



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



SEPTEMBER 2019

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Jimmy Smith
Chaplain

Greetings Veterans and Fellow Members of TSNA: As your Chaplain I welcome all new members of TSNA and hope to see you at Little Rock this month. My prayers and wishes for each of you is for everyone to have a blessed, safe and happy September. If you plan on attending the TSNA Reunion I pray for your safe travel. September the 11th will mark 18 years since the horrible and tragic series of terrorist's attacks on our nation. We promised to never forget. Please take a moment to remember the tragic events that occurred on 9/11 of 2001. Remember the New York City Twin Towers Trade Center, the Pentagon in Washington DC and the forced crash of Flight 93 into a common field on Pennsylvania soil forced by the heroic actions of the crew and passengers who fought back and sacrificed their lives to save the lives of others. High jacked Flight 93 was in route to destroy another target in Washington DC, the target was believed to be the White House. Remember the heroic actions of our first responders and citizens who rushed from all over the United States to aid the survivors and recover the many good people who died at the hands of terrorists and in the rescue attempts. Please continue to pray for the families who lost loved ones and pray for our nation in these times where our country is overcome by hatred and evil. I believe that if America wants God to bless us, America needs to return to Him. I believe He is our only hope. These events occurred on my birthday. Every year a candle burns in my home and I remember with a very sad heart these tragic times. Every September I pray for the families of those who lost loved ones at the hands of terrorists. As a nation, as an individual we must keep our promise to never forget. With the hate, mass shootings and lack of respect and obedience to our laws and to the Constitution, America needs our prayers as never before. May God continue to bless America and keep us Free.

Our annual TSNA Reunion, this year in Little Rock, is nearly upon us. By now your reservations should have been made for our group rates and travel plans solidified. I am so looking forward to seeing all of you at the reunion who can make it. I love and appreciate each of you, my brothers and sisters, more than I can ever express in words. TSNA is a great organization and shows so much appreciation and love for all of

those who have served. The bonds established when serving together in war will never be broken except by death. We are brothers and sisters, we are family. Again I WELCOME all new members that have been reported by Larry and look forward to meeting them, hopefully at the reunion this year. I am blessed and I can say without reservation that I am proud 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 years to come.

Until next month, this is your Chaplain signing off. Have a blessed month and God's speed to everyone. See you in Little Rock.

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

Our ten-man barracks, or hooch as it was called, was near the Air Force Hospital at Tan Son Nhut, and next to Camp Alpha. There were a few attacks at Tan Son Nhut when I was there, but none were close by.

Ronald E. Hill
Mar 71 - Feb 72
Tri-Service Air Transportation Coordinating Office

From The Prez:

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

We are hoping you all will bring this 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. Help us make 2019 even better!

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. You can send that to our Treasurer. Just note for our troops on your check, etc.

I am helping collect for our Project Chairman George on this project again this year.

Thanks for your help.

Randall W Brown
President-TSNA

VVR and TSNA

Founder and President Bennie and Delight Blount operate a studio out of their home in Chelsea Ok. He is a retired Army SFC /retired minister that started VVR as an outreach of his gospel ministry to Vietnam Veterans. Remote DJ's operate out of studios in Illinois, Georgia, Florida and New Jersey. Vietnam Vet Radio is an internet only radio station dedicated to the men and women who served in the Vietnam War, their families, and friends. We are incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit veterans ministry organization. With a few exceptions all the songs played are from the Vietnam War era. We also play the authentic jingles and public service announcements that were played on AFVN (American Forces Vietnam Network) Radio.

While Vietnam Vet Radio is neither political or religious, in the normal sense of the word, it is most certainly a pro-America and pro-military radio station that acknowledges that we are a blessed people. No anti-war rhetoric or anti-war songs; there are other sites on the internet for that. Our mission is to heal, not open old wounds.

Bennie relies on donations to fund his operations/ hardware, software and license fees . DJ's-mostly former AFVN announcers are volunteers.



Donations can be sent to

Vietnam Veteran Radio
8181 S 4230 RD
Chelsea Ok 74016

Submitted by Gary Fields

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are working on obtaining the exact time Benny will be broadcasting on VVR, from the TSNA Reunion in Little Rock, AR.

We will attempt to get that word out to all as soon as we can.

THINK ABOUT IT!

- * What if my dog only brings back my ball because he thinks I like throwing it?
- * Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
- * Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
- * The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".

BREAKFAST AT THE BROWN'S By Randall Brown, TSNA President

Every year I have a breakfast for all my buddies from my hometown who went to Vietnam, or other places. We all served.

We have 25, started 6 years ago with 32. Losing one a year.

We are the second smallest county in Indiana, but per capita we had most who served. 158, in county of approx. 12,000 people.

My son and daughter in law and their foster son cook each year. Son is a Chef.

My way of giving back to my fellow vets, buddies, classmates and my friends.



A Day to Reflect

August 1, 2019 was not necessarily hot and humid by D. C. standards. However, it was surely very warm and uncomfortable for those airmen and soldiers moving and standing in the sun to honor and help celebrate the life of a patriot that had passed. The airmen were part of the band, honor guard, and rifle bearers conducting a very moving and solemn ceremony for one of TSNA's own. The soldiers were responsible for moving the caisson bearing the flag draped casket bearing the remains of our comrade.

My estimate is that about 150 friends, relatives, and other colleagues attended this very moving tribute at Arlington National Cemetery. We could be mostly comfortable being in the shade of the shelter where the tribute occurred.

The day of interment of our greatly missed, fellow Vietnam veteran, Carol Bessette, was held.

