



COUNTERPARTS

TƯƠNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM A

SITREP

Volume XIX

Issue 1

Spring 2017

2017 COUNTERPARTS Reunion Returns to Louisville, Kentucky, April 5-8

By
Ken Jacobsen

The 2017 *COUNTERPARTS* Reunion will be held in Louisville, KY, beginning on Wednesday, April 5, and ending on Sunday, April 8. This will be the second Reunion held in “Derby City”. The first was in 1992 when *COUNTERPARTS* was a newly formed group.

Headquarters for the Reunion will be at the Holiday Inn Louisville East-Hurstbourne Pkwy, 1325 S Hurstbourne Pkwy, Louisville KY 40222. 800-465-4329.

Louisville has changed and grown considerably since our last Reunion there. Some of the city’s landmarks and attractions, like Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby, have been modernized, and other points of interest, like the Louisville Slugger Bat Museum and the Muhammed Ali Museum have been added and continue to draw visitors year round.

The last decade has also seen a major revitalization of the city’s downtown. The “Urban Bourbon Trail” (UBT) offers a visitor the chance to see the story of Kentucky’s world famous product, as well including many restaurants, shops and bars along Main S. and Fourth St. Louisville’s distinct River town Architecture, including the famous wrought Iron facades of buildings along Main, Market, and other streets, has been refurbished and houses a variety of shops and eating-places.

Walking tours as well as “Trolley de’Ville” tours can be arranged through the Louisville Visitors Center in the heart of Downtown at Fourth and Jefferson St. A bus from the hotel will take Reunion attendees downtown on Friday, April 7 for tours and visits.

Our annual Business Meeting will be at 9:00 on Saturday, April 8, and the traditional Banquet (Buffet Style) will follow a Reception at 5:30. The guest speaker has not yet been selected. On Sunday morning, April 9 we will say “goodbye “until next year.

Louisville’s Standiford International Airport (SDF) is served by most major airlines. The city is at the hub of several major Interstate highways. For those arriving by air, airport shuttle arrangements should be done when room reservation is made.

The Reunion Schedule and Registration form is shown on page 3 of this SITREP. Make your reservations early.



Holiday Inn Louisville East-Hurstbourne



COUNTERPARTS SITREP

The Official Publication of COUNTERPARTS/Tương Hữu Đồng Nam Á

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Commander's Corner

I'm very proud of the great strides we've made organizationally by and through the effort of members who volunteered to serve on the *ad hoc* finance committee at the 2015 reunion and those who provided valuable feedback on the association marketing/branding initiative subsequent to the 2016 reunion. This led us down the path of gaining a better sense of how to function within our means from reunion-to-reunion, and we also effectively sorted through ideas some members wanted to explore regarding the association name and its connection to the advisory command structure as it existed during the Vietnam War. We'll reflect on these accomplishments during the 2017 reunion gathering in Louisville, KY, and also take stock of continuing great work by the hard-working core of association officers devoted to sustaining our mission.

I have drafted two documents for distribution at the Louisville reunion business meeting summarizing the chronology of COUNTERPARTS from its inception to present, accompanied by a listing of all those who served in various roles as an association officer. It's a unique organization, and there's much to reflect on with respect to our history and purpose. Returning to Louisville is very nostalgic as the membership ushered in its first slate of officers at the 1992 reunion. Reunion organizers, Bill Boland and Lewis Grissaffi, have put together a great itinerary, and I'm eager to see you there.

Dr. Grant McClure
Commander

COUNTERPARTS annual dues for 2017 are due and payable as of 1 January 2017. Annual dues remain the same -- \$35.00. Checks should be made out to "COUNTERPARTS" and mailed to Membership Officer John Haseman, 555 West Saddle Drive, Grand Junction CO 81507. Your dues fund our Southeast Asia charitable projects and are vital to continue those projects.

COUNTERPARTS/THDNA is an IRS 501 (c)(3) Veterans organization Chartered in the State of Illinois. Registered Agent is Richard Webster, 1019 W Lafayette Ave Jacksonville IL 62650-1860

Schedule of events

COUNTERPARTS REUNION

APRIL 5TH – 9TH 2017

Holiday Inn Hurstbourne, 1325 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy. Louisville, Kentucky, 40222
1-800-465-4329. Please make airport shuttle arrangements when making your hotel reservation.

