



# REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association  
A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



JULY 2019

## FOR OUR TROOPS:

your car.

Again this year, we will be collecting paperbacks and toiletries for our troops.

We are hoping you all will bring items to Little Rock for collection.

George Plunkett is again spearheading this project.

Last year was a very good success. We are hoping for an even better response this year.

So, if you have been traveling and collecting your toiletries, have some paperbacks laying around, please bring to the reunion.

We will accept monetary donations as well. You can send that to our Treasurer. Just note for our troops on your check, etc.

I am a helper for George on this project again this year.

Thanks for your help.

Randall W Brown  
President-TSNA

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Jimmy Smith  
TSNA Chaplain

Greetings Veterans and Fellow Members of TSNA.

As your Chaplain my prayers and wishes for each of you is for everyone to have a blessed, safe and happy July.

This month we celebrate the birth of our nation on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Independence Day celebrations involve many happy and fun activities with opportunities to be with family and friends and to enjoy times with our fellow veterans.

Activities may include picnics or cookouts; being in or watching parades; marathons; nature walks; sports; fireworks if you can tolerate them or simply relaxing.

Whatever activities you are involved with this Independence Day I pray that you will all be safe and enjoy your celebrations. If your activity involves drinking, Please, please have a designated driver and don't get behind the wheel of

As an uncle who has lost two Nephews to drunk drivers I urge you to do the right thing. The risk is not worth taking the life of someone or losing your own. TSNA is a great organization. We are a Band of Brothers, and Sisters and served together all sharing the same experiences. We are rapidly approaching our annual TSNA Reunion. The reunion this year is in Little Rock, Arkansas, 12-15 September. Information is on our web page at TSNA.org under the RE-UNION tab.

To all of my Vietnam Brothers and Sisters, I love and appreciate all of you more than you will ever know. I will never forget how warmly I was accepted into the organization or how "at home" I was made to feel by the members on my very first visit to a reunion.

Sadly we lost one of our greatest supporters to the organization to declining health issues. Janice Jones. She was our greatest Cheerleader and will be greatly missed. Our prayers go out to TSNA member and brother of Janice, Charles Penley and for Janice's family. After being in conversation with this sweet lady for a very short time, I felt as if I had known her my entire life and I am not the only one.

She was the angel among us and has been called home. May she rest in her reward. I am blessed to be a part of this important and caring organization.

May God bless each of you for what you have done for our country and keep you safe throughout this month and the year to come.

Until next month, this is your Chaplain signing off. Have a blessed month and God's speed to all.



## 2019 TSNA REUNION SPEAKER



Dr. Blake Busbin is a three-time graduate of Auburn University, finishing his doctorate in social studies education in 2013. Following the completion of his Master's Degree in 2007, he joined the faculty at Auburn High School. During his tenure at Auburn High School, he launched a major public history project with his students documenting the stories of veterans and fallen heroes, the AHS Veterans Project. Through this effort, students have interviewed more than 300 veterans, primarily those of the Vietnam War, for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project and located several hundred pictures for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's "Wall of Faces" project. He served as a curriculum consultant for PBS on Ken Burns' *Vietnam* documentary and served as the expert speaker on an affiliated PBS student documentary on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. In recognition of his work, he received the 2015 Christa McAuliffe Reach for the Stars Award by the National Council for the Social Studies and was named the 2017 Alabama History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History, which also named him a top ten national finalist. In 2018, he was a "Top Four" finalist for Alabama Teacher of the Year. He is married to Anne Busbin, also a graduate of Auburn University College of Education, who is the school counselor at Richland Elementary in Auburn. They have three children: Parks, Campbell, and Miller.

## Remembering Our Fallen

This Memorial Day past, the fallen heroes of Tan Son Nhut AFB, were remembered in a service at the Tan Son Nhut Memorial Bench located at the National Museum of the United States Air Force Memorial Gardens on Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. These brave men lost their lives defending Tan Son Nhut AFB from a massive attack during the 1968 Tet Offensive launched against US and South Vietnamese Forces. Their brave actions saved many lives on Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base, including some of our TSNA members, one of which participated in the service to honor our heroes.



Members from the VFW Post 8312 Honor Guard in Beaver Creek, Ohio made up of John Hatagan (Honor Guard Cmdr.), Harley Groves (Gold Star Parent), TSNA Member Johnnie Jernigan, TSNA Chaplain Jimmy Smith, and VFW Post member Gary Smith paid honors to the Security Police personnel and other defenders of Tan Son Nhut AB who paid the ultimate sacrifice on that fateful day protecting their fellow veterans. We make an attempt to honor these brave men every Memorial Day and every Veteran's Day.

