



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



MAY 2018

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

I spent the first ten days in tent city at Tan Son Nhut; the next couple of weeks in Cholon at the transient hotel. While there with three roommates, one day they came in and packed the personal items of one Army SFC Special Forces who was KIA. Lived in the Plaza Hotel, Saigon for permanent billet. Can never forget the smell of Vietnam.

Roger N. Fiander
Det 1, 11th Air Postal Squadron
Jul 63 - Aug 64

VA Claims: What, Where, and When www.vets.gov

I came upon this website a few weeks ago, from a military-related website that I subscribe to, that, supposedly, offers up-to-date info on all of the news that is of interest to all military, including active duty and veterans. This one really caught my eye. It was to offer those of us who have claims pending before the VA, a way to find and track their claims. Naturally I was interested, as I have been "battling" with the VA on a disability claim, which has been 'in-process' since early 2011!

So, before I go any further, let me let you know that I was at first skeptical of this particular website. In fact, the VFW representative that was assisting with my claim had never heard of it. After all, I am from Missouri, so you have to "Show Me" before I am convinced that something is legit. Without too much detail, a few of the ways I checked were:

An article in the Huffington Post
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/vets-gov-veterans-affairs-new-website_us_56436cc6e4b045bf3ded375a.

And: A link to an article on fedscoop.com:
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2838>

Everything seemed to be on the up-and-up, except for one thing. This website, www.vets.gov, was launched in 2015! So much for the website that I subscribe to being on the cutting edge!

Bottom line. As far as I can tell, and have been able to determine, vets.gov is a legitimate way to track your claims.

(However, I am not endorsing the Huffington Post, or HuffPo as some like to refer to it, as my first choice when doing research. It just came up first when I did a Google Search. Surprise! Surprise! Surprise!)

Joe Kricho
TSNA Director of Reunion Planning

A LOVE STORY

Larry-

I have another story. not related to the Tet Offensive.

We had about a dozen Hueys based at the Heliport. All of the world's major media had representatives in the Saigon area. They frequently wanted free rides to go somewhere. One day, a well known news reporter and his cameraman from CBS News asked our CO if he could get a ride going somewhere. Our CO said "Yes, but to NOT ask or mention anything about our losses." We had lost a man a few days earlier. So when they got out to the Heliport, he stuck his microphone in the face of the crew chief and said "I heard that you just lost a man. How do you feel about that?" Well, the crew chief was the room mate of the fellow that we lost. He grabbed his M-16, chambered a round, and he was actually going to shoot the reporter, but we held him back. The crew chief refused to fly them. We called the CO and he agreed with the crew chief. Later, within a couple of hours, our CO banned ALL ??? PERSONNEL from flying with us. I never did watch the TV show that the subject reporter was on.

Another good story to print in the newsletter might be about some of the Bob Hope Christmas shows that he put on at TSN. I recall attending one of them, but I do not remember many details about it. That might be a nice subject for someone to write about. By the way, a lot of famous personnel came through the Heliport. I recall James Garner, Martha Raye, Reverend Billy Graham, Frank Sinatra, Junior, just to mention a few. That also might make a good story for the newsletter for someone to write.

Cheers,

Terry Love
66-Mar 68
1st Signal Brigade (USA)



Nominate a Deserving Member for a TSNA Award

We are looking forward to an eventful reunion in September at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH. One of the highlights of the reunion banquet is the bestowing of awards on deserving members and select others. 2018 will be like previous reunions.

The officers and board members of your Association do not choose award recipients from behind closed doors while ignoring input from the membership. One of two awards committees, each composed of Association officers, board members, and an association chaplain, evaluates persons nominated to receive any award. The proceedings of the committees are confidential, and voting tabulations are not published or made public. In fact, one awards committee is not privy to the deliberations of the other.

Any Association member in good standing may nominate a person for consideration. A listing of the TSNA Awards and criteria for each may be viewed on our website at tsna.org.

If you nominate someone, be specific and document the attributes and achievements that make your nominee unique and deserving. What has this person done to further the goals and ideals of our Association or, in some cases, their community or the nation? Nomination is not tantamount to selection for an award. Of course, persons may not nominate themselves.

