

Vinh Long Outlaws Newsletter

Jan-Mar.-2013

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

First Quarter 2013

Inside this issue:

National Commanders Corner- Angelo Spelios	1
VLOA-50th. Anniversary By-Tom Anderson	2-3
The Back Pew by John Doyle.	4
4 Outlaws lunch- Branson, Missouri.	5-6
"On the lighter side" and Collectable's for Sale.	6
New Funding approach for the 50th. Anniversary.	7
Return to Vietnam by Larry Jackson.	8- 9-10
Two Former Outlaw CO's	11
Mule riding in the Ozarks & Food for thought.	12
LTC Bernard D. Thomp- son-KIA- Vietnam,1968.	13-14
Obituaries.	15

National Director's Corner

Greetings fellow Outlaws:

I certainly hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirits.

Fort Worth, Texas hosted the annual Army Aviation Association of America (Quad-A) convention 11-13 Apr 13. Normally about 13,000 persons attend, but this year with sequester in effect, only 3,000 attended. Needless to say, there were a lot of discussions on what sequestration mean for budgets and programs.

There were only two aircraft on display. Two manufacturers had flying models of their concept of the armed reconnaissance helicopter to replace the venerable OH-58D.

Bell Helicopter had a revealed the V-280 tilt rotor aircraft. Unlike the V-22 whose engines and rotor pods tilt up for hover and down for forward flight as a unit, the V-280 only has the rotor tilting and the engines are stationary. It is capable of 230 knots of forward flight.

I met up with Frank Estes at the convention and enjoyed an evening together over supper. It was good to meet with him and talk about our days with the 62nd Aviation Company.

Frank also had our web site upgraded to accommodate the Internet Explorer 10 (IE10). Some of us who had their browsers upgraded had trouble opening up our web site.

On Saturday, 23 Mar 13, a memorial honoring Medal of Honor recipients who trained at Camp Wolters or Fort Wolters was dedicated at the Fort Wolters Historical Park in nearby Mineral Wells. Known recipients from Camp Wolters (WWII, Korea) are: 1st Lt. Vernon Baker, Staff Sgt. Edward A. Carter, Jr., 1st Lt. Jack L. Knight, 2nd Lt. Audie L. Murphy, 1st Lt. Charles L. Thomas and 1st Lt. Eli L. Whitely. Known recipients from Fort Wolters (1957 to 1974) are: Maj. William E. Adams, Maj. Patrick H. Brady, CWO Frederick E. Ferguson, Capt. Ed Freeman, CWO Michael J. Novosol, Capt. Jon E. Swanson, 1st Lt. James M. Sprayberry and Capt. Joe Hooper.

Anyone traveling through or on the Interstate near Mineral Wells, Please stop by and visit this memorial and the National Viet Nam War Museum, located about one mile east of the Fort Wolters Historical Park.

Tom Anderson is working very hard on our 2014 Roundup that will take place in Washington, D.C. He is trying to get corporations to help sponsor our reunion. If anyone is associated with a business that is willing to sponsor us, please drop Tom an e-mail.

I wish every one a pleasant summer with family and friends.

Angelo Spelios

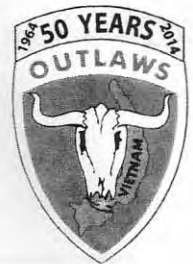
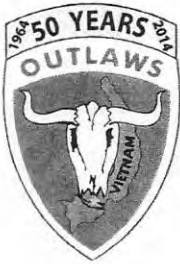


VLOA Members!!!

This is your news letter.

Please be advised that it would be appreciated if you would send any articles and photos related to your tour or anything that you think would be of interest to the readers. Please try to get the info. To the editor by the end of the quarter .

Thank you!



VLOA 50th Anniversary Reunion Now In Sight

The 50th Anniversary Outlaw Reunion is on the horizon! Sure, it's still about 16 months away, but time, like the proverbial role of toilet paper, seems to go faster and faster the closer you get to the end.

The Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA) has a history of holding successful, and memorable, reunions. Branson, San Antonio, Fort Rucker, Pigeon Forge, Hershey, Nashville and Savannah were all filled with fun, friendship and unforgettable memories. The 50th Anniversary reunion, in the Washington DC area, promises to be a reunion that those who attend will remember for the rest of their lives.

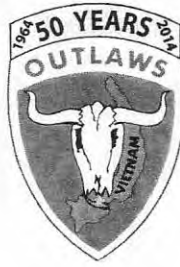
But, what does it take to put on a reunion? How does a reunion happen? Who makes up the team that makes our reunions such a success? A lot of work takes place months, and even years, ahead of the actual event. Here's how some of that happens.

First, there must be a viable, and vibrant, group of people who actually look forward to getting together on regular intervals. In our case, that would be the **Vinh Long Outlaws Association!** The group needs a leader who supports, and encourages, the objectives of the organization and the reunion. In our case, that would be our National Director **Angelo Spelios**, who has taken the reins of the VLOA and is an ardent supporter of the reunion planning.

