



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of the Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



Christmas 2025

Just a reminder

Revetments, our newsletter, will now be published every three months; however this is an extra Christmas issue.

Please feel free to contribute, including stories, pictures or information for future publications. You are encouraged to contribute or even volunteer to submit an issue for the organization.

Contact information is below.

Thank You

This issue has some information about Gary Fields' Honor Flight Trip and organization updates

The organization's new mailing address is:

Tan Son Nhut
Association
810 Cindy Blair Way
Lexington KY 40503
Contact Information:
Andy Csordas:

Chaplain's Corner-Open Arms

By Andy Csordas, Associate Chaplain

As we enter the Christmas season with all of the hustle and bustle that comes with it, it is easy to forget where the actual meaning of the season's celebration comes from. Of course we love to enjoy time, meals and gatherings of our families, particularly our grandchildren. But how often do we think about the real meaning and the incredible gift it represents.

Of course we do know we celebrate the birth of Christ, hence the name Christmas. But do we really think hard about what that really means. If you happen to look up last December's Revetments' Chaplains Corner article you can find a lot of information about how Christ's birth was predicted centuries before His birth. This year we will discuss how that gift can impact your life today. Never forget Satan wants us to feel like we are not worthy of God's love because of our past actions. We constantly are reminded of things we said and did in the past that we wish had not occurred. But God says we are worthy if we return to Him.

I recently heard a pastor talking about his best friend, a dog that spent every day with him on the farm. During the war, not sure what war, he ended up in the Navy and was gone for years. When he returned home, walking up to the farm in the middle of the night, the dog heard him whistle and came rocketing into his arms with unbounding love.

God treats us the same way; He welcomes us back into His arms without reservation if we come to Him, confess our sins and ask for forgiveness. Jesus, God's son, who was sinless, took the sins of all of us, was crucified, died and three days later rose from the grave to sit at the right hand of God.

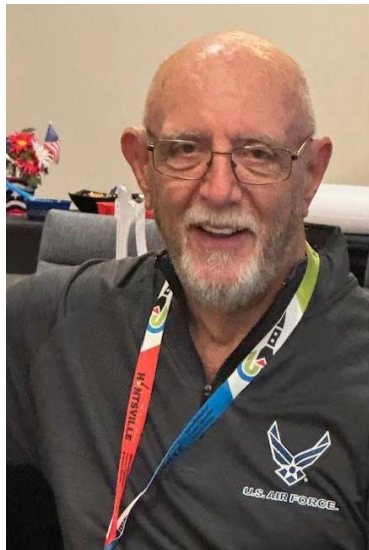
Accept His free gift and get welcomed into Gods arms for eternity *John 10:14-15* says ***"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep"***. We are His sheep and He will love and welcome us into His arms.

* Opinions expressed are those of the author, not necessarily those of TSNA

Change of Leadership

Rich Cooley was recently reelected as Mayor of Smiths Station Alabama where he works closely with the military at Fort Benning GA. Rich has been a guiding light to the association as he has helped guide the association through some difficult years of changes to meet the ever-decreasing population of Tan Son Nhut Members. Because of his duties as Mayor, Rich made the difficult decision to step down as President of the Association.

At a Board Meeting on October 27, 2025, Paul Mortensen was nominated, elected, and sworn in as your new President. Paul has a master's Level Certificate in Non-Profit Management from Arizona State University's School of Business Administration and will help lead the association through its final stages. As discussed in previous Board meetings and here in the Revetments, the Association will need to slowly cease operations over the next few years.



Rich Cooley (above) serving as your President. Thank You Rich for all your service to the Tan Son Nhut Association.

Paul Mortensen (Right) on his first day (March 3, 1966) at Tan Son Nhut and what the "Old Fart" looks like today.

Paul would like to have a "Meet and Greet lunch" in April 2026. Members in the Southeast will be invited, but all are welcome to attend. More information will follow soon.