A memorial wreath was placed. Johnnie Jernigan led the service with opening comments remembering their sacrifice and bravery stating their actions were directly responsible for saving many lives on Tan Son Nhut, including his own, and that they would never be

**Beaver Creek VFW Post 8312 Honor Guard Members** forgotten.

Others attending were given the opportunity to comment. Chaplain Jim Smith commented on the purpose of Memorial Day which is set aside to remember the fallen and honor their service. Chaplain Smith prayed giving thanks for the service and dedication of these brave individuals and prayed for comfort for their families. At the conclusion of the prayer Taps was played to remember our fallen heroes. May they never, ever be forgotten

By: Jimmy Smith  
TSNA Chaplain

## THE LAST WELCOME HOME

Last month I received an appeal from my County VA Service Officer to attend the funeral of a Navy Petty Officer Third Class who had recently died. He was not homeless, however, no relatives could be found. More information was published in the local newspaper later that week. I knew I needed to attend.

On the day of the funeral I drove to the local funeral home with plans of joining with others who wanted to honor this fellow Vietnam Vet. "Others" proved to be many, many others.

More than 150 motorcycles, many with American flags flying and more than 50 cars, formed a procession that wound its way thru the streets of downtown Columbia, SC. The roar of those motorcycles vibrated all through me with a feeling of pride in our military. On every street the local police department cleared the intersections for us and traffic heading in our direction would stop. Some drivers exited their vehicles and rendered hand salutes.

Reaching I-77 north we entered the interstate. The Highway Patrol had stopped all traffic headed north bound until the entire funeral cortege had made it onto the highway. It was then that I realized the enormity of the turnout for James Miske. As far as I could see, forwards and backwards, we occupied the outside lane. Exiting onto a two lane road that took us to the Fort Jackson National Cemetery took several minutes. All traffic entering onto this road was blocked. At this point, my emotions were running high and I was very proud of my participation. My amazement was far from over...

Exiting our vehicles, we were joined by many local residents who were walking from their nearby homes and by active duty service members from all of the services. There were many soldiers who were stationed at Fort Jackson, airmen from Shaw AFB and McEntire Joint National Guard Base, and troops from Joint Base Charleston.

Final count of the mourners was more than 500 and this seemed to be entirely appropriate since we were at Fort Jackson and "Victory Begins Here". After the ceremony ended, many of us engaged in conversations on the way back to the parking area. Smiles were abundant.

None of us knew James Miske, but we knew he was a fellow veteran. It's a warm feeling knowing our brothers and sisters will not let us go alone. This will not be my last funeral for a vet I don't know. I thought about the experience for days and it touched my heart. Doing the right thing is not always easy to do, but it is always the right thing to do...

By: George Plunkett  
TSNA President Emeritus

### **Dale F. Bryan** **Statement for Reelection**

I'm running for reelection to serve a fourth term as your Secretary. My remaining in office would provide continued continuity for the Board of Directors.

Over the past 12 years, I may, with satisfaction, state that I was proactive in efforts with three Presidents and two Treasurers 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.

The TSNA Scholarship came into being during my tenure, and I will continue working with other members of the Board of Directors and the Scholarship Committee to help it to continue as a vital element of our association.

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

My vision for the future of our Association is for it 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.



# **TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION 2019 REUNION REGISTRATION**

**LITTLE ROCK, AR  
Sep 12-15, 2019**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TEL ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL NEEDS (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Choose only the item(s) from the following that apply:

**Full Registration** (includes Banquet & Daily Access to Hospitality Suite, per person.....**\$75.00**

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$75.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet Only** (per person) .....**\$37.50**

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$37.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Access to Hospitality suite** (per person, per day) .....**\$17.50**

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ x Number of days \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Order Reunion DVD** (each) ..... **\$15.00**

Number of copies ordered \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL REMITTANCE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail this form with payment (check only) to:**

**TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 236  
PENRYN, PA 17564-0236**

**THIS REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED  
NLT AUGUST 30, 2019**

Questions regarding Reunion Registration should be directed to:

Larry Fry  
Director of Membership  
Email: [lfry2@dejazzd.com](mailto:lfry2@dejazzd.com)





# **TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION 2019 HOTEL REGISTRATION**

## **FOUR POINTS SHERATON LITTLE ROCK MIDTOWN**

925 S. UNIVERSITY BLVD & INTERSTATE 630  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72204  
(501) 664-5020

*NOTE: This hotel is now part of Marriott Hotels International*

**TSNA Room rate: \$96.00 + Tax (Currently: 15%)**

### **Option 1:**

You may make your reservation by telephone. To do so, call the hotel directly at:  
**(501) 664-5020**

Mention TSNA or Tan Son Nhut Association

### **Option 2:**

You may also make reservations through Marriott's nationwide Toll-Free Reservation Center at:  
**(800) 721-7033**

Mention this code: **TS-1089**

**Cutoff date for hotel reservations at our reduced rate is: August 10, 2019 at 5:00PM**

Any questions regarding hotel reservations should be addressed to:

**Joe Kricho**

Director of Reunion Planning

Email: [67vietvet68@gmail.com](mailto:67vietvet68@gmail.com)

(Please put "TSNA 2019 Reunion" in the subject line)



## NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

My father, Carroll Milton Staten, was reassigned to the 616th M.A.S.S. (MAC) on 2 November, 1966. He departed Travis AFB on 31 January, 1967, and arrived TSN on February 5, 1967.

