

VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWSLETTER

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION
(VLOA)

July - August
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A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Hi Fellows and Gals,

I recently returned from a very successful hunting trip in Wyoming. Mule deer and antelope were the objectives. These were large enough to replace my older ones in the house.

We are working on our round-up, R2k+8, Sep 11-14, 2008, and have confirmed the hotel and a few side trips to places like Gettysburg Battlefield and Lancaster, Pennsylvania for a show, shopping, and an Amish meal. The hotel is the Harrisburg/Hershey Sheraton, recently refurbished and beautifully decorated to include an indoor/outdoor pool and a large exercise room exclusive to guests. The hotel is situated between the Harrisburg Airport, Harrisburg city and Hershey. We are sure you'll enjoy yourself. The new casino at the Penn National Racetrack will open in the spring and is just 8+ miles from the hotel. There will be buses to take us to the track and back.

Bill Hensinger, our new Quartermaster, who lives near me, has been a great help in developing those items which will make the round-up that much more special. Tracy Connors, our reunion specialist, (717)-489-0268 or tconnors@tbd.travel is available to handle your travel requirements (including RV sites).

Erline and I are looking forward to R2K+8 and believe you will thoroughly enjoy yourself in beautiful Pennsylvania in the early fall.

The next couple of newsletters will contain an application and reservation form. Please mark your calendars for a great get-together and fellowship of our Outlaws, Roadrunners, Mavericks and 28th Signal friends.

Feel free to write ERLINEC@AOL.COM or call 717-766-6761 (caller ID only) or my cell 717-443-2888 with questions or suggestions.

JOE



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"The Back Pew"

From our VLOA Chaplain: John Doyle

Forty-three years ago, in 1964, in a small Southeast Asia country, a small group of American military personnel were doing a job that not many Americans knew or cared about. In September of that year, an even smaller group of American soldiers was preparing to go over and help them. What was unique about this latter group is that, to the man, they were going because this is what they wanted to do.

Some Two Thousand years ago, in a small Near Eastern country, another small group of men and women volunteered to do a job that could be every bit as hazardous as the mission the later small group of men took on. Their leader, Jesus Christ, having been sent by His Father, had come to share God's plan of salvation with them. Things went as the Father had planned, but not as the little group of men expected. Their leader had been arrested, convicted of false charges, and crucified on Calvary's Hill.

But the comparison, between the small group of men who left home in 1964 and the small group 2000 plus years earlier, continues. Each group had a mission of great importance. Each group undertook their mission with their eyes wide open as to what could or would happen to them. In the 1964 group, there would be loss of life, serious injuries, and problems that would not raise their heads for many years into the future. For the first group, some would lose their life and others would be injured.

Both groups would be successful in their mission. However, both groups would not see success in the 'Big Picture'. The small group members of 1964 are reading these words. However, the earlier group's words are being read by millions of people all over the world. Men like Paul, John, James, Luke, etc have shared the WORD of Life for the ages, the WORD that provides everlasting life for all mankind. They have given their entire being to "telling the story" of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

In a few short years, our acts will be reported briefly in the history books of school children. The acts of the followers of Jesus Christ will last and be spoken until He returns for his followers old and new.

May God richly bless both groups.

John

A Different View

If anyone in our group would like to share a different perspective than the traditional Christian perspective, I would welcome a guest article in the *Back Pew*. Do we have any Mormons, Jewish, or others in our group who would like to write a guest column? If so, please send it to Al and Nell Moist.

Chaplain John Doyle

Why Did My Son Have to Die?

A mother asked President Bush, "Why did my son have to die in Iraq?"

Another mother asked President Kennedy, "Why did my son have to die in Viet Nam?"

Another mother asked President Truman, "Why did my son have to die in Korea?"

Another mother asked President F. D. Roosevelt, "Why did my son have to die at Iwo Jima?"

Another mother asked President W. Wilson, "Why did my son have to die on the battlefield of France?"

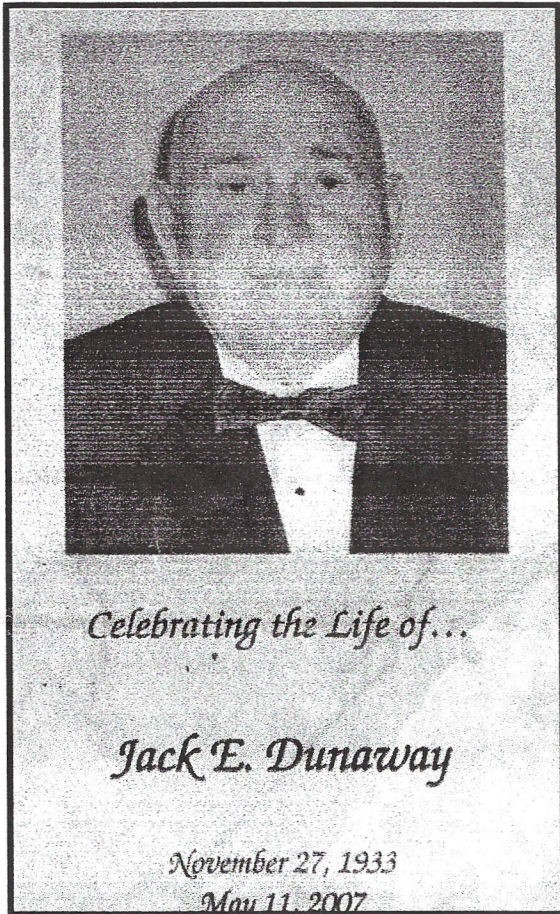
Yet another mother asked President Lincoln, "Why did my son have to die at Gettysburg?"

And yet another mother asked President George Washington, "Why did my son have to die near Valley Forge?"