Tom Anderson has offered to be the reunion planner, the on-site person who will develop and coordinate the event programs. Tom keeps the **Steering Committee** informed of major details as planning progresses. To help with the planning and coordination, the VLOA has hired a professional event planner, **SLM Events**, to work out the myriad details necessary for the reunion's success.

Chester Voisin, the VLOA Treasurer, plays a key role on the reunion team by ensuring that the dozens of vendors and contractors, who provide the hundreds of items and services to the reunion, are paid on a timely basis. **Larry Jackson**, the VLOA Secretary, maintains a complete, up-to-date roster of all VLOA members. The roster is invaluable in contacting every potential reunion attendee. (By the way, it would be wonderful if everyone who receives this Newsletter would also mail Chester Voisin a \$25 check for their annual dues, to help support the VLOA!)

Bob Sharp, the Newsletter editor, puts out a GREAT Newsletter and plays a key role in getting reunion information out to our several hundred members. The Newsletter is our primary means of contact for advertising the reunion, publishing the sign-up registration forms, In similar fashion, **Frank Estes** does a fantastic job of maintaining the VLOA website, which incorporates reunion



Cont. from pg. 2.— VLOA 50th. Anniversary.

information, registration forms, timelines, and other means of encouraging attendance at the reunion.

The task of putting together the reunion starts with site selection and a hotel contract. Then comes such things as the four-day program of events, tours, memorials, ceremonies, dinner plans, menu selection, maps, instructions, signs, transportation to venues, special keepsakes for each attendee, printing programs, reunion shirts, group photograph, registration tables, decorations, hospitality room, Silent Auction and hundreds of other details that, when everything works out as planned, every attendee can enjoy the reunion.

So, the heavy-lifting is about to begin. You are urged to block off the dates of **September 18 - 22, 2014** on your next year's calendar NOW. You will regret it if you miss this event. Considering the aging of that group of young soldiers, who deployed to Vinh Long together between 1964 and 1972, who knows how many more reunions we can have. **Don't miss this one !**

Tom Anderson.

Al Iller was going thru some of his things and came upon this picture that he got from Bell Helicopter Corp. back some 40 plus years ago.

This supposedly was their solution for a piece of equipment of warfare that could be used by all the branches, Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and the Coast Guard.

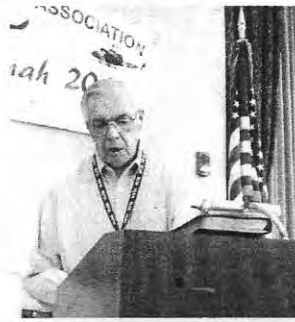
As far as Al could figure, it never survived the trials.



The Back Pew

By: John Doyle

Not just a kids game.



When I was a kid, we often played a game called “WHAT IF?” If you have never played, it is really a simple game. Someone asks a “WHAT IF” question, such as “What if your cat had fifteen kittens?” You might reply with, “I don’t have a cat!” or you might say, “I would sell them.” See, I told you it was simple.

However, there are many “WHAT IF?” questions, that are not that easy to answer. Here is an example:

“What happens if you die?”

Some one may respond by saying, “That’s it. Your dead, they bury you, you rot away, and there is no more.” I really feel sorry for people who believe that. So, you may ask me, “If not this, then what happens?” I will be honest with you. I can not give you a scientific answer, that there is more than that. However, what I can give you, is the “Good News” that there is another answer. Gods Holy Word tells us in John 3:16, “For He so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (Thompson Chain Life Reference Bible)

Did you hear that? They shall “have eternal life.”

You are free to believe what you want to, however, I’ll stick with Gods Holy Word.

John Doyle.



4 OUTLAWS LUNCH AT BRANSON, MO

Submitted by Al Iller.

(photo)



(L to R: Front - Al Iller and Dale Roland ; Rear - Jim Dimatteo and Jim Brodie)

On an early April Tuesday, Al Iller made a first time meeting with three former Outlaws from the Branson, MO area. After initial greetings, a very adequate lunch buffet was enjoyed by each at the Golden Corral interspersed with a great deal of talk and discussion about each of their Army careers and experiences, later civilian endeavors, VOLA and Outlaws, Mavericks and Roadrunners Roundup Reunions. After lunching and visiting for more than two hours, the group agreed to another such meeting soon in the near future.

A short introduction is in order for each of the three Branson Outlaws:

Jim Brodie returned home to New England after his military service; he later moved to Montana where he pursued his passion of dragster racing and commercial trucking. Recently, he moved to Branson and married Cindy and now semi-retired staying busy helping local farmers and ranchers bringing in early hay. Jim served in VN 1/68 - 2/69 with combat engineers then transferred to the Outlaws where he remained until 11/70 as a door gunner with both the 2nd Plt and Mavericks. He completed his VN tours back to back.

Jim Dimatteo with his wife Bonnie came from the northern climes of Minnesota some years ago after Jim retired as a power plant operator and moved to Branson where he established his own "garage business" manufacturing model railroads which he distributes to various merchants marketing crafts and models as well as individual sales nation wide. Jim had three tours in VN (12/66-11/67; 2/68-1/69 and 1/69-12/69) which included assignments to the 1st Log, and two tours with the Outlaws as crew chief with the Mavericks and Roadrunners.