Please send your nomination to the chair of one of the awards committees. Award Committee 1 chairman is President Randall Brown at browncigar1965@yahoo.com. Award Committee 2 chairman is Vice President Richard Carvell at rcarvell@astate.edu. You may also send your nomination to me, the TSNA Secretary, at dale.bryan@gmail.com. It should go without saying that one does not submit their nomination to the person you are nominating. Most nominees will likely be considered by Award Committee 1, but if the nominee is a member of that committee or a relative of a committee member, that nominee will then be considered by Award Committee 2. Composition of the awards committees may be found on the TSNA website. If you must send your nomination by surface mail, send it to Tan Son Nhut Association at P. O. Box 236, Penryn, PA 17564-0236. In the address block on the envelope, add attn: Randall Brown or Rich Carvell or Dale Bryan. The unopened letter will then be sent to that person.

Deadline for nominations is June 30, 2018.

Dale Bryan, TSNA Secretary

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Your Association continues as an active and vibrant veteran organization that serves its membership. Again, we are looking forward to an eventful reunion in September 2018 in Dayton, OH. For reunions and other events to occur, TSNA needs qualified members to manage your Association as officers and board members. It is they who keep our association viable and in compliance with national, state, and local laws and regulations. The terms of Gary Fields, TSNA Director of Communications and Larry Fry, TSNA Director of Membership end this year. The incumbents of these two positions are eligible for reelection and have declared to do so. There are no specific requirements to run for these Director positions other than being a paid-up member in good standing of the Association. The duties of these position are as assigned by the TNSA Board of Directors. However, having experience in planning, organizational management, human resources would be valuable. A person may nominate themselves for an office, or any member may nominate another. If you nominate another, be certain that person is willing to run and serve. Please send all nominations by name and position to me, Jim Faulkner, TSNA Chair Nominating Committee, at: mailto:jim1c21@aol.com. If you must send your nomination by surface mail, send it to Tan Son Nhut Association at P. O. Box 236, Penryn, PA 17564-0236. Deadline for all nominations is May 31, 2018. A self-nominee or one accepting a nomination by another member must submit a statement of approximately three to five paragraphs of their vision for the future of TSNA and how they would help achieve that vision by serving in any one of these positions. Nominees running for reelection must submit a summary of their achievements during their term of office. The announcement of the upcoming election and a listing of all nominees, with their vision statement, will appear in the August 2018 issue of Revetments.



Memorial Day and More

Memorial Day is set aside to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, but it's also a day when I'm reminded to think about those service members who are still with us. The Quilts of Valor Foundation is an organization that does just that. I learned about Quilts of Valor at a World War II Roundtable meeting last year. This Atlanta group meets monthly, and that day, Cecilia McVickers joined the group to introduce us to the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

In 2003, Catherine Roberts had a dream while her son was deployed to Iraq, and she describes it on the Foundation's website, <http://www.qovf.org>:

"I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was: Quilts = Healing."

Her dream led her to found Quilts of Valor. Catherine envisioned a team of volunteers who would craft quilts to award to returning service men and women touched by war, quilts that would be reminders that their service was appreciated. Through the years, the recipients have grown to include service members and veterans of any conflict, not only declared wars.

Cecilia told the story of the quilts and explained that volunteers across the country donate time and materials to create the quilts, each one meant to comfort and heal its recipient. Since its inception, The QOVF has awarded 182,533 quilts.

That afternoon, she was there to award a quilt to the oldest WWII veteran present. One gentleman in his 90's proclaimed he'd be 97 in September, and another raised his hand to say he would too. Cecilia had come prepared with two quilts, so she invited both veterans to make their way to the front of the room. Each was draped with a beautiful quilt to take home and cherish.

Cecilia left behind an informative and touching brochure that included the story of a WWII veteran. Al Lind was a POW for two years during WWII. When he discovered the Quilts of Valor Foundation, he was inspired to get involved. From 2007 until his death in 2010, he pieced together 450 Quilts of Valor.

