



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



APRIL 2015

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Sometime years ago I was taught "confession is good for the soul". This is not a religious metaphor and I'm not sure but what someone else taught "confession is not healthy for the bank account".

Well I have a confession. After many years, no really, many, many years I purchased a copy of the monthly "Air Force Times" (the last time it cost about \$1.00, this issue for March cost \$3.50, I found out after the cash register 'had me'). Thus confession but I found a theme in it for all of us today and the future.

The current publication does not use page numbers but TITLES in place. Under the title "sit rep" is Jess Schogol's writing.

After much argument over religious freedom the Robins Air Force Base has been given tentative permission for their security force to greet visitors by telling them "Have a blessed day". Very soon many of us will be gathering at Pigeon Forge and here is a theme term for us as we gather as the TSNA family and as we travel or remain at our homes during the latter part of next month with this daily phrase as a sort of daily prayer "Have a blessed day".

Thus a confession on my part, I borrowed this passage from the AF Times "The Security Force Airman portray a professional image that represents a base all middle Georgia can be proud of". Let us change the words of Georgia to TSNA members and we all say it all over our land!! "Have A Blessed Day".

End of Sermon
Chaplain Bob Chaffee

The April issue of "Southern Living" carries an ad for PIGEON FORGE;
MYPIGEONFORGE.COM

Bob & Bobbi

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

I arrived in Viet Nam on May 15, 1967. I was assigned to Detachment 1-45th TAC Recon Squadron. I was to become an RF-101C Crew Chief. I was assigned to RF101C #166 and later #129. I think there were 16 of these aircraft in operation.

I was an Airman 1st class at the time and later that rank was changed to Sgt. I stayed a Sgt. until my term ended on August 30, 1968.

Our maintenance shack as it was called was building #2031, 2032 and another 2032A.

The 45th barracks where I lived was building #1219 and 1220.

I do recall the TET offensive as it was starting. I recall sitting beside the RF101 revetment at the end being able to see across the runways looking out to vacant fields beyond the runway. Just smoking and talking with another member of the crew when we noticed a bright flash of light way beyond the runway area. Then came another. Then a swoosh and another swoosh right over our heads. We followed the sounds and light and then a big Kaboom and then another. We knew then it was time to vacate and head for the bunkers.

The next few days as I recall were just as chaotic. We stayed alert. At night we saw lots of strafing with tracer bullets behind our revetment. Also heard lots of B52s dropping their bombs with what seemed endless.

After all quieted down some of us took a ride down the runway area and saw a bunch of dead VC that were taken out from the strafing.

We also surveyed the damage done in and around our area.

It quieted down after a couple of weeks and we got back to a normal routine.

I left early April due to emergency leave so I missed the other action that took place in May.

Michel R. Miranda, Jr.

First stayed in what we called Old French Quarters, not sure what #. Later after big build-up was moved to Quonset Huts. Was working in hangar on April '66 mortar attack, a night to remember.

Allan R. Shepard
377th FMS
Feb 66 - Jan 67

Was assigned to Cu Chi, but ended up at Tan Son Nhut guarding base. Was wounded and sent to Japan, then home.

Michael Martz
25th Infantry
Oct 67 - Jun 68

Detached to Camp Alpha to provide air transportation services to US and allied military personnel and defense civilians. Assigned primarily to move all combat troops out of country.

Donald F. Robinson
8th Aerial Port Squadron
Sep 72 - Mar 73



Election Announcement

The election for the members of our Association to elect a new President, a Secretary, and two members to fill two positions on the Board of Directors begins on April 1 and will run through May 9.

There is a single candidate for President. He is Life Member Randall W. Brown of Hartford City, IN. There is a single candidate for Secretary. He is Life Member Dale F. Bryan of Georgetown, TX, the current incumbent, who is running for reelection to a third term. There are three candidates for two Co-Director of Membership Development positions. They are Bill Coup of Hopkins, SC; Life Member Andy Csordas of Rome, GA; and Life Member Kerry Nivens of Huntsville, AL. Bill Coup and Kerry Nivens are incumbent and are running for reelection after completing one term.