April 5th

Wednesday Registration and check-in 3:00 PM in Clairbourne Hospitality Room
Buffet banquet dinner included in registration fee.
Room rates \$127, tax included

April 6th

Thursday Explore Louisville on your own, mingle with other members, exchange stories and pictures. **Clairbourne Hospitality Room available 8:00 AM till 9:00 PM daily.**

April 7th

Friday Historical downtown bus trip 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Many attractions within walking distance:
Louisville Slugger Bat Factory and Museum
Frazier Arms and History Museum
Bourbon Distillery Showrooms
Mahammad Ali Museum
Trolley de'Ville City Tours
The Belle of Louisville (century old steamboat ride)
Kentucky arts and craft
Fourth Street Live (many bar and restaurants)
Lunch and dinner on your own

April 8th

Saturday Business meeting 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM in Clairbourne Hospitality Room
Hotel shuttle bus available for spouse and guests to shopping mall
Buffet banquet dinner with guest speaker and cash bar 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM in the Churchill Room

April 9th

Sunday Till next year good-bye! Checkout time 11:00 AM

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FEE: \$100 per person X _____ = \$ _____

DOWNTOWN BUS TRIP: \$30 per person X _____ = \$ _____

Include spouse & guest names, make checks payable to **"COUNTERPARTS"**
Return check and registration form to:

Lewis Grissaffi
1221 Vega Street
San Diego, Ca. 92110
619-922-8682

Full Circle *Grant McClure, COUNTERPARTS Commander*

The upcoming reunion in Louisville, KY for me is personally very nostalgic as I come around full circle as CO of COUNTERPARTS. At my first reunion in Houston, TX in March 1991 I volunteered to serve as XO. Following that reunion I received encouragement by Paul Brubaker and Bill Laurie to serve as CO (pro tem) pending balloting and an election at the 1992 reunion in Louisville. It was thus at that reunion the first duly elected slate of association officers assumed office with me as CO, Paul Brubaker as XO, Steve Herberth as Adjutant, Bill Laurie as Editor, JC Fischer as Historian, and Ben Meyers as Locator.

The 1992 reunion was very well attended, and the members expressed keen interest in supporting our former allies as well as developing networking relationship with other veteran organizations. Many of our allies had been incarcerated in brutal reeducation prisons since 1975 and others became part of the Diaspora of refugees fleeing Vietnam in an epic humanitarian crisis. The Orderly Departure Program (ODP) established 1979 by the UNHCR, State Department, and SRV, allowed for political prisoners to be released for family reunification and emigration to the US, and other countries. Others had escaped Vietnam by boat or over land ending up in squalid refugee camps in Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and the Philippines. Some of these refugees were fortunate to be allowed third country placement, while others faced the prospect of forced repatriation to Vietnam. Those facing forced repatriation were desperate for help primarily in the form of support for their well-founded claim of persecution that would justify amnesty and resettlement.

But where would such support come from against the backdrop of host country pressure to simply deport the refugees back to Vietnam? Well, COUNTERPARTS helped to play a significant hand in that, by networking with Boat People SOS, and the Vietnamese-American communities. Immediately after the 1992 reunion as newly designated CO, I employed the power of the pen on official COUNTERPARTS letterhead stationary to draft a great

number of affidavits of support for the amnesty claim by former QLVNCH officers and non-coms.

The *Sungei Besi* refugee camp in Malaysia serves as a good example of success of this effort to stand in support, and brought me into direct contact with the Camp Commander, LTC Tran Ngoc Bay. Among the 210 officers and enlisted men there were 24 that were denied amnesty and were scheduled for repatriation to Vietnam. In a frantic letter writing campaign to the State Department and UNHCR, word came back that the entire group was granted resettlement. In November 1992, LTC Tran Ngoc Bay arrived at his sister's home in northern Virginia where I picked him up and went to dinner at the Café Royal in Eden Center. It was there that he presented a special gift from the *Sungei Besi* teen group who created a beautifully hand-carved rendition of the COUNTERPARTS logo as a magnanimous gesture of gratitude for our help.

