



Vinh Long Outlaws Fall Newsletter

July-September-2013

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

3rd. Quarter 2013

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National Director's Corner

Greetings fellow Outlaws:



I hope everyone had a great summer with family and friends. Time sure flies when you are having fun. Although this is not an excuse for getting out this issue of the Vinh Long Outlaws Newsletter so late, I have had a few medical issues during the past two years.

Last year I was diagnosed with bladder cancer. I had a resection done by my local urologist, but I went to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center for a second opinion. They performed a re-resection of the affected area of the bladder and reported that I had no viable cancer.

This past spring, I noticed a lump growing on the inside of my right thigh. I went down to M.D. Anderson for a diagnosis. The biopsy showed that it was a sarcoma cancer. The oncologist prescribed a protocol of chemotherapy and radiation followed by surgery to remove the cancer. On 6 Sep 13, the surgeon removed the cancer. Pathology reported a few days later that all margins were clear. This meant that the surgeon got it all. However, the next day the nurses tried to stand me up but I couldn't balance myself. A cat scan was performed and they found a sub dermal hematoma on the right side of my brain, displacing it 1.6 centimeters, about a half of an inch. On 9 Sep 13, the neurosurgeon drained the hematoma by drilling two holes in my skull. I am now undergoing physical therapy on my leg to build up the remaining muscles in my right leg.

The surgeons told me that I was very lucky to get away with these ailments. One nurse told me that it was Divine Intervention. I believe this, and I attribute this to the many prayers that were offered on my behalf.

There is a reason for writing my ailments in detail to you. When we were younger, we served in the Army and went to Viet-Nam together. We were at an age where we had more years left in front of us than behind us. We did not think about having these sorts of ailments then. Most of us now have fewer years in front of us than behind us. We do not know what life will bring us in our remaining years.

This is why I am urging you to come to our 2014 reunion, next year, in Washington, D.C. and share the camaraderie we shared some fifty years ago in Vinh Long. Please make plans to unite with us again. There are several articles in this Newsletter describing the reunion and the events.

Wishing you and your families a happy Thanksgiving Day and a Merry Christmas.

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!



Fifty Years of Outlaw History to be Celebrated in September 2014

Submitted by Tom Anderson

It is difficult for many of us to come to grips with the fact that, in 2014, it will have been **50 years** since we deployed to that little PSP airstrip in the Mekong Delta, which we would then call “home” for the next year. **50 years !!!** And what a significant milestone that is! There are very few U.S. military units that can say that they were in Viet Nam 50 years ago.

Yes, we were one of the very first units to serve in Viet Nam. Only six other Army helicopter companies and their supporting attachments were in-country when we arrived, two in the Mekong Delta with us and the remainder primarily based near the Saigon area. The only other Army elements in Viet Nam at that time consisted primarily of Special Forces teams, ARVN advisors, MACV and USARV headquarters, and a scattering of other Army support units.

When the first Outlaws, Mavericks, Road Runners and 28th Signal detachment people got on those C-118s and flew across the Pacific, we had no way of knowing that we were, in reality, the vanguard unit which would spearhead the massive buildup of US forces over the next few years. Our parent unit, the 11th Air Assault Division would soon be renamed the 1st Air Cavalry Division and, in less than a year, would be locked in combat in the highlands of Viet Nam.

Over the next 8 years, several thousand more personnel would continue to fill the ranks of that proud little unit known as “OUTLAWS”, and its affiliated units. The Outlaws would remain in Viet Nam until their Stand-Down in 1972.

So, now, here we are! Old soldiers who have been blessed, and fortunate, to have survived both the challenges of combat as well as the passages of time. We are proud of our service to our country so many years ago. And, we are proud veterans who have found a way to renew those bonds of friendship every two years through the reunions of Vinh Long Outlaws Association.

Every veteran of the Vinh Long Outlaws units is welcome to attend the 50th Anniversary reunion in September 2014. The reunion is a fitting way to remember all those who are no longer with us as well as to celebrate the milestone in military history that we created so many years ago.

See you at the reunion!





50th Anniversary Reunion Planning

Well Underway

From Tom Anderson



The long-range planning for the 50th Anniversary reunion in the Washington D.C. area has been completed and we're now in the mid-range planning stage. Still lots to do, but the agenda has been locked in place and we're working on the thousands of little details that, hopefully, will make every event run smoothly.