All mourners met in a reception room of an administration room where we were briefed on how the ceremony would be conducted. From there, we were moved through the stages of the ceremony with military precision that likely let many of us reflect on our own days of drill and ceremony. From there we convoyed by our own cars to a place where the band and caisson were waiting. Those who wanted to could march behind the band and caisson to the top of the hill and shelter where an Air Force chaplain would give a short eulogy and present the flag that draped the casket to John Bessette. First picture below is the caisson upon arrival. Next picture is the chaplain conducting the service. Note the contingent of airmen holding the flag over the urn containing Carol's remains. The last picture is the flag being presented to John. It was all very moving.

The chaplain mentioned that Carol had to fight long and hard to become an intelligence officer since women were not allowed to serve in such a capacity when she was first commissioned. I know that Carol was smiling from above as a female chaplain made these remarks.

Carol has not been forgotten and continues to be with us in spirit. John is planning to be present at the reunion in Little Rock.

Dale Bryan, Secretary TSNA.



Representing TSNA

By: George Plunkett
President Emeritus
TSNA

Many veterans, especially TSNA members, feel a calling to continue our service to others who have been in the military. There are endless ways that we can help our fellow service members. Sometimes these opportunities present themselves out of the blue and all we have to do is be willing to do whatever we can to help. I wanted to share a few events that have come my way recently.

At the end of January last year, I noticed an obituary for a former colleague of mine in the local newspaper. His wife, who I will call R, and I worked together in the same department. We had not seen each other in years. After the funeral ended, I gave her my TSNA business card and offered to help her with any VA related business. She felt overwhelmed with all the things that have to be done after the death of a military spouse. She made an appointment with our county VSO's staff and we met with one of the staff a few weeks later. The bottom line is that the colleague qualifies to collect the 60% Agent Orange disability payment that her husband was receiving. Also, she will receive flags that flew over Congress for each close family member and a condolence letter signed by our President. R was unaware of any of these benefits. Six weeks later the monthly disability deposit to her bank began. She was so grateful for the help navigating the VA system.

In April the county VSO and his staff moved into refurbished facilities, a move that was years overdue. He is a retired Army MSGT who worked at the VA before signing on with the county. All of his staff have assisted me with my VA disability claims at one time or another. In recognition of their hard work and dedication to duty, I presented to them, on behalf of the Tan Son Nhut Association and all military veterans, TSNA PX/BX item T-50, the Soldier's Cross. In addition, I presented each of the 4 staff members with TSNA challenge coins and personalized ball point pens. I wanted to show my gratitude for all the help they have given me over the years, while advertising the TSNA.

In late May I was invited to speak at a local middle school for Memorial Day activities. The students managed the entire interview and peppered me with questions. Explaining the difference between TDY and PCS, the obvious IQ difference between zombies' and grunts (lol), military rank and protocol and a short history of Vietnam proved to be cathartic to me. The students brought their "A" game that morning. Facing a room full of smart seventh graders required more courage than reporting to my First Sergeant. My OD vest, festooned with patches, proved to be a real attention getter and ice-breaker. It was an honor to share my experiences with these fine young people.

On June 1st, I was reviewing my checking account on-line and noticed 3 direct deposit EFT's from the VA, 2 of which were of identical amounts. Adding the differing amounts together produced a total equal to a 100% disability payment for May. The other amount was payment to the 100% level for April. Documentation from the VA was received a few days later explaining their decision, effective date and other information. During a short subsequent visit with my VSO, I received a booklet describing South Carolina benefits for disabled veterans. I feel like I had fought an uphill battle for these benefits. No doubt many of you can relate to these struggles.

We are looking forward to seeing all of our TSNA friends in Little Rock in a couple weeks!

EDITOR'S NOTE: This issue of Revetments (except for the "Masthead" on the last page), has been done in a slightly larger font size than I have been using since 2007. None of our eyes are getting any better, so I thought it was time.

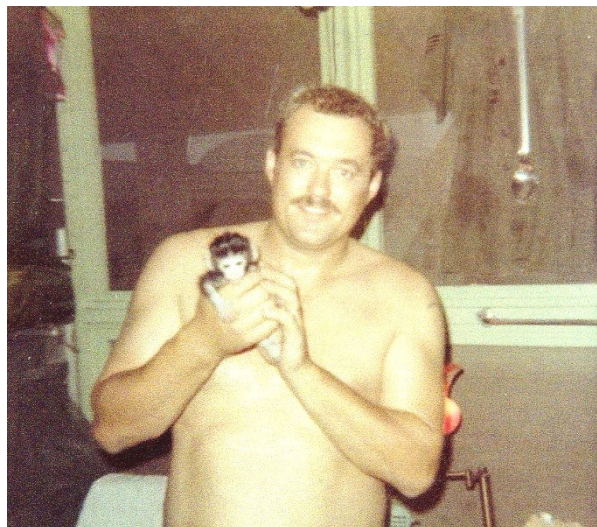
Here is the same paragraph in the "old" font size:

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I like the difference - do you??

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Web Site: www.tsna.org
Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00



Little Man monkey

Photo courtesy of Gerald (Gerry) E. Johnson
377th CAM Trans. Maint. Aug 71-Aug 72.

NEW MEMBERS

Ronald Hill Buford GA hillronal@gmail.com Mar 71 - Feb 72 Tri-Service Air Transport. Coord.Off.

IN MEMORIAM

Anthony J. Plonski	East Granby	CT	Sep 67 - Sep 68	460th AEMS
Gary H.	Hackworth	Chesapeake	VA Apr 68 - Mar 69	Det. 1, 45th Tactical Recon Squadron
Don	Helton	Pewee Valley	KY Jan 68 - Dec 68	509th Radio Research Group

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