



A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



MAY 2014

(Editor's Note: The following has been submitted by TSNA Life Member Benny Goodman. The essay is from a Memorial Day essay contest he is involved with. This was the 2013 winner.)

What is it All About?

Hayley Moniz North Middle School Homeroom 211 7th Grade

"There. Perfect!" you whisper to yourself as you finish hanging the banner from your garage. Bright, colorful, and welcoming are all things you might think of as you step back, admiring your work. "Welcome Home, Solider!" it seems to scream at you in excitement, just as you turn to see a forest green Jeep rolling around the corner. Could it be? Could it really be the father- your father-who left you three years ago? A sand-brushed black combat boot slides out onto the dark, hot pavement. He emerges in green camouflage, and dark sunglasses. He runs to grab a tight hold of you. It really is! The one you've missed for those few years-it felt like eternity. You pause, in all of your excitement and ask: What about those dads and uncles and men who didn't return? The ones who laid their lives down to keep up the American legacy? They are the soldiers that acted with valor, just to keep me from going back to a cruel and unforgiving world. Valor-it's what Memorial Day is really all about. It is great courage in the face of danger.

That that courage these soldiers display keeps you and me herein this free country, this state, this city, and even this school. Because of the valor that the fallen have showed, we don't have to live like slaves here. Those who have given their lives for our freedom have shown tremendous valor. In all honesty, Memorial Day is a day truly honoring their valor. It's not just a three day weekend or a day where you don't have to wake up early. It is a day of honor and respect for those who didn't return to their homes in America, a day for those who never saw their loved one again. Honoring their valor is the very least we can do for them.



Chaplain's Corner May 2014

Above my desk I have hanging a calendar that reminds me of the special days of any given month. Studying it for the month of May I was surprised that it is a "Military Month". The 9th of May, Military Spouses Day; the 17th, Armed Forces Day and the climax of the month, May 26th, Memorial Day.

This calendar from the DAV starts the May page with these words: "The most beautiful things in the world are not seen or touched. They are felt with the heart". Beautiful words spoken by Helen Keller.

The binding together of the members of TSNA is based upon our mutual service in the military. As each of these days of May dawns we realize the importance of our bonding fellowship and our commitment to serve.

I don't normally write this type of "sermon" yet the month of May with its special days prompted my pen to "head this way".

We are getting closer to gathering together again next month. The Psalms have many comments about fellowship: read Psalm 26, 71 and 105 and see about commitment. And lastly for this, the words of Thomas Paine: "Those who expect to reap the blessings of liberty must undergo the fatigues of supporting it".

End of Sermon Chaplain Bob Chaffee

IT'S coming!

Can you feel the pull of your heartstrings and are you wondering what it is? It is our TSNA family reunion speeding toward us. It is being held in the birthplace and it all started in 1993. Guess what? If y'all come in June, the co-creators will be there. That's right, Big Mama and Big Daddy Parker and Mama and Papa Peele are attending this anniversary.

If you have attended our reunion before, you know of the awesome time that we have. If you haven't been there, boy, oh boy, you are going to experience a homecoming! We greet you as our Brothers And Sisters, you will receive hugs and gifts, you will laugh and maybe cry, B.S. all you want because it is expected and best of all----we feed you! There will always be surprises and the unexpected. Sometimes, those are the best---such as our Singers last year. Could they be enticed to repeat their standing ovation performance again? Bring a guest or guests with you. Your presence will make the reunion better and we old-timers would love to share some awesome time with you.

We have members from all 50 states and just the One birthplace. Will you, please, if you can, attend this one?

We will be tickled to greet you and say, "Welcome Home. Thank you. You did good". Hoping to see y'all there. :-)

Love, Janny Janice Jones

AT THE REUNION!

A **Patriotic** quilt will be raffled at the Evansville Reunion. Size is approximately 70" X 68". Colors: primarily red, white and blue with several designs, including paw prints for the APs who handled dogs. It is bordered in white and red. The backing is an American flag print with the wording "God Bless America."

