



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



NOVEMBER 2020

A VETERAN REMEMBERS

BY Clair L. Smith, SSGT USAF

The United States of America is a glorious place to live, and to show my love for my country, **I pledge allegiance to the flag** which represents this land. We are a nation made up of many different people but we are all part **of the United States of America and** we must be dedicated **to the republic for which** our soldiers have so valiantly fought and died. As the flag flies, **it stands** for the glory of our **one nation**. We must realize that there is a higher authority and we, therefore, place ourselves **under God** and his protection. Our nation fought a great and terrible civil war from which we emerged with an **indivisible** resolve that we should constantly strive for the good of our union. Our nation grants us personal freedom; **with liberty** comes the responsibility to preserve this way of life, free from tyranny. We must be constantly aware that there are people who would seek to restrict our individuality **and** we must make sure that our court system provides a true measure of **justice for all** of our population. On this day we remember the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much to insure that this nation shall endure.



EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the flag that I see from our living room, den, and bedroom many times a day - always happy to see it.

FROM THE PREZ

So sad on missing everyone since we had to cancel our 2020 Reunion.

Our Reunion Co-Directors are deep into planning our 2021 Reunion. So hoping we are able to get together by then??

I have contacted CDC and they informed me that this can go for maybe up to two years?? I truly feel they are somewhat guessing. Hearing from Doctors and getting a lot of different info.

So let's just play it by ear as they say.

I have had most all my Dr Appts with no problem, talking with some of our members and they cannot get near a Dr!

But we are planning, planning and planning for 2021.

My wife Rita has had 3 surgeries this summer and all healed up, so we are getting ready to travel to our home in Green Valley, Arizona for the Winter.

We are now approaching the holiday season. I know a few of you all will be traveling for the Holidays, so be safe, wear your mask, wash your hands, sanitize, sanitize!!

Hoping everyone is well and can celebrate with family this year.

Wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Randall W Brown
President-TSNA

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

My Dad, Edgar L. White, retired from the Air Force in 1978. He served two tours in Vietnam 1967-1968 and 1970-1971.

He was stationed at Tan Son Nhut during his 1st tour and was wounded on Feb 18th when a rocket struck his barracks. His Military Decorations include: Purple Heart 2/18/68; Bronze Star 8/12/71; and 2 Air Force Commendation Medals.

Richard White
Branson, MO

Chaplain's Corner-Whispers from God

If you have ever visited St Paul's Cathedral in London you may have climbed the over 250 steps to The Whispering Gallery in the base of the cathedral's dome. It is an incredible place. If someone is across the gallery, which is over 100 feet away, they can hear and understand what you say even though you are whispering.

It is a really fun thing to do and makes you wonder how it is possible. Of course the design of the huge dome reflects the sound directly across to the other side. In today's world of big time sound systems we forget that you could make sound carry quite well before all of our microphones and amplifiers. Likewise if you have been in an old church you may see a sloping soundboard built over the pulpit to reflect the sound to the people in the congregation.

When we are in pain from a life circumstance and seek counsel from God we may just speak out loud asking for help or as we try to find out why something happened. But have you had a moment when you just wait for God's still small voice as you wait for Him without distractions around you?

In our world today there is so much to distract us, we need to slow down and listen for that still small voice. Some people prefer some instrumental music while listening for or talking with God. I enjoy quiet when reading scripture, meditating or praying.

Psalm 18:6 says: *In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help.*

Sometimes we need to just get alone and call out to God in a whisper, even if we do not understand what we need to say as we call out for that help, He will understand.

As in the Whispering Gallery at St Paul's Cathedral, we need to then wait for that still small voice, but it will not be a friend or family member across the Gallery, it will be God, most times not audible, but a still small voice just the same.

TSNA Associate Chaplain-Andy Csordas

VETERAN'S DAY

By Wayne Salisbury TSNA President-Emeritus

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas *the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and*

Whereas *it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and*

Whereas *the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United*

States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday - - a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

On that same day, the President sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniforms Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to insure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.



