

**January - March
1st Issue, 2006**

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VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWS

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION
(VLOA)

VLOA Notes from the Director

Can tell by email message traffic that VLOA activities and concerns are being taken care of in a timely and effective manner. Tom and Pat Anderson, Roundup R2K6 hosts, Al Iller, QM, and Treasurer Chuck Wren continue to coordinate their respective duties to ensure our Outlaws Roundup R2K6 at Pigeon Forge during 21 - 25 September goes smoothly. Please take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy attractive and comfortable accommodations and beautiful scenery. It will be five days and four nights of a variety of fun things to do, especially dining and enjoying talented entertainment. Everything to include tips and complimentary breakfasts is included in the one low price listed on the Registration Form. A 50% deposit is due to Chuck by June 15th. As Tom stated in our last Newsletter, ".... come to Roundup R2K6 to help celebrate, and commemorate, more than 40 years of closeness and shared friendships among those who served together so well, so far away, so long ago." "You'll never regret coming!"

Jack and Shirley Lane proudly announce the birth of Niccollette Analisa Withey, their sixth grandchild born March 28th. Niccollette is the fourth daughter of Charli Lane Withey who was born December 21, 1964, several months after we arrived at Vinh Long. Niccollette's sisters are Geneva, Marielle, and Gabrielle. Jack and Shirley's other daughters Leslie and Terri have a daughter Anika and son Christopher respectively. Grandma and Grandpa Lane are now shopping for a seven seat mini-van. Congratulations to all!

We mourn the passing of Charlie Humphries, our original Outlaws Operations Officer on February 22nd. Our thoughts and prayers need continue for a favorable response to advanced medical treatments for Jack Northridge and Hannah Theriot.

Look forward to being with you at Pigeon Forge.

Tim Bisch,
Director

Salute or Hand Over Heart?

Following is a letter stating it was from a retired Army MG Vern Lewis regarding saluting:

MG Lewis letter:

I gathered some 16 of my old military friends who agreed to sponsor a movement for Veterans to salute rather than place their hands over their heart when honoring the flag, fallen comrades, and/or the country. I have some from each of the four principal services. Three of them were former Vice Chiefs or Assistant Commandants of their services, and several were former CINC's.

We refer to saluting when we do the pledge to the flag, when the National Colors pass or are presented, when the National Anthem or honors are played, or when taps are played and firing squads or guns render honors.

We got MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) magazine to ask veterans what they preferred, hand over their heart or saluting. When last I looked, some 583 veteran respondents had voted 81% in favor of the salute. In addition, my email address was in the questionnaire and I've had about 150 responses, with all but a dozen or so in favor of the salute. Obviously an overwhelming majority of the veterans want to salute.

There are no regulations telling us veterans what we can and can't do in this matter. If we decide we want to salute, who will dare to tell us "no"? It is a matter of personal choice. We've earned the right to render a salute. Now the challenge is to get the word out. I believe the unit and branch associations are the best way. The commanders of the American Legion and VFW never answered my emails, presuming they even got them. If we can get this started it will take on a life of its own. Those who object can continue the hand over the heart thing. Gradually the custom will change, as well it should.

Just imagine thousands of fans saluting at NFL, MBA, and major league baseball games when the National Anthem is played. It will telegraph a message to all others of how many have served this country in the Armed Forces--it will be a positive and patriotic message. You can help by putting the word out in your organization, which are made up of patriots like you and me.

Thanks, my friend,

Vernon B.

End of Lewis letter.

.....

Like many of you, I have often felt like saluting but instead put my hand over my heart, thinking that is what I was supposed to do. Another VLOA recipient in response to this letter moved out and forwarded the message to his local American Legion Post 49 and the President, Air America Association. Like him, you can also help by putting out the word in your local organizations. Best of all, set the example when the occasions arise per paragraph 2 above. As a veteran, you have earned the right to be proud and render a hand salute.