The selection of the Washington area for our reunion continues to be validated. For example, what could be more memorable for Outlaw veterans than to participate in our own wreath-laying ceremony at OUR Viet Nam Veterans Memorial? More than 60 Outlaws were Killed In Action during the time the Outlaws served in Viet Nam. Friday morning we will recite, aloud, the names of those Outlaws which are inscribed on The Wall during our ceremony.

Most attendees have probably never had the opportunity to view the magnificence of Arlington National Cemetery. A descriptive dialogue will be provided by an interpretive guide. Although we have no way of knowing how many Outlaws are interred here, we do know that a number of our Outlaw brothers are at their eternal rest in Arlington. Therefore it should be inspiring for everyone, on Friday afternoon, to tour these hallowed grounds.

On Saturday morning we'll again have our mostly-inspiring, generally-orderly, VLOA General Membership meeting. As always, every reunion attendee (spouses, grandchildren, significant others, relatives, etc.) are urged to attend, and participate, in this occasionally out-of-control event. Angelo Spelios, however, has assured me that he will exercise the full authority of his National Director's office to ensure that order and decorum is maintained! (We'll see. . . .)

Saturday afternoon we'll bus to Dulles International Airport (or Dulles landing strip if you prefer), to visit the largest aviation museum in the world. The word "awesome" doesn't come close to describing the impact of being surrounded by the world's largest collection of aircraft and other flying-related mementos in this facility. We will have docent-guided tours, specifically tailored for our group. Our VLOA groups will be limited to 12-15 at the most to allow for questions and dialogue with the docents.

Dinners? We'll have two. One on opening night (Thursday) to welcome each other back to the VLOA fold. The second, our traditional "Farewell Dinner" will again be on Sunday evening. We won't reveal any of the details yet about the events of that evening, but every attendee will be extremely glad they decided to attend.

While more information regarding the administration of the reunion, and details of registration, is found elsewhere in this Newsletter, it should be kept in mind that the membership, on Saturday morning, will have to discuss, and decide, whether the VLOA should continue to have a reunion each two years. We're all getting older, and it's harder for some to make the trip. It's getting harder to find someone who is willing to take on the task of "hosting" the reunion. Costs continue to rise, which could keep some from wanting to invest in the memories of another reunion.

Our reunions have always been the high point of the year for many of us and it would be difficult to give up something that has such deep meaning for so many of our members. However, the personal bonding between old friends and comrades, which continues at each of our reunions, cannot be overstated. So, be thinking about how you feel about having reunions after our 50th Anniversary reunion in September 2014 and be prepared to voice your thoughts at the General Membership meeting.



Konopkas Have a New Approach For The Silent Auction



As previously announced, Jack and Fran Konopka are heading up the Silent Auction at the 50th Anniversary reunion in September 2014. The Silent Auction is always one of the most popular features of our reunions, not only because it provides an opportunity to purchase some interesting, different and often-eclectic items, but also because it helps keep our VLOA treasury solvent.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, Jack and Fran have written a notice of how they plan to generate interest among all Outlaws to solicit contributions to the Silent Auction. In addition to information in the Newsletter, which is distributed only every quarter, they will also be more frequently contacting Outlaws by email, encouraging support for the Silent Auction.

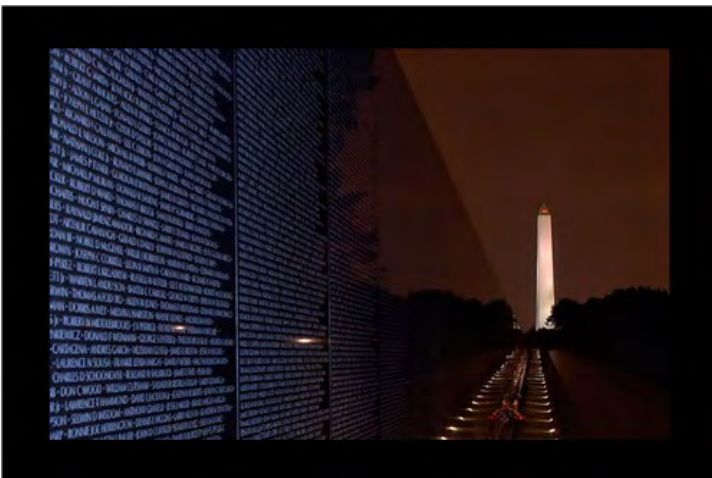
They hope their approach will generate Auction contributions from an even greater range of Outlaws, both those who will attend the Reunion as well as those who cannot be at the reunion but who would still like to assist in providing an item or two for the Auction.