Dale Roland after VN, returned to Iowa for a short time, then on to Missouri for some schooling. After several moves for job opportunities, including Kansas City and St Louis and finally settling in Branson. In 1977 Dale and his wife, Marguerite bought a fishing resort on Lake Taneycomo which they owned and operated for fifteen years. After selling the resort Dale was distributor/vendor for snack foods until his retirement in 2010. He and his wife are now settled in their home overlooking Table Rock Lake enjoying retirement. Dale served as a crew chief with the Mavericks for his entire tour in VN 1/66 - 4/67.

Jim Brodie's Guest Book posting on the VLOA web page brought about Frank (Maverick) Estes, VOLA Web Master alerting Al Iller. From there, Al called Jim Brodie and was immediately informed of two more Outlaws in the Branson area. A flurry of phone calls and Emails were exchanged between all concerned, and "voila!" date, time and location were set for the lunch. This is an example of the value of the VLOA web page in connecting lost, stray, old and new Outlaws, Mavericks and Roadrunners.

Pictures follow on page 6

New VLOA Outlaw Members!

Front Row L/R:

Al Iller-

Berryville,AK.

Dale Roland-

Hollister, Mo.

Back Row L/R:

Jim Dimatteo-

Branson, Mo.

Jim Brodie-

Forsyth, Mo.



“ On the lighter side”

“Tom” walked into the Officer’s Club and said to the bartender, “pour me a stiff one Tony, just had another argument with the little woman.”

“ Oh yeah” said Tony, and how did this one end?

“Well, when it was over,” Tom replied, “She came to me on her hands and knee’s.”

“Really,” said Tony, “Now that’s a switch!”

“What did she say?”——— “She said”———

“Come out from under the bed you little Chicken.”!!!!

For Sale!!!--Collectables!!!!

Tom Anderson has a number of Outlaw caps for sale. Standard Outlaw patch with no unit number. Colors are: light blue, red and tan. Supply is limited so order soon to get the number, and color, of caps you want. Price is \$15 plus \$3 for packaging and postage. Contact Tom at teander@cox.net or by phone at 703-451-4015.



NEW FUNDING APPROACH
TO SUPPORT 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION



The Vinh Long Outlaws Association has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)19 war veteran's organization. That status gives us a number of opportunities not available to every veterans group. Foremost among these, of course, is that donations and contributions, made to the VLOA, are tax deductible by donors.

In an effort to leverage our status, the VLOA, will, this year, make a direct appeal to a number of potential Corporate Sponsors to help support the 50th Anniversary reunion. Potential sponsors will receive a VLOA letter outlining the background of our unit, our veteran's status, a synopsis of our membership base and finally a request for a financial contribution. Contributions received will primarily be used to support the 50th Anniversary reunion program.

While a Corporate Sponsor program is not a new idea for Veteran's groups, it is an approach that the VLOA has not tried before. With the historical significance of our upcoming 50th Anniversary Roundup, it is hoped that the program will be an appropriate means to support the increased costs forecast for the upcoming Outlaw Roundup in September 2014.

A list of potential corporate donors, along with key officers in each company, has been developed. The bulk of our corporate contacts will be to firms which are directly involved with aviation-related military contracts. These include major helicopter manufacturers, component-equipment sources, hardware companies and a host of other corporations which supply Army Aviation with various forms of equipment or support.

Aside from defense-related firms, we have received expressions of interest from a number of non-defense related corporations who appear to be willing to support a Viet Nam veteran's organization. Therefore, we would welcome any contributions, or in-kind support, from commercial companies. In this respect, it is highly likely that we have a large number of VLOA members who have close contacts in the civilian sector. If you are part of, or familiar with, a company who would be willing to provide support to the VLOA, please make an initial contact with the company to determine if the key people of the organization would be willing to contribute. Then, give me a call (703-451-4015) or send an email (teander@cox.net), and let me know the particulars. I will send the company a formal letter request, along with a copy of our IRS status approval, which the company can use as a tax deduction for its contribution. Support from non-defense commercial businesses would be extremely welcomed.

The Corporate Sponsor program is being undertaken as a one-time measure. No thought has been given to continuing this type of funding appeal. It is being done at this time to ensure that the ambitious program for the most significant reunion of the Vinh Long Outlaws, our 50th Anniversary, is eminently successful.

Thank you.

Contributed by:

Tom Anderson





Return to Vietnam

By: Larry Jackson



Polly and I went on a cruise to Southeast Asia in February of this year. We travelled with our long time friends, Peter & Polly Hopkinson who now live here on Hilton Head. Peter served a tour in Vietnam as a NIS special agent in 1970-1971. We flew out of Hilton Head to Los Angeles and arrived there the evening of February 14th. We spent the next day sightseeing in LA as our friends had not seen the sights there. We visited the Grumman's Chinese theater area where all of the stars have their foot prints on the sidewalks. We also went to Hollywood and Vine and took a driving tour of the Hollywood hills and the Hollywood Bowl. We went to dinner at the Proud Bird, a really interesting restaurant close to the airport. They have a lot of memorabilia from the Tuskegee Airman and the area outside the restaurant is an aviation museum of WWI and WWII aircraft.