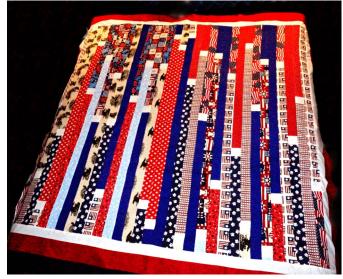
Tickets can be purchased upon registration.

At this time, the price of the tickets has not been determined. Bring your wallet! \$...\$

Money earned will go to the General Fund.

Thank you!

Sue Ellen Parker





2014 TSNA REUNION IS COMING NEXT MONTH!

OUR SPEAKER'S BIO:

WOLFGANG W. E. SAMUEL BIOGRAPHY

Wolfgang W. E. Samuel was born in Germany in 1935, immigrated to the United States at age 16, and finished high school in Denver, Colorado, two years later. He graduated from the University of Colorado in 1960 and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. Wolfgang served 30 years in the U.S. Air Force, flew strategic reconnaissance against the Soviet Union in the Cold War years and combat against North Vietnam; being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross three times and numerous Air Medals. He obtained an MBA from Arizona State University and graduated from the National War College at Ft. McNair, Washington D. C. After retirement from the Air Force in the rank of Colonel, he worked for a defense contractor in the Washington area, then retired once again to write German Boy, his first book, which was introduced by Stephen Ambrose and very favorable reviewed by the New York Times. German Boy is Wolfgang's story of survival in WW II Germany and the immediate postwar years. Other books followed.



ELEVEN MONTHS AND NINETEEN DAYS: A VIETNAM ILLUSTRATOR'S MEMOIR

(See the July and October 2013 issues of Revetments.)

The book by TSNA Member John Bowen was recently reviewed and the review was published in the Miami Sun Herald newspaper.

Due to copyright situations, and the fact that no matter what I did I couldn't copy and paste from the article, the only thing I can add is the link that came in the article:

http://www.sunnewsmiami.com/entertainment/books/ item/478-the-vietnam-war

Larry Fry

Editor's Note: From Sue Parker, wife of TSNA Co-Founder Don Parker, and a resident of nearby Princeton, IN EVANSVILLE, IN

There's so much to do and see it's hard to break it down... The best place to look is <u>http://www.visitevansville.com/</u>... I'll make a few suggestions, but you can go to that site to find out more about each one including hours open and admission fees, if any.

* Evansville is home to two universities, the University of Evansville and the University of Southern Indiana, so there is a lot to see on both campuses.

* During WWII, Evansville, being a river city, was home to many war plants. There are no planes like the ones built there, but there is an LST like the ones made by local workers. It is open for tours.

* The Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science sits on the Ohio River that includes a section on transportation including an antique train that my dad and I saw moved to that location in about 1959.... There is also an immersive planetarium/theater at the museum.

* Ellis Park is great for those who enjoy horse racing. It's north of the Ohio River, but considered to be in Kentucky (I'll never figure that one out!).

* There are five 18-hole golf courses and one that has 36 holes.

* The Reitz Home Museum is a Victorian home that welcomes tours.

* Bosse (pronounced Bossy) Field is home to the Otters baseball team. It's where League of Their Own was filmed.

* Mesker Zoo has the usual birds and animals, but also includes Amazonia, a rain forest.

* The Tropicana gambling boat (by Indiana law, it can't cruise). There are often shows by famous or formerly famous bands, singers, etc.

* Historic New Harmony, IN, where the Harmonists built a new community, hoping for a Utopia. Lots to see, antique stores, a living maze, and the Red Geranium Restaurant.

* Historic Newburgh that also has lots of shops and calls itself "the best little town by a dam site" because of the locks and dam.

* Lyles Station Historic School and Museum (west of Princeton on SR64) in the last community founded by freed slaves. Call 812-385-2534 for hours and admission. Very interesting for the history buff. Includes a school room with desks used for visiting school children. Stanley Madison, head of the committee that oversees the rebuilt school, has been in contact with the Smithsonian over all the historical people and items to be seen here.

* Places to eat:

** Visit The Hilltop Inn for fried bologna or a brain sandwich (I just can't bring myself to eat one, but those who do, say they're the best). They also have other sandwiches, steaks, salads, chicken, etc.