Not only have the Konopkas developed some innovative ideas for obtaining Auction items, they have also come up with a very interesting piece of military memorabilia which they will put up for bids during the Reunion. This item should generate some keen interest from militaria collectors but you'll have to be there to know what the item is.

So, whether you plan to attend the reunion or not, please consider putting some item of interest to your fellow Outlaw members into the Silent Auction. Your contributions will be most appreciated.

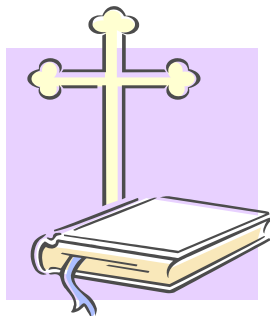
See the Konopka's article on how you can help the VLOA through your participation in the Silent Auction.

Tom Anderson.



The Back Pew

By: John Doyle



The Back Pew

Memories of my First Church

Shortly after making known to the congregation my feeling that I was called to preach, I was asked by our Director of Missions if I would preach the next Sunday at a small Baptist Mission Church.

Sunday, I showed up at the Mission Church, Bible in hand and no idea what I was going to preach. When I went into the church, I was even more surprised to find out that the congregation consisted of three ladies and three children about fourteen or fifteen years old. It appears that the entire congregation had come out to hear what the "New Preacher" had to say.

Considering that I still didn't know myself, I started to panic, said a quick prayer, and opened my Bible. Then, I led the "congregation" in prayer. I also snuck in, under my breath, prayer asking for divine leadership in the sermon.

The Lord was good to me and the congregation that day. Somehow, I preached a presentable message, and, much to my surprise, the group asked me to return the next Sunday.

I stayed at that Mission Church, until I left for the Seminary in Wake Forest, NC. We grew to see anywhere from 30 to 50 people attending Sunday morning and evening Services.

Yes, the Lord does answer prayer.

Treasurers Report by Chester Voisin

Vinh Long Outlaws Association
(VLOA)

| | | Balance \$ |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash Balance - 01/01/2012 | | 18,920.79 |
| | 2013 9 Months 9/30/2013 \$ | |
| Revenues: | | |
| Dues - Annual | 100.00 | |
| Dues - Lifetime | 200.00 | |
| Dues - Associates Lifetime | 100.00 | |
| Sale of Inventory Items | 173.00 | |
| Silent Auction Proceeds | - | |
| Ticket Sales - 50/50 Raffle | - | |
| Miscellaneous | 500.00 | |
| Total Revenues: | 1,073.00 | |
| Expenditures: | | |
| Newsletter Costs | 1,625.31 | |
| Inventory purchases & costs | 12.27 | |
| 2012 Reunion Costs | - | |
| 2014 Reunion Costs | - | |
| Prizes - 50/50 Raffle | - | |
| Administration | 600.00 | |
| Total Expenditures: | 2,237.58 | |
| Net Income (Loss) - 9 months 2013 | (1,164.58) | (1,164.58) |
| Cash Balance - 09/30/2013 | | <u>17,756.21</u> |



Details:

Revenues

| | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| Inventory Sales | 173.00 | |
| Miscellaneous - Donation | | |
| American Legion Post #883 | | |
| Moreno Valley, California | 500.00 | |
| Annual Dues: | | |
| Robert Tidd | 25.00 | |
| Donald Palmer | 25.00 | |
| Harry Bauman | 25.00 | |
| Fred Jacobs | 25.00 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| | 100.00 | |
| Life Time Memberships (LTM): | | |
| Frank Stone | 100.00 | |
| Robert Taylor | 100.00 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| | 200.00 | |
| Life Time Associate Membership (ALTM): | | |
| Carol Taylor | 100.00 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| | 100.00 | |
| Total Revenues | | 1,073.00 |

Expenses

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Robert Sharp - 4th Quarter 2012 Newsletter | 606.89 | |
| Robert Sharp - 1st Quarter 2013 Newsletter | 559.56 | |
| Robert Sharp - 2nd Quarter 2013 Newsletter | 458.86 | |
| Harlow Media - Administration | 600.00 | |
| Tom Anderson - Inventory Expense | 12.27 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| | 2,237.58 | |
| Total Expenses | | 2,237.58 |

