces a Foreboding Future



During the 2014 Outlaw reunion in Washington D.C., the Outlaws toured one of the most hallowed shrines in our nation, the Arlington National Cemetery. We were awed by the dignity, the vastness, the thousands of orderly rows of headstones of veterans from all wars since the Civil War. We were hardly able to comprehend that over 400,000 veterans are interred at that shrine! Here's a short update on the current status of Arlington Cemetery.

Recently, Arlington Cemetery officials have raised the specter that the cemetery is at a critical crossroads in its history. In approximately 23 years, Arlington National Cemetery will run out of space and will no longer be an active cemetery. The Department of the Army, which has jurisdiction over the cemetery, has been asked by Congress to conduct another study to see what can be done to preserve ANC as an active military cemetery, well into the future, or for generations to come.

That study, and the cemetery itself, will have to face two critical factors: available land and the rate at which burials are requested. These factors may indicate that eligibility for burials at Arlington Cemetery may have to soon be limited. Being considered might be Medal of Honor winners, former POWs, active duty who die on operational missions and other such military members.

There is no way of knowing how many Outlaws are at their eternal rest at Arlington. Personally, I have been to three Arlington funerals of former Outlaws. We know there a number of other Outlaws who share that ground with military members from past ages. As a final note, if you are in, or visit, the Washington, D.C. area, make it an agenda destination to visit Arlington National Cemetery, a legacy from our military past that can bring a feeling of pride and nostalgia to all who stroll those sacred grounds.

Submitted by Tom Anderson

*Tom Anderson*



## Outlaw Combat Assault : Ca Mau May, 1971 (Easter Sunday)



Submitted by: Tony Villarruel

There were a lot of bad Combat Assaults (C/A) that the Outlaws had been through, The Easter Sunday C/A, another C/A that had a pilot and door gunner hurt and a C/A that happened the day I arrived at the Outlaws.

This was a 14-hour day for the Outlaws, and a bad one. Each one of us has an interwoven story that was there. As time passes I can only say what I saw and went through about what happened during this Ca Mau C/A.

The day I arrived at Vinh Long ARMY Airfield the base personnel office asked if I wanted to go the 114th Knights or the 175<sup>th</sup> Outlaws, I said, "I don't know which one I should pick", so he said, "I'll assign you to the Outlaws, they are real cool group of men". I walked into the Outlaw orderly room and saw an officer, mad as hell as he was talking about a C/A that had just happened, some helicopters were shot down and there were people hurt. While I stood there listening to the conversation about people hurt and helicopters shot down, another officer asked me. "What do you want?" I said I was assigned to the Outlaws as a door gunner and he said, "Do you still want to be a door gunner after what you heard". I said timidly, "I guess so." That was my welcome to the Outlaws.

After a week of bunker guard duty, I was assigned door gunner to Outlaw 27 "ZOOMIE" and then a month later I transferred to Outlaw 26 "Spirit in the Sky" as the door gunner. This is my story from the gunner's seat on Outlaw 26 during a Ca Mau C/A that occurred around May 1971 and was as bad as any of the afore mentioned Outlaw C/A's.

Outlaw 26 flew as Command and Control and arrived at the Ca Mau LZ before the slicks (Helicopters) did. We flew low level over the tree tops and over the canal. There was a body floating in the canal that was pointed out to me by the back seat American Major in charge of the ARVN ground forces. The slicks were on their way to the LZ, but the Bushwhacker cobra gunships were not with them. (Don't know why.) After we were high again and contact was made with the slicks the advisor said to send them in. The pilot flying C&C in Outlaw 26 in charge of our slicks said, "we don't have our gun support helicopters", the American advisor said that would be OK. I even said WHAT! Out loud (but this was not over the intercoms system) and he heard me and took a glance at me. I still considered myself a newbie (Two months in country) and knew there could be danger. When the slicks went into the LZ, the whole tree line opened up with heavy enemy fire (The tree line looked like flash bulbs from many cameras going off). Lead aircraft was shot down, the second helicopter (Chalk 2 position) was shot up bad enough that it did not land in the LZ but flew about a mile away and had to land. While the gunships were on their way to the LZ the C&C pilot ordered me shoot down at the tree line saying, "This might help keep the enemy's heads down till the guns arrive." The gunner was wounded, and the pilot was also shook-up that was in the lead slick. The remaining slicks stayed in the LZ until the downed slick crew was rescued. The Outlaw crews were in a shoot out to save their Outlaw friends and lives.