Whether or not you're a quilter, you can join the QOVF, and you can also make a tax-free donation. One quilt can cost as much as \$250 to complete; donations help fund fabric, batting, and shipping. If you're interested in joining a quilting group, visit this website, <http://www.qovf.org/whos-in-my-area> to find existing groups. You can start a new group too. Just check out the how-to information online.

These quotes from returning service members say it all:

"As silly as it might sound for a soldier with over three years in Iraq and Afghanistan to say, that blanket became a true item of comfort and peace for the road ahead."

"My quilt isn't another military medal to be placed in a box and sit on my shelf. I was moved to tears."

All thumbs at sewing? You can always support our veterans with a donation to the Quilts of Valor Foundation, USO, VFW, or other veterans organizations this Memorial Day and throughout the year.

[Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident. Find her latest book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," and her collection of columns, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," on Amazon. Contact her at \[inkpenn119@gmail.com\]\(mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com\), and follow her on Facebook, \[www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/\]\(http://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/\). Kathy is also the wife of TSNA Member Hugh Penn.](#)

Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday which occurs every year on the final Monday of May. Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Formerly known as Decoration Day it originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. By the 20th century Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who have died while in the military service.

Editor's Note: This definition courtesy of www.definitions.net.

The Quilt at The Wall

By: Sue Ellen Parker
Widow of Don Parker (Co-Founder of TSNA)

Other than his family, Don felt his greatest accomplishment was co-founding the Tan Son Nhut Association. Talking about it always brought a smile to his face. In 2007, the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Wall, Don was asked to assist in laying a wreath representing the Tan Son Nhut Association.

Before we could return to Washington, Don died unexpectedly on Halloween of 2014. By Thanksgiving, our daughter, Jennifer, and her family decided to return to Washington for sightseeing with their children. She called me one morning and said, “we’re going back to Washington next summer, so if you want to send anything to be laid at the wall, better get on it.”

It took no time for me to make a decision. Each year of the Tan Son Nhut Association reunion I would make a quilt in the colors of the Vietnam service ribbon: red, yellow and green. I started another quilt— this one for Don.

It included the 360th TEWS, Don’s unit, and the 460th TRS, representing the unit John Peele, the other co-founder, served in. There were panels embroidered with the states and years of the reunions that had been held. Being a writer at heart, I sent along a letter explaining about Don, John and the Tan Son Nhut Association. I added one of the challenge coins I had given Don as a present before the 20th TSNA anniversary celebration in Evansville, IN. Knowing weather can go from sunny to rainy in a heartbeat, I folded the quilt carefully along with the other items and put it inside a zippered heavy plastic bag.

Jennifer took it home awaiting their vacation trip. Since the grandchildren knew their granddaddy was an Air Force veteran who served in Vietnam, they were amazed to see The Wall and all the names on it. After a day of sightseeing, they returned to their hotel for “R&R.”

Jennifer told her husband John that she was going back to The Wall to take the quilt. She said she felt as if she needed to go alone. Once at the location, Jennifer walked to the panels 1967-1968 because she knew her dad had gone in country in October of 1967 and returned to the states in October of 1968.

Jennifer sat nearby to think and she shed a few tears. She watched people as they would stop and look at various items that had been left that day and she took some pictures. Before leaving, she called me to tell me about one man in particular who was honoring his brothers at The Wall. He started at the far right end and saluted, took two side steps to the next panel and saluted, took two more side steps to the next panel and saluted until he reached the opposite end of the panels, honoring each of the deceased veterans.

Twilight was coming as Jennifer left the area. She called me and reported the quilt was where it needed to be.

I just hope that the quilt, along with all the other items that are left daily at The Wall, will someday be in a museum all their own so our grandchildren can go back to Washington, DC, to see them. Perhaps they will see items left in Don’s memory and say, “That’s our granddaddy!”



TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION REUNION REGISTRATION

- USA
- USAF
- USCG
- USMC
- USN
- CIV

NAME: _____ GUEST NAME: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
TEL: (____) _____ EMAIL: _____ @ _____
SPECIAL NEEDS? _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Number Attending: _____ x \$75.00 = \$ _____
Pre-Order Reunion Video: QTY: _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____
Total Remittance: \$ _____

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN: August 31, 2018

Mail check to: TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 236
PENRYN, PA 17564-0236

Note: If not paying the full registration (\$75.00) then the following fees apply:

Access to hospitality suite (includes snacks & beverages): \$12.50 daily
Friday Banquet Dinner: \$37.50/person (Cash Bar not included)
Additional charges (TBD) for tours; transportation; outside activities; etc.