Deficit 9 month period ending 09/30/2013 **(1,164.58)**



From The Quartermaster:



Outlaw Logo Items Available For Sale

Some veterans organizations have a Quartermaster Store which carries literally hundreds of items associated with their unit logo or insignias. For a time it was felt that the Outlaw QM store should carry a stock of items with the Outlaw patch for people to order throughout the year. Several things were found to be wrong with that idea: 1) The initial cost, from the VLOA treasury, to purchase the items 2) getting the word out through either the Newsletter or website 3) the small number of potential purchasers 4) storage of the items in someone's home 5) the costs associated with purchasing shipping boxes, envelopes and paying for postage by whoever handles the process.

Therefore, over the past few years the VLOA has not re-ordered previously stocked items in any quantity. However, there are still some new items that are still available for anyone who wants to purchase them. Primarily, the items currently on hand are:

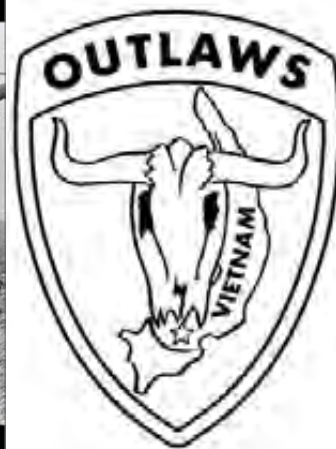
Outlaw logo-face wrist watches: 7 men's, 3 women's. Original price \$24. Now reduced to \$20 because original battery will have to be replaced. Add \$3 packaging & postage.

Outlaw caps: 1 blue, 3 tan, 6 red, Price: \$15 + \$3 packaging & postage (for 1 or 2)

Outlaw patches: \$2 each + \$1 postage

Outlaw decals: \$2.50 each or 5 for \$10. Plus \$1 postage

If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please contact Tom Anderson. Email teander@cox.net or phone 703-451-4015.





2014

VINH LONG OUTLAWS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ROUNDUP



Washington DC Area
September 18–22, 2014

Come and join the celebration of 50 years of Vinh Long Outlaws history at the Marriott Tyson's Corner hotel in Fairfax, Virginia. Registration fee of \$1074 per couple or \$792 per single covers all expenses. Reduced hotel parking rate. Registration fee includes:

Welcome bag with name badge, itinerary, list of attendees and much more!

One-of-a-Kind Commemorative Keepsake Gift

Hospitality Room Stocked with Snacks and Beverages all 4 days

Complimentary breakfast Friday-Saturday-Sunday-Monday

Thursday Welcome Back Dinner

Friday Wreath-laying at the Viet Nam Memorial

Tour of Arlington National Cemetery

Saturday visit to the Huge Dulles Air & Space Museum

Lots of "On-Your-Own" time for Sightseeing

Sunday Evening Farewell Banquet

VIET NAM VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

Attendees will gather at "our" memorial to pay tribute both to the members of the Outlaws who were killed in action but to all US service people who were lost in that conflict. A short ceremony will conclude with the laying of a wreath of remembrance at the apex of the memorial.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Among the nearly 300,000 burials in Arlington are a number of our fellow Outlaws who are at their eternal rest in this, a national shrine and the most hallowed ground in our nation. The tour will feature stops at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Kennedy grave site while a narrator will fill in facts about the cemetery itself.

SMITHSONIAN DULLES AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

Among the thousands of aircraft and space artifacts in this HUGE museum, is the B-29 Enola Gay, a Lockheed SR-71, a Concorde, the space shuttle Discovery and a Viet Nam battle-tested UH-1.

Come to the 50th Anniversary reunion, share old memories and make new ones !!