** The Hornet's Nest was voted Best Tavern Food in Evansville a few years ago. Chicken, Steaks and other regular fare. My personal opinion is skip the French dip....

** Hornville Tavern's specialty is a 16-ounce pork chop, but there are lots of other specialties.

** June 7-14 is the WC Handy Blues and BBQ Festival in Henderson, Ky, just across the bridge from Evansville. If you love blues or barbecue, you have to visit this one!

** June 11-15 is Shriner Fest. Lots going on by the Ohio River for this one including a military reenactment of D Day including a landing with the LST and aerial show. That website is <u>http://www.hadishrinersfest.com/</u>

I hope these few things will make everyone want to stay and look around.

Editor's Note: The following is from our hotel's website:

Must See:

Casino Aztar and Entertainment District, Angel Mounds State Historic Site, Evansville African American Museum, Burdette Park & Aquatic Center

Must Do:

Mesker Park Zoo, LST 325 Warship and Holiday World and Splashin' Safari

What's New:

The Koch Family Children's Museum of Evansville has become the new favorite place for children of all ages from the Evansville and tri-state region! Visiting this museum is an experience that will engage your child as they learn and have a ball - as in the Quack Factory assembly of sirens, bells and lights to signal the relay of the production sequence. Or let them try out their stage talents.

Don't Go Home Without:

Don't go home without visiting the Log Inn Restaurant for fried chicken, ham, roast beef and fiddlers, served family-style for parties of three or more.

REVETMENTS



In addition to the TSNA Reunion, there is a LOT going on in Evansville while we are there.

Below are some of the activities during the Freedom Festival, to be held June 14th and 15th.

In addition, below this first list is a listing of the goings on at the Arts and Crafts Show being held at the same time.

This year we are planning many new activities: Air Shows - Team Aerodynamic, Billy Werth, Otto the Helicopter, P47, Acemaker,Albatrosse, Sea Planes with splash landings, and much more! Mike Harvey Road Retirement Party Arts/Crafts Show Inflatables Kid's Evening Movies Junior Achievement GoKart Racing Food Booths Bierstubes Main Street Stage Entertainment - Wrestling, Live Bands Cruise In LST, Military Reenactment VIP at the Pagoda

From 1st annual SHRINERSFEST Arts and Crafts Show Website:

The Hadi Shriners of Evansville, IN will be hosting their first Arts and Crafts Show. The show will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 14th and 15th, 2014. The show will be in conjunction with the 11th Annual Shrinersfest on June 11th through the 15th, which takes place on the riverfront in Downtown Evansville every year. Set-up times for the show will be 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 14th, 2014. The gates will open at 9 a.m. and the show will run until 9 p.m. on Saturday. The Sunday hours are 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

2014 REUNION LOGO ITEMS:

Comments: Here is the website for the 2014 TSNA Reunion logo apparel gifts.

Please go to URL:

http://www.cafepress.com/tsnareunionstore/10128655

All proceeds go to the Tan Son Nhut Association.

Gary Redlinski gtred@frontier.com.



Tan Son Nhut Association 2014 Reunion Registration

OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF TAN SON NHUT AND THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

YES, SIGN ME UP FOR THE REUNION!

NAME	BRANCH OF SERVICE	
ADDRESS		
PHONE	EMAIL	
NAME OF YOUR GUEST(S):		
PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS:		

REGISTRATION FEES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING_____X \$75. =____

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (NO EXTRA COST)

- Access to the TSNA Hospitality suite in Royale FGHIJ, (drinks, snacks, and war stories!) \$15. daily if purchased separately.
- TSNA Friday Banquet buffet dinner. \$30 if purchased separately.
- Saturday morning plaque dedication ceremony. Details to follow later.
- Please circle which activities that you are paying for separately.
- Free airport shuttle service.
- Free parking.
- Free WIFI.
- Free hot breakfast buffet.
- Honored guest speaker is Wolfgang W. E. Samuel, Colonel, US Air Force Retired.