Tim Bisch

EAGLE FLIGHT DETACHMENT MEMORIAL

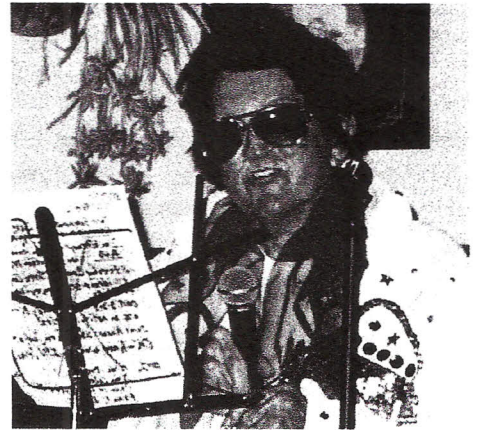
Losing friends and fellow Soldiers is never easy. Remembering them and their sacrifice, however, is an effort in which we all can, and must take part.

On 14 April 1994 in Northern Iraq, two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the 159th Aviation Regiment were shot down while conducting flight operations. They were the victims of friendly fire. All 26 personnel on board perished.

The aircraft were operating as part of a Combined Task Force consisting of U.S., French, British and Turkish military contingents in support of Operation Provide Comfort. Their mission was twofold - to protect the Kurdish people in Northern Iraq and to enforce the "No-Fly Zone" from the 36th parallel north to the Iraqi border.

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IN MEMORIAM



(How do you remember Charlie)?

Charles E. Humphries

July 26, 1932 – February 22, 2006

Our first Operations Officer, known to most as Charlie from Arkansas, left our flight formation on February 22, 2006. He passed away after years of fighting serious complications from rheumatoid arthritis, lung and heart problems. Charlie is survived by his wife, Nell of almost 50 years; three sons, Barry and his wife, Donna; Todd and his wife, Lara; and Jared; one daughter, Melanie and her husband, Dana; one sister, Shirley; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His family provided loving care and comfort throughout Charlie's long ordeal and was with him during his final days.

Charlie was a dedicated to the Army. In his quiet Arkansas way, he was a professional through and through. Proud to be a soldier who served honorably and with distinction.. Two combat tours in Vietnam; but his greatest battle came with his long hard fight of many medical and physical adversities during his later years. He faced these with the self same resolute determination, courage and bravery he had on the battlefields of Vietnam.

Many of you may remember Charlie as "Elvis Presley's father at our first VLOA reunion in Branson 2000.

Outlaws, Mavericks and Roadrunners extend our sincere condolences to Nell and her family. They remain in our thoughts and prayers.

(article submitted by Al Iller - photos submitted by Tom Anderson)

TREASURER'S CORNER

A reminder to those who have not paid their *2006 Annual Dues*, please prepare the enclosed membership form or the form located on the VLOA web site and remit your \$20 payable to VLOA, Charles Wren, 20 Rozbern Dr, Eatontown, NJ 07724. Annual dues are to be paid in January of each year.

