



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association
A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



AUGUST 2010 SPECIAL EDITION

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Time to Vote

Just about all of the news about Tan Son Nhut Association has been about the upcoming reunion, but there is a piece of business that every member needs to attend to during the month of September: Voting to fill the office of vice president.

We are fortunate to have two highly qualified persons running to fill the remaining three years of a four year term. The candidates are Hector Leyva and George Plunkett, and both have already given valuable service to our association. They are now falling in to volunteer to do more.

Accompanying this announcement are biographies of the candidates and a ballot. The time honored American tradition of the secret ballot will be maintained to the greatest extent possible. Our bylaws as now written require that a ballot be signed and dated. That allows verifying returns against the membership list. In this modern day, we have to really allow voting by email. We also realize that all members do not have the ability to scan a signed ballot and return it as an email attachment. Therefore, an email message with a statement that you vote for a certain candidate will be considered a valid ballot; list your name as it appears on your membership card following the statement. Email, of course, is dated. Whether the returned ballot is via regular or email is the voter's choice.

If you complete and return by U.S. Mail:
Tan Son Nhut Association
P.O. Box 236
Penryn, PA 17564-0236

If you complete and return via email:
[dale f bryan@yahoo.com](mailto:dale_f_bryan@yahoo.com).

That is an email address that I reserve for special projects. Please note that there is an "underline" on either side of the "f" if you are typing out the address.

The bylaws require that there be 30 days between date of this announcement and the deadline for voting. The deadline for your return to be received is September 30. Larry Fry and Dale Bryan will count the votes.

May the best candidate be elected to be installed into the office as Vice President, Tan Son Nhut Association, at the reunion.

Dale Bryan
TSNA Secretary

The biographies and Vision Statements of Hector and George follow, beginning on Page 2 of this issue of Revetments.



Hector Leyva Biography

Mr. Leyva was born in El Paso, Texas and grew up in Arizona and New Mexico. He graduated from Las Cruces High School in Las Cruces, New Mexico in 1963. Mr. Leyva retired from Federal Service on August 31, 2000, with 34 years of combined service. At the time of his retirement, he was a Human Resources Manager with the Minerals Management Service (MMS), Department of the Interior (DOI) in Washington, D.C. During his career, he held many responsible managerial and staff positions within Human Resources Development, Management, and other Administrative areas.

Mr. Leyva enlisted in the U. S. Air Force in 1963 and retired in 1984, as a Senior Master Sergeant (E-8) with the title of Vice Commandant, TAC NCO Academy West, Bergstrom AFB, TX. During his Air Force career, he was an Instructor Loadmaster on the C-130E aircraft and has more than 2,300 flying hours that included 194 combat hours. His military decorations included the Distinguish Flying Cross - with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service medal - with two oak leaf clusters, the Air medal, and the Air Force Commendation medal.

In 1987, Mr. Leyva entered Federal Service in Washington, D. C., with the Financial Management Service (FMS), Department of Treasury, as a Support Services Supervisor (GS-12) in Washington, D.C. In 1988, he was assigned collateral duties as the FMS first Hispanic Employment Program Manager (HEPM). During his tenure as a Hispanic Employment Program Manager, he was elected to the positions of National Council of Hispanic Employment Managers Vice Chair (1990/91) and Chair (1991/92).

In 1991, Mr. Leyva was promoted to GM-13 and reassigned to the MMS as the manager of the MMS Executive/Manager/Supervisor Development Programs. He again was assigned duties as the MMS HEPM. He also was awarded the 1991 HEPM Council's Outstanding Service Award for his exceptional work with the U. S. Office of Personnel Management and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. While at MMS, Mr. Leyva became a charter member of the DOI Hispanic Employees Association. He crafted the association's Constitution and Bylaws and secured the DOI Secretary's approval for the association. For his efforts, Mr. Leyva was elected as the first Chairman of the association.