Your room rate has been group discounted to \$92.00 per night, plus tax. This rate will be honored up to three days prior to and two days following the reunion. The reservations phone number at the Holiday Inn Evansville Airport is 1-888-465-4329. Hotel reservations must be made no later than May 27, 2014 to receive this special rate.

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN MAY 30, 2014

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS PAYABLE TO THE "TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION" AND MAIL PAYMENTS TO:

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION C/O GEORGE PLUNKETT 587 WILLIAMS CIRCLE WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29172



Reunion begins Thursday, 6-12-2014 Reunion ends Sunday, 6-15-2014

Time to Vote

Candidates to fill two positions on the Board of Directors of your association have declared their candidacy or have been nominated. Now it is time for you to decide who will best represent and serve you and vote!

The positions to be filled are Director of Membership and a Director at Large. A summary of each candidate's background with a statement of their vision for serving the membership and perpetuating the Tan Son Nhut Association are below.

Randall Brown: He is running to fill the position of Director at Large. He served at TSN from December 1967 through February 9, 1968. He was a registered mail courier. Randall is very active with veterans groups to assist those with health matters related to Agent Orange and other issues that plague Vietnam veterans. He also helped establish one of the Vietnam Veterans of America chapters in Indiana. His vision:

To foster fellowship of all its members now and in the future. To help educate and inform all the members about TSNA and our goals as an association. I want us to grow to encompass everyone who ever served at Tan Son Nhut. So we can hear, learn about their experiences while serving there. Lastly I want to be a part of this association, more than just a member with a card. I want to contribute in any way I can to help with growth, members, news, etc.

Gary Fields: He is running to fill the position of Director at Large. He served at TSN from February 1969 to February 1970 with the 377th Civil Engineer Squadron. After his Vietnam service, he remained in the Air Force Reserve and retired with the rank of Chief Master Sergeant (E-9) after a long period of very distinguished service. He has already been very active in the Tan Son Nhut Association since joining. His vision:

I think we have a fantastic organization and would like to expand the bridge between TSNA and the non-affiliated TSNA Veterans Forum on Facebook. I have been a member since 2009 and have attended every Reunion. When my current membership comes up for renewal, I will expand it for a life membership. I make this application, not to benefit me, but for the continuation of this organization.

Larry Fry: He is running for reelection to the position of Director of Membership. He served at TSN during 1962 as a Chaplain's Assistant and was there TDY when few persons in the military had been to or had even heard of Vietnam. If reelected, he will continue to maintain the Master Records of TSNA member info; send out monthly Renewal Statements to members; prepare new Membership Cards for renewals; prepare New Member packages for new members; and prepare Membership Data for the TSNA Board.

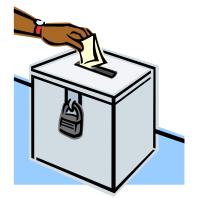
You can cast your ballot by sending a completed copy of the ballot that is in this issue of Revetments and posting it to the address that is also given. If you prefer to vote by email, please send me your choices at <u>dale f bryan@yahoo.com</u>. Note that there is an underscore (_), not a dot or space on both sides of the f in my name. Deadline for submission of completed ballots is Friday, May 30, 2014.

Your decision is important. Please cast you ballot.

Thank you,

Dale F. Bryan Secretary, TSNA





BALLOT

ELECTION OF DIRECTOR AT LARGE AND DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2014

I VOTE TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR AT LARGE OF THE TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

	RANDALL BROWN
	GARY FIELDS
Ι VOT	E TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
	LARRY FRY

NAME:	
DATE:	

If you complete and return by U.S. Mail, please send it to the following address:

Tan Son Nhut Association P. O. Box 236 Penryn PA 17564-0236

If you complete and return via email, please send it to this address:

dale f bryan@yahoo.com. Note that there is an underscore (_), not a dot or space on both sides of the f in his name.

The bylaws require that there be 30 days between the date of this announcement and the deadline for voting, so please have your ballots mailed or emailed by Friday May 30.

Thank you for taking the time to elect our future officers.