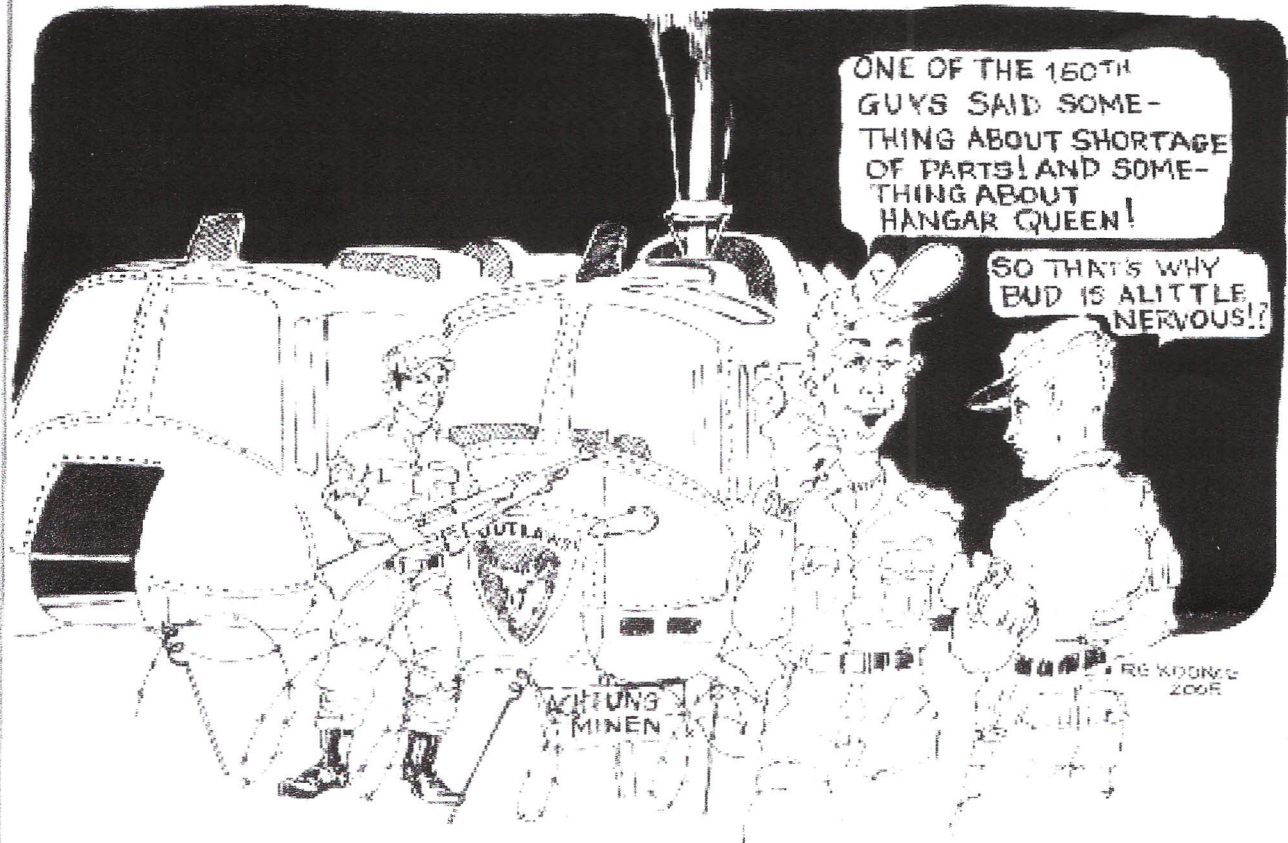
Now is the time to register for the VLOA 2006 Roundup to be held at Pigeon Forge this September. Please send in a minimum 50% payment along with the form registration enclosed in this news letter.

PAID UP MEMBERSHIP LIST - 2006

Tom Anderson, Al Iller, Tony Clemente, Tim Bisch, Ernest Isbell, Ole Thornton, John Doyle, Philip Horne, Jim Coleman, David Amason, Don Palmer, Jack Dunaway, John White, Jerry Wade, Ken Booze, Michael Madigan, John Sedam, James Grandstaff, John Brown, Duane Truman, Charles Wren, Fred Jacobs, Jimmie King, Robert Koonce, Robert Michalic, Al Moist, Leon Osterland,

(continued on page 9)

"KOMICS BY KOONCE"



(continued from page 2)

During the two years that followed the incident, friends and fellow Soldiers labored extensively to establish a monument in Giebelstadt, Germany, to honor their fallen comrades. The Eagle Flight Detachment Memorial serves as a constant reminder of the crews and their mission, so that none may be forgotten; it helps to provide closure and healing for the families; and finally, it demands that each and every one of us remember our own dedication and commitment to ensuring events such as this will not happen again.

Many have visited and spent time in quiet reflection in the nearly 10 years that have passed since the monument was erected, but now it is time for the aviation assets in "Gieb" to relocate. So that their fallen comrades will not be forgotten, the aircrew members, both former and those still serving in the 159th have asked that their monument be moved to a permanent location at Fort Rucker, Alabama, the Home of Army Aviation. There, it will serve to remind flight crews to be ever-vigilant, to focus on their duties and tasks as Soldiers and Airmen, and to remember that there is much more to being an aviator than just being able to fly the aircraft.