HOTEL INFORMATION

HOPE HOTEL & RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE CONFERENCE CENTER
Bldg. 823, Area A, Gate 12A
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-5000
(937) 879-2696

Reservations must be made by telephone. Mention "TSNA" when making reservation.
(Please note: Military ID not required to access the hotel)

Room Rate: \$109.00 + Tax (includes breakfast)

NOTE: This special room rate is available three days prior and three days after the reunion
ALL HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY: AUGUST 27, 2018!

All questions should be directed to:

Joe Kricho

Director of Reunion Planning

67vietvet68@gmail.com

Please put: "TSNA Reunion" in the Subject Line

Looking Back at 1971

The war in Vietnam was still ongoing. Troop level was at 156,800. On the dark side, 2,414 lost their lives. Over 57,000 have now lost their lives in Vietnam. The *New York Times* published the documents known as "The Pentagon Papers".

Television was fast becoming widespread, especially with live coverage of news. *Look Magazine* ceased publication. Cigarette ads on TV were banned. The environmental group, Greenpeace, is founded. That cute, little round yellow smiling face becomes popular. Walt Disney World opens in Florida. Amtrak begins operations. National Public Radio begins broadcasting. Soft contact lens developed.

Computers were ready to transform the world. The combination of a computer and an x-ray machine gave us the CAT scan. Computer engineers developed the microprocessor thus reducing machine size. IBM introduced the floppy disk. The pocket calculator was developed. The name Ray Tomlinson is lost on most people. Tomlinson developed email and its use of the "@" symbol to separate user from host. The concept of liquid crystal display is developed.

In the world of business, President Nixon implements wage and price controls. Federal minimum wage was \$1.60. First class stamp was 8 cents. Gasoline was approximately 40 cents a gallon. Southwest Airlines begins operations. Federal Express (FedEx) begins operations.

Here are some of the songs from 1970.

Joy to The World by Three Dog Night
Maggie May by Rod Stewart
It's Too Late by Carole King
One Bad Apple by Osmond's
How Can You Mend A Broken Heart by Bee Gees
Indian Reservation by Raiders
Go Away Little Girl by Donny Osmond
Take Me Home, Country Roads by John Denver
Just My Imagination by Temptations
Knock Three Times by Dawn

In the movie theaters we saw some great movies including these:

Clockwork Orange, Fiddler On The Roof, The French Connection, The Last Picture Show, Nickolas and Alexander, Dirty Harry.

Television was changing. Ozzie and Harriet were no longer to be seen. Here are some shows that were being watched: All In The Family, Marcus Welby, Here's Lucy, Ironside, Gunsmoke, Medical Center, Hawaii Five-0, Sanford and Son.

Pittsburg defeated Baltimore in the World Series. UCLA continues its long streak of college basketball championships. Nebraska was voted the college football champion. In the NFL, the Baltimore Colts defeated the Dallas Cowboys in the Super Bowl .

Harold Boone
460th TRW HQ Section
Sep 67 - Aug 68

How come wrong numbers are never busy?

"42.7 percent of statistics are made up on the spot."
-(Steven Wright)



The only function of economic forecasting
is to make astrology look respectable.
-(Ezra Solomon)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Brothers and Sisters,

I know all of us at TSNA have gone through life-changing times, both during war, and afterward. None of us came home unchanged, and for many, our experiences, are still very much with us.

This is why I believe that prayer, and meditation should be an active, and routine part of our harried and sometimes troubled days. With our jobs, lives, and world concerns, we dearly need some time out for reflection on, and thanks for all the graces also given to us. Special time should be taken out of our lives just to pray, and meditate to help rejuvenate our souls. We are often confused about how prayer works. Does the fervency of prayer mean that all our worries and troubles will disappear? Not necessarily. Often the answer we have in mind is not the answer God has in mind. The goal is to have hearts that want what they receive from God, rather than ones that always ask for what they want. We should remember that God always knows what to give us in answer to our prayers. Prayer does not always change our situation, but it should always change us.