Complete the Registration Form on the website (www.vinhlongoutlaws.com) or for more information, contact

SLM Events, LLC
6848 Tiddle Way
Lorton, VA 22079
Ph: 703-627-7992



50TH GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ROUNDUP

SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2014

MARRIOTT TYSON'S CORNER

8028 LEESBURG PIKE, VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22182

NAME: _____ NAME ON NAMETAG: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NAME(S) OF YOUR SPOUSE/GUEST(S): _____

SUNDAY BANQUET MEAL SELECTION: BEEF: _____ CHICKEN: _____ VEGETARIAN: _____ FISH: _____

HOTEL ROOM CHOICE: KING: _____ TWO DOUBLES: _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____ TOTAL NUMBER OF NIGHTS: _____

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS (DIETARY, WHEELCHAIR, ETC): _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY: NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES

- Hotel room with breakfast daily (maximum 2 per room)
 - Welcome packet
 - Hospitality room stocked with snacks and beverages
 - Thursday night welcome dinner
 - Friday Lunch
 - Saturday lunch voucher at A&S museum
 - Sunday Farewell banquet dinner and program
- Tours of:
- Air and Space Museum – Dulles Airport
 - Viet Nam Memorial
 - Arlington National Cemetery
 - Commemorative 50th Anniversary gift

REGISTRATION FEES

| | | | |
|--|----------|--------|-------|
| Price per Person (2 per room/by check: \$537 each) | Total | \$1074 | _____ |
| Price per Person (2 per room/by credit: \$557 each) | Total | \$1114 | _____ |
| Price per Person (1 per room/by check: \$792) | Total | \$792 | _____ |
| Price per Person (1 per room/by credit: \$822 each) | Total | \$822 | _____ |
| Add'l persons (3 rd or 4 th) in 2 person room: \$354 (check)/\$369 (CC) | # add'l | _____ | _____ |
| Add'l Hotel Nights (max 3 nights prior/after): \$128 (check)/\$133 (CC) | # nights | _____ | _____ |
| | Total: | _____ | _____ |

REGISTRATION FORM AND 50% DUE NO LATER THAN June 12, 2014

Final Payment due No Later than September 1, 2014 – Prices will increase after September 1, 2014

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Name on Credit Card: _____ Signature: _____

Billing Address for Credit Card: _____

I am paying by personal check. Check # _____ enclosed.

A cancellation fee of \$20 per person will apply for all cancellations received from 30 days prior to the event until 10 days prior to the event. Cancellations received after 10 days prior to the event are non-refundable.

Note: Parking fee \$3 per night not included in registration fee.

Send this Form – Along With Check or Credit Card Authorization to

SLM Events, LLC
6848 Tiddle Way
Lorton, VA 22079
Phone: 703-627-7992



Bushwacker Gun Platoon

Another Part of the Outlaw History

(Compiled by Tom Anderson)

A few weeks ago, Frank Estes alerted me to a comment someone had placed on the VLOA website guest book, which questioned why there was no mention of the Bushwhackers anywhere on our website. Because none of us from the “early” days of the Outlaws knew anything about the Bushwhackers, we started looking into exactly who, what, and when the Bushwhackers were.

About the only thing we did know was that the Bushwhackers were the successors to the Mavericks, as the gun platoon of the Outlaws late in the Viet Nam war.

After putting out some feelers for information, Jim Donnelly came back with some leads on Bushwacker members who might be able to provide more information. Jim made several initial contacts and, in the next few days, I began receiving messages from four or five Outlaws and Bushwhackers who were more than willing, and most gracious, to fill in our information-void on who the Bushwhackers were.

Bushwacker Fred Rowe, who arrived in the unit in April 1971, indicated that the Bushwhackers were formed about January 1971, when the gun platoon transitioned from “C” model gunships to Cobras. None of the respondents were exactly sure why the name was changed from Mavericks to Bushwhackers, but the prevailing opinion was that an earlier Outlaw commander felt that the upgrade to Cobras seemed to give more credibility, and prestige, and that a new name would provide an aura of an enhanced status. The name change was not wholeheartedly supported by everyone involved, particularly the Mavericks, but the change, nevertheless, was made and the time-honored name of Maverick was retired in early 1971.

The Bushwhackers continued the proud tradition of supporting the Outlaw slicks. They also flew a large percentage of their search missions at night. Because the night missions, using parachute flares for lighting had its drawbacks, somewhere along the line, a slick was also assigned to the gun platoon to support the Bushwacker night missions. The slick was outfitted with a xenon searchlight and a mini-gun, and the missions of cruising up and down canals, looking for “Charlie” became more effective.

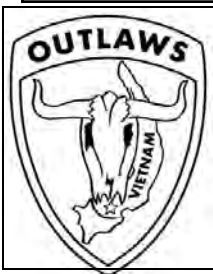
Gunship crews have always been known for their well-deserved “swagger” and the Bushwhackers were no exception. They were every bit as proud of their missions, their accomplishments and their people as were the Mavericks before them.