Efforts to disassemble the Eagle Flight Detachment Memorial commenced in March 2006 and it is currently in transit. A special fund has been established to assist in covering the costs of reconstructing the monument at Fort Rucker. Those who would like to contribute are asked to please send donations to:

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The Back Pew

From our VLOA Chaplain: John Doyle

Want to get depressed in a hurry? Just turn on the news or read the newspaper. It's not just the murders, rapes, drugs, etc. These are things that we can do something about. But what about plane crashes that kill a couple of hundred? Or hurricanes that disrupt the lives of thousands as well as taking lives? Or when something bad happens to us or those we love? It is at times like this that many ask, "Why do bad things happen to people that are not bad". People that are just being good citizens, parents, and spouses.

This past week (as I write this), the news was full with stories of cruise ship related accidents. The one that really made the headlines and lead stories on the evening news was about ten senior citizens, all from the same Jewish retirement community in New Jersey, that died in a tragic tour bus accident in Chile. On CNN Headline News, a reporter was speaking with a man and his wife who lived in that retirement community. The theme of his questions was, how such a thing could happen to nice people. The man's reply was a classic. He said, "We have no right to ask "why" when bad things happen, if we don't ask "why" when good things happen." I wanted to stand up and shout AMEN BROTHER!!

Too many times we want to blame someone for the bad things that happen. All too often, when we can't find anyone else to blame, we blame God. "God, how could you let this happen?" We don't realize how legitimate a question this is. Yes, God "*let this happen*". Does my saying this shock you? Let me explain, God is not a Master Puppeteer, sitting up in heaven controlling everything that happens to us in life. Life is like an obstacle course we must work our way through each day. Sometimes we go through the day with no problems; other days things happen that we cannot avoid, and bad things result.

So what is my secret to dealing with the bad things in life? I can draw strength from God's Word. In *Nahum 1:7*, we read, "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."

I like a rather new Gospel song sung by Lynda Randle. The title of it is, "God on the Mountain". One part says that "God on the mountain is also God in the Valley".

God is with us in the good times and the bad. Draw your strength from a loving God when things happen.

John

Backspinner Status - Jack Northridge

Jack's condition has worsened since January 11, 2006. As previously reported, he is 100% disabled from the effects of Agent Orange. Per our recent Newsletter, he had been suffering from swelling and pain caused by a device inserted into his trachea to prevent closure. Medical tests/biopsies indicated there was no cancer. Unfortunately, his wife Judy reported cancer did return. Jack had surgery January 25th to remove all lymph nodes on the left side in the neck area. Due to prior radiation damage it did not heal properly. On March 29th, it was necessary for Jack to return to the ER and ICU for emergency care. He will undergo additional surgery April 3rd to cover the wound with a skin graft, if it takes. As Judy stated, "we all know this situation is out of our hands and there is nothing we can do but hope the skin graft works."

Jack, Judy and their family are fighting an uphill battle but we can help them. They believe in the power of prayer. They thanked us previously for our prayers and positive thoughts for his recovery. Continue to keep them and others in your prayers who are/have suffered from the horrible effects of Agent Orange.

Tim Bisch

**Still pondering whether to come to Pigeon Forge?
Please read on!**

As we look back over our lives, we find there are very few events that have a more significant impact on us than having served our country, particularly during times of combat. As we grow older, that inner pride we always felt for our military service, whether it was a few years or a full career, grows even stronger. Much of that pride comes from knowing that others, who shared that experience with us, have the same feeling.

Remember those young soldiers who called themselves Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners and doorgunners in 1964 and 1965 in Vinh Long? Most of them now find themselves looking in a mirror and suddenly wondering "Who is THAT? That's not that young soldier who spent a year in Vietnam. He didn't look like that!" But, guess what???? It's you! And it's me! And it's every one of those other young men who bonded together so tightly 42 years ago. We all may LOOK differently now, but we still have that same feeling of pride in what we accomplished back then and the same feeling of comradeship that made us such a great unit.

In September 2006, we'll have the opportunity to see that pride once again reflected in the faces of others who shared that year in Vinh Long. The years are now passing far too quickly to let this opportunity slip by.

A great agenda has been put together for Roundup R2K6! Plenty of time to be together both as a group and as individuals. Time to share old war stories, family updates, poignant remembrances or lots of laughs. Our reunions have all been fantastic and this year will be no exception!