Cont. from pg. 12

The wounded gunner was new to the Outlaws, it was his first C/A, and was wounded and sent home after this battle. I had a conversation with the wounded gunner the night before when he came over to my revetment while I was finishing up my post flight duties that gunners do. We talked about this being his first C/A and the he wasn't sure how he would act. I gave him my (not so) experienced advice and said "shoot at the area that the enemy fire was coming from and if we were to go into the LZ with the order of open suppressive fire, then shoot at wherever he thinks the enemy might fire from; tree lines, bushes, tall grassy areas.

I wish I would have went to see him in the hospital, but I didn't. I still wonder about him now and then. The enemy was so well dug-in that when the Bush Whackers gunships arrived they used all their rockets and ammo and had to reload back at Ca Mau Airfield. Later, in the battle the USAF Black Ponies (OV-10 twin boom and engine observation aircraft) with rockets and bombs arrived to help support us. One Black Ponies did a dive attack and dropped a bomb, hit a bunker and there was a little explosion and a second later a big fireball and explosion and a body doing cart wheels up into the air.

The lead slick was destroyed in place because it was getting late and no one wanted the enemy to get the radios or other equipment. We were relieved by another helicopter company, I think it was the Cav.

It was days later before we went back to the Ca Mau area of operation. The next time we went there Major Weaver was in Chalk One leading the assault.

Side note:

Major Weaver passed away a few years ago and I did have a chance to talk to him by phone.

There was this group of guys that went to war and they call themselves Outlaws and friends forever more.

*Tony Villarruel*

Letter from a new member: Sgt. E-5 Roger G. Foust.

Served with the 175<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Co. "Outlaws" from 3/1970 to 6/1971.

I was with the 175<sup>th</sup> in Vinh Long and my primary jobs were the MARS Operator, operation's (Chopper) Dispatcher, and occasionally I flew as a door gunner when going for equipment.

I was awarded after my tour, 3 Army Commendation Medals and a Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

I would like it very much if anyone that recognizes or remembers me to try and contact me @ [foustar@hotmail.com](mailto:foustar@hotmail.com) or you can call me at 231-796-5031.

Thank you very much and look forward to hearing from you.

Roger G. Foust.



## U.S. Army Will Finally Have It's Own National Museum



The U.S. Air Force has a magnificent National Museum in Dayton, Ohio. The Navy has their National Museum near Washington D.C. The U.S. Marine Corps' National Museum, near Quantico, VA, is a fantastic showcase. Although the Army is the nation's oldest military service, it has never had a counterpart National Museum of its own to tell its history. Now, after many years of "planning", the U.S. Army will finally have its own National Museum.

Currently under construction near Fort Belvoir, VA, the museum will hold thousands and thousands of Army artifacts from the Revolutionary war to today's conflicts. Some of the artifacts are so large they had to be put in place inside the walls before further construction could continue. For example, a WWII Sherman tank, which broke through the enemy lines during the Battle of the Bulge, had to be lifted by a giant crane and carefully placed in its showcase location, before any overhead construction could be completed. A Higgins Assault Boat, used in the D-Day invasion, as well as several other immense artifacts, also had to be emplaced by crane.

Hundreds of paintings and other compelling works of combat art, which have been held in climate-controlled storage for years, will be incorporated into the story of the Army's history. The Museum Foundation has also collected more than 116,000 stories of, and from, soldiers, Army veterans, Army families, Army civilians and even support animals currently held in electronic registries for display.

More than 700,000 visitors are expected to walk through the exhibits and galleries every year and gain a better understanding and appreciation of the Army's invaluable role in our society and our world. Visiting veterans will have a place to contemplatively reflect on their time in uniform. Special exhibits will be dedicated to Army families in recognition of their service.

When the National Army Museum opens, probably in early 2020, it will become a national landmark that will serve an important role in strengthening the fabric of the Army Veteran community.