I'll bring this with me and photos from the camp to the Louisville reunion, and would like to have this as an item that we auction during the Saturday business meeting. Members unable to attend the reunion can send me an e-mail (grant.mcclure@outlook.com) indicating your interest in this item and an amount that you feel is fair...no starting price as it

was originally a gift. It is intrinsically a beautifully crafted piece of art that would display nicely on a wall, but I'm moreover struck by the blood, sweat and tears that went into this effort undertaken in wretched conditions of a refugee camp. These kids who grew up in this camp for the 17-years that it existed put their hearts into this in pure gratitude that a helping hand was extended by Co Vans. It's an opportunity for this fine piece to find a home of an interested member. It has been in the original box since 1992. We can apply the proceeds from this auction to the good causes we continue to support.



Young Vietnamese at the Sungei Besi Camp



Award Given to COUNTERPARTS



White T-shirts all sizes (M, L, and XL. \$12.00 for XXL)	\$10.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Patch (3x 4.75" Oval 7 Color Logogram).....	\$6.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Decal (3x 4.75" Oval 7 Color Logogram).....	\$2.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Lapel Pin (.75x 1.06" Oval, Bronze over Pewter).....	\$12.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Challenge Coin (1.5" dia. solid bronze, COUNTERPARTS Logo one side Map of Southeast Asia other side)	\$10.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Baseball style Cap (direct embroidery logogram).....	\$15.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Coffee Mug (COUNTERPARTS color logo)	\$12.00
COUNTERPARTS Knit Polo shirt with collar. (Embroidered COUNTERPARTS Logo, black or white, most sizes)	\$25.00
MACV Shoulder Patch (full color mfg. 1968)	\$3.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Jacket, black, lined with embroid. Logo	\$35.00

Shipping and handling fee is \$6.00

**Please send prepaid orders (including Shipping & Handling Fee) with US bank
check or US money order payable to:
COUNTERPARTS ASSOCIATION**

**Send To: Mike McMunn
COUNTERPARTS Quartermaster
2310 Newberry St, Williamsport, PA 17701 USA
For information, call 570-220-8156.
covan2@verizon.net**

Not all items are always available. For more info contact Mike McMunn

The Advisor's Life

By John Haseman

...Some Advisor's Thoughts and Memories.

- I find that by remembering or writing down these things when they occur to me, that the great breadth of advisory experiences -- from very good to very bad -- are easier to recall. Here are some more vignettes from my time as an advisor in Ham Long and Mo Cay Districts, Kien Hoa Province.
- 1LT Phong Huu Huong, my friend and counterpart, standing ramrod-straight to salute the coffin holding the body of one of his men killed in action -- with uncontrolled tears flowing down his gaunt cheeks.
- *The anguish on the face of a wrinkled peasant woman as she cradles the head of her son, killed in an attack on his village outpost. American politicians condemning the bombing while this 17 year old boy lies dead in the dust of Thanh Trieu.*
- day of relaxation, sitting on a concrete bench with a bunch of PF soldiers. Me trying to talk to them, getting about half of it across, and the pleasure as they understand and getting their half across as well.
- *The feeling of nakedness crossing a canal in a sampan with one inch of freeboard, hoping there are no VC on the other side.*
- Baby-faced 2LT Thao, MSS Chief, seemingly too young and innocent for his job. But who is in reality neither a baby nor innocent, but an extremely effective counter-intelligence officer. Looking at me with a straight face and telling me there were no VC in the district headquarters . . . and after a pause, saying "at least not too many." And laughing.
- *Out with the District Chief on an operation to clear coconut trees back from the road. Both of us getting the idea at the same time, during a break by weary soldiers. He and I on the opposite ends of a cross-cut saw cutting down a tree, thus boosting morale -- and feeling good about it.*
- Surprise when two soldiers tell me they are my bodyguards and not to worry. Gratitude when I realize they are totally serious.
- *Driving back from Huong My through "Marlboro Country" with my interpreter Sergeant Tuyen. And then watching the world explode five seconds and fifty meters in front of me when a VC mine planted behind a tiny thatched hut coffee shop throws five RF soldiers out onto the road. Screeching to a halt before any reaction sets in, lifting the two worst-hurt men into the back of the jeep and taking them to the hospital in Mo Cay. The sincere thanks from the men's commander when he arrives a few minutes later with the other wounded troops. Knowing you saved two lives by your quick action. And then, uncontrolled shaking while trying to clean the blood out of the back of the jeep. Wondering who was the **real** target of that mine, thinking about what might have happened. . . and the understanding, steadying hand on my shoulder from Sergeant Tuyen. "That's okay, dai-uy. you did good." Well yes. **We** did.*
- Standing by helplessly that bad day in June when two outposts are overrun within an hour of each other, and being unable to help my COUNTERPARTS. And then the feeling of redemption when a Covey FAC sights the retreating VC company and obliges with a napalm strike. A grisly feeling of satisfaction with the 18 VC KIA.
- *People you remember for the rest of your life: Du, a fine volleyball player. . . Loi, a skilled intelligence NCO . . . handsome Phat, guarding my TOC every night for three months . . . Le, who gambled his watch and lost it . . . the Rach Dau Catholic priest leading his troops wearing his black cassock. . . Tinh the RTO always in the right place doing his job well. . . Mr. Bo the ex-VC Kit Carson Scout Chief, a good man to have as a friend, and glad he is on **OUR** side now.. . .*
- Attending a dozen temple ceremonies, welcomed by the village elders as a friend. Enjoying the simple pleasures of these deeply meaningful rites. Being invited to the Dinh ceremony just before Christmas and not having to spend the holidays alone.