Our flight from LAX to Hong Kong left at 5 minutes past midnight on the 16th. It was a 15 hour flight over there and we landed about 8:30 AM on the 17th as we lost a day crossing the International Date Line. We were finally able to board our cruise ship, the Celebrity Lines Millennium early that afternoon. We just rested the rest of the day and the next day we were still in port so Polly and I took a tour of Hong Kong Island using the local transportation facilities. We took the ferry across the channel from Kowloon to the bus terminal on Hong Kong. The bus was a double decked one that we rode out to the Stanley Market. The bus route took us along Repulse Bay where there were beautiful estates overlooking the bay. We didn't buy much at the market but it was very large and had about everything you could want. We sailed out that evening on our way to Hanoi.

During my tours in Vietnam, I had no desire to be anywhere close to Hanoi. It is a city with a population close to 3.5 million. It has been growing along the Red River for about a thousand years. King Minh Mang gave the city the name we know today. Ha (river) Noi (in). We visited Ho Tay (West Lake) which is the largest lake in Hanoi and the site where many of the ancient Kings built their summer homes. Many of these beautiful homes have, over the centuries, been turned into shrines and temples. We also visited the infamous Hanoi Hilton prison. They had propaganda galore in the museum. They had pictures showing how well they treated our POWs. The pictures showed some of them tending their gardens, attending Christmas parties, playing basketball and soccer. I have never heard about any of this from anyone who was a POW there.

The next day, we took a boat tour of Halong Bay. It was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1994. Over 2000 islands are sprinkled like emeralds in a shimmering aqua sea. We visited a large cave on one of the islands and saw a floating village which had its own school, stores and other facilities. The cave was used as an overnight stopping place when North Vietnamese soldiers were being brought to the south by boats.

Our next stop was the Chan May Port near Danang and Hue. The Vietnamese moved their capital to Hue around 1687. Hue was the capital until 1945. It was the site of extremely heavy fighting between U.S. forces and the North Vietnamese Army during the TET offensive in 1968. Much of the ancient city was damaged. The people of Hue have worked hard in recent years to rebuild and restore their city to its former glory. We visited Hoi An, a beautiful Vietnamese town, about 2 hours drive from the port. It sits on the banks of the Thu Bon River near the South China Sea. It was basically untouched during the Vietnamese War and retains its centuries old Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese and European architecture. The most famous landmark is the Japanese Covered Bridge which is thought to have been built in the 16th century. We had lunch at a local Vietnamese restaurant where the food was delicious and did some shopping in some of the many shops. One of the interesting things that is happening in the area of Danang is that they are building several resort hotels and golf courses along the China Beach area. I believe that it will become a major travel destination within a few years. It is within easy reach of approximately 2.5 billion people in Asia and South East Asia.

Cont. on pg. 9

Our next stop was at a port about 3 ½ hours by bus from Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City). We took a ships tour by bus to Saigon, We visited the Reunification Hall which was formerly the Presidential Palace and is the site where tanks of the North Vietnamese army crashed through the gates in April 1975 which ended the American involvement in Vietnam. We drove through Cholon District (Chinatown) and stopped and had a buffet lunch at a nice restaurant in one of the newer hotels. The next day we hired a taxi and went to Vung Tau. I couldn't find anything that looked familiar even though I spent a few days there on R & R in our villa. They are building new hotels, resort hotels and golf courses around the city. We visited the beach area on a Sunday and there were wall-to-wall Vietnamese spending the day at the beach. We also visited the Giant Jesus (Thanh Gioc) which is 98 feet high and was constructed on the site of a French lighthouse in 1974. From this area you can look out across the South China Sea from Small Mountain. I did not take the trip to Vinh Long. It would have been about 12 hours in a taxi and the cost was \$450. I'll just have to enjoy Anders pictures. Vietnam has approximately 86 million people now and boasts around 40 million motor scooters and motor bikes. The average wage in Vietnam is around \$300 US a month. Still a very poor country but seems to be making progress.

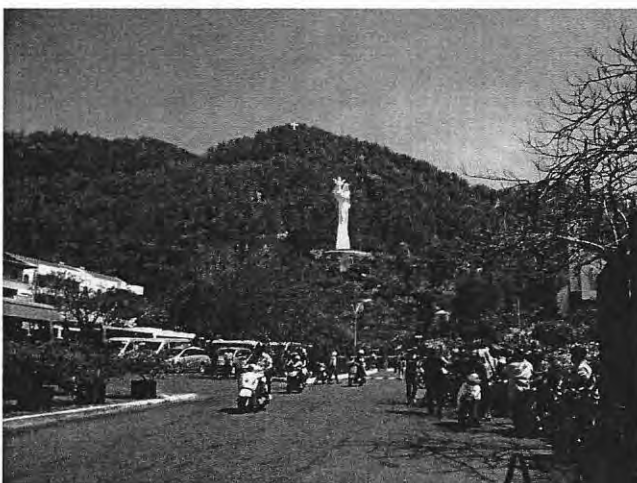
Our next stop was the Laem Chabang-Pattaya Port about 2 ½ hours by bus to Bangkok. We took a tour to the Ancient Capital of Thailand. It has a lot of pagoda ruins very similar to Angkor Wat in Cambodia. We also took another elephant ride in the city. We were in Bangkok in 2006 and there has been a great deal of modernization in the last 7 years. The main ring road around Bangkok is divided four lanes each way and two lane access roads on each side. There are new factories everywhere. Thailand now exports 2 million automobiles each year. They are Chevrolets, Nissans, Toyotas, and many others.