VA Survivor Benefits

An important part of planning for the future is understanding that you can prepare yourself and your family for unexpected events. It's never too early to start thinking about ways to help our loved ones by understanding VA survivor's benefits.

VA's "Planning Your Legacy" booklet can support you and your family with guided pre-need planning and provide a space to record important information. The booklet explains additional eligibility factors for certain survivors' benefits and provides a Record of Personal Affairs that will be beneficial for your loved ones or the agent of your estate.

To learn more please visit

<https://www.va.gov/SURVIVORS/docs/PlanningYourLegacyFinal.pdf>



ARVN Guard Post
Near Main Gate

Gary Fields Honor Flights

"Honor Flights" is a non-profit 501c (3) organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices.

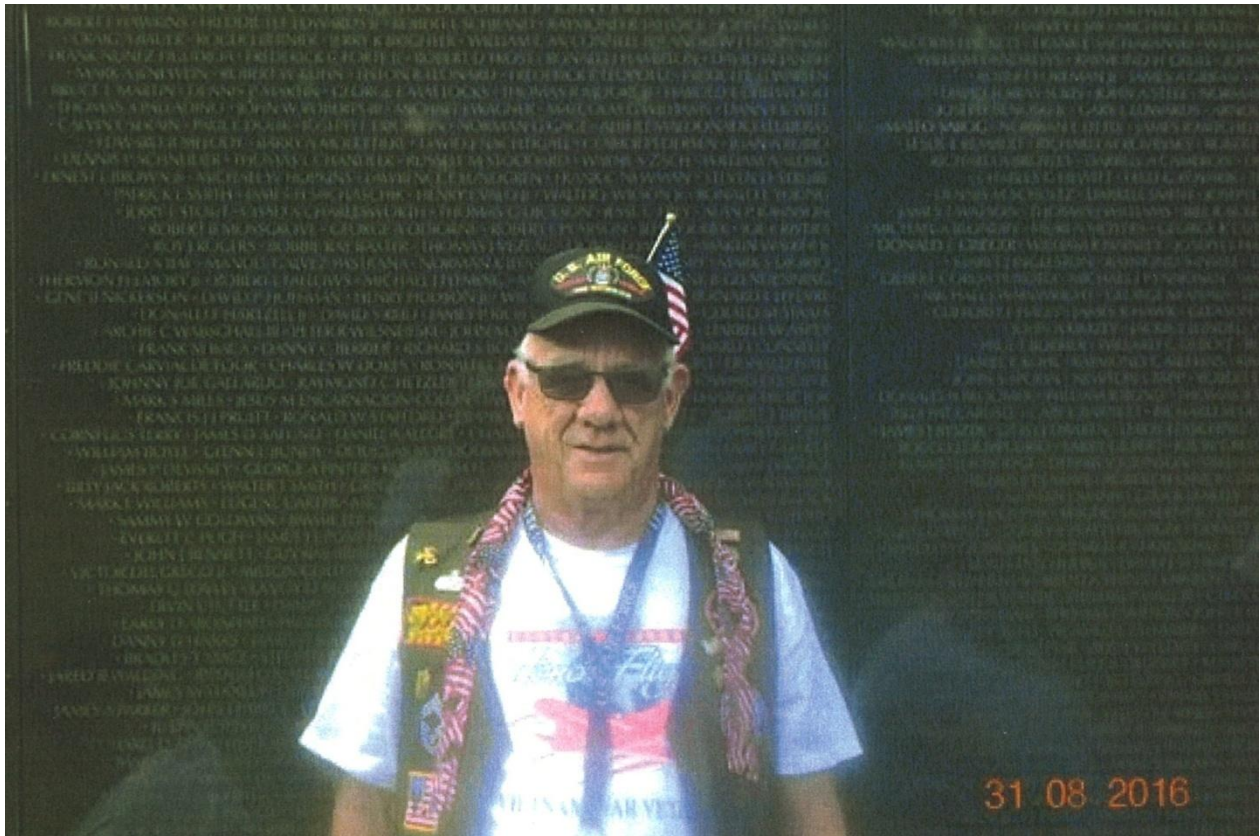
The Missouri group transports our heroes from throughout Central Missouri to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at their memorials at no cost to them. Since our inception in 2009, we have transported thousands of veterans to Washington on 71 flights. Top priority is given to senior veterans – WWII survivors, along with other veterans of Korea and Vietnam who may be terminally ill. We are a totally volunteer organization and are funded by donations from individuals, organizations and businesses who wish to see our aging veterans honored before it is too late.

