

VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWSLETTER

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION
(VLOA)

April - June
Second Issue 2007

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MOVING By Linda Isbell

Everyone dreads moving, but I've come to think of it as an adventure. Moving 38 times in my 47 years of marriage and 8 times as a Navy Junior, I think I must be part gypsy. When we were first married we could pack everything we owned in our car. As the years went by the moving van got bigger and bigger.

Some of you know that we have moved twice this past year. We had talked about downsizing and our daughter talked us into buying her house, so we went from a 2600 sq ft house to a 1450 sq ft house. It's like putting a 10 lb sack of potatoes into a 3 lb sack. This was also our summer of travel; we were traveling on pleasure or business every two weeks. When we returned from our cruise to Alaska we had one week to get ready to move. Having planned to pack ourselves, we found this impractical; so I got on the phone and found a moving company that could pack us and move us on the date required. So as we prepared to move we found we didn't have enough time to clean out much of our "stuff". Packing took two days and the move took all day, which ended after 10 pm. The belongings we couldn't live without were delivered to the "small house" and the rest put in two storage units.

As we unpacked we cleaned out pieces of our lives and took three pick-up truckloads to the local charity. Living in the "small house" got us back to basics. While in this house we had all kinds of work done, in between trips. But we had to face facts; the house was just too small. There just wasn't enough closet space or cabinets for storage in the kitchen, etc. So we started looking to up-size. Friends of ours heard us complain about our house being too small and wanting a bigger house; they suggested we buy their house, as they were moving to another state. After looking at their house, we shook hands with our friends and said it was a done deal.

The worst part of moving was changing the phone number we had for 16 years and my e-mail address. You will find our new address, home phone number and e-mail address at the end of this article.

Before moving in we had the house painted inside and out and new carpet laid, as we didn't want to go through having work done after we moved in. Now we had a 2550 sq ft house and room for all our "stuff".

(continued on Page 5)

REUNION REFLECTIONS

With each of our reunions, the last day always has been nostalgic and emotional. Perhaps age, or some other force that one may not be able to fully understand. Our reunions come to an end. The days packed with activities and camaraderie sweep by and perhaps there wasn't time to visit with all, and there is the strong wish for just a few more days with the Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners, their spouses and family members.

The Pigeon Forge reunion was no less so, and the VLOA following reunions will be so too as long as age, health, or other factors allow one to attend.

The last day of the Pigeon Forge reunion, as all were preparing to depart and scatter our separate ways, the final day emotions surged forth and filled my thoughts. Crossing the parking lot, loaded with the usual bags, clothes and other acquired objects from the visit to pack in our car I met a Maverick and his son doing likewise.

We greeted, bade our farewells to one another. We stood there for a short while, lost in the emotion of the moment and the Maverick handed me piece of paper with his handwritten note. The note read,

"One day a young soldier came home from Vietnam and got married. A few years later he had a grand daughter. As they were walking alone together one day, she stopped and asked him, "Grand-Paw were you a hero in the war?". Grand-Paw looked down at her little face with tears in his eyes and said, " No dear, Grand-Paw was not a hero in the war, Grand-Paw served with a company of heroes in the war."

*Robert (Bob) Costner
RA 14 812 494*

Contributed by: Al Iller with permission from Bob Costner

ATTENTION: "VLOA ROUNDUP '08" LOCATION HAS BEEN DECIDED!!

Our Director Joe Clelan and his wife Erline have "stepped up to the plate" to coordinate this event to be held in Hershey, PA September 11 - 15, 2008.

The planner that Joe has contacted is Ms. Tracey Conners. Should anyone require trip requirements and/or travel she can be contacted at the following: Ms. Tracey Conners PH: (717) 489-0268 or email her at tconners@tbd.travel

(Will include more info in future issues of the newsletter as we receive it from Joe).