Following this announcement are short statements from each candidate that gives their vision statement for our Association, and, in the case of those running for reelection, there is also a summary of their accomplishments while in office.

Please send all email ballots to our Vice President, Rich Carvell, at rcarvell@astate.edu. Normally, those ballots would be sent to me as Secretary. However, my being a candidate precludes me, in the interest of complete transparency, from being involved in the ballot tabulation process. If you send your ballot by surface mail, send it to Tan Son Nhut Association at P.O. Box 236, Penryn, PA 17564-0236. All ballots must reach the respective recipients by May 9.

Dale F. Bryan
Secretary, Tan Son Nhut Association

Statement of Randall Brown:

I am putting my name in for President of TSNA.

I am Randall W Brown. I served at

TSN from December 1966 to Feb. 9th, 1968. I was Registered Mail Courier assigned to OL 1508 Postal Courier Squadron, USAF.

I am very active in veterans groups, having started our local VFW Post, 1st Vietnam Veterans of America Post and it being one of the first dozen in America.

I started a website called Vietnam Veterans With Diabetes, having over 275,000 belonging. I speak all around the country to veterans groups on health issues relating to Agent Orange, diabetes.

My Vision:

To foster fellowship of all its members now and in the future. To help educate, 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 and Vietnam. So we can hear and learn about their experiences while serving there. I want to contribute to help us grow in areas of members, news, etc. I want us to grow to be the largest Vietnam Reunion group.

This past year since our last Reunion I have signed up 15 new members with my goal set at 25 before our next reunion.

I feel I can reach so many more by using my website and Facebook site as way to promote TSNA and make our membership really grow. I want to use the Media to get the message out to all who served at TSN.

I feel so honored to belong to this great group.

Thank You,

Statement of Dale Bryan:

I am running for reelection to serve a third term as your Secretary. My remaining in office would provide continuity on the Board of Directors as we transition to having a new President

sitting in the "Left Seat" of the Association. I will be there to serve and assist the person elected to that key position.

Over the past eight years, I may, with satisfaction, state that I was proactive in efforts with two Presidents and the Treasurer to make our Association tax exempt to allow members to claim tax deductible contributions. During my tenure, we also secured legal counsel that we maintain on retainer at a bargain rate, and it is my plan to continue our excellent relationship with him. I will also continue keeping us on a continuing, sound legal relationship with the Corporation Commission of the Commonwealth of Virginia where this organization is chartered.

Most of my work is generally invisible to the membership, but in today's world, the paperwork has to be completed and maintained. I will continue to complete those tasks.

My vision for the future of our Association is to remain an active and viable organization that serves its members while also reaching out to the veteran community as a whole by working with other organizations that assist veterans with health issues and navigating the VA System. Health issues related to Agent Orange are of particular concern. Gaining employment after discharge or retirement is also a hurdle facing many.

The aging of our membership and all Vietnam Veterans is something that must be addressed. How much longer will we remain a viable organization? Unlike Congress, we cannot just "kick the can" down the road. Aging and mortality are real.

Statement of Bill Coup:

I am running to retain my seat on the Executive Board.

I have been Co-Director of Membership Development since 2011. My job has been to contact members that

have not renewed their membership when due and remind them that we wish to keep them as members of the association. It has been an interesting job and I am happy to say that I have often been successful. I have also served on the Awards Committee and was on the Memorial Bench Committee that designed the Memorial Bench at the Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. I have been a member of the association since it started and have attended all of our reunions. I respectfully ask for your vote to retain my seat on the Executive Board.

Statement of Andy Csordas:

I feel the TSNA is an effective organization for support, information, recognition and camaraderie for Vietnam Vets, their families and friends. I see some challenges for the organization not the least of which is the aging population of the members. My experience over the years with my father-in-law's WWII outfit's reunions brings this challenge to mind. It gradually became smaller and smaller, members had difficulty traveling (due to financial and health issues) and of course many were no longer with us as the years passed. The TSNA organization has to meet these challenges to be viable over the long term.

To meet these challenges we must ensure the reunions are as affordable as possible, by keeping the locations as close to the larger population groups and picking the venue wisely. I do feel the current group of TSNA leaders have been very effective in this regard, but we must evaluate this challenge on a year by year basis, especially if our group's home base changes over time as the membership changes.