In 1994, Mr. Leyva was detailed to the DOI Office of National Service and Education Partnership. He implemented and managed the first DOI and Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities(HACU) Summer Intern Program. For the following year, he redesigned the program and implemented it as the DOI Minority Intern Program, with two new major requirements for the new program. The new requirements were that the majority of the interns would be placed at the DOI various field locations and the partnership of three major minority student organizations with Hispanic, African American, and Native American representations. This program is still the DOI cornerstone for all of its student programs. Additionally, Mr. Leyva crafted a DOI/HACU Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to partnership support of Executive Order 12900, Education Excellent for Hispanic Americans and served as the DOI MOU administrator.

During his Federal career, Mr. Leyva was involved with numerous organizations and activities involving workforce diversity and the advocacy of equal employment opportunities. He held numerous positions in these organizations among them, Chairman, National Hispanic Employment and Education Foundation, and President and Vice President, National Image Inc., Washington, D.C. Chapter. He was also a member of the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives Inc., the Federal Managers Association, and the American Society for Training and Development.

Mr. Leyva holds a bachelor of science degree in Management with a minor in Education Administration and Methodology and a master of science degree in Administration.

He is the very proud father of two sons, Michael and Victor. He makes his home in San Antonio, TX.

Tan Son Nhut Gig and TSNA Vision

My association with Tan Son Nhut started in February of 1972 as I flew in as a C-130E Instructor Loadmaster on my first of many TDYs from CCK AB, Taiwan. I was assigned to the 776 Tactical Airlift Squadron at CCK and was TDY to Det. 1, 374 Tactical Airlift Wing at Tan Son Nhut. Our main mission was combat airlift support within the theater of operation as we were the last C-130 Airlift Wing flying in South Viet Nam. In early 1972, the last major push by the North Vietnamese army began and our initial involvement in the Easter Offensive took place on April 15, as I was part of a 776 TAS crew on the lead plane of a 3-ship formation and made the first airdrop of munitions to the besieged ground soldiers at An Loc. These airdrops continued over the next few months and I was involved with 18 more airdrops. By the end of the year, the North Vietnamese were done and the POWs were to be released. Two C-130s, one flown by the 374 TAW Commander and the other by a crew from the 776 TAS flew from Tan Son Nhut to Hanoi to begin the formal release of the POWs. And as they say the rest was history.

As for my vision for the TSNA, my philosophy for any organization that I am involved with has always been that the members always come first. And by that I mean, that their return on their investment (money, time and effort) should always meet their satisfaction. The organization's vision and mission will be determined by the membership.

Experience - Veteran Associations:

Professional Loadmaster Association - Life-member and Co-Founder of the Alamo Chapter

Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Association - President (current)

Distinguished Flying Cross Society - Alamo Chapter - past Treasurer

62nd Airlift Squadron Yacht Club/Blue Baron International - Advisory Board member

Veterans of Foreign Wars - Life-member, Post 76

American Air Museum in Britain - member

American Legion - Post 300

Air Force Association - Chapter 234

Air Forces Sergeants Association - Chapter 1076

Air & Space (Smithsonian Institution) - member

Non Commissioned Officers Association - member (1983)