IN MEMORIAM



*December 31, 1943~
June 21, 2007*

Bud Allie passed away on June 21, 2007. Bud was a long-time member of the VLOA and a very visible member of the reunion group in Pigeon Forge last September in spite of his obvious health issues. Several years ago, Bud volunteered to serve as our VLOA webmaster. Bud turned our web site into a high-quality, first class operation and a source of pride to all Outlaws. Bud had also volunteered to coordinate the next VLOA Outlaw Roundup in 2008 in Las Vegas. The status of the Roundup is now being considered by the Steering Committee.

Bud Allie typified the quality of men who were the Vinh Long Outlaws 43 years ago. Those same people continue to make the VLOA the close-knit group of old soldiers that it is today.

We will miss you, Bud!

Tom Anderson

Chaplain Frank E. Deese passed away on January 29, 2007. The last four + years of his life he was bed ridden due to the complications of diabetes from exposure to Agent Orange while in Viet Nam and spent the last two years at the VA Nursing Home in Asheville.

The Outlaws and the other units he served with while in Viet Nam were a very important part of his life and he enjoyed the contacts maintained through the newsletter and personal calls. Thank you for staying in touch.

Lynn Deese

Jack Dunaway passed away on May 11, 2007.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family for their loss.

NOTE:

If you know of a member or recipient of the newsletter that has passed (or passes) away, please send the info to us via email at myranell@digitalexp.com or you can mail us at our mailing address on the return address on the back of the newsletter.

Al & Nell

George "Bud" Allie

Bud Allie is my friend and comrade. He was also my Crew Chief on Outlaw 15 a UH-1B Iroquois (Bell) Helicopter. We first met at the helicopter on the flight line at Vinh Long in 1964, where Bud was busily getting the helicopter ready to fly and checking out our machine guns. I immediately liked him. He was shorter than I, in fact, the only other guy in the entire Outlaws Unit who was. He had a twinkle in his eye and a sense of energy, not found in many people in my lifetime.

Bud was always ready to go into a hot Landing Zone and provide covering fire with his M-60 machine gun to keep Charlie's head down while we got in and out. When I would ask him what he thought about a hot situation, he always responded, "Let's go, Sir!" He was always willing to share his C-rations with the hungry children who gathered around our machine when we went into the little hamlets on routine missions.

It was my pleasure to present Bud with his E-5 stripes and be the first to congratulate him (see picture). He deserved the highest praise for the quality of his work, which was always impeccable and above and beyond what was asked of him. When Bud, Horne, Don Palmer, and Truman, gathered around a machine to help each other out there was a sense of confidence and good natured fun which made the peter pilot feel secure and ready to do whatever we needed to do with the machines. None of their machines every failed to perform the tasks we asked of them. None of them ever hesitated, as the door gunner and crew chief, to go into the hottest situations with us. They trusted their machines, they trusted us and we trusted them.

Bud was always good natured and harassed me when we shot auto rotations back into Vinh Long, saying our skid tubes were about four inches wider than all the other Hueys. I was constantly checking out new guys who had just arrived into country. We both thought wider skids were okay because it made it easier for us, the short guys, to climb into the cockpit. When we were on milk runs without a pilot to train or an available co-pilot, I put Bud into the (pilot's) right seat for stick time. He didn't admit it much but we even have a picture in the gallery of Bud flying the machine and I can prove it because I took the picture from the left seat with his camera.

Bud and I lived through many life and death situations in combat together. He had no fear and was courageous and confident in us as a team. One time when we were out of drinking water, I hovered in the top of a coconut palm while Bud stood on the skid tube without a monkey strap and cut a half a dozen coconuts out with my jungle machete and threw them into the cargo compartment. Another time we were low level on the way to Tow Chow Special Forces Camp when a machine gun began firing at us with tracers arching over and in front of us as we flew by. Bud said, "Let's go back and get those SOBs" and we did. At that time in our life, death seemed almost impossible even though it was happening to our friends very often. Now we know—it is possible, it is imminent. Bud successfully completed his last autorotation alone on June 21st.

Goodbye Old Friend, Hot Damn what a ride we had together!!!