(Editor's Note: The following was sent in by Janice Jones who received it from the late Peter Umbras. I have received permission from Peter's wife, Anne Conable, to publish it.)

A DAUGHTER'S TRIBUTE

(From Peter, dated November 12, 2013):

"Janice, I must share this with you. Honorable Daughter, Sophie, probably didn't think I'd see this, since she posted this on Facebook and I'm not on FB, as account had been inactive for months. But Annie saw this on her FB account and read it to me. As Annie finished, we both had tears in our eyes, a lump in our throats and hearts full of pride and love for such a daughter, who now lives so far away in California.

From Sophie. Read On."

"In honor of Veteran's Day, I have been thinking about the veterans who have affected my life. My grandfather, who served in WWII on the Japanese front, and of course, my father for serving his country in Vietnam. But then I realized how unfair life is for the veterans like my dad. When my grandfather served, it was very popular for everyone in the community to do what they could for the war effort. They did things like grow Victory Gardens or collected scrap metal so that soldiers could fight. With the battles fought over in the Middle East today, though not as direct as it was back then, people still support soldiers. When they come home they are greeted with love from everyone they know. But the men who served in Vietnam were not always given those rights. They fought during the times where anti-war protests were common due to the ideas of peace and love. Soldiers would come home to people who would shun them, not let them get good work or go to schools because of the student protestors. The community would call them names like "baby killer" only because they had to go serve their country thanks to a draft. And this was only after they returned home from a far away land where people all around them had died. Yet through all of this, my dad not only was able to persevere and able to make himself a career as an actor, but he was able to get married, help build our house, and raise me to become a person who dreams and believes in those dreams even when others might say otherwise. That's something I will always be grateful for. So thank the veterans in your life today for not only the battles they may have fought in some far away land, but the battles that they still fight even now. And if you know someone who is a veteran from Vietnam, make sure to tell them the thing that not many people did back then, "Welcome Home"."

(From Peter: "PS: I just reactivated my Facebook account.")

(Editor's Note: Peter passed away January 3, 2014)



Anne Conable Umbras, Peter Umbras, Sophie Umbras (Note Peter's TSNA hat!)

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

I was assigned as the Chief Pilot for the Scatback T-39 unit. I lived in the barracks for the duration of this assignment. The Scatback organization was moved to Nakhon Phanom, Thailand in February 1973 where I spent the remainder of my assignment. this was a wonderful and exciting AF assignment

Gary Munoz 7th/13th Air Force—Scatback May 72—May 73

I arrived at TSN in June of 67 and lived in the "Hooch's" next to the Heliport where I started as a mechanic. In Nov of 67 they moved our whole unit to the new airfield at Long Binh. The first night of the Tet offensive, I flew ammo & rockets down to our gunships, the "Razorbacks" all night. I then stayed in TSN for 3 days working on the gunships. In March I was sent back to crew chief for Gen. Westmoreland's Huey. My rank was SP4.

Richard P. Busillo 120th Assault Company Jun 67—Jun 68

S tationed at TSN from 11-15-69 thru 6-4-71, processing incoming and outgoing mail/courier service in country and state side. Note: Currently have great photos during this time period. Please let me know process. I would like to share photos.

Robert C. Scott USAF OL1500 Postal & Courier Service Nov 69 - Jun 71

Vietnam -- The "Different" War

By Ira Cooperman 7th AF Intel '65-'66

Every December 25th, my thoughts to turn to what I was doing that day in 1965 -- watching Bob Hope's show at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in the middle of the Vietnam War, the central event of my life and the lives of so many Vietnam vets. It was, to paraphrase several historians, an epic event -- not only for us, but for millions of others.

Vietnam was both the longest single war and the most sustained revolutionary effort of the 20th century, lasting for the Vietnamese people from 1945 to 1975, ending only when Ho Chi Minh's forces entered Saigon on April 30th.

The cost of human suffering was monumental. The war produced millions of displaced persons -- estimated at one-third of Vietnam's population.

In the U.S., a different kind of disorientation was experienced, for the Vietnam War had a powerful impact on American life. It also was the most challenging military experience in U.S. history. Only now, after decades of avoidance and silence, as well as our experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan, are Americans coming to terms with Vietnam, a war that deeply divided the country.