## Missions at An Khe 28- September-1965

Submitted by: Malcom Campbell



This was on 28 September 1965. Our unit's assigned home base was Vinh Long in IV Corp, south of Saigon. For some reason they used to move our unit all over both II and III Corp up at An Khe and we were acting as the "Airlift Element" of the "Perimeter Security" for the 1st Brigade 101st Airborne while they were building the Division Heliport called "The Golf Course". This huge open heliport was set up for the 1st Cav when they came in country. The Outlaws were in II Corp for two months, August and September 1965.

This day Carl Milko and I got assigned to go down into the 101st base camp in "Happy Valley". It was on the East side of the An Khe Mountains which ran basically from the NW to the SE. If I remember correctly the river was the Song Be, and it would continue down to Highway 19, and then flowed directly to Qui Nhon on the coast, about a 20-minute flight. Anyway, we went out there that afternoon and met the two 101st BDE Colonels. I overshot the approach and made a quick 90-degree bank to the right. The rotors were down between the trees, and as I made the turn a heavy caliber machine gun went off and we thought sure as the devil got shot up. I got rattled and my right leg started shaking on the pedal and I couldn't stop it or get my foot off the pedal. The helicopter was shaking violently during the 360 turn. They thought something bad had happened. When we came back around and landed, I still couldn't get my foot off the pedal so Carl could take over and fly. After landing they came running over and asked, "are you OK?" I said we're OK but, I can't stop my damn leg shaking. Well, I thought they were going to have hysterics laughing. I asked, How close did they come? They said that The VC were shooting at us from the hill, and we were shooting back at them with a 50 caliber just as you banked. I was in the right seat, that 50 Cal was less than 30 feet below me. It sounded like it was in my ear and it scared the absolute dickens out of me. But anyway, they all got a kick out of that.

We took the two 101st Colonels up for the inspection of their outposts. (a Bird Colonel and a Lieutenant colonel) They wanted to visit some of the outposts which we did, and we came upon this scene, on the wide bank of the river. It was about 50 meters to the water. There was a wounded 101st trooper laying out there with a medic. The Colonel asked me to hover over and land by him for an emergency med-evac. They said that he got a split chest from an artillery short round, and he's dead. I said put him aboard and we'll take him over to the field hospital. We'll have him checked out. They said that he was dead, so no e-vcac for him. I yelled at the Colonel and I'm a little W-1 at the time, furious with them because they wouldn't let me put him on board.

So, we had to go on and finish what we were doing. The Colonels were very pleased with the mission. After we were done flying, the Colonels invited Carl and I over to their hooch, where we shared some Jack Daniels and Chivas Regal with them and had some pleasant conversation. Carl and I were walking back to our compound getting wet and feeling no pain. It took us about 10 minutes to walk back over to the unit and we just went in and went to bed.

Contd. From pg. 15

Like an echo in the distance, someone was calling, "Campbell wake up, Campbell wake up" I couldn't focus right away. Someone said, "you and Carl have an an emergency med-evac mission to go back down to Happy Valley for the 101st guys you were with this afternoon," We were requested by name for an emergency med-evac, because we were the only ones who knew where they were. We got in the Helicopter, and OPS told me they were sending a gunship with us because there was reported enemy activity in the area. OPS made me the "Air Mission Cmdr.". . (At the time it was an unspoken thing that the pilot with the most experience in-country would be the AC). We had a great situation where everybody could work well together.

We got into the helicopter, cranked it up, made communication with Captain Moffett who was in the Maverick gunship. And David Amason was our door gunner. So, we took off in the rain and it wasn't heavy, but if I remember right it was misty and we had to climb up over the mountains, well after dark, which was maybe 1200 to 1400 feet.

We went over to the An Khe ridge, and down into the valley looking for their location. We made radio contact with them, and I asked for a light because I couldn't see anything. Have you ever seen how bright a bunch of flashlights are? Jesus!! When they turned the lights on, it hit me right in the face. I went blind and I said, "Turn it off, turn it off". But as he did that I saw a shadow pass in front of us and I remembered "holy shit" there was one tree down there that was probably 200 feet tall. We made an immediate turn to miss that tree.

I thought I had spotted where they were. I asked for a light while on a short final, so we could come on in. We were heading in and a guy turns his jeep headlights on right in our face. a brisk response from me "Turn the lights off dude". As he turned the lights off we saw a stream of twin blue-green tracers going up from about a click off to the right and I think it was only one burst, but with a loud "BRRRRRRP!" and I said " Oh Jesus that's not funny cause those are big ones. A 51 caliber or a 23-millimeter twin mount. We turned the landing lights on, went in and landed.