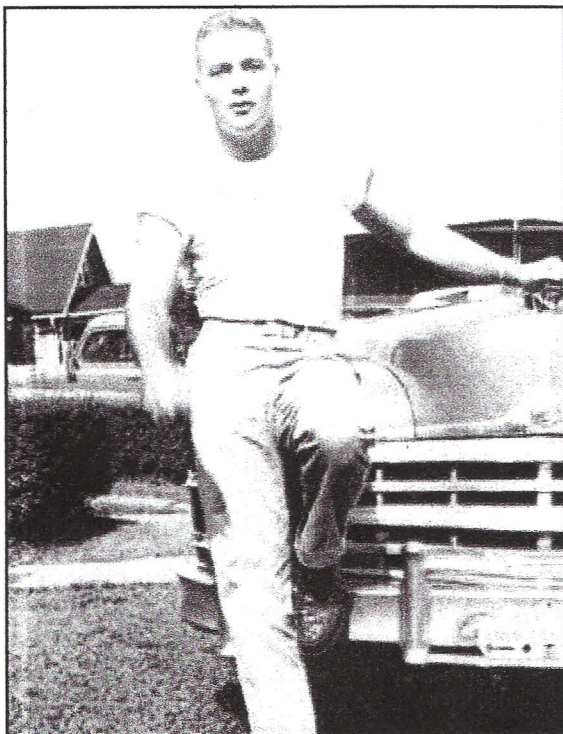
The reunion setting in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee is as good as it gets! A small, warm, friendly hotel set in the foothills of the Smokey Mountains. Breakfasts together in the mornings. Plenty of group outings during the days. A full schedule of evening events and shows. A hospitality suite all our own for the duration of the Roundup. We'll have our always-popular Silent Auction where you'll find an array of interesting items many of which will be hand-made by some of our own members. Plus, there's enough free time to allow you to divest your dollars at Dollywood, discount malls or divot-driving on the golf course. What more could you ask???

There are two forms enclosed with this Newsletter. One is your **Registration Form** to send to Chuck Wren, along with the appropriate fee, to let him know you're coming. The other is your **Shirt Order Form** for the Roundup R2K6 shirts. Pre-order your shirt for delivery at the registration table and you'll have it for wear the first evening!

If you're starting to avoid looking in that mirror because you're not finding that young soldier who once was there, **you'll find him at Roundup R2K6!** He'll be there! Don't put off coming by thinking you'll wait until the next one. Someone you REALLY want to see might not be able to make it next time.

Please don't procrastinate! Register NOW and find that "young soldier" in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee!

(Submitted by: Tom & Pat Anderson)



**Can you identify this
Person????**

**This is the first of a series that
we had a suggestion for
(thanks to John Doyle).**

**If anyone would like to submit
a picture please send it to us.**

Al & Nell

**(answer on page 9)
No peeking yet.**

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION
ROUNDUP 2006 (R2K6)
 Pigeon Forge, Tennessee
 September 21-25, 2006

REGISTRATION FORM

All reservations to be made through VLOA. Hotel cannot accept reservations for Roundup R2K6.
 Please complete this Registration Form and mail to Chuck Wren at the address shown below.

REGISTRATION FEES: Registration fees include: Four Nights Hotel Accommodations - Breakfasts - Roundup Welcome-Back BBQ Dinner - Guided Tour & Lunch- Dixie Stampede Show & Dinner - Applewood Farmhouse Dinner - Smith Family Theater Show - Farewell Dinner & Entertainment - All Local Transportation - All Taxes, Gratuities and Amenities !!!

	NO. PERSONS (CHECK ONE)	PRICE	TOTAL	SMOKING RM (Ck if "YES")	HANDICAPPED (Nbr OF RMS)
(All rooms are Queen-bed Suites)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 495	_____	* _____	_____
	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 690	_____	* _____	_____
	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 885	_____	* _____	_____
	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1076	_____	* _____	_____

Early Arrival/Late Departure Reunion Hotel Nights:

Will Arrive ___ days early @ \$ 77 per night _____
 Will Stay ___ days later @ \$ 77 per night _____

Total: (Includes Reunion fees plus early arrival/late stays) _____

*Note: All reunion-booked rooms are non-smoking. If you need a smoking room, please indicate "yes".