In fact, it wasn't even called a "war." Most memorials in state capitals which contain lists of the casualties of America's military actions use expressions such as the "Vietnam Era" or the "Viet Nam Conflict" on its monuments.

No such euphemisms are possible for us Vietnam vets, or for the more than 58,000 Americans who died, or the two million Vietnamese, 200,000 Cambodians, and 100,000 Laotians who were killed in a war that for America lasted over a dozen years.

Whatever history books call it, you

and I know it was war. But it's important to note that Vietnam was a different war. Politically, militarily, and in its outcome, Vietnam did not resemble what I learned in school about America's other military conflicts.

In Vietnam, the U.S. triumphed over no evil empires, and the troops did not receive a joyous homecoming. Most of us went to Vietnam ignorant of the people and cultures of Southeast Asia and came back more confused than ever.

During the war, our civilian government and military establishment manufactured disinformation, disseminating it at daily news briefings in downtown Saigon sarcastically known as the "Five o'clock Follies."

Bloody events, which included such diverse occurrences as the coordinated attacks that took place throughout Vietnam as part of the Tet/New Year Offensive of 1968, and the Kent State shootings in 1970, also contributed to making Vietnam a different war.

Another significant difference was the media coverage; this was the first war the American public was forced-fed through television. The staging of the war in living rooms throughout the world did not guarantee any less bias or more realism than any other selected or censored versions.

If anything, TV may have made the Vietnam War still less real than other wars, seen as it was, in full color but small scale, wedged between the dominant cultures' other fictions, competing with war movies and sitcoms.

As vets are aware, Vietnam also was a different war "in-country" -- for those of us stationed in Vietnam. Different in the cities, the villages, the field and in the rear. Different in a helicopter, or an F-4 jet fighter, or a B-52 bomber, or on an aircraft carrier on Yankee Station. Different in the Delta, the Highlands, the DMZ, in Laos or Cambodia. Different on the rivers, in the mud, in the hospitals. It was a different war for women -- for the more than 7,000 American women who volunteered for Vietnam, the millions at home waiting for their men, and the millions of Vietnamese women. For women serving in Vietnam, and most were nurses, it was a question of survival. Never forget the names of the eight American women who are on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, who died while trying to help guys like us.

Today, once again, it is a different war in its physical and emotional aftermath:

For the Vietnamese still dying from unexploded ordnance left behind.

For the Americans and Vietnamese suffering the effects of Agent Orange and other toxic chemicals absorbed decades ago.

For refugees -- for those boat people who survived, and for those who did not.

And for all who served and were afflicted with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Finally, it is seen as a different war today than it was 40 or 50 years ago -for those who cannot forget it, whether they were in Vietnam or not; for those who cannot remember it because they were too young; and for those of all ages who look at Vietnam through the lens of current events.

Vietnam offered no great battles and no clearly defined enemy. Its casualties included Americans' sense of trust in our government and the broad national consensus that had defined American foreign policy since World War II. This has made just about any discussion of the war inherently polarizing.

On national holidays and every day, let's Welcome Home all veterans who have ever served our country. That's the least we and they deserve.

Tan Son Nhut Association P. O. Box 236 Penryn PA 17564

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Annual Membership: \$20.00 Five Year Membership: \$80.00 Life Membership: \$180.00



And our thanks again to John Burke, TSNA Life Member, for another great cartoon.



Mr. Keith A. Cline Mr. John Buettner Mr. Brian M. Wickham OH kcline64@woh.rr.com FL jmbuettner@aol.com NY bwickham@nyc.rr.com Dec 66 - Jul 67 I Oct 72 - Mar 73 3 Aug 68 - Jun 69 0

DCA-SAM (Defense Communications Agency)
377 Supply 7th Air Force
Capital Military Assistance Command

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER WITH TSNA AND THE HOTEL FOR THIS YEARS TSNA REUNION!

DEADLINE IS MAY 27 FOR THE HOTEL AND MAY 30TH FOR TSNA

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