“C-Day” or Currency Day 1970
By Andy Csordas, SP/5, 31S30
TSNA TREASURER

Currency Day in early October 1970 happened to be a day I had to drive a deuce and a half to Long Binh from Tan Son Nhut Air Base. I was part of the Special COMSEC Support Detachment located inside the Hotel 3 heliport perimeter on TSN. Our battalion level group was based at Long Binh and provided Crypto repair services all over the country, or from the Delta to the DMZ as they used to say. Some of our group across the country consisted of one guy working out of a module on the back of a truck and others larger units like ours.

At the time our detachment had around 10 guys. We mostly supported the ARVN's but also supported the US, Aussies and ROK's. We repaired KY-8's, KY-28's, KY-38's, KW-7's and the KL-7 which was a much improved unit but similar to the Enigma machine used by the AXIS powers during WWII. The US had used the KL-7 during the Korean War, but we gave it to the ARVN's to use in Vietnam.

Back to C-Day, since we were a small unit we exchanged our fancy MPC (Military Payment Certificates) printed with the ships and subs on them for new issue MPC with Indian Chiefs and what not on them before we left for Long Binh. Then three of us left for Long Binh in the 2½ ton, me driving, an E-6 riding shotgun and another laidback southern boy from south Alabama in the back.

Of course there was a long line waiting to get inside the base and lots of locals were trying to get us to exchange their MPC, but we declined those offers. When we got to the gate there was a Corporal MP there who searched the inside of our cab and a civilian CID guy at the back of the truck. We were carrying a few things back to battalion on this trip and two of those items were field bags full of canteen kits.

The CID guy gruffly told our slow talking southern guy to bring those bags to the back of the truck. He then ordered that they be dumped out; between the two bags they contained at least 40 canteen kits with the canteen, the soup cup and the canvas bag. At that point our guy in the back, in his typical southern drawl just asked, “Do you want to look in each one?” That ended that conversation as the CID guy just walked away. It was quite funny.

Meanwhile at the front of the truck the MP, who was obviously not from upper Manhattan or the Hamptons, said he wanted to look in some books we had on the seat. It would have been easy to conceal a considerable amount of MPC in between the pages of the books or for that matter inside the canteen kits.

The books were classified parts manuals for the Crypto gear we repaired and were destined to be destroyed at battalion. When the E-6 told the MP he could not look in the books because they were classified Confidential the MP responded forcefully, “Ha, I have a secret clearance, I can look in those books!”

At that point the E-6 got nose to nose with the MP and informed him in no uncertain terms he was not looking in those books. The E-6 told the MP he could call his Major and his Major could call our Major (the Battalion Commander) and the Majors could look in those books, but you (the MP) are not going to look in these books. At that point the MP said, “I didn't want to look on the books anyway” and walked off. I guess he changed his mind.

That was the end the C-Day fun times for me.

Golden Oldie

**DON'T PUT OFF 'TILL TOMORROW WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY,
BECAUSE IF YOU ENJOY IT TODAY YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN TOMORROW**

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

My first duty was Phu Cat A.B. in Security, then I got transferred to 377th A. P. Squadron in Law Enforcement. I lived in the older barracks 2nd floor right across from the armory.

Some time later I was picked to go to 7th A. F. Headquarters guarding Gen. Momyer and his staff.

Also during that time we were moved to our new barracks area 300, next to a new large BX.

On February 16, 1968, around 02:30 hours we received word that the 716th M.P.s were being attacked in Saigon. Around 3:00 AM the 1st rocket went over my gate and hit the Base Chapel, then all hell broke loose.

I was relieved from my post and sent inside to guard the rear fence line. Also, some airmen were given M-16's to help me secure the area. They were scared to death. Also they were ready to destroy their equipment.

We worked 12 hours a day for many days.