Our next and final stop was in Singapore. By 1819 the British East India Company had established a trading post at the mouth of the Singapore River and Sir Stamford Raffles began to design and build a city. Singapore became a British Crown Colony in 1867. In 1877 rubber plantations were introduced making Singapore a leading economic power. Singapore surrendered to the Japanese early in 1942 and was occupied until 1945. Singapore became an Independent Sovereign State in 1965. The "city state" of approximately 4 million inhabitants enjoy the second highest standard of living in Asia after Japan. It is one of the financial capitals of the world and one of the busiest currency trading centers. We visited the Raffles Hotel and Raffles City which is one of the most famous hotels in the world. The Singapore Sling was invented here and is the most popular drink in the Long Bar in the hotel. They wanted about \$25 for the drink so we passed on that one. We also visited the Orchid Gardens which consist of about 75 acres of orchids. It was absolutely stunning. We went to the Chinese food court and tried their famous Chili Crab. It was pretty good but expensive.

We flew from Singapore to Hong Kong and on to Los Angeles. We spent the night again in LA and then flew back to Hilton Head the next day. This was our third trip to Asia and Southeast Asia and I think it will be my last trip.

Larry Jackson.

Christian Small Mountain at Vung Tau



Vung Tau Beach



More pictures of their trip on page 10.

Good— Morn— ing — Viet — Nam!!!!