Reading, reflection and prayer, prepares our hearts for "contemplation" which is a soulful connection with God, a state of realized "oneness" with God in which we are at home with God being at home within us. Meditation sets the stage for a contemplative state of mind. The deepest meditation requires physical and mental "stillness." When oneness is achieved, it is not evidenced by feeling, but being in a state of awareness. In this deep connection with the divine, we are fully aware that the spiritual is actually the core of reality, and that the physical is merely a temporary state. So try and set some time aside in your daily life for a period of reflection on the many graces given you, a time for thanks, and a time for quiet meditation.

Until next month, God bless and keep you.

By His grace,

Paul A. Subbie
TSNA Associate Chaplain

FROM THE PREZ

As we approach better weather and thinking turns to Spring and Summer days, please turn your thoughts to September and our TSNA Dayton Reunion.

Rita and I just made our reservations at the Hope Hotel. We will be packing soon...haha

I have been collecting paperbacks and toiletries for our collection to be donated to our troops overseas. I will be adding some M & M's later on.

So this is a reminder to all our members to start your own collection of paperbacks, hotel type toiletries to be donated.

You can turn them in to George Plunkett or myself at the reunion or you can mail to me anytime if you will not be at the Dayton Reunion.

Randall W Brown 213 W Grant St, Hartford City, IN 47348

These will be collected and packaged to be shipped to our troops in time for the Holidays. TSNA giving back.

We need and want your participation in this program.

If you will not be attending the reunion or traveling to be able to collect toiletries, you may send a cash donation.

Anything and everything will be much appreciated and will help our troops.

Thanks

Randall

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article came to me from Charles Penley, former Webmaster of the Tan Son Nhut Association, who was a K-9 Dog Handler at Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

Here is the note from Charles that came with the article and pictures:

Larry, **April 28, 2018**

My friend Alfred Harold Brown wrote a wonderful short story about his sentry dog LINDY 68M7.

Alfred, passed away Feb 24, 2018.

I have gotten permission from his family for it to be used in "Revetments."

Your brother and friend,

Charles Penley

In Memory of my father's MWD

A United States Air Force Vietnam K9 Warrior Who Never Came Home

Here is the story....

LINDY 68M7

I was Lindy's handler in Vietnam from 1972-1973. Lindy 68M7 never came home - and here is my story:

December 2015 was 43 years since I walked my K-9 partner LINDY 68M7 to his death.

As the war came to an end we were given a choice: turn our K9's over to the South Vietnamese Army, or put them down, for they were excess equipment and would not return to the United States.

It was our sole decision to make – at least they gave us that.

My decision was painful, but swift.

LINDY would never work under the leash held by anyone other than an American Service Member – never. It seems like it happened just yesterday...

I fell into the line that had formed by the metal building with Lindy by my side.

I watched as a K-9 team would enter the building, and a handler would exit with an empty leash – I watched this scene repeat itself over and over again.

Then, it was my turn. I entered the building with Lindy, lifted him up and placed him on the cold steel table.

As they prepared him, I moved directly in front of him and took his head into my hands and looked into his eyes.

I never broke contact with our line of sight – I told him I would never forget him and that I would see him again – my partner, my K9, LINDY then closed his eyes and left me.