We were told that we were attacked in 3 places but Bunker 051 was overrun killing 4 A.P.s.

I went home in early March, 30 day leave, then to Great Falls, MT to end my enlistment.

Michael J. Cook
377th Security Police
March 67- March 68

A Perfect Day

By: Dale Bryan TSNA Secretary
(From the December, 2008 Revetments)

November 11, was a memorable day. President Emeritus and TSNA CoFounder John Peele, TSNA President Bob Gales, and I placed our wreath at The Wall in Washington, DC. For the fourth time, my association has allowed me to participate in such a hallowed ceremony.

The day was straight from Norman Rockwell's easel; it was picture perfect. The skies were clear, the sun was bright, the air was brisk, the leaves were hues of red and gold, and Old Glory was proudly flying everywhere. It seems that kind of Americana is slowly slipping and fading away. If Norman Rockwell were mentioned to most people under 40, one would get a blank stare and be asked, "Who is Norman Rockwell?" Many who could identify him would likely label him not relevant.

The ceremony that day, however, was most relevant. It venerated our fallen friends and honored the service of the living. It was also the 15th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam Women's Memorial. But most of all, everyone there heard two important words that all of us, men and women, waited to hear for many years: "WELCOME HOME!"

Our wreath was spectacular; a beautiful and meaningful design: A red, white and blue circle with a Purple Heart at the top. A gold "V" for valor filled in the center. The flags of all the services extended from the sides and Old Glory proudly flew above the heart. I wish that I could take credit for the design, but the credit lies with George Plunkett, a TSNA Director. He described it; a florist rendered the breathtaking design.

I wish that all TSNA members could have been there. I hope some of you come next year. I plan to be there next year and will work the logistics again. But, I'm not looking to be honored for a fifth year. I want one of you to be where I've been these past four years. I want one of you to help our President place our wreath before the polished slabs. The emotion of being there is gripping.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There will not be a Veteran's Day observance "At the Wall" this year due to Covid 19 situations. The virtual commemoration will begin at 1 p.m. EST on November 11, 2020.

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: Richard Carvell
Secretary: Dale Bryan
Treasurer: Andy Csordas
Director of Communications: Gary Fields
Director of Marketing: Johnnie Jernigan
Co-Director of Reunion Planning: Joe Kricho
Co-Director of Reunion Planning: Paul Mortensen
Director of Membership and Revetments Editor: Larry E. Fry
Membership Development: Rick Cooley
Director at Large: Jim Faulkner
Web Master: Kerry Nivens
Chaplain: Jimmy Smith
Associate Chaplain: Andy Csordas
Chaplains Emeriti:
Rev. Bob Alan Chaffee (1929-2017), TSNA Chaplain: 2009 - 2017
Rev. Dr. James M. Warrington, TSNA Chaplain: 1997-2018
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 Site: www.tsna.org
Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00



Photo from Don Se Graves

MEMBER INFORMATION

Renewals:

Paul Allard, Thomas R. Carlson, and Jim Riley, have renewed for 5 years.

Terrance R. Lynch has renewed for 5 years, and made a Donation to the Scholarship Fund.

Sebastian (Mike) DeTuccio, Tom Hildreth, William J. Inojos, and Joel K. Martin, have renewed for another year.

CMSgt. Thomas Rosinski has renewed for another year and made a Donation to the Scholarship Fund.

Stephen J. Wurster has renewed for another year and made Donations to the General and Scholarship Funds.

New Members:

Michael J. Cook is from Newark, DE. Time at TSN = Mar 67 – Mar 68. Unit at TSN = 377th Security Police, Air Police Duties and 7th AF Headquarters. Email: cook1005@comcast.net.

Richard White, from Branson, MO. Joining for/because his father, Edgar L. White, served two tours in Vietnam. Father retired from the Air Force in 1978. Father's time at TSN was Oct 67 – Oct 68, and Aug 70 – Aug 71. Father was in 7th Air Force Communications.

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.