...Remembering a Muddy Operation; Conquering a Sampan

By John Haseman

One day Sergeant Tu and I went on an operation with the S-2 to an outpost up in Phu Duc village, near the My Tho River. I could see the “blue lines” designating streams along the proposed route of march so I knew it would probably be a wet day. We took trucks out to Tan Loi and then began patrolling north toward the outpost we were going to work on.

After a while we came to the bank of a wide swampy river. “Uh oh,” I thought to myself. “Dai-uy, we go on boat,” Lt. Huong told me with a grin. Not a boat! Rather a small flotilla of tiny ordinary sampans used mostly by families to cross streams or wide canals, to fish from, other watery chores, definitely not a water taxi boat. Each boat came complete with a family member to paddle us along or across the river and then take their boat home.

At first I didn’t even think I could fit myself into one of the tiny boats. One of the soldiers showed me, just step into the middle of the boat and quickly sit down. He made it look so simple, but not so simple for this large ungainly-size co van. I dropped my M-16 into the sampan, stepped in, quickly crash landed on my back, and managed to struggle to a sitting position with my legs stretched straight out in front of me -- all without capsizing the sampan. Sergeant Tu and four other soldiers nimbly hopped into the boat and the either squatted down or sat with their legs crossed. It didn’t take long for all 30 or so of our operational force to get into the boats.

Our “hosts” deftly paddled their heavy cargo onto the river with Lt. Huong pointing to the place on the other side where he wanted us to land. It was a swampy tidal area with narrow “arms” that let the boat move out of the main channel and stop again a very low, marshy bank. Now, how was I supposed to get my legs under me, stand up in this wobbly boat, and step off onto dry land? Easy! Lt Huong, standing regally dry on the bank, ordered four soldiers into the water (only waist deep in our little “inlet”) shoved the boat up onto the “dry” land all of 2 inches higher than the water level, and I crawled out. Much laughter, but at least I didn’t fall into the water.

The outpost was another 200 or 300 meters further in from the water. Our small force spent several hours there while Lt. Huong supervised the PF platoon in the outpost, and our troops, improving the bunker and berm line (lots of mud available for that), clearing the brush back from the outpost to provide much better fields of fire against any attacking enemy.

About 1500, it was time to patrol back toward Tan Loi and I was relieved that I didn’t have to try to get into one of those tiny sampans, We marched off in a different direction for several kilometers, but then came to the inevitable river bank. The tide had gone out, leaving several feet of deep mud and hardly any water. We had to wade across. I just knew this was not going to be fun. Sure enough, the mud was soft and deep and I sank in over my boot tops with almost every step. Still, I was able to move and with the help of soldiers around me, managed to get across, not lose my boots, kept my rifle clean, and continue the march back to “dry” land and the waiting trucks.

“Oh what a relief it is” to get back to the hooch, take off those filthy boots and fatigues behind the team house, and get right under our cold water shower to get clean!

Note for Members

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, (AAFES), has announced after four years of coordination that it will allow all honorably discharged veterans to have online shopping privileges through a program called the Veterans Online Shopping Benefit. They won’t be allowed into stores, but online purchases will be free of sales tax. *The new online shopping benefit will take effect on Veterans Day.*

Details, such as how veterans will show they are honorably discharged, have yet to be announced.