Halong Bay



Street scene in Hanoi, North Vietnam

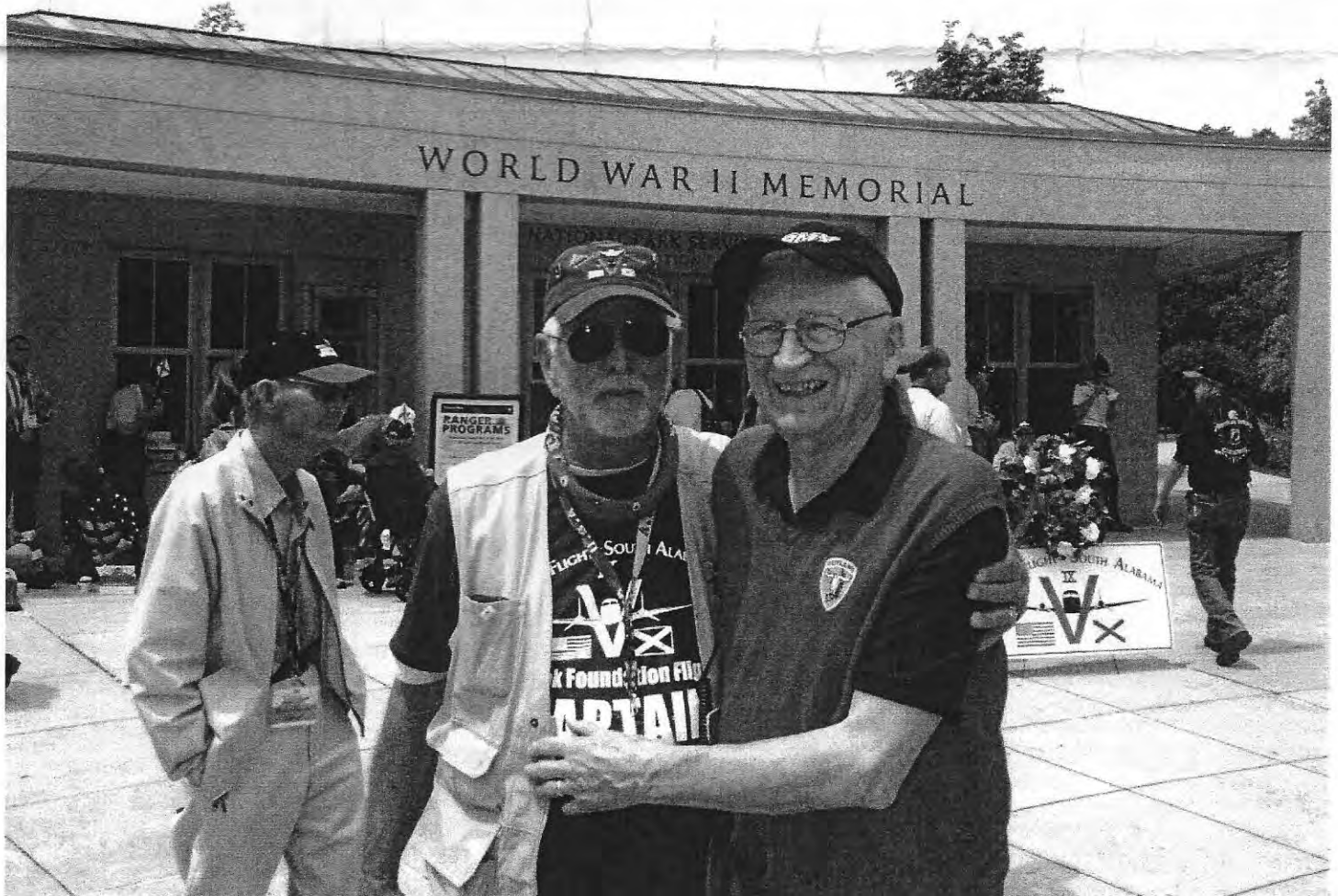


Larry Jackson in front of a T-54 Soviet Tank in front of the Presidential Palace



Two Former Outlaw CO's meet in Washington, DC. At the Memorials.

Two former Outlaw commanders met recently at the World War II memorial in Washington DC. Bill Callendar, Outlaw 6 in 1968-69 and Tom Anderson, Outlaw 6 in 1964-65 reunited again after nearly 45 years when Bill escorted over 100 WWII veterans from South Alabama to the WWII Memorial. Bill was participating in the ninth such Honor Flight which provides an all-expense paid trip to the WWII memorial in Washington DC for veterans of that conflict. Bill and Tom had a great several hours renewing their old friendship. Bill commanded the Outlaws at the same time Tom commanded the 13th Aviation Battalion. Bill indicated he is looking forward to being in Washington DC again for the 50th Anniversary reunion of the Outlaws in September 2014.



From the editor:

Mule Riding Trip to Leslie, Arkansas.

We were able to take a trip from Minnesota to Pine Grove trails at Leslie, AK the end of Mar. and return the 6th of April. There were 6 of us and we stopped over-night at Jan Truman's on the way down and on the way back. We also stopped and visited with Al, Marguerite, and Stefanie Iller at their beautiful home in the rural mountains of Berryville, AK. The weather was cool and it rained on us some of the time but we had a couple of great days. We saw no snakes but the ticks were already out and hunting. The scenery in the Ozarks was awesome and I noticed that they had an over abundance of ROCK! It was a challenging ride as my wife Gloria found out, but she did a marvelous job! No one got hurt and the mules performed wonderfully.

We had a great visit with the Iller's and we also had a wonderful time with Jan Truman and her family and she was a most gracious host. Thank you so very much from us all! Thanks, Bob and Gloria Sharp.



On left:
Gloria and Bob Sharp

My mule-Jericho.



On right:
The gang of Six.



On left:
Gloria on Sassey riding along a ridge.

On right:

Gloria Sharp—Marguerite, Al, Stephanie, Iller, and Bob Sharp.



From: Ann Landers Column.

Food For Thought.

Dear Annie: Two years ago, my wife developed breast cancer. The cancer was removed, and we've been told she will be fine. We have been married for 41 years, and I am hoping for another 41 years. I love my wife more than I can say.

Since her brush with cancer, I have noticed that things that once would have incited a "discussion" no longer seem to matter. And I have discovered a number of maladies of my own.

I have, for instance, become "deaf" to certain things in our marriage. For instance, she used to say, "you know" a lot. You know? Now I am just thrilled to hear her voice. Blindness has also invaded our house. Neither of us notices the petty annoyances that used to bug us. Our marriage is better now that we don't see so well.

We both have lost our ability to say certain things, as well. Once in a while, certain words----hurtful words-----used to be thrown around carelessly. But now, neither one of us has the ability to say such things anymore. And I had no idea that cancer could make a person so forgetful, I can no longer recall any of my wife's faults.

One thing that has not been affected, though, is my heart. It still races when I see her. It still flutters when I hear her voice. And it still skips a beat when we kiss. Why must we wait until it is almost too late to appreciate what we have ----and could have lost? -----A little Wiser.

Dear Wiser: We love this. Your words should remind all couples of what is truly important. Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts with our readers.

From the editor: Here is a copy of an e-mail from Tom Anderson to me, Bob Sharp, about a conversation we had about the pilot that flew the aircraft, an H-34 Sikorski, that I crewed after I returned from Vietnam, for the Vice-President of The United States, Hubert H. Humphrey. I am proud to say I served under him as he was a great man. I am sorry that he lost his life serving his country in his third war.

Bob,

Here's the info from the Viet Nam Memorial page, regarding Bernie Thompson. Jan 31, 1968 was the Tet offensive, and it shows he was KIA in Vinh Long. What an interesting coincidence that we both knew him, and that he was killed at our airfield in Vinh Long !!!

BERNARD DAVID THOMPSON JR

LTC - O5 - Army - Reserve

Length of service 20 years
His tour began on Oct 14, 1967
Casualty was on Jan 31, 1968
In VINH LONG, SOUTH VIETNAM
HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY
GUN, SMALL ARMS FIRE
Body was recovered

Panel 36E - Line 39

Great talking with you this morning ! Let's keep it up.