We also must make the organization something positive that people feel enriches their lives as their priorities and life activities change over time. One of the items that impressed me at the first reunion we attended was that

it provided useful information for the Vietnam Vet, not just an occasion to get together to have a drink and reminisce, even though that too is useful and fun for the members. I am troubled by the constant comments on the Facebook page and our personal experience with getting the proper VA benefits for our Veterans. I feel that is an opportunity for the organization to serve its members. I am not sure of the vehicle we can use for that, but perhaps some members who are experts in dealing with the VA could become a more formal resource for the members by creating a resource page on the web site, etc.

I am also concerned that as the members age we need to have some younger members step up and contribute to the leadership of the organization. As in all organizations a small percentage of the group do most of the work, the same tends to be true in the TSNA. I will endeavor to locate talent in the organization that has a servant leadership attitude to continue to develop a group of formal and informal leaders to depend on to continue to keep TSNA viable over the long term.

Thank you for our consideration.

Statement of Kerry Nivens:

This is my first term on the BOD of the Tan Son Nhut Association. My main responsibility as Co-Director of Membership is when a new member has joined, I write a welcome note to him or her. I outline the main reason for the association and let them know about the Revetments and what they might find in it. I let them know about the reunion, place, date, and invite them to join us. I send a blind copy to Larry Fry and Charles Penley where they can have a copy for their records.

I have been on some special committee such as the rules committee. We made some changes to some of the old existing rules and made a couple of new ones.

The one thing that concerns me and most of the BOD about our associations, is what does the future hold for us as an associations. We are fast becoming too old warriors and with failing health some of us are fast becoming where we will not be able to make every reunion of help conduct the business of the association. In the last couple of years we have lost several of our main members and leaders. We have got to get some of the younger members and maybe their children or spouses involved so when it comes our time to step down we will have some one to pass the torch to. As we all know that we did not get the welcome home as our predecessors did. Yes we are getting more than you now 50 years later. I know it has been said by many of our members and BOD members that we are not going to let that happen to our present day service men and women that are returning home.

This is why it is important for us to get new blood in our membership and leadership to keep our organization going.

My biggest accomplishment is when I get a note back from our new members thanking me for my note and the WELCOME HOME MESSAGE THAT I ATTACH TO IT.



**PLEASE PRINT OUT YOUR
BALLOT AND MAIL IT IN.**

**OR EMAIL YOUR CHOICES TO THE
ADDRESS SHOWN.**

BALLOT
ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, AND CO-DIRECTOR
OF MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OF THE
TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
MAY 2015

I VOTE TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING TO THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT
OF THE TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

RANDALL BROWN

I VOTE TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING TO THE POSITION OF CO-DIRECTOR
OF MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
OF THE TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

BILL COUP

VOTE

ANDY CSORDAS

FOR

KERRY NIVENS

TWO

I VOTE TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING TO THE POSITION OF SECRETARY
OF THE TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

DALE BRYAN

(Signed:)

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:

rcarvell@astate.edu



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 **May 9, 2015**.

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



TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
2015 REUNION
MAY 28-31, 2015
MAINSTAY SUITES, 410 PINE MOUNTAIN ROAD,
PIGEON FORGE, TN 37863
GUEST SPEAKER:

Paul E. Galanti, Commander, U. S. Navy (Retired)



Commander Galanti was raised in an Army family in many states, Japan, France, Germany and Turkey. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1962 and entered Navy Jet Flight Training. He departed for Vietnam with Light Jet Attack Squadron 216 aboard the U.S.S. Hancock in November 1965. Shot down and captured while flying his 97th combat mission in June 1966, he remained a prisoner of war in North Vietnam's infamous Hanoi Hilton for nearly seven years. Released from Hanoi in February 1973, he served in Navy recruiting in Richmond, Virginia, earned the Master of Commerce degree from the University of Richmond in the evening program and served in the office of the Commandant as a Battalion Officer at the United States Naval Academy.

His personal military decorations include the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit with Combat "V", the Bronze Star with Combat "V", 9 Air Medals and 2 Purple Hearts.