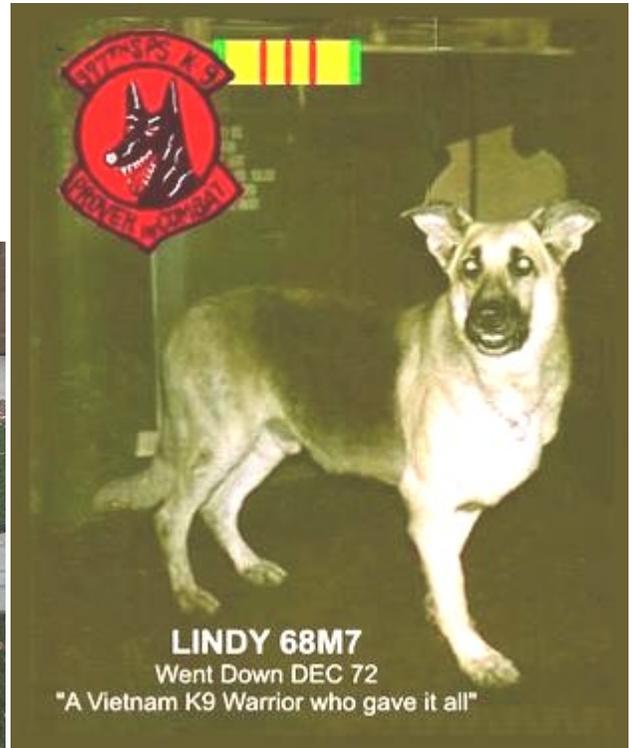
He would have given his life for me, but instead, I just took his from him. At that very moment, part of me went down with him.

When you're 20 years old, in a war zone, and you have to walk your K-9 partner to his death after all you have been through together, it shakes you to the inner core.

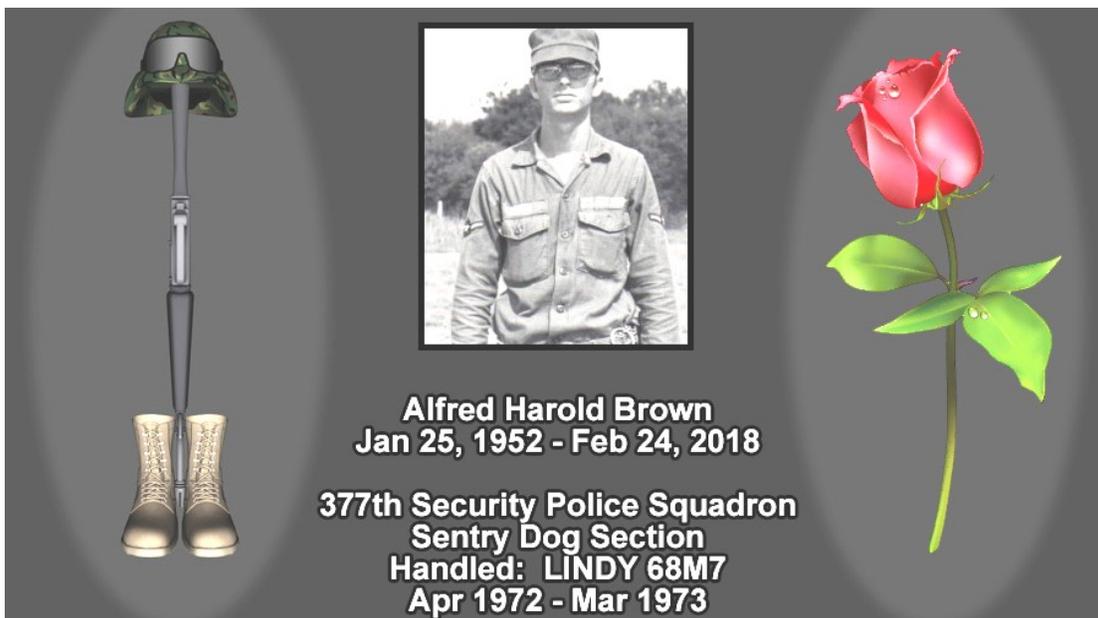
The hurt, the guilt, and the sadness still haunts me to this very day; and on that dark day, except for a few handlers, no one else really cared.

Nothing more need be said.

SFC Alfred Brown, United States Army Retired 1995
SGT, United States Air Force 1971-1974
377th SPS K9, Tan Son Nhut & Bien Hoa AB
South Vietnam April 1972 - March 1973.



Graphic by
Charles
Penley



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Web Site: www.tsna.org
Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
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"BABYSON AND MAMA SONS - WORK IN MY BARRACKS"

Another drawing from Tan Son Nhut artist, John Bowen.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Roger M. Fiander Wapato WA 98951 Jul 63 - Aug 64 Det. 1, 11th Air Postal Squadron

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