Please indicate here if you require any special accommodations such as dietary needs: _____

ROUNDUP ADD-ONS:

Dollywood: I would like ___ Dollywood Theme Park tickets for Sunday, Sept. 24th. Cost for each ticket will be \$ 36. I will pick up and pay for these tickets when I arrive at the Roundup.

Golf: Check here ___ if you would like to play golf at the Gatlinburg Country Club on Sunday, Sept 24th. Cost for each Green Fee/Cart Fee will be approximately \$50.

For pairings, my handicap is _____. (Send no money at this time. Pay at the Clubhouse upon arrival at the course).

Arrival Mode: I will be ___ driving or ___ flying to the reunion. (Please include this for our planning.)

I will have an item to place in the Silent Auction: _____ YES _____ NO

Payment: PLEASE NOTE: 50% deposit is due to Chuck Wren no later than June 15, 2006.

Remaining 50% is due to Chuck Wren no later than August 15, 2006.

Cancellation/Refund Policy: Individual cancellations must be made 10 days prior to arrival. No refunds will be made prior to the reunion. Full refund will be made if notification received earlier than 10 days prior to arrival. Partial refund will be made if notification received later than 10 days prior to arrival.

Name: _____ (Name for your name tag: _____)

Name of spouse or guest(s): _____

Guest Name Tag name(s): _____

Your address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

Send Registration Form AND payment to:

VLOA
 C/O Chuck Wren
 20 Rozbern Drive
 Eatontown, NJ 07724

(Chuck's ph: 732-222-5579)

(Email: cwren@ix.netcom.com)

Outlaw - Maverick - Roadrunner
R2K6 Roundup Shirts !

At the San Antonio and Fort Rucker VLOA reunions, high-quality, collared Outlaws golf sport shirts were available for purchase by attendees. These sport shirts featured the VLOA three-logo design that incorporates the Outlaws patch with the Maverick and Roadrunner logos on either side. At San Antonio, dark blue shirts were pre-ordered (and prepaid) and made available for pick up at Registration. At Fort Rucker, wine sport shirts with the VLOA three-logo design were available for sale at the Registration table.

For the Pigeon Forge Roundup, **four different logo style shirts** will be available for **pre-ordering and prepayment**. All are the same high quality as previous shirts. All shirts will be navy blue with winter white edge striping on collar and sleeve. You may pre-order (and pre-pay) for one or more of any of the following style shirts to be delivered on registration at the reunion:

- The VLOA shirt that incorporates all three-logo designs: Outlaws patch plus Maverick and Roadrunner logos.
- A shirt with only the Outlaws patch design
- A shirt with only the Maverick logo design
- A shirt with only the Roadrunner logo design

Cost for each shirt is \$30.00. Order by logo style (A, B, C, or D) and by size (**NOTE: Unisex sizes/measurements**). To order your shirt(s), complete and forward the form below. All shirt orders will be delivered at Registration in Pigeon Forge. Additional three-logo- design VLOA shirts, in assorted sizes, will be available for sale at the reunion.

R2K6 ROUNDUP SHIRT ORDER FORM
Number Desired by Size

<u>Shirt Style</u>	<u>Unisex Sizes</u>				<u>Total No. By Style</u>		<u>Cost</u>
	Select Sizes From Chart Below						
	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>SIZE</u>			
A. VLOA 3-logo	_____	_____	_____	_____		X @ \$30.00	_____
B. Outlaws only	_____	_____	_____	_____		X @ \$30.00	_____
C. Maverick only	_____	_____	_____	_____		X @ \$30.00	_____
D. Roadrunner only	_____	_____	_____	_____		X @ \$30.00	_____

****UNISEX SIZES - CHEST MEASUREMENT TAKEN UNDER THE ARMS****

XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
30-32	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48	50-52	54-55	57-58	60-61

Total cost for all shirts ordered>>>> \$ _____

For delivery of shirt orders at the reunion, indicate name(s)below:

Name: _____ SIZE _____
 Name: _____ SIZE _____
 Name: _____ SIZE _____
 Name: _____ SIZE _____

NOTE: All shirt orders will be delivered at Registration in Pigeon Forge.