Tan Son Nhut Association – member

GEORGE PLUNKETT BIOGRAPHY

- November, 1941 - born in Newark, NJ. Oldest of 4 children.
- June, 1959 -graduated from Hillside High School, Hillside, NJ.
- 1959-1960 -worked in a wholesale steel distributor as a shipping clerk.
- January, 1961 – enlisted in the U.S. Air Force.
- June 1961 – completed Ground Radio Operators School at Keesler AFB. Graduated first in class.
- June 1961 – assigned to the 305th AREFS (SAC) at McGuire AFB, NJ.
- July 1962 – assigned to the 1st Mobile Communications Group (AFCS) at Clark AB, PI.
- July 1962 – TDY for 179 days to the 1964th Communications Group, Tan Son Nhut AB.
- February 1963 – TDY for 179 days to the 1964th Communications Group, Tan Son Nhut AB. Further deployed to Soc Trang and Ban Me Thuot for 2 weeks each to support U.S. Army operations. Further deployed to Pittsanaluk, Thailand for 2 weeks to support a SEATO military exercise.
- August 1963 – TDY to Don Muang Airport (Bangkok) for approximately 140 days to the 1964th Communications Group.
- December 1963 – TDY to Ubon, Thailand for approximately 90 days.
- June 1964 – TDY to Udorn, Thailand for approximately 150 days.
- November 1964 – Sept 1966 – PCS to 354th CSG, Myrtle Beach AFB, SC.
- October 1966 – March 1967 – PCS to 1964th Communications Group. Approximately half of the time was spent at Tan Son Nhut AB and the other half was spent at Cam Rahn Bay AB.
- April 1967 – July 1969 – PCS to the 702nd Radar Squadron, Hunter AAF, Savannah, GA.
- December 1967 – married Patricia (Trish) Munn.
- July 1969 – received a 90 day early discharge from the U.S. Air Force to attend the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.
- May 1972 – graduated from the University of South Carolina with a BS degree in Business Administration, with a major in accounting. Attended college year round while working as a shipping clerk, 25 – 30 hours per week.
- May 1972 – present. Employed as a Controller for several leading firms based in South Carolina. Presently semi-retired and employed as the Controller for South Carolina Cars, Inc.
- May 2007 – present. TSNA Director of Membership Development and Reunion Point of Contact.

VISION STATEMENT

If the Tan Son Nhut Association is to remain a viable and vibrant veterans organization, we must reach out to family members of Vietnam era veterans, interest them in our purpose and function, and encourage them to join the unit. We must also encourage veterans of all eras to join us, as well as anyone who has an interest in preserving the history and heritage of those who served at Tan Son Nhut AB.

BALLOT
ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT
TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 2010

I VOTE TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING TO THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF THE TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

☐

HECTOR LEYVA

☐

GEORGE PLUNKETT

☐

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Please indicate your choice, sign, date, and send to: Tan Son Nhut Association,
P. O. Box 236
Penryn, PA 17564-0236

Or send to Dale Bryan via Email: [dale f bryan@yahoo.com](mailto:dale_f_bryan@yahoo.com). Please note that there is an "underline" on either side of the "f" if you are typing out the address.

Deadline for Receiving Ballots is: **September 30, 2010**

CHANGE IN TSNA TAX STATUS

By: Carol Bessette
TSNA Treasurer

Good news to report! After we completed the registration of TSNA as a Virginia corporation, the next step was to address our organizational status with the IRS. Steve Benson, the TSNA attorney, prepared the paperwork, which included TSNA financial records of previous years, and we recently received the IRS determination. TSNA is now officially considered a 501 (c) (19) war veterans organization.

As such, TSNA will not be liable for income tax payments as an organization.

For the members, it means that any donation to the TSNA General Fund or Legacy Fund after February 22, 2010 is a deductible expense for the member. In the future, all donors will receive a formal acknowledgement of their donation for their tax records. Members whose donations fell after the February date will also receive an ex post facto receipt. Several of us are coordinating the format of this receipt to be sure it meets IRS standards; we expect it to be finalized by the beginning of September. Note: this does not affect the tax status of members' dues, reunion expenses, etc.

My thanks to all who helped on this project, especially Steve Benson.

An excerpt of the letter is as follows:

"August 10, 2010

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax-exempt status, we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Based on your representation that at least 90 percent of your members are war veterans and that you are organized and operated primarily for purposes consistent with your current status as a war veterans organization, donors can deduct contributions made to or for the use of your organization."

Tan Son Nhut Association
P. O. Box 236
Penryn PA 17564

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Vice President:
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Rev. Dr. Billy T. Lowe; and Rev. Bob A. Chaffee
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John Peele
President Emeritus: Wayne Salisbury
Revetments Editor: Larry E. Fry
Web Site: www.tsna.org

Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00

DON'T FORGET

2010 TSNA REUNION

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

OCTOBER 7—10

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS

SEPTEMBER 7

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