

Revetments

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association



"All Included - Non Excluded"

Volume 6, Number 6

The Tan Son Nhut Association, Washington, D. C.

March, 2004

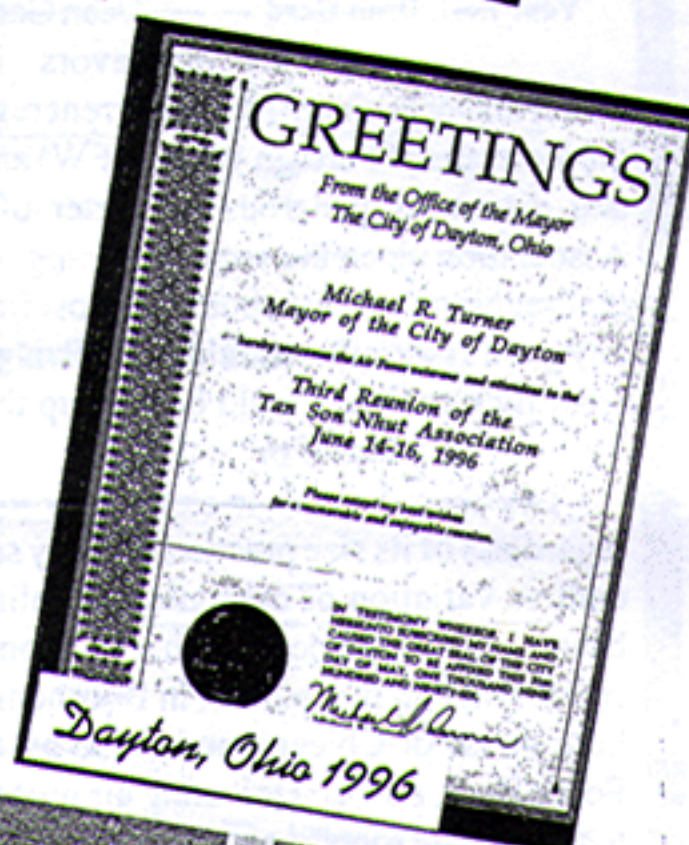
A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

It's that wonderful time again...

TSNA REUNION 2004!



Evansville, Indiana 1993



Dayton, Ohio 1996



San Antonio, Texas 2000



Hampton, Virginia 1997



Washington, D. C. 2002

AND NOW . . .

THIS WAY TO 2004 →

MEET ME THIS SUMMER IN THE GREAT MIDWEST!

July 21 - July 25, Bourbonnais, Illinois



Your host, Dean Gard

Founding members Dean Gard and John Peele put their heads together last month, and without consulting a board of directors, a formal committee or even taking the advice of a professional event organizer, decided that it was high time for another Tan Son Nhut Association reunion. Gard asked President Peele if he could just go ahead and set it up, and Peele told him "to go for it."

Dean Gard, among many other endeavors is a demonstrated

leader and organizer. He is a current regional commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and has been a staunch and extremely generous supporter of the Tan Son Nhut Association since the very beginning in 1993. He believes that reunions are just about the most important activity that any good association should have. Bringing us together again from time to time should be way up there at the top of our Association's list of priorities.

The United States is an awfully big country. And yet, regardless of its size practically every square mile reveals an endless variation of dramatic, appealing and often historic beauty. Dean decided that the Reunion 2004 should be held right smack in the middle, in Bourbonnais, Illinois, just an hour south of Chicago and close by revered Chanute Air Force Base, now a fascinating air museum. It's fashionable to talk about "roots" so we'll point out that the Tan Son Nhut Association's origins were close by at the first two reunions held in Evansville, Indiana and Dayton, Ohio.

The Reunion 2004 Program

The Bourbonnais, Bradley, Kankakee area, and environs, is a perfect area for a thoroughly enjoyable and fulfilling reunion vacation. Dean has set up a generalized schedule of activities, but has also provided an outline of all the other interesting attractions that can be enjoyed by reunion attendees.

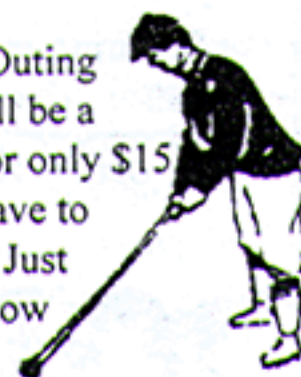
Wednesday, July 21 Check-in and registration will be at the Holiday Inn Express, in Bradley, by the Northfield Square Mall on Route 50. (See Page 3 for accommodation information.)