Of all the wars in recent memory, it was WWII that truly threatened our very existence as a nation and free society. Now, with more than 180 WWII veterans dying each day, time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out.

Central Missouri Honor Flight will do whatever it takes to fulfill the dreams of our veterans and help them travel at no cost. Medical and mobility issues are no problem. We travel with doctors, nurses, paramedics and younger veterans who serve as personal guardians to our honored guests. We also travel with a "large fleet" of wheelchairs for those veterans who require wheelchairs or may need one as they tire. We complete the trip in one day so our veterans do not have to spend the night in Washington.

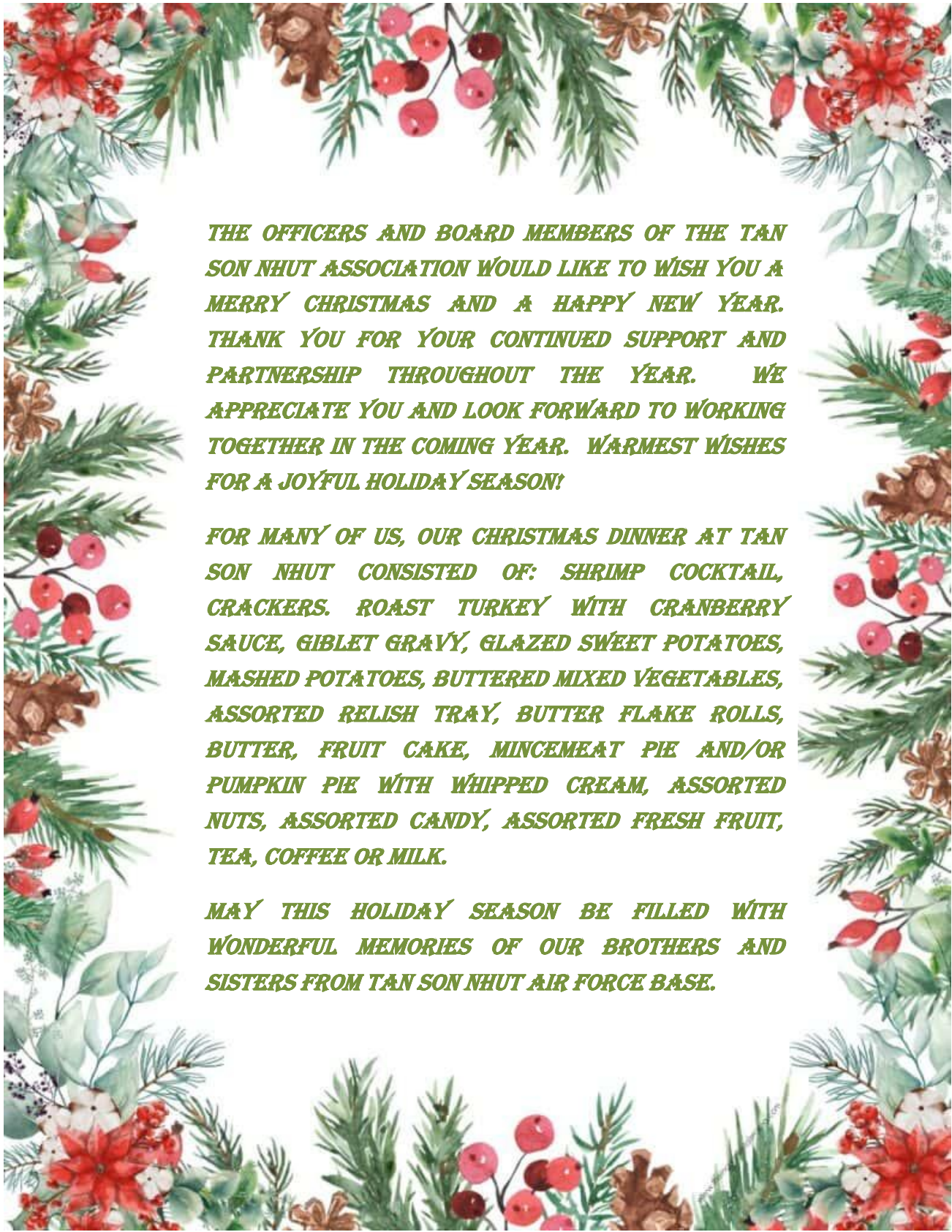
While we continue to give priority to WWII veterans, we are now moving into the ranks of our Korean War and Vietnam veterans.