(To back up a second, Capt. Shevlin and his troopers were sitting in a circle after coming out of the jungle, when someone tossed an explosive device into the circle of Troopers. BLAM!! Killed some troopers outright and wounded the rest., so we were there to get them out) As we were loaded with four or five wounded, Amason volunteered to get off so we could take on one more wounded trooper, and he'd spend the night with the Troopers. He did take his M-60 with him.

They then said they had one more trooper over there with a big wound in his side, who, it turned out was very critical, and would probably not have made it through the night. I radioed, "Moffett come on down", (Gunships don't often land in LZ's, they are always overloaded and taking on a Trooper made it tricky to deal with the extra weight.) I said, "we got one more wounded trooper down here, and we're not leaving any wounded troopers behind." We had a heated exchange, but he came on down, loaded the Trooper, and we both took off.

Contd. On pg. 17

Contd. From pg. 16.

We had gone down the highway for maybe FIVE minutes, when the LOW FUEL LIGHT came on. Well, the Book says you are Guaranteed 5 minutes of flight time, you probably have 20 minutes. The crew chief came over the intercom and says, "OH MY GOD Mister Campbell, I'm sorry I got so excited this afternoon that I forgot to refuel it". I said, "you got to be kidding me" he says "NO", Now, I'm really looking at the fuel gauge bouncing off empty. Knowing this is Indian Country, and we had to fly all the way down Highway 19. I was talking the whole time. I mean, I was scared to death. I didn't want to lose the Troopers we had, but I also didn't want to lose the Huey. I knew if we landed somewhere along Hwy 19, we would have "company" very quickly. So, we kept going and got all the way to the MASH unit.

We finally spotted the landing pad, it was lighted, so I went in, off loaded the wounded troopers, and moved way off to the left side and shut it down. Moffet, with the gunship came in and handed his Trooper off to the waiting medic..

Just then some trucks came in, with nurses and doctors that had been down doing some visiting with one of the other units. They had been ambushed and those deuce and a half's had been shredded from about three high above the floor. Everybody had hit the deck, and nobody got hurt. But you want to talk about some scared young nurses and doctors. Boy! I felt so sorry for them...

Just then Moffet came over and blurted out, "OK Campbell crank it up and let's go over to Qui Nhon and refuel." I said that I can't go. He said "Why not?". I responded that I'd been on a yellow warning light for over 20 minutes, and the BOOK says you got 20 minutes of fuel and I said I'm not going anywhere until you bring a fuel truck up and refuel me. He said that we can't do that this time of night. I again said that I'm not going. I'm not risking my crew or helicopter.

Captain Moffett is saying, " You will crank that thing up and go with us. I'm giving you a direct order:" or something like that. And I said "I'm Air Mission Commander" I've made a safety-based decision. He said that we're going to court martial your ass, I told him to do your thing, do what you got to do. Anyway, they took off and went back to An Khe. Carl and I were obviously stuck there, and these nurses and doctors came in. I was just exhausted. When you have that stress going on and watching those poor nurses and doctors. Oh, they offered Carl and me a drink. It was scotch and milk or orange juice. I'm told some young nurse asked if she could come and sit with me. Being the gentleman, I am, I told her Sure! She jumped in my lap and promptly fell sound asleep.

The next morning Major Vincent and Captain Moffet came bopping in and they brought Lassiter, who was the top maintenance guy. They thought I was lying to them about my fuel state. He had one of those long probes with gradations on it, He stuck it down into the fuel tank. Our Company Commander was, Major Vincent (he had a visceral dislike for me and I can't understand why, cause I'm such an easy guy to get along with.) Anyway, Lassiter stuck the gauge down in there. In the meantime, Vincent was standing, giving me static about this and that. I said that Safety is first, and I simply referred to The Book, about re-starting the Bird once the Low Fuel light comes on.

Contd. On pg. 18.

Contd. From pg. 17

The Book says If the low fuel light goes on and you shut it down you do not restart the engine until you refuel. He wouldn't have any of it.

