



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



AUGUST 2017

TARYN DAVIS

Executive Director, American Widow Project
2017 TSNA Guest Speaker



At 21, Taryn received devastating news: Her husband, CPL Michael Davis, had been killed in Baghdad, Iraq. While her family provided all the support they could, she still felt lost and alone. When her Google search for “widow” turned up the result: “Did you mean window?” she knew she had to take action. Taryn created the American Widow Project to provide vital empowerment and peer-based resources to our Nation's Military Widows and Widowers, having now served over 2,000 at over 100 retreats.

Her passion and work with the AWP has been featured in such places as The TODAY Show, NPR, People and PBS. It's also led to her receiving such accolades as Top 10 CNN Hero, one of NEWSWEEK's 150 Women Who Shake the World, L'Oréal's National Woman of Worth and DVF People's Voice Award Recipient. She's shared her story on the stage for Forbes, GE, Morgan Stanley, TEDx and more.

Chaplain's Corner

There is a group of men and a grand total of their families who almost daily discover that they served their land called the United States of America or maybe the military words the USA and in reality names passed down by family. This Chaplain standing on his “Corner” finds himself a survey that tests what he believes about this land he served in the USA military in at least six foreign countries.

This survey asks questions under the banner ASK AMERICA a “Nationwide Policy Survey”. The survey covers such areas as Jobs and Economy, Health Care, Taxes and Social Security, National Security, Energy and finally Moral Issues.

Please note NO question was on faith in “your belief in af-

ter life—yes God” How can I have a strong belief if I don't have a spiritual belief! The organization we know of as the TSNA binds us together and by our very beings we are tied together. We gather together officially once a year but our emotions tie us together more than just once a year.

The old guy who stands on “The Corner” and wishes to send a deep thought and a prayer of blessing to our emotional gathering – be it in Colorado in 2017 or wherever on a date in September – as you read this page. We continue to serve our country and are blessed under the flag of stars and stripes! Only one real admission we are bound together and we stand together as veterans and above all we carry a history that binds us together.

You will not be getting run over on this “Corner”; you are being recognized for your service and your family's blessings.

End of a tough Sermon for this month

Chaplain Bob Chaffee

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

Lived in wooden barracks on base. Spec 5.
1st Logistics U. S. Army.

Screened personal effects of deceased to send home.

Appendix burst, had to go to Cam Ranh Bay for month to recover.

Sent to Vietnam by name, not rank.

Michael G. Johnson
1st Logistics, U. S. Army
Mar 69 - Apr 70

I was TDY to Tan Son Nhut from Korea. I worked in Dining Hall #4. I was there 3 months or more with 377th Services. I have 2 books Pocket Guide to Vietnam, 1 book Tan Son Nhut USO, 1 coin Tan Son Nhut USO Club.

Thomas Rung
377th Services
1971



FROM OUR INCUMBENT CANDIDATES

I have been honored to serve alongside other board members of the TSNA during the past year and to provide support to the organization in any way I can. This includes reunion planning activities with other board members, for the 2017 and 2018 reunions, plus some preliminary research for the 2019 reunion. We, I include my bride Rena in this one, are part of the planning for the hospitality area of the reunion and our goal is to make sure we have enough space, refreshments, and a welcoming area for all of our members to network and enjoy the fellowship at the reunion .

Part of my responsibilities include the Scholarship Committee. It is exciting to be part of the process to select deserving students for some college funding. That process allows me to read some amazing accomplishments about some very bright students. Sometimes it also makes it hard to pick between the applicants, but it truly is a privilege. I was also appointed Associate Chaplain last year at the reunion and performed the duties of the Chaplain during the Huntsville reunion.

I retired during the last year and in that time have become increasingly aware and burdened by the difficulties some of our Vietnam Vets face each day. I have been trying to see where we, as an organization, can provide positive reinforcement for those experiencing things related to their service in Vietnam. I am also doing what I can locally and meet with a group of veterans regularly here in Lexington. Part of my plan for the coming year is to be much more involved with our federal representatives and senators as their actions influence Veterans care. In short the VA must be more responsive to veterans, not their civil service jobs.