After retiring from the Navy, he was the CEO of the Virginia Pharmaceutical Association, the Medical Society of Virginia and the Science Museum of Virginia Foundation.

He's a member of twelve veterans' organizations. The Virginia War Memorial Foundation named its new \$8 million education center after him and his wife. In 2010, Governor Bob McDonnell appointed him Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, the agency that provides services to Virginia's 830,000 veterans and to the Board of Visitors of the Virginia Military Institute.

He and his wife have two grown sons and live in Richmond.

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION 2015 REUNION
MAY 28 - 31, 2015
MAINSTAY SUITES, PIGEON FORGE, TN
Schedule of Events

Caney Creek	Wednesday at Noon Thursday at 9AM Friday at 9AM	Hospitality Suite and Registration Opens:
TBD	Friday at 10AM	Three hour bus tour of historic sites and artist's colony in Gatlinburg, TN
Conference Center	Friday at 6PM	Cash Bar Opens and Seating is Available
Conference Center	Friday at 7PM	Banquet Begins
(A SEPARATE SCHEDULE FOR THIS EVEN WILL AVAILABLE AT THE BANQUET)		
TBD	Saturday at 10AM	Vans load for Plaque Dedication Ceremony
	Saturday at 11AM	Plaque Dedication Ceremony
	Saturday at Noon	Vans return to the Hotel
Conference Center	Saturday 2PM - 4PM	Joseph Galloway book signing. Author of : "We Were Soldiers Once and Young"
TBD	Saturday at 5PM	Board Meeting
Royale FGHIJ	Saturday at 8PM	General Business Meeting
Conference Center	Sunday at 6AM - 10AM	Farewell Breakfast Buffet

Tan Son Nhut Association 2015 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 \$50. = _____

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (NO EXTRA COST)

- Access to the TSNA Hospitality suite in Caney Creek Room Side, (drinks, snacks, and war stories!) - \$10. *daily if purchased separately.*
- TSNA Friday Banquet buffet dinner. \$25 if *purchased separately.*
- Deluxe continental breakfast.
- The Mainstay Suites is on the schedule of the Pigeon Forge trolley.
- Friday morning scenic tour of area historic sites and artist's colony in Gatlinburg, TN
- Please indicate how many people will be taking the tour _____.
- Saturday morning plaque dedication ceremony. Details to follow later.
- Saturday afternoon book signing by Joe Galloway, author of "We Were Soldiers Once and Young"
- Please circle which activities that you are paying for *separately, if you are not paying the full fee.*
- Free parking.
- Free WIFI.

Our Honored guest speaker is Navy CMDR Paul Galanti, a POW in N Vietnam for nearly 7 years.

Room rate has been group discounted to \$88.68 for weekdays and \$105.52 for weekends 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 Mainstay Suites is 1-888-428-8350. Hotel reservations must be made no later than **May 26, 2015 to receive this special rate.**

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN MAY 20, 2015.

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, 5-28-2015
Reunion ends Sunday, 5-31-2015**

(rev 2-15-15)

“THINGS GO TO H ___”

By Mike Sirrinc - Part 4

It wasn't much later when a flight of jets thundered by to the west, but then swung around and attacked a position north of us, on the end of Plantation Road near Tan Son Nhut. There was much debate as to whether they were F-4's or F-105's, or what, but they were definitely fast-movers. They were much further away, maybe as much as five miles, but we could still see the action clearly.

They circled like the Skyraiders, but made a much bigger, faster circle. They strafed, rocketed and bombed a small area, and added immensely to the growing haze of smoke. I shuddered, trying to imagine what it must be like to be on the receiving end of that devastation.

That afternoon the MP's made the rounds of all the rooms ordering the men to stay back from the windows. One sailor had been shot in the stomach while standing in front of his window. He died later. I thought that this guy must've been pretty stupid, but we'd all been watching from the windows one time or another. We all tried to be more careful when looking out the windows or when on the roof, but we couldn't stay away. The scene outside drew us like flies to a fresh kill.

