



REVETMENTS



The Official Journal of the Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

March 2026

Just a reminder
Revetments, our newsletter, will now be published every three months. 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.

Please note, we are having a difficult time as we try to update the website. We are working on it. The BX is closed at this point, contact information for Andy is below.

The mailing address is:

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Chaplain's Corner-Evil
Andy Csordas-Associate Chaplain

As we go through life we have all encountered evil. Of course it can vary by degree, but we generally know it when we see it. But do we see any evil acts in ourselves? **Matthew 7:3** says ***“Why do you look at the sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”*** In war there is evil, lots of it. General Omar Bradley said this after arriving at the death camps:

“The smell of death overwhelmed us even before we passed through the stockade. More than 3200 naked, emaciated bodies had been flung into shallow graves. Others lay in the streets where they had fallen. Eisenhower’s face whitened into a mask. Patton walked over to a corner and was sickened. I was too revolted to speak. For here death had been so fouled by degradation that it both stunned and numbed us.”



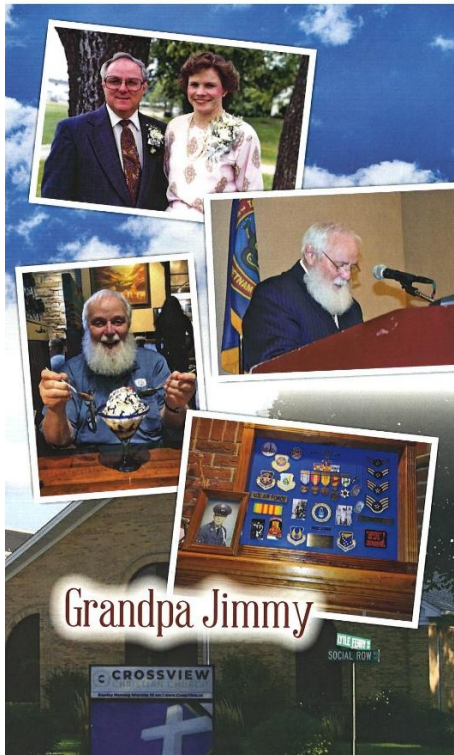
Remember these were men that had witnessed death many times over. What do you think of the people who perpetrated these war crimes? Of course we are repulsed by it. How did they do it? They used many excuses, including following orders, the Jews are less than human, etc. Are we capable of such atrocities? We do not even think of us doing something so evil. But there are people that advocate for the same thing today.

We are all fallen people, ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed God; sin has entered in the world. In **Genesis 3:11** we see God say ***“Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”*** Of course, Adam blamed Eve and she blamed the serpent, but they did not obey God and did the wrong thing. It led to more pain and hardship. One thing leads to another. When we allow evil things to become commonplace it is much easier to do more evil things that we could not imagine us doing in the past. God calls it a hardening of our heart. Do you think the death camp workers hearts were hard? How could they not see the evil all around them?

Another quote by Omar Bradley says ***“We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the sermon on the mount. . . . ours is the world of nuclear giants and ethical infants”***. God gave us a conscious that tells us when the things we do are questionable or just flat out wrong. We need to pay attention to that even in the small things because many times it is God speaking to us. **Isaiah 28:23** says, ***“Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say”***. Spend time away from the noise of life and make time to listen for that still small voice of God in your life. It can make a huge difference in how you act and react.



* Opinions expressed are those of the author, not necessarily those of the Tan Son Nhut Association



Chaplain Jimmy Smith

On December 17, 2025 we lost a long-time member, Chaplain Jimmy Smith from Beaver Creek, OH at age 80. He was a member of the Beaver Creek VFW and Crossview Christian Church.

Jimmy's 12-month deployment to Tan Son Nhut started two weeks before Tet in 1968. He served a total of four years in the Air Force and started as a Civil Service employee the day after he left the Air Force. He sat at the same desk in the same office as he had used in the Air Force

Jimmy was known as Grandpa Jimmy in his community. He was a selfless person who gave more to his community than he received. One of the things he was well known for was making wooden toys which he graciously gave away.

As the pictures demonstrate he was the perfect person to be Santa Claus. He loved taking care of the children

He will be missed!



As we age our membership has diminished.

If you know someone who has passed away, please let us know. You can send information to Andy Csordas acsordasvet@gmail.com

Or mail to:
810 Cindy Blair Way,
Lexington, KY
40503

Retreat



After last year's great retreat in Tucson, we are planning on doing one more retreat, this time in Kentucky or Tennessee.

Please keep the last week in August available if you would like to attend. We will give you more details once we have a location and date.