Have a Blessed Day!

[Andy Csordas](#)
[Co-Director of Membership Development](#)

In the eight years that I have served as TSNA Treasurer, the Association's financial status has been stable and essentially without problems.

I was very fortunate that I (an amateur who had served as Treasurer of other organizations) replaced someone who was extremely knowledgeable (and a professional accountant), Lois Fry, wife of the Director of Membership, Larry Fry. I encountered some interesting aspects in the TSNA system, and Lois was a strong support as I worked my way through it. I will always be grateful to Lois for her "expanding" my accounting finesse, and her tolerance of my many questions. Circumstances have since permitted us to simplify our accounting system, and no, my replacement need not be a CPA!

Bottom line is that TSNA has been in good financial shape for the past eight years, and we intend to keep it that way and, as long as the organization exists, to try to "do good" with our excess funds.

Our first major example of "doing good" was with the placement of the TSNA Memorial in Dayton in 2012. Our members were so generous with their financial support of the memorial that we ended up with an "overage" of funds. Those are the funds (with continuing contributions) that are used to finance a memorial plaque (or other form of remembrance) in each of our reunion cities since then.)

A newer program, which has my 100% personal and professional support, is the Scholarship Fund. Perhaps it is the stage of life we have all reached, but I look to these young people to whom we are giving a helping hand, as a "light of hope"--good luck to them. And may the small contribution we are making to their education reap many benefits for them and their follow-on generations. (Cure for cancer? For Alzheimer's? The next great invention? We as a group might be part of something major like that.)

THE FUTURE: We have a range of ages among our members, but there is a commonality: we are getting older. And the inevitable will happen. I have shared with the Board my experiences with a WWII group that had a very active and cohesive "next generation" element that intended to "carry on" the traditions and heritage of their parents. A great idea, but even with their enthusiasm, it did not work. Sooner or later, one of us will have the last glass of brandy and toast the memories of the rest of us.

What to do with the TSNA funds? (By that time, I hope they will be significantly lower than they are now; there is no need to "sit on" unneeded funds for another 15+ years.) The most obvious (and perhaps the most emotionally satisfying) ideas

may have problems that are not readily apparent. I strongly suggest that TSNA start looking at alternatives and investigating them.

Carol Besette, Treasurer

My vision for TSNA is to continue supporting the members and allow them to have fun and enjoy themselves. As we get older we should focus on our enjoyment on the time we have left. If that means spending money to go see friends or attend a reunion then DO IT! Live for today cause we don't know about tomorrow.

We try to stock items in the BX that have shown that they are wanted by our members. We are open to suggestions and will review all. Some may not make it to the list after review but many will. If elected I will continue this and will try to make a quick shipment for all orders. As I said, suggestions are welcomed.

Thanks

Johnnie Jernigan, Director of Merchandising

2017 ELECTION OF Treasurer, Director of Merchandising, Co-Director of Membership Development, and Director of Reunion Planning for the TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION, AUGUST 2017

There have been no nominations for the positions shown of the Tan Son Nhut Association, but we still need to hold an official "election". Please fill out the form below and send it according to the directions.

BALLOT

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

CAROL BESSETTE _____

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

ANDREW CSORDAS _____

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

JOHNNIE JERNIGAN _____

I VOTE TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF REUNION PLANNING OF THE TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

JOSEPH KRICHO _____

Signed By: NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PLEASE SUBMIT THE ABOVE FORM BY AUGUST 31, 2017

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 August 15th.)

George Washington is the only president who didn't blame the previous administration for his troubles. -Author Unknown

How come we choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America? ~Author Unknown

MORE FROM OUR INCUMBENT CANDIDATES

As Director of Reunion Planning, my bid for reelection comes with a certain amount of pride in accomplishment, as well as the uncertainty that comes with trying to predict the future.