The Capital didn't have its own mess. Its residents ate in local restaurants or at other hotels that did have government messes. Consequently we were short on food and couldn't send out. If everyone hadn't been so busy fighting the war elsewhere, we could have got a pizza chopper to supply us. We had to make do with what we had. If it hadn't been for the MP company that was billeted there, we would have probably had to make do with what little pogy bait and junk food the residents had stashed in their rooms. As it was, all we got were old WWII C-rations in a can. They passed them out late in the afternoon, and there was much trading going on. No one wanted the notorious ham and lima beans.

That afternoon we were torn between watching the war from the windows and roof, or on TV. In addition to the reports about the fighting still going on upcountry, there were now reports about battles going on in the south half of the country. The attack on the embassy was small and a failure, but the press coverage was intensive. There were live action broadcasts of fighting going just a few blocks away from us in Cholon. ***They make it sound like we are winning. They told us before that we were winning, and that Charley could never mount this country-wide offensive, but here we are, trapped in our hotel, virtually surrounded by the enemy. Just like basic training, it's all a joke, but the joke's on us.***

They posted a guard duty roster that evening. Due to the increased security problem, the MP's were overtaxed, and without relief, stressed out. Hotel residents and transients were pressed into service. I drew a watch early the next morning on the 1st. I came on about an hour before daylight.

I reported to the duty officer in the lobby. "Sir, Specialist Sirrinc reporting for guard duty."

"Right," he said, giving me the once over. "Sign in here," he said, pushing a form and pen toward me across the desk. "What's your MOS, Sirrinc?"

"71N20, Sir, transportation movement control."

"Ever seen any combat?" he asked.

"No, Sir, I'm afraid not," I replied, wondering what he had in mind for me. ***Am I going to see some combat? God, am I ready for that? Can I hold up my end in a firefight?***

"Well, don't sweat it, Sirrinc. You're gonna be paired with a MP Sergeant, and all you gotta do is listen to what he tells you. OK?" he asked, but didn't wait for me to answer. "Here's your gear," he said as he pulled equipment from a pile on the floor. "Helmet, web gear, and flak jacket."

From a rack along the wall he grabbed an M-16 and handed it to me. "You qualified with an M-16, Sirrinc?"

"No, Sir, I trained with a M-14," I said, looking over the rifle.

"Well, I don't have a M-14 right now, so you'll have to make do. Ask your sergeant to familiarize you with it."

"Yes, Sir, I'm sure I can figure it out."

He gave me five clips, two for each of two pouches on the web gear, and one for the rifle, and a bandolier of strip-per clips. "Here's 240 rounds and two grenades," he said, pulling the two smooth, green baseballs from a wooden crate. "Don't use them unless told to. Don't fire unless told to. Don't fire unless fired upon. Listen to your sergeant. Report to Sergeant Adams on the roof. Any questions?" I ran my hand over the cool green grenades. They didn't appear as mean and nasty as the pineapple grenades we trained with in Basic. Here was death and dismemberment in a small, innocent package. ***Can I shoot to kill, or blow up someone?***

"No, Sir," I replied. I struggled into the gear and loaded up. The flak jacket was heavy and comforting in a way, but musty smelling and stained. Hustling up the stairs I was sweating and blowing hard by the time I made it up the six flights to the roof. The cold in my chest made it hard to breathe. At the door to the roof I met a corporal.

"Sirrinc for guard duty. Where's Sergeant Adams?" I asked.

"Northwest corner," he said, pointing in the darkness.

I found him sitting behind an M-60 sandbagged in the corner. He flipped a butt over the edge when I came up. "You my relief?" he asked tiredly.

"I'm it," I said, squatting down.

"OK, Burns, you can take off now," he said to a PFC hunched against the sandbags, who left without a word. "All right....Sirrine," he said, leaning closer to read my name tag, "Your job is to keep me awake, make sure the belts feed OK, and spot for me. I'll tell you what to do otherwise, OK?"

"Anything you say, Sarge," I said quietly.

"Great. Know how to use that sixteen?" he asked.

"Well, I trained on the M-14, but, yeah, I think so," I said, looking at the rifle.

"Well, load it if it ain't, and relax," he said, leaning back in the folding chair.

I pulled the charging handle back and chambered a round, making sure it was on safety. It was too dark to see much on the ground or on the surrounding buildings, so I just settled down where the PFC had been sitting. The breeze on the roof made me feel a little chilly, in spite of the bulky flack jacket. I tucked my chin under the collar of the flack jacket like a turtle.