George Kyle.



SANFORD HALL IMPROVEMENTS

by Frank Estes

Last month, I had the opportunity to be on Fort Rucker taking care of some personal business. While there, I stopped by Sanford Hall, and found that our point of contact, MAJ (then CPT) Paul Berg was in charge, but would soon be departing for school. We had a very delightful chat, ending with his touring me around the hallway, and briefing me on all he had accomplished with the memorabilia Jeannette and others provided for use in decorating the main hallway. Paul had found a decent size display case someone had discarded. He masterfully placed pivotal pieces of Jack Sanford's memorabilia in the case. Paul wanted to do more, but lacked the funds for any further efforts.

Paul showed me a place where he would like to install a much larger, lighted display case, and stated that he has enough memorabilia to fill it up. He still has two large postal trays (boxes) full of things. All the things the various Outlaws/Mavericks/Roadrunners provided have been properly marked for control by the Army Aviation Museum Curator. This will preclude any of the items from being lost if they are ever moved from their current locations.

The display case Paul wants to construct will cost about \$800 to \$1000; funds the Army doesn't have for such a project. I informed Paul that I was sure the VLOA would be very supportive of funding the additional display case, but that I would have to get it approved by the VLOA.

I emailed our VLOA National Director, who in turn emailed the information to our Executive Committee for a vote. The vote was unanimous that the VLOA provide the \$800 to \$1000 to construct the new display case. I have so informed MAJ Paul Berg, who was delighted to hear the news. He has now begun the process of getting the new display case constructed.

The photo below shows the current display case Paul found and filled with key memorabilia. MAJ Paul Berg requires all students who matriculate through Sanford Hall to read everything available about Jack, so they have a better appreciation for the Sanford ethos, dedication, and sacrifice. Paul has gone above and beyond any necessary requirement to keep the MAJ Jack Sanford's "warrior, soldier" mystique alive. His replacement, MAJ Williams is on board fully with the importance of continually improving Sanford Hall by displaying the plethora of MAJ Jack Sanford's memorabilia.





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"The Back Pew"

From our VLOA Chaplain: John Doyle

In early May Ruth and I drove to eastern North Carolina so I could preach a Homecoming sermon at the church I retired from. We decided to drive up US 301 instead of going I 95. If you haven't tried any of the old highways in a long time, I suggest that the next time you take a trip, try them. Slower pace, better sights, and food and gas cost less than around Interstate highways.

Thomas Wolfe wrote, "You can't go home again". With all due respect to Mr. Wolfe, you can go home again - it's just not the way you remember it. We had a great time at our Homecoming. Saw old friends, caught-up on the latest gossip, and was amazed at how people had changed when I stayed my youthful, handsome self.

Homecoming got me thinking, I know what you're thinking, "This could be dangerous." But the truth is, it got me thinking about the greatest homecoming any of us will ever attend. It is the homecoming that will take place in Heaven. What a day that will be!

I hope that, should you leave this earth before me, that you will be waiting to greet me and all other Outlaws when we arrive. I'm looking forward to seeing Jack Sanford and Mike Moritz, my family, friends, and many others. And yes, I'm sure I will be surprised at some that are there and some that are not. I hope to see you at that best of all Homecomings.

John

("MOVING" continued from Page 1)

Unpacking was like opening presents on Christmas morning. We found items we hadn't seen in years. Once again we were forced to confront what we'd outgrown, what we no longer needed and who we were. It was as if we'd died but got to sort through our things; it was as if we'd been reborn and were now able to start accumulating things all over again.

We love the features of our new home, bigger rooms, and lots of closet space that includes built-in dressers, 2 double car garages and a large beautiful landscaped yard. This is it, no more moves for me, unless it's to the retirement home or they take me out feet first.

Ernie & Linda Isbell

2635 Bierstadt Dr - Highland Village, TX 75028 -- H #972-317-9657 - W#972-410-0206

E-mail: Mzlzzz@verizon.net

Prayer List from John Doyle

Christina & Nathan Watts - Nathan is a SGT in the 3rd Inf Div. He will be returning to Iraq. This is his third combat deployment in a row.