Crew losses are one of the most devastating elements of combat. The Mavericks lost their platoon leader Jack Sanford, along with crew chief Mike Moritz on 16 June, 1965. In a similar tragic episode, the Bushwhackers suffered the loss of their platoon leader, Charles Edwards, and copilot Berry Rhash, on March 29, 1971, when their Cobra inexplicably failed to pull out of a night gun run and both pilots were lost.

The Bushwhackers continued to provide unparalleled support to the 175th Outlaws for the remainder of the Viet Nam conflict.

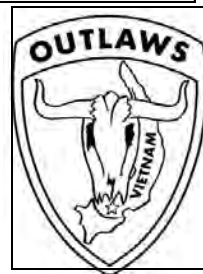
Shortly after New Year 1972, with Viet Nam combat operations drawing down, the Bushwhackers were sent to Can Tho to perform night-time airfield security. All agreed that this was a make-work duty with the war about to end. Soon thereafter, the unit received Stand Down orders. Having served more than seven years of Viet Nam combat duty, the Outlaws and Bushwhackers were deactivated on 20 February 1972.

Another part of the continuing Outlaw history.



“Bushwackers”

1971



Locating Burial Locations in National Cemeteries Now Made Easier

If you have a relative or friend, buried in a National Cemetery, but do not know the specific location of the gravesite, the Department of Veterans Affairs has now made it easier to find the location of their burial site. The grave locations of more than three million veterans and dependents, buried in National Cemeteries, are available on home computers as well as at National Cemetery kiosks.

The gravesite locator <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov> finds cemeteries where veterans are buried. With this feature, you can enter a veteran's name to search, click on the "Buried At" (burial location) link and a map of the National Cemetery will display, showing the section where the specific grave is located. This locator can also identify cemeteries in which 1.9 million veterans were buried with VA grave markers. These are mostly in private cemeteries.

Who is eligible for burial in National Cemeteries? Veterans with a discharge other than dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children may be buried in a National Cemetery. Other burial benefits include a burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or marker, regardless of where they are buried. More information on VA burials benefits can be found by at National Cemetery offices, from the internet at www.cem.va.gov or by calling a VA regional office at 800-827-1000.

Register Early for 50th Anniversary Roundup !!

By Tom Anderson

Our 50th Golden Anniversary is now upon us! The detailed reunion planning is still on-going but the dates have been set, hotel rooms have been blocked, activity costs have been calculated and the Registration Form is ready. Now is the time to make your registrations for the September 2014 reunion!

Early indications are that, because of the historical significance of the **Golden** Anniversary itself, a number of Outlaws who have not attended our reunions in the past may join us in Washington. That suggests that we could have a greater than anticipated turnout and our reserved block of rooms could be maxed out. If that happens we will attempt to increase our room block but reservations will have to be made well ahead of time to know if we'll have to ask our host hotel to make additional rooms available.

But, before going any further, here's the really good news! Reunion fees this year will be lower than at Savannah! At our Savannah reunion, a couple paid approximately \$530 for their four-night stay in the hotel and a separate \$682 for their reunion expenses for a \$1212 total. The similar cost-per-couple for Washington 2014 will be \$1074! The per-person cost for a single registrant is also comparatively less than Savannah costs.

At many of our previous reunions, hotel costs and reunion activity costs were separated, with attendees making their own hotel reservations plus paying another fee for the reunion activities. That procedure created several conflicts which we want to avoid happening again at the 2014 reunion.

Therefore, the 50th Anniversary Roundup will have a single registration fee which will include all planned expenses for the reunion: Hotel room, bus transportation, lunches, dinners, tickets, entertainment, welcome bags, commemorative gifts, hospitality room refreshments, and a lot of incidentals, are all included in the single fee.

For those who may want to travel to the Washington area for some on-your-own sight-seeing either prior to the reunion, or a few days after the reunion dates, the Marriott hotel has given us the same per-night reunion rate for 3 days prior to, or 3 days after, the reunion dates. That fee is \$128 per night, which will also include the free breakfast which is available as part of the regular reunion rate. We are limited to 10 early and 10 late room reservations at the low reunion rate so, if you plan to add a day or two to your trip for sight-seeing, we suggest that you get your reservations in early.