Advisor and Counterpart Reconnected After a Half Century

As a direct result of the publication of his memoir, *A Different Face of War: Memories of a Medical Service Corps Officer in Vietnam*, (See *SITREP Book Reviews, Spring 2016*) author and retired U.S. Army Colonel James G. Van Straten, Ph.D., reconnected with two Vietnamese officers with whom he served a half century ago. Van Straten was surprised and thrilled when he received email messages from two former military colleagues, Dr. Pham Viet Tu, who now lives in Brisbane, Australia, and Dr. Tran Tan Phat, who is now a naturalized U.S. citizen living in Midway City, California.

A Pennsylvania reader of Van Straten's book noted that the author was seeking information about his two former COUNTERPARTS. The reader contacted a Vietnamese—American friend, Pharmacist Trinh, in Washington, D.C., who had served in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. Serendipitously, Pharmacist Trinh knew the whereabouts of both men. When the three officers served together, Maj. Pham Viet Tu was an internist assigned as the Surgeon of the First Corps Tactical Zone, while Dr. Tran Tan Phat was a spine surgeon who served as the commander of one of South Vietnam's largest and most sophisticated military hospitals, Duy Tan General Hospital in Da Nang. Van Straten served as the Senior Medical Advisor to the ARVN in the First Corps area.

Shortly after the Vietnam War ended, both Dr. Tu and Dr. Phat were incarcerated and spent three demoralizing years in a Communist "reeducation" camp. Upon release from the camp, Dr. Tu and his wife made two unsuccessful attempts to get themselves and their six children out of the country by boat. Both attempts failed. Their money nearly exhausted, they decided in desperation to make one last attempt to at least move their children out. They divided them into two groups of three and gave them instructions to make their way to Australia. They were successful in doing so and in 1992, seventeen years after the war ended, Dr. Tu and his wife were allowed to leave Vietnam to reunite with their children.

Because of differences in medical education, neither Dr. Tu nor Dr. Phat could become credentialed as a physician in their newly adopted countries. Demonstrating tremendous resilience, both went back to school to learn a new profession. Dr. Tu earned a Ph.D. in the field of Public Health, while Dr. Phat studied and found employment in the field of electronic medical records.

...Provided by Bill Laurie, courtesy of North Texas State University.

Christmas Greetings from Cambodia Corps

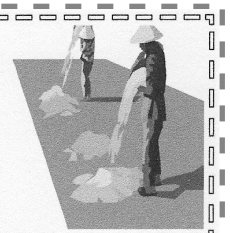
Happy Holidays friends and supporters of Cambodia Corps! We hope the very best for you and yours in 2017! Thank you once again for your continued support of your students and future leaders. Your generosity helps to create a core of educated youth who are enthusiastic and committed to the betterment of the indigenous people. Our goal is twofold, not only to educate the poorest of the poor as role models, but to instill a strong willingness to use their education for the benefit of their communities.

To date, committed graduates have returned to their home provinces and started careers in fields such as Teaching, Rural Development, Agriculture, Veterinary Technology, Community Development, Nursing and Midwifery. All directly related to the benefit of their communities. Our website is functioning once again, although still under construction, please visit for more information. www.combodiacorps.org.

For the past several years, 98% of your contributions have directly supported the student program in Cambodia. Our expenses are: paper, printing, postage, bank fees and website. Cambodia Corps Officers and Directors are volunteers who serve with no compensation, paying their own travel and business expenses related to CCI. As an IRS 501 (c) 3 public charity your donations are tax deductible. You can send contributions to Max Lund at 411 West Washington Ave, Alpena MI 49707.



BULLETIN BOARD



NEW MEMBERS: Please welcome newly joining members in COUNTERPARTS:

- **Paul E. Cary** served as Phung Hoang/Phoenix Advisor in Dam Doi District, Ca Mau Province, and later as Ca Mau Province Phung Hoang Coordinator, on Advisory Team 80, from January 1969 to December 1969. Paul has just returned from his first visit to Ca Mau. He lives in Warwick, Rhode Island.

- **Clifford W. Lanham** served as advisor to 4/49th Battalion, 25th ARVN Division, Advisory Team 99, from July 1967 to July 1968. Cliff lives in Madison, Alabama.

- **Frank E. "Skip" Saal** served as an Assistant Team Leader and then Team Leader, MAT III-63, in Advisory Team 89, Phuoc Tuy Province and then in Advisory Team 67, Phuoc Long Province, from March 1970 to February 1971. Skip lives in Olean, New York.