ALL ORDERS WITH PRE-PAYMENT MUST BE IN BY June 15, 2006

SEND SHIRT ORDER FORM, WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, TO: VLOA-QM
 % CHUCK WREN
 20 Rozbern Drive
 Eatontown, NJ 07724

And the answer is: Jack Sanford in his late teens. Picture from John Doyle from the files of Hank Yale.

Schedule of Events - R2K6

Thursday – September 21

Afternoon registration
Evening picnic and entertainment at the Pavilion

Friday – September 22

Continental Breakfast
Morning bus tour through Smoky Mountains
Picnic Lunch – bank-side on the Little River
Evening – Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede

Saturday – September 23

Continental Breakfast
Morning – VLOA General Membership meeting
Afternoon – Free time
Hospitality Suite open for visiting
Early evening - Dinner at Applewood Farmhouse Grill
Entertainment at the Smith Family Theater

Sunday – September 24

Morning –Chapel Service - Chaplain John Doyle
Southern breakfast in the Pavilion – Entertainment!
Free time during the day (Shopping/Golf/Naps)
Hospitality Suite open for visiting all day
Late Afternoon – Group Photo
Evening – VLOA Farewell Banquet !

Monday – September 25

Continental Breakfast
Hospitality Room closes
Farewells until R2K8 !

(continued from page 4)

Efforts to disassemble the Eagle Flight Detachment Memorial commenced in March 2006 and it is currently in transit. A special fund has been established to assist in covering the costs of reconstructing the monument at Fort Rucker. Those who would like to contribute are asked to please send donations to:

Eagle Flight Detachment Memorial
PO Box 620492
Fort Rucker, AL 36362-0492
(checks should be made payable to the "Eagle Flight Detachment Memorial Fund")

If you would like to find out more information about the Monument, its history and the mission you can visit the official website at <http://www.efdmmf.org>.

QM STORE STILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS

(Al Iller, Quartermaster)

The 2006 VLOA Roundup at Pigeon Forge ,TN is only about 5 months away. Now is the time to get stocked up on Outlaws pins, buckles and Outlaws and Maverick and Roadrunner decals. For those arriving Pigeon Forge by vehicle, you need a few decals adorning your auto to announce the arrival of the VLOA reunion attendees! So how about it? Get your orders in soon and be ready and raring to go for the 2006 Roundup! Checkout the VLOA web page

www.vinhlongoutlaws.com for color photos of the QM items.

"Outlaws" pin/tie tack, a miniature color enamel on metal replica of the Outlaws patch, as originally designed by the late Bob "Maverick" Bergquist. The pin measures 1 ¼" high X 7/8" wide. Price \$6.00/ea including shipping.

"Outlaws", "Maverick" (each 5 ½" high X 4" wide) and "Roadrunner" (3" diameter) decals. Price \$3.00/ea, or any 3 for \$7.00 including shipping.

"Outlaws" bronze belt buckle serially numbered (3" wide X 2 ¼" high, belt width 1 ½"). Price \$36.50/ea including shipping.

Supplies of these items are limited and may be reordered as required. Send orders indicating item (s) and number(s) requested with remittances in check or money order to VLOA - QM, and address to:

VLOA - QM
% Chuck Wren, Treasurer
20 Rozbern Drive
Eatontown, NJ 07724

(continued from page 3)

Dale Sherrod, Patrick Theriot, Robert Williams, James Hardbeck, Skip Mcrae, Paul L. Martin, Milton Frontera, Richard Leister, Byron Miksch, Clayton Stolte, Tim Campbell, Robert Tidd, Angel Spelios, John Reynolds, Harold Simpson, Robert Costner, Louie Seagers, Charles Matlock, George Prescott, Malcolm Campbell, Pete Fredriksson, Jack Lane, Larry Jackson, Berkley Badgett, Chester Voisin, Charles Bouton, Philip Kirk, Richard Donahue, Frank Estes, Doug Wilson, Curtis Fair, Bud Allie, Roger Franke

PAID ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - 2006

Ron Smith, Pat Obrien, Joseph Wisnewski, Mike Haley,