He arrived as a 1st Lt. and on April 2, 1967, was promoted to Captain in Regular AF, effective March 22, 1967.

His AFSC was 4344 - Aircraft Maintenance Officer.

Dad also spent time at Bien Hoa Air Base with Detachment 2 of the 616th MASS.

After Vietnam, Dad was assigned to Wiesbaden AFB in Germany, Chanute AFB in Illinois, Charleston AFB in South Carolina, Scott AFB in Illinois, and Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio.

He retired from the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, in August 1979.

Dad died on September 1, 2017, as a fully disabled vet (per the VA) from Parkinson's Disease due to his Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam.

My daughter, Hannah Staten, is working with our local city of Milton on the Patriots' Parkinson's Project - an awareness program for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange! She is a high schooler!


Dr. Richard C. Staten

Milton, GA

(Joining in Memory of his father, Major Carroll Milton Staten, USAF Ret.)

## FROM A "RED HORSE" MEMBER

I arrived June 1968 in South Vietnam 1<sup>st</sup> CEG, there were two ½ ton flatbed non-government vehicles, a ¾ ton truck and a couple of jeeps. I think there was a deuce ½ too, but a SSGT was trying to figure out how to take it home. Regardless, it wasn't around long. One of the flatbed trucks bed shifted during travel, but would slam back against the cab upon hard braking. The ¾ ton was painted a strange blue with a badly stenciled USAF on the doors. Our barracks was located parallel to the trainpad where RAAF C7 Caribou parked. The ¾ ton was parked along a fence separating it from C7 Wallaby Airlines aircraft.

One morning we came out to find a critter  painted over the USAF. We put a heavy chain through the steering wheel that evening and called it done. The next morning our vehicle was gone. So goes the war need.

My duties required that I get a Vietnamese driver license. The process of getting the license was relatively simple. I wrote Jerry D on the form, but I got distracted by a very attractive young lady wearing a slit dress coming in the door behind me and to my left. The Vietnamese women at the counter scowled at me for not paying attention to her, but she completed my paperwork and gave me the license. When I looked at it for the first time, I chastised her for getting my name wrong. She had obviously made a mistake because Jerry D Jerry was incorrect! However, I had in fact written JERRY D JERRY on the form. It took some doing, but I was issued a corrected license as Jerry D Jenkins.



Pictures of "RED HORSE" personnel constructing Revetments.

Sorry - I have no idea whose pictures these are.



## Looking Back To 1974

By: Harold Boone  
460th TRW HQ Section  
Sept 67 - Aug 68

The war in Vietnam was almost over. The combat troops had already left. There were just a few troops remaining. Only one died in 1974.

President Nixon resigned due to the Watergate scandal. Vice President Gerald Ford became President. Nelson Rockefeller was named Vice President. President Ford pardons Nixon and later grants conditional immunity to Vietnam draft dodgers.

Hearst Publishing heir, Patty Hearst, was kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army. In health, the Heimlich Maneuver was developed to treat choking victims. Streaking becomes a craze. (If you have to ask, don't)

Here are some of the more popular movies from 1974: Harry and Tonto, Murder on the Orient Express, Lenny, Chinatown, The Godfather Part II, and Blazing Saddles.

In the world of music, here are the top songs.

The Way We Were by Barbara Streisand

Seasons In The Sun by Terry Jacks

Love's Theme by Love Unlimited Orchestra

Come And Get Your Love by Redbone

Dancing Machine by Jackson 5

The Loco-Motion by Grand Funk Railroad

TSOP by MFSB

The Streak by Ray Stevens

Bennie And The Jets by Elton John

One Hell Of A Woman by Mac Davis

And of course, we had television to watch. Some of the more popular TV shows then were Little House on the Prairie, Happy Days, Good Times, Rockford Files, Barney Miller, and The Six Million Dollar Man.

The sports world was busy. Moses Malone became the first high school athlete to go directly to professional basketball. Beginning in 1974 and continuing in to 1975 a construction company working to improve a heavy-duty truck developed the Monster Truck and spawned an industry.

Southern California and Oklahoma were crowned co-champions in college football. North Carolina State defeated Marquette to become college basketball champions. The Oakland Athletics defeated the Dodgers in the World Series.

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

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**Web Site: [www.tsna.org](http://www.tsna.org)**  
Annual Membership: \$20.00  
Five Year Membership: \$80.00  
Life Membership: \$180.00



TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE, RVN 1968-1969  
ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE C-123

Jerry C. Kinsey Photo

## NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Richard C. Staten Milton GA [rstaten1@yahoo.com](mailto:rstaten1@yahoo.com) Feb 67 - Jan 68 616th Military Airlift Support Squadron  
For father, Maj. Carroll Milton Staten

Mr. William A. Cooper Augusta GA [william.cooper@cdoc.ga.gov](mailto:william.cooper@cdoc.ga.gov) Nov 65 - Nov 66 A Co. 69th Signal Battalion, 1st Sig. Brig

## IN MEMORIAM

AZC (USN) Bernard H. Piche' Rockledge FL Feb 69 - Mar 70 Cam Rahn Bay Det. Tan Son Nhut

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