Kim Dunaway - Please be in prayer for Kim and the children as they try to adjust to the loss of their husband and father.

Steffie Iller - Daughter of Al and Marguerite Iller recently broke her arm. She is now taking rehabilitation therapy.

Jack Moodt - Jack has had a stroke and other medical problems to include a knee replacement. (Hallye Rae)

Dale Sherrod - Dale has cardiac problems that have slowed him down and limited his travels, but he has a positive attitude about his situation. (Dian)

Hannah Theriot - Hannah is the granddaughter of Patrick and Patty Theriot. Hannah is about 3 years old and has spent most of her life in hospitals, doctors offices, or other medical related situations. Hannah has a medical condition that caused her to spend many months in Duke Hospital in Durham, North Carolina. She is now home in Gonzales, LA under the excellent care of her family and local doctors.

Bob Costner - Bob has been diagnosed with cancer of the liver and esophagus. (Elizabeth Anne - Anne is preferred) Bob is having chemo treatments at the Asheville, NC VA Hospital.

Jack Lane - Jack's wife has breast and bone cancer. Jack also has health problems. (Shirley)

Bob Sharp - Bob's wife Bonnie has lung cancer.

On April 28th 2007, VLOA Director Joe Clelan and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. More than 60 guests shared a wonderful weekend with the Clelans at the Allenberry Inn Resort and Playhouse near Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Among the VLOA friends at the festivities were Ole and Mary Thornton, Gloria Kramer and Tom and Pat Anderson.



Joe presenting Erline with a beautiful 50th Anniversary 5-diamond ring



Joe and Erline start the evening off with an anniversary dance.



Here is a picture of three old Outlaws (Ernie Isbell, Tom Anderson and Olen Thornton) in front of a Viet Nam UH-1 at the huge new Air and Space museum annex at Dulles International Airport (IAD) on May 21, 2007. Ernie and Linda Isbell were visiting in Virginia and we spent a great day together.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOW VLOA LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Michalic, Robert # 88
 Martin, Paul L. #67
 Anderman, Melvin E. # 142
 Bouton, Charles # 50
 Frontera, Milton (Skip) # 79
 Moist, Al # 63
 Anderson, Tom # 1

Osterland, Leon # 64
 Logan, David # 21
 Bisch, Frederick (Tim) # 4
 Isbell, Ernie & Linda # 8
 Truman, Duane # 49
 Jackson, Larry #100

Sharp, Robert # 43
 Longhofer, James # 145
 Booze, Kenneth # 130
 Madigan, Michael #36
 Horne, Phillip # 16
 Iller, Al # 2

Dunaway, Jack # 27 (sent his card to his wife, thought she (or one of his children) may want it.

Remember, a Lifetime Membership is only \$100. Why don't you send yours in to our Treasurer Charles Bouton today? If not, then this is a reminder to pay your annual dues of \$20.00 for 2007 if you have not done so already.

EAGLE FLIGHT DETACHMENT Memorial Rededication Ceremony at Fort Rucker Alabama

by Frank Estes

Quite some time ago, Al Iller contacted me, and asked that I represent the VLOA at a monument dedication ceremony that would soon occur at Veterans' Park at Fort Rucker, Alabama, adjacent to the Daleville gate. I was vaguely familiar with the incident that led ultimately to the monument's creation, and so I agreed to attend in his behalf.

The Eagle Flight Detachment, based in Giebelstadt, Germany provided the two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and flight crews that were conducting a peacekeeping mission in northern Iraq, when they were unfortunately shot down by our own U.S. Air Force fighters. You probably now recall the incident, because it made national news soon after it occurred. On April 14, 1994, these two Blackhawks were carrying 26 international victims on board, including the flight crews. The monument pays tribute to all the 26 international victims, focusing on the eight helicopter crewmembers.