Thursday, July 22 There will be a morning visit to the Chicago Bears Training Camp at Olivet Nazarene University. In the afternoon there will be a tour of the Manteno

Veterans Home. Evening dining plans have been left open at present.

Friday, July 23 Association Golf Outing at South Shore Golf Course. There will be a steak dinner, with all the trimmings, for only \$15 following the outing. No, you don't have to play golf to be included in the dinner. Just wear a tam or a kilt and no one will know the difference.

Saturday, July 24 During the day there will be a tour of the air museum at Chanute Air Force Base. Our Tan Son Nhut Association Reunion 2004 Banquet will be held in the evening at the Kankakee Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall. Jackets and ties are not required.



REUNION 2004 REGISTRATION FORM

Tan Son Nhut Association
Reunion 2004 Host, Dean Gard
139 Meadows Road South, Bourbonnais, Illinois 60914
Telephone: (815) 932-0238 FAX: (815) 937-3655

Date Submitted: _____

Name of principal: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

To be accompanied by: (Please give full name and relationship, friend, etc.)

I have made () will be making () (No. _____) room reservations at the Holiday Inn Express for the periods July 21 (); July 22 (); July 23 (); and July 24 ()

I will be residing elsewhere in the area during this period (). Please check, if appropriate.

I will be participating in the South Shore Golf Outing Yes () The steak dinner, \$15 Yes ()

Saturday, July 24th, Banquet Menu Preferences. Indicate number ordered. All are served with corn, salad, roll & butter, ice cream, coffee or ice tea. (Other beverages and selections will be billed separately. Each meal is \$25 (including tip).

Choice One (No. _____)

Prime Rib
with baked potato

Choice Two (No. _____)

Stuffed Pork Loin
with mashed potatoes
and gravy

Choice Three (No. _____)

Fried Chicken
mashed potatoes
and gravy

Signature: _____

Do not send any funds with this registration. All charges will be collected at the reunion.

A very interesting and entertaining program has been planned for the banquet that includes stories, comments and open discussions with distinguished World War II, Korea and Vietnam pilots, among them is one who was a five year Vietnam prisoner of war.

The banquet cost is \$25 per person. The menu is shown on the enclosed registration form.

Sunday, July 25 Farewell Breakfast and departures.

Other Points of Interest

In addition to the generalized program, reunion attendees can select other interesting and entertaining locations and activities.

The *Kankakee River State Park* offers hiking and bicycle trails and a horseback riding stable. For those who like to fish there are the banks of the beautiful Kankakee River. Canoe trips on the river are available from Reed's.



A trail along the Kankakee River

NASCAR fans will probably want to visit the Chicago Motor Speedway at Joliet on Route 53. And, if you're going to be in Joliet you might also want to catch some baseball with the Joliet Jackhammers.

And, if you're feeling lucky, *The Empress and Harrah's* casinos are also in Joliet.

Bourbonnais is halfway between Chicago and Champaign-Urbana, in case you would be interested in visiting the home of the University of Illinois.

Transportation

Comfortable bus transportation between locations and events has been arranged at a very nominal cost. The tour company owner is a Vietnam veteran, a supporter of the Tan Son Nhut Association and has attended several earlier association reunions.

Notes on the Friday Golf Outing

The outing will be held at the South Shore Golf Club, 1727 N. River S. Road, Momence, Illinois, Phone: (815) 472-4407. This demanding course has water hazards coming into play on

seven holes. The small greens are fast, undulating, and most of them are well bunkered. The fairways are basically flat, but there are some mounds that can affect your lie. A difficult hole is #13, a 373-yard, par 4, with a dogleg right fairway and a stream that crosses in front of the green.

Tee	Par	Yardage	Course Rating	Slope
White	72	6,174	68.9	122
Red	72	5,439	70.2	120

The Green Fees for Association members is \$16.00 and the cart fee is \$12.00.