It wasn't as spooky on the roof as I thought it was going to be. The sounds of war were still all around us. Explosions crumped near and far with regularity, jets and choppers screamed by high and low, and machine gun and small arms fire chattered everywhere. Man-made lightning ripped the darkness where mini-guns from C-47 gun ships clawed at the ground. Flares lit up the sky at spots around the horizon, and fires flamed up here and there to eerily light the clouds of smoke lying over the city. But I felt comparatively safe. None of the action was real close, and I felt protected. I had a gun.

"All this picture needs to make it a scene right out of Dante's Inferno," I said thinking out loud, "is a sea of tortured humanity and pointy-tailed devils."

"Well," murmured the sergeant looking over the sandbags, "I don't know what movie you're talking about, but a lot of people are hurtin' and dyin' tonight. Maybe they ain't got pointy tails, but the devil is out tonight."

It soon started getting lighter and I could make out detail on the buildings surrounding us. Nothing was moving in the streets. The sergeant sat without talking, chain smoking cigarettes. He occasionally peered over the side of the sandbagged parapet.

I felt it in the seat of my pants before I heard it. The bullet impact on the building vibrated to me before the noise from the muzzle blast pounded in my ears. The floor beneath me trembled ever so slightly as a machine gun blast ripped the front of the building. Someone was shooting at our building from the building just across the street. **Oh, here they come again.**

"Darn AK-47!" said the sergeant.

I jumped and fell over sideways as the sergeant cut loose with his machine gun. The noise was deafening. The empties fell in a glittering shower as the belt fed smoothly and rapidly into the gun. I held my hands over my ears, but they kept ringing loudly even after he stopped.

With my helmet pulled down low over my eyes, I cautiously looked over the edge but could see nothing. Another string of fire from across the street caused the face of my building to erupt in little explosions of concrete dust and splinters as the bullets sprayed across. I ducked back down as the sergeant fired again.

"What are you shooting at?" I yelled at the sergeant when he stopped again.

"That building across the street!" he yelled back as we took return fire.

"But I can't see anything!" I said, peeking back over the edge.

"Well no, they're inside! Shoot at the windows," he shouted as he raised up and blasted again.

I carefully poked the rifle over the edge between two sandbags and tried to aim at a window on the top floor, but the sights were dancing in time to the pounding of my heart. I closed my eyes and squeezed the trigger. Nothing. Again. Nothing. **The safety, Mike, the safety.** After fumbling with the safety, I squeezed again and the rifle kicked back slightly into my shoulder. I looked at the rifle in surprise as I had expected full auto, but quickly got back down on the sights and fired several more rounds. Return fire peppered the front of our building again, but before I ducked down I thought I saw a muzzle blast winking from a window two floors down from where I had been shooting.

"Sarge," I yelled as he hunkered down for a moment, "I think I saw muzzle blast from the window three down from the top, four from the left."

"OK, pour it on 'em, GET SOME!" he said, sweat streaking down his face. He raised up and commenced firing.

I regained my shooting position and sighted on the window. A flash of light winked at me, and suddenly I could see, all I could see was that window and the muzzle blast of someone shooting at me. I fired at the window until the bolt locked open, and then sat down behind the parapet and fumbled another magazine out of my ammo pouch to replace the empty one in the rifle. Bullets cracked overhead and dust flew from the sandbags as Charley hosed the roof line. I waited until the sergeant cut loose again and then followed suit. **MORE NEXT MONTH!!**

MORE ABOUT THE REUNION!!

Fellow Members:

Two veterans from different eras will also be our honored guests at this year's reunion.

Stephen Parella served four tours in Afghanistan and is now employed by the VA in their Knoxville facility.

Vernon Brantley is a member of America's greatest generation and is a survivor of the "Battle of the Bulge". This battle sealed the death of Hitler's Nazi Regime.

Details will be available on them in next month's Revetments.

Our Color Guard will be a joint Boy Scout/Girl Scout effort from troops in the Pigeon Forge area.

Stay tuned for more announcements.....