Left: Some of our attendees at the 2025 Retreat in Tucson

Scholarship Update

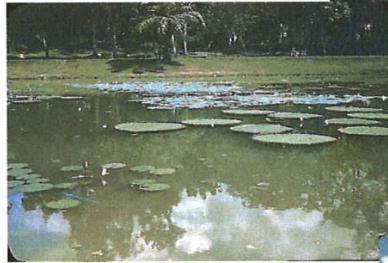
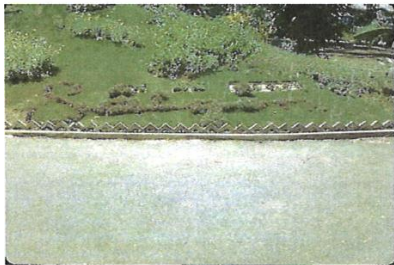
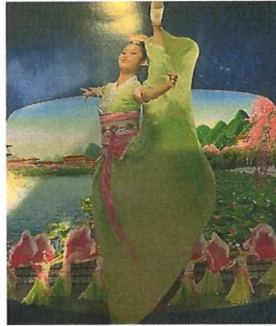
We were blessed with a large donation to the scholarship program from John Bessett. Since we will not be awarding anymore scholarships from this point forward the board decided to use those extra funds to provide an additional amount to the ongoing scholarships we awarded from 2022-2024. Those were awarded at \$1,250 per year totaling \$5,000. The Scholarships in 2025 were awarded at \$2,000 per year totaling \$8,000. That additional amount awarded brings all of those earlier awards up to the amount awarded in 2025. A note was sent to the recipients just before Christmas, they were thrilled, a sampling of the thank you notes is below.

- I wanted to reach out and thank you for the recent scholarship donation, now I only have to pay less than \$1,000 this semester since I am self-funding my education. From Audrey
- That's Awesome!! Thank you so much. Have a Merry Christmas. From Noah
- I really appreciate this, it is such a blessing to my education. Thank you so much. From Reese
- I am emailing to restate my gratitude for the scholarship. From Kathryn
- Thank you again for the opportunity to receive the scholarship. It has already made a meaningful impact on my academic endeavors. From John
- Thank you all for your continued support! From Carter
- Thank you so much for the help and support! From Ruth
- Thank you so much for this generous addition to the scholarship! I am so grateful for this extra assistance! From Ella
- That's awesome news! Thank you so much. From Rhett
- I'm extremely blessed to receive this news! I can't thank or appreciate my grandfather enough (his grandfather was at Tan Son Nhut). From Lucas

Just as a reminder we have awarded \$292,000 in scholarships to 42 students attending 35 colleges and universities since the scholarship program started. The schools range from large universities to small colleges. They are located from coast to coast, north to south. A special thank you **Carol Bessette** and **George Plunkett** who worked really hard to create the scholarship program and to **Rich Carvell** who managed the program until his death last year.

Springtime in Saigon

It's Springtime in America but at one time for us, it was springtime in Saigon. Please enjoy this collection of photos taken in the Spring 1966. in and around Saigon

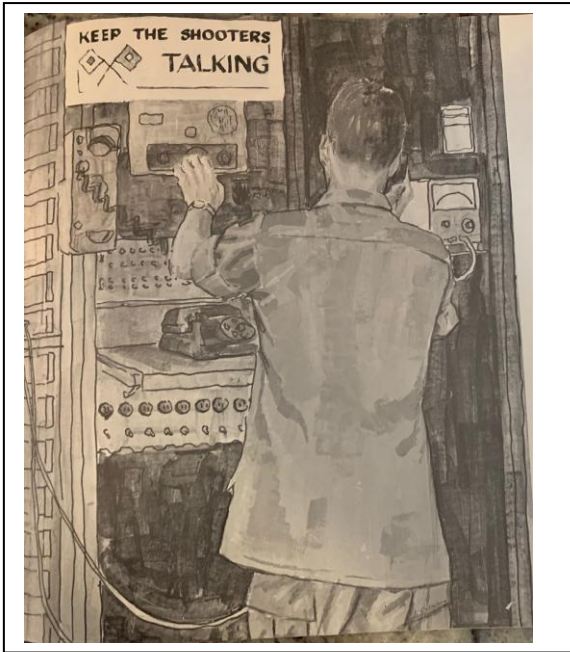


We want to welcome our new member

Cullen Cline

from Columbia MO.

Our long-time member Gary Fiekds referred Cullen to our group. Cullen was assigned to the 377th CSG/JA as the Legal Officer, Deputy Judge Advocate. He was at Tan Son Nhut from March 1967 until July 1968



WELCOME HOME BROTHERS

Revetments is an official publication of the
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The Association is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt Veterans' organization

The organization is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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