ACCOMMODATIONS



62 Ken Hayes Drive, Bourbonnais, Illinois 60914
Phone: (815) 932-4411 FAX: (815) 932-4439

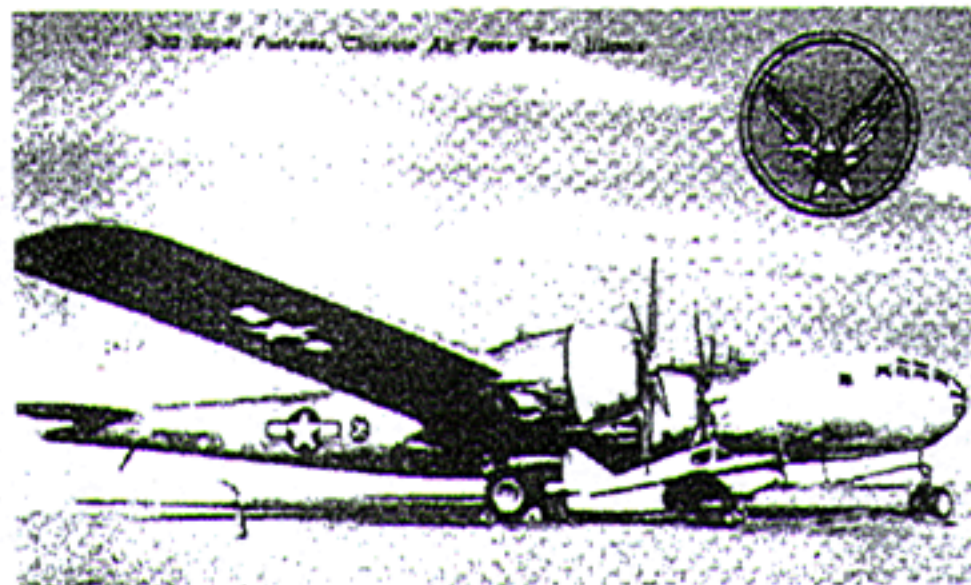
* * *

Your host, Dean Gard, has booked 25 rooms at a special rate of only \$78 (plus tax) per night. Call the hotel directly to make reservations and be sure and indicated that you are with the Tan Son Nhut Association. **RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE AND CONFIRMED NOT LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2004.**

The Holiday Inn Express & Suites is a "Quality Performer Hotel" awarded to select hotels who exceed guest expectations. They also have been given a 3 Diamond Rating by AAA. The hotel features indoor pool, inside corridors, guest laundry and fitness center. All guest rooms have ports, in room makers, hair & boards. All phones with 2 guests may make checking their e-also has 39 rooms for all extended stay guests. They pride ourselves on their deluxe complimentary continental breakfast buffet (you have to see it). The hotel meeting rooms will seat up-to 150 people. There 5 restaurants within walking distance and the Northfield Square mall is right next door. The hotel staff looks forward to seeing you soon and serving all of your hotel needs.



of the spacious voice mail, data movies, coffee dryers, and iron rooms have 2 separate lines, so a call while mail. The hotel with micro/frig



Chanute's most famous birds - the great B-29s

Bring Your Old Friends Too!

Make Reunion 2004 a memorable summer event. Let's really live up to our motto - "All included - none excluded!"





His call is being answered!

How do you say 'Thank You!'?

Even though this is an abbreviated issue of *Revetments*, dedicated primarily to the 2004 Reunion plans, we could not publish this issue without attempting to offer some form of deeply sincere thanks to the large number of Association members who immediately responded to our call for contributions to the maintenance fund.

* * *

The February issue, with its call for contributions was mailed on a Thursday, in the following Monday morning mail there was over \$200 in separate donations. At first, we were going to print the name of each member contributing, but a wiser head said that that would be misleading. He contends that the contributions are being made to keep supplies and services available for the

whole Association. Though individual checks are being written, they are being written on behalf of the entire membership. There are some members, due to personal circumstances, who cannot afford to contribute but who nonetheless are ardent and loyal supporters of the TSNA. And, like we all remember in the good ole days at the O, NCO and Airmen Clubs, a few days before payday, we'd still belly up to the bar together and even though half of us were broke somehow the other guys managed to pick up the tab for an enjoyable evening.

* * *

Last month in our article on the maintenance fund situation, we referred to the incredible response that brought about the purchase of the new printer last year, and when asked why the members did it, we replied, "That's the kind of people they are." Though slowly growing, the nearly four hundred members of the Tan Son Nhut Association are a remarkable association of kind and intelligent people who have very long memories and realize that just about every name they see on the membership list is somebody they worked with, lived next to, crouched in a bunker with and fought beside thirty some years ago. And, like back in those days, it's not so important who picks up the tab as it is that all our obligations are all properly squared away. I'm supposed to be the Association B.S. artist, but all I can say at this time is a heartfelt and sincere — *thank you* — to you all!

Bob Need, Public Affairs

Tan Son Nhut Association
Office of Public Affairs
Suite 709, 330 W. Brambleton
Norfolk, Virginia 23510



Membership
Renewal Date