Best regards, always

Tom

IN VIETNAM FIGHTING

Former Pilot for HHH Killed

Lt. Col. Bernard D. Thompson Jr., who served three years as a helicopter pilot for Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey, was killed in action in Vietnam, it was reported Sunday.

Thompson, 40, ferried Humphrey on short hops when the Vice-President was in the Upper Midwest.

A veteran of World War II and the Korean War,

Thompson was killed Wednesday near Lon Binh, South Vietnam. Complete details were unavailable. It was reported that he was hit by enemy gunfire and that he was on the ground at the time.

He had been in Vietnam, where he was a helicopter pilot for the 349th Aviation Detachment of the 1st Aviation Brigade, since October.

When he was Humphrey's pilot, Thompson was assigned to the 50th Artillery Group at Ft. Snelling. He commanded the aviation section of the unit.

In 1966, after he had been promoted to lieutenant colonel, Humphrey presented him with his new insignia of rank.

The Vice-President performed a similar duty when Thompson received the Army Commendation Medal in 1967.

Shortly before Thompson was reassigned from the Twin Cities to Vietnam, Humphrey and his wife, Muriel, attended his going away party at the Ft. Snelling Officers' Club.

Thompson thought "no one was any greater than the Vice-President," a friend said yesterday.

ARRANGEMENTS are pending for the funeral, which

will be held in Thompson's hometown of Los Angeles, Calif. Burial will be in San Francisco, Calif.

Survivors include his widow.
Casualty
Continued on Page Six

On left:

Article from the Minneapolis Tribune. Monday, Feb. 5, 1968.

Continued on page 13.

On Right:

Citation that I received while serving with Major Thompson in 65/66 and signed by him.

Continued on page 13

Certificate of Achievement

SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS ROBERT J. SHARP, RA 17 664 500
is cited for meritorious service in the 3d Missile Battalion
6815 Artillery, Minneapolis-St Paul Defense during the period
21 OCTOBER 1965 to 1 FEBRUARY 1968



"Citation"

DURING THIS PERIOD SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS ROBERT J. SHARP PERFORMED HIS DUTIES AS ASSISTANT CHIEF OF THE HELICOPTER UNIT FOR INTEGRITY TRANSPORTATION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. SPECIALIST SHARP'S PERFORMANCE OF DUTY WAS MARKED BY PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND SUCCESSFUL KNOWLEDGE OF HIS ASSIGNED SPECIALTY. HIS ABILITY, INITIATIVE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY EARNED HIM THE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION OF ALL THOSE WITH WHOM HE WORKED. THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE RENDERED BY SPECIALIST SHARP REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, THE MINNEAPOLIS-ST PAUL DEFENSE, THE 3d BATTALION AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

HE SERVED WITH DISTINCTION AND FILLED HIS OBLIGATIONS WITH A PROMOTION AND DESERVED HONOR OF RECOGNITION BY ALL.

Robert J. Sharp
ROBERT J. SHARP
MAJOR, ARTILLERY
Commanding Officer
ACTING COMMANDER



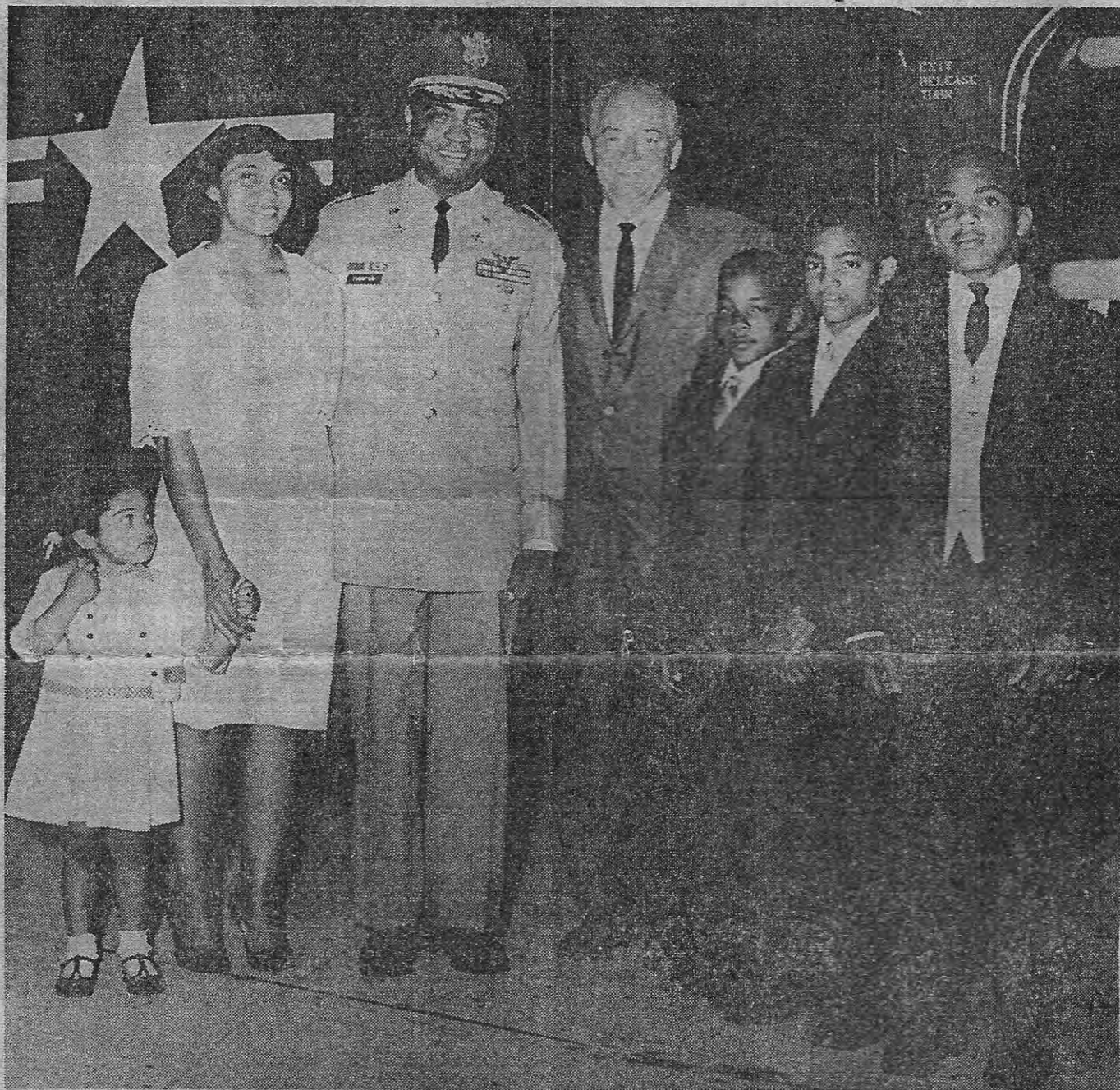
Continued from page 12.