So, when Lassiter pulled it out. It was wet on the very bottom. The tank was empty. Vincent looked at that and he said that, you got to be kidding me. He went up and started banging on the side of the Huey. He was furious at me. He told Lassiter to stick that thing down in the tank again. So, he did, and he's up there banging on the side of the helicopter trying to make the fuel come up in the tank. The probe came out again, and it was wet on the bottom. Maj Vincent asked how much fuel did He have left in there. Lassiter said that he estimated I had 30 SECONDS OF RUNNING TIME!!

Now do you want to talk about a close call. I for sure had an Angel on my shoulder that night. God was my copilot. That was one of several instances that I had no business surviving. But thank God the troops got off OK. They brought a fuel truck in the morning, fueled up and we headed back to An Khe.

The 101st took care of Amason. They would have sacrificed themselves for him because they were so pleased that we came in to help.

The second part of the story is that the 101st Airborne had us as their air-lift-element and we were re-assigned that day. If I remember again correctly, the 1st Air Cav took over and they were supposed to be doing the support mission that afternoon. Well they didn't know the area at all. The weather was terrible. The 1st Cav brass decided there was no way they could safely do the mission, so their General called off the mission. That's when Capt. Shevlin started calling for help, and he got a radio call from Outlaw 6 asking if they needed assistance. Someone called to get Campbell and Milko up because they were the only ones who knew their exact location. That's probably the most scared I have ever been in my life.

Three postscripts:

1. We learned later the Colonels had awarded Carl and I an AIR MEDAL with a "V-Device."

2. In the book by General Howard, "FIRST IN, LAST OUT, on page 54, he wrote,

A Company 502nd Aviation Battalion led two UH-1's into a small clearing amidst a downpour guided only by flashlights. They took out our dead and wounded soldiers. Capt. Shevlin expressed his gratitude as the helicopters lifted off and later Recommended Outlaw 6\* and his men for Distinguished Flying Crosses.

\* one correction, as I remember Outlaw 6 was not involved directly in the mission.

3. I want to thank Doug Wilson for the exhaustive research he did assisting me.

Malcolm I. Campbell  
CW-4 US Army (Ret)

*Malcolm Campbell—CW-4 US Army (RET)*

## Lanny “Butch” Ray Fudala

Lanny “Butch” Ray Fudala, 71, Escanaba, passed away early Wednesday morning Dec. 20, 2017 at St. Francis Hospital in Escanaba. He was born on Sept. 23, 1946 in Escanaba to Betty (Anderson) and the late Frank Fudala Sr. On July 19, 1969 he married the former Lynn Chaillier at Holy Family Church in Flat Rock.

Butch served his country in the U.S. Army during Vietnam. When he returned home, he worked at Harnischfeger, and later at the paper mill until his retirement.

Butch often spent time gardening while using a very unique watering system and cutting wood with Lynn by his side. He also enjoyed winemaking and woodworking, sharing many of his woodworking talents with others. One of his favorite things to do was spending time at camp “*birdhouse*.”

Butch was always willing to lend a helping hand to friends and family and found a lot of joy in spending time with his grandchildren, who dearly admired him.

He is survived by his mother of Escanaba, his wife, four daughters, Christy (John) DeGrand of Gladstone, Mich., Tricia (Jerry) Stinnett of Clarksville, Tenn., Beth Ann (Joe) Belcher of Wells, Mich. and Lesley Priddy of Fayetteville, N.C.; eight grandchildren, Trent (Elizabeth) Fudala, Emily (Brandon) Latteri, Tonilyn Gorshe, Bryanna Fudala, Travis Stinnett, Courtney DeGrand, Jacob Priddy and James Belcher; two great-grandchildren, Terrent and Eliza Fudala, as well as several nieces, nephews and many dear friends.

Butch was preceded in death by his father, brother, Frank “*Sonny*” Fudala Jr., and a granddaughter, Brittany Marie Fudala.

Visitation was from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday Dec. 22, 2017 at the Allo Coolman Funeral Home in Escanaba with Delta County Veterans Council rites at 12:30.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 1:30 p.m. on Friday at St. Thomas the Apostle Church with Fr. Rick Courier officiating. Burial followed in the Gardens of Rest Cemetery.

Please visit [www.allofh.com](http://www.allofh.com) to send online condolences to his family.



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)  
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Summer -2018

**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: [fbi\\_jim@hotmail.com](mailto:fbi_jim@hotmail.com). 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: \_\_\_\_\_