George

A QUESTION FROM A TSNA AUTHOR:

By: Mike Sitrine
Army 507th Transportation Grp. Nov 66 - Jun 68

The wedge-shaped Victoria Hotel was a 9-10 story building on Tran Hung Doa Street headed out of Cholon toward downtown Saigon. It had a swimming pool on the top. I rented a room at the establishment on many occasions in 1967, and do not recall that it was a BEQ. The 1969 MACV-J2 Saigon Facilities Map that has been published does not list it as a BEQ or BOQ. However, I have read that in 1966 it was a BOQ with some 200 residents, and it was bombed on April 1, 1966 by a 12 man Viet Cong sapper team with a 500 pound truck bomb. The bomb blew the face off the hotel, and injured many, but none were killed. If this is the same place as I visited, it had been rebuilt, and was no longer a BOQ. The story was in the April, 2015 issue of Weider's VIETNAM magazine. I was wondering if anyone knew more about the history behind this BEQ, the bombing, the subsequent rebuilding and delisting as a BEQ.

You can reach Mike at: msitrine@frontier.com.

(Researcher notes on Capt. Davies) On 1 April 66, the VC detonated 200 pounds of explosives just outside of the Victoria Hotel in Saigon. We, [Vietnam researcher] knew that 3 MP's were killed outright (with 3 civilians), but there were 67 men injured in this blast - causing havoc at the hospital that day. Based on this obit, he must have died of wounds sustained the next day. In 1966, Saigon was considered a choice "in-country" R&R site, with a lot of the men staying

at the lavish Victoria Hotel. (Vietnam Researcher, Bruce Swander, email 9 Dec 2003)



Medal of Honor stamps to be dedicated on Memorial Day

John Bessette, the husband of TSNA Treasurer Carol Bessette and himself a Vietnam vet, has let us know the following info from a US Postal Service "News Link" on its website:

"The US Postal Service will issue three stamps on Memorial Day that pay tribute to Medal of Honor recipients from the Vietnam War. The stamps will depict the three versions of the medal – one each for the Army, Navy, and Air Force..."

"The Medal of Honor was awarded to 258 Americans who served during the war. They will be dedicated May 25th at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC."

There have been two earlier issues of Medal of Honor stamps: one honoring World War II recipients and one for Korean War recipients. It was after the Korean War when a Medal of Honor specifically for Air Force recipients was designed, and this stamp issue will include that medal along with those for the Army and the Navy.

On the stamp sheet holding the stamps there also will be images of almost 50 living Vietnam-era recipients. Since TSNA has hosted at least two such recipients, Michael Thornton in 2009 and Thomas Norris in 2010, we might want to see if "our" recipients are among those depicted.

So after Memorial Day check your post office and buy at least a sheet of these stamps.

Tan Son Nhut Association
P. O. Box 236
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Joe Galloway, author of "We were Soldiers Once and Young", whose book signing is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, will be accompanied by his wife, Dr Gracie Galloway. She worked with the Catholic Charities in Vietnam caring for child rape victims and now is associated with the Community Free Clinic in Concord, NC..

Here is more about the Clinic:



We are Keeping People Healthy

In addition to providing free medicine to its own clinical patients, the Community Free Clinic also provides pharmacy services to other uninsured people in our county. This service is provided through our in-house pharmacy which is a "point of entry" pharmacy for MedAssist of North Carolina.

The Clinic's pharmacy provides patient assistance medications and diabetic supplies to over 800 patients who are seen as charity care by area physicians.

The Community Free Clinic also works with Cabarrus Community Health Centers to prepare patient assistance program medications for their uninsured patients.



"People here are friendly. They help you and care about you."
"I don't know what I would do without the Clinic."
"Without my medications....I would not be alive."

NEW MEMBERS

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. Gary L. Cole | Hartford City, IN | tank1968@sbcglobal.net | | |
| Mr. Robert Reese | Spring Valley, CA | marine103186@yahoo.com | Mar 67 - Apr 68 | Combat Marine - I Corps |
| Mr. Wayne Fuller | Eaton, IN | | 69-70 | |
| Mr. Steve A. Grace | Clarksville, TN | steve.grace@u.s.army.mil | 67-68 | All over country |

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