The monument was originally dedicated at the unit's location in Giebelstadt Army Airfield, Germany on April 14, 1996, and remained there until March 10, 2006. A massive effort on the part of a few individuals made the monument possible, mainly through sufficient donations exceeding \$50,000 from individuals, Americans, and businesses that covered the cost. Original plans included efforts to dismantle, package, and ship the monument to Fort Rucker if the unit left the airfield or the airfield ever closed. Well, the U.S. Army closed its Giebelstadt Army Airfield, resulting in the monument's move to Fort Rucker.

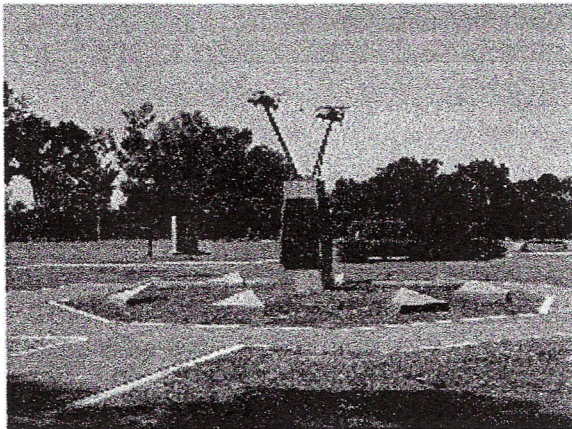
On April 14, 2007, the Eagle Flight Detachment monument was rededicated in Veterans' Park at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Eight trees form a rotor blade effect crossing an octagonal walkway made of octagonal stones. Eight triangular limestones, like points on a compass, are engraved with the names and crew member badges of the flight crew members. On the center pedestal rise

meter-long cast bronze detailed replicas of the helicopters lost, and the sides are plaques listing the passengers corresponding to the helicopters above, as well as a plaque about the incident and a plaque about the mission of Operation Provide Comfort. Two pictures of the monument are shown below.

The move of the monument from Germany to Fort Rucker exhausted the funds that were set aside for that purpose more than a decade ago. The contributors listed here helped meet the fund raising goal in 2006 to re-install the monument at Fort Rucker: 1st Warrant Officer Company, Alabama Power Foundation, American Legion Department of Alabama, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary of Taneytown, MD, Army Aviation Association of America, Butch & Cindy Colbert, Hammer Construction of Samson, AL, COL (Ret) Alfred Iller, Mary F. Kennedy, Koonce Enterprises, L3 Communications, Joseph G. McInerney III, Daniel M. McKenna, Robert McKenna, LTC (Ret) & Mrs. R. T. McKenna, Morningstar Food LLC, COL Susan McKenna Rocha, Daniel Ryan, Sikorsky Products, Inc., VFW Post 3237 - Robinson Park, CA, Michael S. White, Wiregrass Memorials of Hartford, AL, Southeastern Landscaping, and WOCC/CW3 Nick Atwood.

The rededication ceremony was attended by many family members of those lost and friends. CW4 (Ret) Kenneth Koch, MAJ Brian Simoneaux, Mr. Mike Nge, and BG William Wolf (Assistant Commandant) conducted the rededication ceremony. Two quotes highlight the importance of this monument: "They came to save us, and to give us dignity. Their sacrifice will remain in the minds of our children for the rest of their lives. We will teach their names to our children, and keep their names in our books of history as heroes that gave their lives for freedom." Sheik Ahmet, 17 April 1994 memorial service in Zakhu, Iraq; and, "When a tragic accident like this happens, it is for us an especially deep loss. But it also moves us on to an unwavering commitment to correct that which went on. That is what we now must pursue. We owe no less to those who died that day." General John Shalikashvili, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 13 July 1994 news conference.

Additional information can be found on the internet at <http://www.efdmnf.org/support.html> and <http://www.efdmnf.org/library.html>.



For orientation, the Outlaw/Maverick/Roadrunner monument is in the background, the Army Aviation Museum is to the right, and the Daleville gate is to the left.