Then long, long ago a mother asked...Heavenly Father, why did my son have to die on a cross outside of Jerusalem?"
The answers to all these questions are similar .. **"So that others have life and dwell in peace, happiness and freedom."**

(Street Talk America)

IN MEMORIAM



Chaplain John Doyle speaking at Jack Dunaway's Services.

The above pictures were sent to us of Jack and his funeral services by his wife.

Bonnie Sharp, wife of Robert Sharp passed away on September 30, 2007. Her memorial service was held on October 5, 2007.

We had a VLOA Newsletter returned last quarter from Lewis J. Postles marked "Deceased".

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who have lost loved ones. AL & Nell

My wife - the terrorist?

Early in September, Ruth and I traveled from Florida to New Hampshire by air and then drove to Maine to do some mountain hiking. We had been looking forward to this trip for months.

As we entered Maine on I-95, it being lunch time, we stopped to eat. As Ruth got up from her seat, she stumbled backwards and injured her knee. To make a long story short, we spent a good part of the first night in Maine in the ER at Bangor. We were able to do absolutely no hiking, mountain or other wise.

Ruth spent all that week on crutches. As we checked in for our flight in Manchester to go home, we had to go through the mandatory security check. Now picture this: I'm 72 and Ruth is 71 (this was her birthday). Two old folks with backpacks, one on crutches. Our ever so alert Homeland Security Inspectors see Ruth and decide she is suspicious, a possible terrorist, or maybe a mass murderer. They take her aside, after we had gone shoeless through the X-ray and who knows what other security checks. Please note that Ruth's crutches had been X-rayed.

I had already cleared security and was putting my hiking boots back on, when I noticed Ruth still in the security area, isolated with a female "agent" off to the side. I walked over to try and determine why they had pulled Ruth aside. Here is the conversation that followed:

Me: "Excuse me. Could you explain to me why you decided to pull a 71 year old lady on crutches, who does not possibly fit any terrorist profile of any kind, aside for a special search?"

The agent: "She has crutches, and we pull anybody aside that has any kind of equipment."

Me: "I look more like a terrorist than she does, why didn't you pull me".

Agent: Some stupid comment that I can't even remember now. Remember-her crutches had been x-rayed before this happened.

I fully expected the FBI, CIA, and George W. Bush's personal maid, to swoop down, tackle me, cuff me, and send me away, never to be heard from again.

In hindsight, Ruth is a bit suspicious looking. Hmmm!

John Doyle

Meeting With Good Shepard Sisters in Cork, Ireland. (submitted by Ron Alcott)

On August 22, 2007 a group of us from the States met with (four) 4 of the Nuns that were in Vinh Long in the mid sixties at the Good Shepard convent that was next to the airfield.

Around 1968 the Nuns adopted their original names, therefore Sister John is now Sister Joan Gormley, Sister Edith is now Sister Bridie O'Driscoll, Sister Jachin is now Sister Ann Furlong, and Sister Fidelma Haverty who was also at the reunion arrived in Vinh Long from Australia toward the end of 1969. From the States Robin Miller, his wife Vivian, son Grant and his wife, Janice. Simone Nguc Anh and her husband, John Barney. Myself (Ron Alcott) and my wife, Lillian and Cecile O'Hare was also there. In total, including siblings, brothers and sisters and in laws of the folks who live in Ireland, 22 people attended the reunion.

For a current update on the Nuns: Sister Margaret Dympna Brady, Sister Ursula Lee, and Sister Brigitte Ver are now in Heaven. Sister Mary Hayden and Sister Mercey Ho are together in Nongkhai, Thailand. Sister Joan is in Pattaya City, Thailand, Sister Ann is near London, England, Sister Bridie is in Cork, Ireland and Sister Fidelma is in Taiwan. Simone traveled from Portland, OR to Thailand this past June to visit Sisters Mary and Mercy. Sister Mary wanted very much to be at the reunion however her traveling days are over and Sister Mercy is now 90 and very frail.

Sister Ann told of prior healings and healing at the reunion. For example: Sister Ann returned to Viet Nam in 1990 on a mission to find a way to re-establish Sisters in Viet Nam. She spoke of how she would be washing dishes and the tears would run down her cheeks and fall into the dishwater. Then, going back to Viet Nam without seeing barbed wire and sand bags, looking the way it should have been was her healing.

There were also questions that have gone unanswered there past 42 years. One that I have always had was why Sister's Ursula's body was found in Bangkok, Thailand and not Saigon where she was killed in the crash of the C5A on the outskirts of Tan Son Nhut Airport. Sister Joan answered the question. There was a Grave Registration Unit working in Bangkok identifying Korean war dead. The bodies that were recovered from the crash were sent to Bangkok. Sister Joan was previously transferred to Thailand and she was called to identify Sister Ursula's body.

The Foundation date of the Convent in Vinh Long was April 24, 1958. The last persons to leave Vinh Long were Sisters Fidelma and Simone. By April, 1975 all of the Nuns were out of Viet Nam.

Murphy's Law in Combat

Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.

If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.

The enemy diversion you're ignoring is their main attack.

Five second fuses always burn three seconds.

The Cavalry doesn't always come to the rescue.

Sniper's motto: reach out and touch someone.

When in doubt, empty your magazine.

If you can keep your head while those around you are losing theirs, you may have misjudged the situation.

If two things are required to make something work, they will never be shipped again.

The most dangerous thing in the combat zone is an officer with a map.

There is nothing more satisfying than having someone take a shot at you and miss.

If your sergeant can see you, so can the enemy.

The ammo you need "NOW" is on the "NEXT" airdrop.

Street Talk America sends this article out to our men and women overseas. Our prayers are with you. And for our men and women not yet sent over, we say Thanks in advance. We hope these little ditties will bring a smile.

(Street Talk America)