Working on my first reunion, this year's gathering in Colorado Springs, I feel that I have overcome a number of potential obstacles to this event. The first was the location itself. We had never held a reunion this far West, and it was felt that we wouldn't be able to assemble enough of our members to make it worthwhile. I am happy to report that was some "fake news," to borrow a current phrase. As of today, we have more members signed up than expected, and our numbers continue to grow with each passing day. Second, the costs involved with a gathering in Colorado were viewed as a bit higher on the price scale than what our members were used to. In 2015, I went to Colorado, visited several hotels, and was able to negotiate what I thought was a very favorable rate for our stay. Today, the typical nightly rate at the Marriott where we will be staying, is \$195.00. Our rate is just \$114.00, and that includes a full, hot breakfast buffet.

This year, I, along with the Jernigan's and Csordas', visited Dayton to scout out the area for our 2018 reunion. The result was that we have a contract with the Hope Hotel & Conference Center, at a very favorable rate of \$109.00 per night, breakfast included.

And now, the pursuit of the location for our 2019 reunion has entered the picture, and should be announced at our reunion in Colorado Springs.

All of the above simply points out the old adage, the early bird gets the worm. So, by being two years, or more, ahead of the game, our members will be insured of receiving the absolute best value for their money, no matter where our reunions are held.

I look forward to doing as much as I can to insure our members best interests are always my number one consideration when planning these reunions. Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

[Joseph S. Kricho, SMSgt, USAF, Ret., Director of Reunion Planning](#)

Looking Back to the Year 1964

Following the reported attacks on the USS Maddox and the USS Turner Joy, Congress passed Public Law 88-408 better known as the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. The U. S. Senate voted 98 for and 2 against. The U. S. House voted unanimous to pass the resolution. The resolution was made official on August 10, 1964 and gave broad authority to President Johnson to wage an undeclared war. Pandora's Box had been opened.

Aside from Congress' approval of the resolution, Vietnam was becoming well known with 23,300 troops in country. Casualties were 216 that year. No longer were they to be called "advisors", but now known as combat troops.

Lyndon Johnson was reelected President. Johnson's Great Society Program was started. The United States Surgeon General says smoking cigarettes is harmful.

Ford Motor Company introduced the Mustang. GI Joe doll for boys hits the market.

On money matters, a first-class stamp was a nickel. Federal spending was \$119 billion and federal debt was \$316 billion. The US had a 192 million population.

The year 1964 is linked forever to America's two long wars. Along with the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution giving President Johnson broad powers to wage war, plans for the World Trade Center in New York City were announced in 1964. Fast forward 37 years to 2001 and see the start of another long war.

The Beatles, aka The Fab Four, became household names. Did you watch them on the Ed Sullivan Show?

For fun and games, we had movies, TV's sports, and listened to the best music of all time usually on radios.

At the movies in 1964, we watched Beckett, Dr. Strangelove, Mary Poppins, My Fair Lady, Zorba The Greek, Hud, Fail Safe, and Lilies of the Field. The more popular shows on TV that year were Bonanza, Bewitched, Gomer Pyle, Andy Griffith, and The Fugitive.

Here are the top 10 songs of 1964 as listed by Billboard. How many of these classic sounds do you remember? Do you have a favorite one or does one cause you to remember a special person or special place?

- I Want to Hold your Hand by the Beatles,
- She Loves You by the Beatles,
- Hello, Dolly by Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong,
- Oh, Pretty Woman by Roy Orbison,
- I Get Around by The Beach Boys,
- Everybody Loves Somebody by Dean Martin,
- My Guy by Mary Wells
- We'll Sing in the Sunshine by Gale Garnett
- Last Kiss by J. Frank Wilson
- Where Did Our Love Go by The Supremes

In sports the Saint Louis Cardinals defeated the Yankees in the World Series and the Chicago Bears were National Football League champions. In college football, Alabama, Arkansas, and Norte Dame shared the championship. UCLA won the College Basketball championship.