Our Event Planner, SLM Events, has negotiated a great price for the room block for our hotel room reservations. The room rate is the same as we paid in Savannah. SLM Events will make all hotel room reservations with the Marriott Tyson's Corner hotel based on the information you provide on your Registration Form. If you have special needs, of any nature, please either be specific when forwarding your Registration or call SLM Events at the number shown on the Form. It should be noted that SLM Events is required to pay a 3.7% fee for credit card charges. It is necessary, therefore, that that charge be passed on to those who elect to pay their fees by credit card, as is shown on the Registration Form.

The Sunday evening Farewell banquet will offer four choices of meals. Be sure to indicate, on the form, your choice of meals for each person you are registering.

If you desire to upgrade your room, the hotel can accommodate your request. An upgraded room rate is \$184 ++. Please call SLM Events if you'd like to discuss upgrading your room.

Important !! All Registrations must be received by SLM Events no later than June 12, 2014. When you calculate your total costs, you can either pay entire amount when sending in your registration form, or pay one-half of the total at that time. Please note that **final payment of the balance must be received by SLM Events no later than September 1, 2014.** Cancellation information is found on the bottom of the Registration Form.

After your registration fee is received by SLM Events, a confirmation packet will be forwarded to you which will include information regarding hotel parking, on-your-own sight-seeing venues, how to use Metro trains, local area maps, driving tips and other information to make your trip more enjoyable.

The Golden Anniversary reunion has been 50 years in the making. It's an event that no Outlaw should miss. The 2014 Golden Anniversary Registration Form is included in this Newsletter. A copy can also be made from the Form shown on the VLOA website (www.vinhlongoutlaws.com). Get your reservations in as soon as possible!

See you at the reunion!

OUTLAWS!!! IT'S COMING.....OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY
SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2014 WASHINGTON, DC

VLOA 50TH ANNIVERSARY SILENT AUCTION

WASHINGTON, DC



*Auction coordinator: Jack Konopka
516 676-2017*

Email: jkonopka624@gmail.com

IT'S SILENT AUCTION ROUND UP TIME.
LETS MAKE THIS THE BIGGEST AND BEST EVER!!!!
WE NEED YOUR HELP..... CONTRIBUTE THAT SPECIAL OR
UNIQUE TREASURE FOR THE SILENT AUCTION.



50th REUNION

SILENT AUCTION

Silent Auction Coordinators: Jack & Fran Konopka

OK Outlaws! It's time to start thinking about what treasures you have to contribute to our upcoming 50th Reunion's Silent Auction. Let's make this our best auction yet to celebrate this momentous occasion.....really dig deep and find those special items.

We all know how important this fundraiser is to the continuation of our organization. Funds are needed to pay for website expenditures, newsletter printing and mailings, reunion costs in addition to other numerous expenses to operate our organization. All members who have attended past reunions know that this is a first class event and this is why we really need your help!

We will be contacting members of the VLOA by email regularly, so please make sure your email address is on file and updated.

You can send your current email address to:

Larry Jackson at: jackson3605@roadrunner.com

Please contact us if you are unable to attend the upcoming reunion, and would still like to make a donation to keep the VLOA silent auction going.

Tom Anderson has done such a great job with past auctions and has passed the reins on to myself and Fran. Lets make him proud and support this great fundraiser.

CONTACT US WITH ANY THOUGHTS OR SUGGESTIONS AT:
JKONOPKA624@GMAIL.COM OR CALL (516) 676-2017

Support the Silent Auction!!

Gold Outlaw Shirt —Always a HIT at the Reunion!



At nearly all previous Outlaw reunions, a large percentage of the attendees have been eager to pre-purchase the “Reunion Shirt”. This year, the official 50th Anniversary Reunion shirt will provide dramatic emphasis to the fact that this is our GOLDEN Anniversary. Both the men’s and women’s shirts feature a gold body accented by white side panels, similar to the Savannah reunion shirt. Women’s shirts, also gold, have a white-trimmed “Johnny-collar” for a more feminine appearance.

The embroidered “50 YEAR” Outlaw logo will be the only logo on the shirt, rather than having other unit logos also included. If you plan to attend the 50th Anniversary Reunion, fill out the required information on the Order Form included in this Newsletter.

Your shirts will be in your Welcome Bag when you register at the hotel. If you cannot attend the Reunion, and would like to order a shirt, include your mailing address, as shown on the form, and add \$5.00 for shipping. Shirts will be mailed prior to the Reunion.