Check for Honor Flights close to you!



Gary Fields was on Honor Flight #42 from Missouri. He has volunteered for flights from #42 to #71. Gary will be leaving the Tan Son Nhut Association Board at the end of the year after serving on the board for a total of nine years. We thank Gary for his service to the Association and his devotion serving and helping other Vietnam Veterans including his help at the reunion check in table, below.





THE OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF THE TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. WE APPRECIATE YOU AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER IN THE COMING YEAR. WARMEST WISHES FOR A JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!

FOR MANY OF US, OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER AT TAN SON NHUT CONSISTED OF: SHRIMP COCKTAIL, CRACKERS. ROAST TURKEY WITH CRANBERRY SAUCE, GIBLET GRAVY, GLAZED SWEET POTATOES, MASHED POTATOES, BUTTERED MIXED VEGETABLES, ASSORTED RELISH TRAY, BUTTER FLAKE ROLLS, BUTTER, FRUIT CAKE, MINCEMEAT PIE AND/OR PUMPKIN PIE WITH WHIPPED CREAM, ASSORTED NUTS, ASSORTED CANDY, ASSORTED FRESH FRUIT, TEA, COFFEE OR MILK.

MAY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON BE FILLED WITH WONDERFUL MEMORIES OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM TAN SON NHUT AIR FORCE BASE.

We want to welcome our new member

Stephen McClure

from Tallahassee Florida

Stephen was a heavy equipment mechanic with the 377th Transportation Squadron. He said, when talking about coming home, that he was glad to leave but also sad due to relationships that had been formed. He lived in the 1200 Area behind the chow hall.



Sign between Abrams House and MACV

WELCOME HOME BROTHERS

Revetments is an official publication of the

Tan Son Nhut Association, Inc.

C/O Andy Csordas

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Lexington KY 40503

The Association is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt Veterans' organization

The organization is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

President: Paul Mortensen

Vice President: Bruce Wimmer

Secretary/Treasurer: Andy Csordas

Director of Communications: Gary Fields

Director of Marketing: Andy Csordas

Director of Meeting Planning: Paul Mortensen

Director of Membership and Revetments Editor: Andy Csordas

Director at Large: Rick Cooley

Web Master: Kerry Nivens/Chad Towry

Chaplain: Jimmy Smith

Associate Chaplain: Andy Csordas

Chaplains Emeriti:

Rev. Bob Alan Chaffee (1929-2017), Chaplain: 2009 - 2017

Rev. Dr. James M. Warrington (1926 - 2022), Chaplain: 1997-2018

Presidents Emeriti:

Don Parker, 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

Randall W. Brown, President, 2015-2023



Traffic in Saigon