[Harold Boone, Sep 67-Aug 68 460th TRW, HDQTRS Section](#)

Tan Son Nhut Association 2017 Reunion Registration

September 14 – 17, 2017

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

NAME _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

ADDRESS _____

CELL PHONE # _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF YOUR GUEST(S): _____

IS THERE ANYONE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS? **YES/NO** (Please circle one.)

REGISTRATION FEES

Number of Persons Attending: _____ x \$75.00 = \$ _____

Pre-order Video of 2017 Reunion QTY: _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

PAYMENT to TSNA MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN Aug 31, 2017.

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

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 236

Penryn, PA 17564-0236

ACTIVITIES (No Extra Cost) WITH FULL REGISTRATION FEE

(Please circle which activities that you are paying for separately, if you are not paying the full fee.)

Access to the TSNA Hospitality Suite (drinks, snacks, and war stories!) (\$10.00 daily if purchased separately.)

TSNA Friday Banquet Buffet Dinner. (\$35.00 if purchased separately.)

Friday morning tour of the Air Force Academy (no extra charge)

(Please indicate how many people will be taking this tour) = _____.

Saturday morning tour of Peterson AFB (no extra charge)

(Please indicate how many people will be taking this tour) = _____.



HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION (RESERVATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 14)

Marriott Colorado Springs, 5580 Tech Center Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80919

(719) 260-1800 www.marriott.com

Room with breakfast buffet for two: \$114.00

Room without breakfast: \$104.00

Rate does not include tax, which currently is 9.63%. The special room rate is available three days prior and three days post the reunion. Included are free in-room Wi-Fi and free parking.

Please hold "Ctrl", and click on the following link to make your hotel reservation:

[Book your group rate for Tan Son Nhut Association Military Reunion](#)

Rev 4/7/17



2017 Reunion Marriott, Colorado Springs, CO

Thursday, Sep 14, 2017

06:30 -- 09:00 – Breakfast in the hotel restaurant
08:30 -- 09:00 – Depart for Buckley AFB, Denver, CO for plaque dedication at 1030
09:00 – Hospitality Suite opens. Reunion registration begins
12:00 – Return from Buckley AFB
22:00? – Hospitality Suite closes

Friday, Sep 15, 2017

06:30 -- 09:00 – Breakfast in the hotel restaurant
08:45 – Buses depart for USAF Academy tour
09:00 – Hospitality suite opens
14:00 – Buses return to hotel
14:00 – 17:00 – Free time
17:00 – 18:00 – CASH BAR Cocktail reception
18:00 – 22:00 – Banquet
23:00 – Hospitality suite closes

Saturday, Sep 16, 2017

06:30 – 09:00 – Breakfast in hotel restaurant
09:00 – Hospitality suite opens
09:00 – Buses depart for Peterson AFB tour
13:00 – Buses return to hotel
13:00 – 14:00 Video presentation “A Return To The End” by Pat Clark, Producer
14:00 – 15:00 Presentation by Kathy Penn
16:00 – 17:30 Board of Directors’ meeting
19:00 – 19:30 Raffle & door prize drawings
19:30 – 21:00 Silent auction in hospitality suite
23:00 – Hospitality suite closes

Sunday, Sep 17, 2017

06:30 – 09:00 Farewell breakfast in banquet room
06:30 – Hospitality suite opens
10:00 -- Hospitality suite closes. Reunion officially ends



(Updated 7/28/17. This is a tentative schedule and subject to change.)

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

MARRIOTT HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE: **AUGUST 14, 2017**

TSNA REUNION REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **MAIL NO LATER THAN AUGUST 31st**

REUNION TOUR IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION to LARRY: **NOW, NOW & NOW**

MEAL CHOICES to JOE KRICHO: **NOW, NOW, AND NOW AGAIN!!**

TSNA Scholarship Recipients News Release Fall 2017

Two high school students – one from Texas and the other from Florida – have been selected as the latest recipients of \$5,000 scholarships from the Tan Son Nhut Association.