All shirt orders must be received no later than August 15, 2014 to allow time for the embroidery shop to complete the entire order at one time. Note that there is a slight added cost for larger sizes. No shirts will be available until after the cut-off date.

Make your checks out to “VLOA”, not to Tom Anderson!

A color representation of the shirt will soon be on the VLOA website under the REUNION tab, for your review.



50th ANNIVERSARY OUTLAW ROUNDUP**SHIRT ORDER FORM**

The official **2014 50th Anniversary Outlaw Roundup** shirt emphasizes the Golden Anniversary theme of the reunion. The Men's shirt is primarily gold with a white panel spliced into both sides and inside the sleeves. Women's shirts are also gold with similar white side panels plus a white detail on the "Johnny collar" neck. The Golden Anniversary shirts are a similar material to the 2012 shirts, made from "tricot micropique" for smooth, snag-resistant, moisture-wicking, comfortable wear! Made by Sport-Tek, all shirts will feature the 50th Anniversary Outlaw logo embroidered on the left breast.

Cost for each shirt is \$30. NOTE: Added cost for sizes 2XL =-\$32 3XL=\$34 4XL = \$36 men's or women's. Please pre-order your shirt(s) on the form below. Shirt orders for Reunion attendees will be in the welcome bag at the VLOA registration desk. If you are not attending the Reunion, see info below. A limited quantity of additional shirts may be available for sale at the Reunion.

Please Indicate Quantity Desired by Size**MENS' SHIRT SIZES:**

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

LADIES' SHIRT SIZES

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

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

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

Name: _____ Size: _____

Name: _____ Size: _____

Name: _____ Size: _____

Name: _____ Size: _____

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

If you are not attending the Reunion, please add \$5.00 for shipping costs and provide the following information:

Your name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____ (Phone #) _____

ALL ORDERS ARE PRE-PAID AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 15, 2014.

Send this shirt Order Form, with payment – made payable to VLOA, to : Tom Anderson -7880 Rolling Woods Ct #308, Springfield, VA . 22152 Make checks or money orders payable to: VLOA not to Tom !

Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)
 c/o Robert J. Sharp, Editor.
 17489 US Hwy. 65
 Albert Lea, Minnesota. 56007
 handybobsharp@gmail.com



ROADRUNNER



Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Memberships in the VLOA is open to any person of any rank who served with any lineage unit known as the “Outlaws” (and “Mavericks” armed platoon) or any affiliated unit at any time between August 1964 and the present. These units include the 62nd Aviation Company, A Company 502nd Aviation Battalion, 175th Aviation Company, B Troop 1-158th Aviation Regiment (Iraq), 150th Transportation Detachment (“Roadrunners”), 28th Signal Detachment, and 25th Infantry Division’s “door gunners.”

Active (with vote) or Associate (without vote) Membership is \$25.00 annually, payable each January. A Lifetime Membership (with vote) is a \$100.00 one-time fee. A Lifetime Associate Membership (without vote) for spouses is available for a \$100 one-time fee. Higher levels of Lifetime Memberships are available; contact the National Director at: angelo_spelios@yahoo.com. To pay initial or renewal membership dues for this calendar year, please complete and forward this form, with dues payment, to:

VLOA; c/o Chester Voisin, 1657 Dr. Beatrous Road, Theriot, LA 70397.

First Name _____ MI _____ Nickname _____ Last Name _____

Telephone # (home) _____ (work) _____ Spouse’s Name _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Rank (while assigned to unit) _____ E-Mail address _____

Dates assigned in Outlaws/attachments (Mo/Yr to Mo/Yr) _____ to _____

Unit/plt/sect/position _____ Radio Call sign _____

- Please initiate _____ or renew _____ my Active _____ Associate _____ VLOA membership. **Make \$25.00 check payable to VLOA.**
- Please initiate my Lifetime _____ Lifetime Associate _____ VLOA membership. **Make \$100.00 check payable to VLOA.**

_____ Please do not renew my VLOA membership, but keep my name on the VLOA roster. I understand I may not receive any future issues of the VLOA Newsletter unless I am a current dues paying VLOA member.

_____ I know a former Outlaw/Maverick/Roadrunner or other affiliated unit member and have indicated his/her name, address, and phone number on this form.

Comments: _____