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THE MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE

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Mon., Feb. 5, 1968



A 1966 PICTURE OF THE THOMPSON FAMILY AND VICE-PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
 From left, Maxine, Mrs. Thompson, Thompson, Humphrey, Philip, Michael and Bernard D. III

LTC Bernard D. Thompson and his family with the Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey standing in front of the helicopter, an H-34 Sikorski that he flew the Vice-President in when he visited his home in Minnesota. We also re-supplied the missile sites that protected the Twin-Cities of Minneapolis – St. Paul.

C/C Pete Sharp— Ohio. Asst. C/C Robert Sharp— Minnesota.

Casualty

Continued From Page One

ow, Virginia; three sons, Bernard D. III, Michael and Philip, and a daughter, Maxine, who live at 1003 1/2 Ellicott Ave., Bloomington. Also surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Thompson, and a brother, Eugene, all of Los Angeles.

Obituaries:

Brunhilde Wilson

December 1, 1927 - February 27, 2013

City
Spanish Fort

State
AL

Funeral Home
Holman Funeral Home
995 S. Union Ave.
Ozark, AL 36360-2397

Visitation and Services

Funeral services will be 11:00 A. M. Saturday, March 2, 2013, in the Chapel of Holman Funeral Home in Ozark with Reverend Frederick Boni officiating. Interment will follow in Woodlawn Memory Gardens, Holman Funeral Home of Ozark directing. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Saturday from 9:30 A. M. until service time.

Obituary

Mrs. Brunhilde "Hilde" Wilson, 85, of Spanish Fort, formerly of Ozark, died Wednesday, February 27, 2013. Funeral services will be 11:00 A. M. Saturday, March 2, 2013, in the Chapel of Holman Funeral Home in Ozark with Reverend Frederick Boni officiating. Interment will follow in Woodlawn Memory Gardens, Holman Funeral Home of Ozark directing. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Saturday from 9:30 A. M. until service time.

Hilde was born in the Czech Republic on December 1, 1927. Due to World War II, she relocated to Germany with her father. By the age of 14 1/2, both parents had passed and she was basically independent. After graduating high school in Germany, Hilde worked at American Express where she earned enough money to open a small restaurant. In Germany, she met Sergeant Travis Wilson whom she would spend the next 50 years with until his death in 2004. Hilde and Travis married in 1955 and five years later they became the proud parents of their only child, Brian Wilson. Travis was relocated back to the states when Brian was four years old. They settled and made their home in Columbus, GA. They were later transferred to Ft. Rucker, AL and upon retirement from the service, settled in Ozark, AL. Hilde recently moved to Spanish Fort to be close to her family. Hilde is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Jackie Wilson; grandchildren, Geoff and Malana; and great grandchild, Linden.

To All: from Al Iller. - Dated, Monday, April 15th.,2013. We offer our condolences.

Was advised by Emmadel Voisin late today that Patty Theriot's mother, Patricia Austin passed away last Saturday. As many of you know, Patty's mother had lived with and been cared for by Patty and Pat for the many years (11 1/2) that she was in failing health resulting from several strokes. Mrs. Austin was eight-six years of age. Funeral services will be in Gonzales, LA.