The TSNA Scholarship winners are Robin Ellis of Austin, Texas, and J. Slade Lucas of Gulf Breeze, Florida. Both had grandfathers who served in Vietnam.

Ellis plans to enroll at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS, in the fall to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering. She has been accepted into the Air Force ROTC program at Mississippi State and plans to be involved in various "... groups that focus on helping others." She has been involved in community service groups during her high school years.

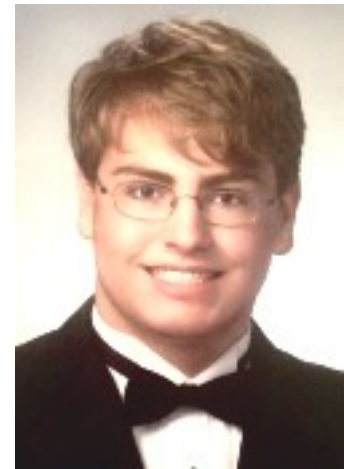
Lucas' higher education destination is the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL, where he will major in Bio Chemistry and Bio Mechanics. He said in his application essay that he was inspired to pursue this area of study by his sister who was born with a disability. His hope is that upon completion of his college work he will be able to be "...a part of helping to develop further advancements that might benefit people like my sister."

Ellis' grandfather was a career Air Force officer, serving 23 years on active duty. He was a pilot who, in addition to his service in Vietnam, also served in Operation Desert Storm.

Lucas' late grandfather served in Vietnam as a civilian employee of Telesignal and worked with the 1876th Communication Squadron at Tan Son Nhut Air Base for a total of 18 months over a four-year period. He was a manager for all 15 of the computer installation sites in Vietnam

The TSNA scholarships are paid in equal amounts for each of the student's four years in college as long as the student completes at least 30 semester hours of college work each year and maintains a B average.

[Richard Carvell, Vice President, Tan Son Nhut Association](#)



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

Revetments is an official publication of the Tan Son Nhut Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 236, Penryn, PA 17564-0236
The Association is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt Veterans' Organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

President: Randall W. Brown
Vice President and Director of Public Relations: Richard Carvell
Secretary: Dale Bryan
Treasurer: Carol Bessette
Director of Communications: Gary Fields
Director of Marketing: Johnnie Jernigan
Director of Reunion Planning: Joe Kricho
Director of Membership and Revetments Editor: Larry E. Fry
Director at Large: Jim Faulkner
Co-Director of Membership Development: Andy Csordas
Co-Director of Membership Development: Kerry Nivens
Chaplains: Rev. Dr. James M. Warrington,
Rev. Dr. Billy T. Lowe; and Rev. Bob A. Chaffee
Associate Chaplain: Andy Csordas
Presidents Emeriti:
Don Parker, (1947-2014), Co-Founder and President 1996-2002
John Peele, Co-Founder and President 2002-2004
Wayne Salisbury, (1940-2014), President 2004-2007
Robert Robinson Gales, President 2007-2011
George Plunkett, President 2011-2015
Web Master: Charles E. Penley
Web Site: www.tsna.org
Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00



And our thanks again to John BOWEN TSNA Member,
for another great illustration, "Rainy Season"

NEW MEMBERS



Mr. Ernest L. McNeill Marianna FL elmcneill@centurylink.net. Dec 68 - Dec 69 377th Services Squadron
Mr. Michael G. Johnson The Villages FL 1218camper@gmail.com Mar 69 - Apr 70 Personal Property Depot of USA Mortuary
Mr. Joe T. Harris Sugar Land TX jth.aja@comcast.net Sep 66 - Sep 67 460 Tac Recon Wing

TSNA and its officers, directors, employees and agents do not make any guarantees of any kind about the content, accuracy, or timeliness of information in the TSNA newsletter, *Revetments*. The use of information from this newsletter is strictly voluntary and at the user's sole risk. TSNA shall not be liable for any damages of any kind related to the information in this newsletter. The opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not constitute the opinion or policy of TSNA.