- **James P Mahoney** served on Advisory Team 75 in and around My Tho and Dinh Tuong Province from September 1968 through August 1969. He was advisor with 4th Battalion/11th Regiment, 7th ARVN Division; advisor to 11th Reconnaissance Company; and with 32nd Rangers. He lives in Williamsville, NY.

- **Alberto Navarro** was assigned to MACV Adv. Tm 1, Quang Nam Province Nov 1967 to Nov 1968. Mr. Navarro is also author of a novel; *Provincial Advisory Team Vietnam* (available by email from the author at panama1017@msn.com.) He lives in Pattison, TX

- **Grier O. Phillips** served on MAT III-24 in Can Giouc, Ben Luc District, Long An Province from March 1968 to April 1969. He lives in Avinger, TX.

- **Jack L Thomas.** Jack is a returning member who has reactivated his membership. He lives in Boerne, TX. Jack served as a MAT team Advisor in Duc Hue District of Hau Nghia Province Mid 1969 - Mid 1970. He is also the Author of *Whirling Fire*, a book of Poetry relating to his Advisory experience.

- **Noah LaPan, Jr.** Swanton, Vermont. Noah served with the 15th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Cavalry Brigade. As a Sp4 radio operator one desperate night when his night defensive position was hit by a heavy enemy mortar attack, he moved throughout the area carrying wounded Vietnamese soldiers to shelter, summoned the medevac helicopters, and helped load his wounded counterparts, for which he received the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device for heroism

An Ally We Abandoned. New Book on history of US and Hmong relations.

A new book, *A Great Place to Have a War* (Simon and Schuster, 328pp, \$28.) by Joshua Kurlantzick, on the war in Laos was reviewed in the *Wall Street Journal* on Saturday, Jan 21. That review can be found at <http://www.wsj.com/articles/when-america-abandoned-an-ally-1484949066>. A transcript of an NPR radio interview with the author can be found at <http://www.npr.org/2017/01/23/511185078/america-in-laos-traces-the-militarization-of-the-cia>

Ken Burns upcoming series on The Vietnam War

One of our association objectives is to encourage and foster the pursuit of honest, accurate history, an especially frustrating effort given the myths, gossip, gross exaggerations, and outright falsehoods propagated and believed by the public at large. In past decades some progress has been achieved but a threat may be looming with new television documentary. Ken Burns, famed producer of PBS documentaries on the Civil War, baseball, jazz, has been working on 10 episode Viet Nam war documentary. First installment to be shown in September of this year.

There are tentative indications that history will once again be distorted by the would-be historians and molders of public perception. This is dangerous to the pursuit of honest, accurate, comprehensive history. Ken Burns has great credibility and anything he says will be accepted as absolute truth. Further, education "packages" will be made available to schools, libraries, etc. If Burns is mesmerized by the conventional wisdom his false version will be injected into our excuse for an educational system. The situation needs to be closely monitored and we should be ready to respond promptly to either gross inaccuracy. Whatever the case Burns' documentary will be accepted as THE history, no matter how inaccurate it may be. A link is at: [The Vietnam War - Ken Burns](#)

....submitted by Bill Laurie.

WOUNDED MINDS

Submitted by COUNTERPARTS member Aurel W. Franke

It's now Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, commonly called PTSD;
Civil War Vets had "Soldier's Heart", you see.
Termed "Shell Shock in WI, and "Battle Fatigue" in WWII,
early Viet Vet mind casualties suffered "Post-Vietnam Syndrome", like me.

Whatever, we combat soldiers, Marines, sailors, and airmen,
live only a sound, sight, smell, or thought away from war.
Wounded in mind, with a tortured spirit;
that which we are, we are.

Many the unfortunate Veteran who tried to settle
the Spirit, and open his Soul to peace.
A cheap, suicide bullet thought to solve
a mentally sick Vet's problem of war vs. peace.

Some of us carry the burden
of having to destroy others.
Our conscious mind forgets, our sub-conscious never does,
what we did to our Mankind brothers.

War, organized violence, the largest, most complex,
soul-wrenching activity of Man.
Causing haunting wartime experiences, invisible injuries,
buried deep inside the troubled mind of a woman, or man.

Many fell from shot, booby-traps, and shell;
war truly is a living Hell.
Others left part of themselves on the battlefield,
smitten by PTSD, brain trauma, never to get well.

Haunting war memories, locked deep in the mind,
taking a fearsome mental toll.
We soldier-on, often self-medicating to manage mental stress,
fighting to keep our life together, both body, and soul.

Mostly, we mentally disabled suffer in silence,
wondering what next our mind will do.
Traumatized brains causing sleeplessness, irritability, depression;
few understand just what we're going through.

You go from the elation of combat to
the horror the result's had.
We fight a meteor shower of thoughts, like fear,
anxiety, flash-backs, guilt, and shame - all bad.

For those of us suffering PTSD mental illness
Hell on Earth is the only climate in store
We can only hope, and pray that, while taking
Death's dirt nap, there won't be more

*Aurel W. Franke
COL IN, AUS Ret..*

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Colonel Raymond R. Battreall, USA,

3d US Cavalry (Ret) rode to Fiddler's Green on July 6, 2012. Born in St. Joseph, MO 19 September 1926, Ray graduated from Central High School in Omaha, NE in 1944. Enlisting in the Army Air Corps, he served at Sheppard Field, TX before attending the US Military Academy at West Point where he graduated in 1949 with a bachelor's degree and a commission as 2LT, Cavalry. He received his master's degree from the U of PA in 1956 and graduated from the Army War College in 1971.

COL Battreall commanded units from platoon through squadron in the 14th, 11th, and 3d Armored Cavalry Regiments in Germany and the US, served as a staff officer with the 1st Cavalry Division in Korea, fought for 3 1/2 years as senior advisor to the Republic of Viet Nam Armor Force, served as secretary of the joint staff at US Southern Command in Panama, and completed 16 1/2 years of overseas service as deputy chief of our military mission to Saudi Arabia. In between, he returned twice to West Point: once as an English Professor and once as a regimental-level tactical officer. His final assignment was as director of armor doctrine at Ft. Knox where he helped develop the combined-arms doctrine used in Operation Desert Storm before retiring in 1979 with almost 36 years total service. His decorations include four Legion of Merit, three Bronze Stars, Purple Heart, three Meritorious Service Medals, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, two Vietnamese Distinguished Service Orders., Gallantry Cross, VN Honor Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and VN Armor Badge. COL Battreall was a COUNTERPARTS Association Charter Member.

David Earl Beck

Passed away Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 at Novant Health Rowan Medical Center. Born Jan. 15, 1946 in Lexington NC, he was a son of the late Jacques L. Beck and Iola Hoffman Beck. He was educated in the Lexington schools; attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduated from Georgia Southern University, earned a master's degree at Augusta University and a second master's degree at Troy State. He was a United States Army veteran serving as a medic in Vietnam from 1969-1971. David was a special needs teacher for children and adults for four decades. He was a member of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators, the VFW, COUNTERPARTS Vietnam Veteran Group, American Civil Liberties Union, the Piedmont Players Theater and directed the Dalton Children's Theater in Dalton, Ga. Dave was a COUNTERPARTS member, served on Advisory Team 31, was the host to the COUNTERPARTS Reunion in Greensboro, NC in 2014.

Colonel Nicholas A. "Nick" Andreacchio, USA, Ret.

COL Andreacchio passed away in October 2016. Son of a career NCO, Nicholas was born and spent his first eight years of his life on a horse Cavalry post. He moved around with his family as normal in the Army. Nicholas enlisted as a private two days out of high school and spent four years in the ranks, reaching sergeant before he went to Infantry OCS, commissioned Armor. He commanded Battalion, Brigade and US Army School of Americas before retiring after 32 years active service. Nicholas served in Vietnam, 1966-1967 as Senior Advisor of the ARVN 7th Cav. Regt. stationed in the two Northern provinces. He stated: "I am proud of my service with the 7th which was the first ARVN Cav. Regt. to receive the US Presidential Unit Citation."

1st Sergeant Theodore Frederick "Ted" Sands,

Nov 8 2016. Ted Retired from the army as a 1st sergeant. He Served with Advisory team 75 and also at Ft. Devens MA, Augsburg Germany, and at Ft. Meade, Md, after prior service in the Infantry. He was awarded the Bronze star and the Legion of Merit. His wife Irene, His children Michelle, Debbie and Jason, Daughter in-law Caryn, and seven grandchildren survive Ted. He was a member of COUNTERPARTS.

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