



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

DECEMBER 2012 #1



MORE REUNION 2012

The beginning of this month's Revetments could also be titled, "Reunion, Part 2".

I had so much that didn't fit last month, so this issue starts off with some miscellaneous items on this page; and is followed by a great article by new member Charles Templeton, and then a "report" on the presentation to new member Susie Ahrens, and her comments on the reunion. Also, I have included an article by Jimmy Smith, regarding this, his "first" TSNA reunion.

Also, my thanks to Andy Csordas for the top panoramic shot below, and thanks to Gary Redlinski for the bottom panoramic.

The Missing Man Table Presentation

Again this year, we want to thank Johnnie & Sharon Jernigan for the meaningful presentation at the Banquet. We have published a full account of this before, but I feel the need to thank the Jernigan's and the Redlinski's for their part in doing this again for all to appreciate.



ROLLING "THUNDER"

Some of us were privileged to watch the start of a motorcycle ride to the AVTT exhibit. Riding under two Fire Department aerial ladders and then "thundering" across the bridge, they made quite a wonderful site in saluting all veterans. It was meaningful and LOUD!



Reunion 2012

By: Charles Templeton
377th SPS

Greetings:

I am sending this to family, friends and those who I have serviced with. This email is my reaction to what was for me an emotional weekend. I will be sending several emails as I am including images and some things hit me different than others. I hope you bear with me and if I totally bore you, feel free to ignore and delete.

To put this into context, when released from the Air Force after two enlistments, I was eager to get on with my life. Just before getting out of the Air Force the Lord had led me to accept my father's religion as my own and I left my old life behind. Fast forward 40+ years and retirement time happens and last winter a Google search on a whim regarding one of the groups I served with, (377 Security Police Squadron), brought me to the TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION and the notice of a reunion in Dayton Ohio Oct 11-14, 2012. A gentle nudge from my wife Barb and I registered, Barb had made plans for the same weekend and I would have been alone anyway, so the money and paper work went out. This first email covers Wednesday and Thursday.

Barb left on Tuesday and I figured a back roads, sightseeing trip, straight north from Monterey on Wednesday gets me into Dayton on the evening of the 10th. Upon arriving and checking in, I went to find where the hospitality room was and low and behold it was up and running. A warm welcome at the registration by not one but two 377 SPS members. During registration a third 377 SPS member who is also a director in the Association walked up. The snacks, beer and wine was already out and so the introductions began and supper did not happen until after 9 pm. With a full stomach and a full heart I praised the Lord and went to bed.

Thursday although the hospitality

room opened at 9, I slept in and had a late breakfast and arrived around 10:30. Snagging a soda and following the instructions from those I talked to the preceding evening, I walked up to the first person and introduced myself. I tell you, I was not rebuffed by anyone and everyone new to the room did the same thing. I came to find out that the association is made up of everyone who, served, passed through or had contact with TAN SON NHUT during the Vietnam. With this criteria the association has members from every branch of the service along with civilians and Vietnam nationals living in the US. Thursday passed much too fast and although I had not stumbled upon anyone I knew, I found many who served at the same time. There is a BX/PX function of the association and one of the items available is a photo of the Vietnam Memorial, an image attached with this email. After listening and talking, listening and talking and another late supper, the praises went up again and sleep came quickly.

END OF PART ONE

Friday follows.

Greetings again:

Before I go on to Friday, please note at this point after reading the bylaws of the association I became a Life Member of the TSNA.

Friday – the Memorial Dedication

Friday dawned a bit chilly and windy, the fact that I had thrown in a winter jacket stood in good stead for the morning. Please refer again to the schedule to put into context the day. Breakfast was packed and the air of excitement was very evident. The buses showed up and left on time arriving at the USAF Memorial Park. The Monument was complete and Chairs and speaker podium set up. At this point see the attached memorial schedule, also refer to the TSN web site for history if you are interested. As laid out in the memorial schedule the ceremony went off. Some hic-

cup's on the order as laid out but heartfelt and moving. I learned at this ceremony that a recent law allows veterans to use the hand salute at appropriate times, just felt right when the colors passed and taps was played. I had always felt somewhat empty just placing my hand over my heart. The words of President Plunkett and Bob Chaffee along with the acceptance of the memorial by General Hudson have blurred somewhat the emotion running through me. The previous days welcome opened a part of me that I had not looked at in a long time. What kept going through my mind was the realization that in that point in time, what I was a part of, the job that was done by my unit, mattered. This memorial says we were here, we did the duty without much fuss and fanfare but it mattered in the cosmic scheme of things. I wish to point out the image labeled MEM 8, that says what I felt at the time. After the dedication, the 377 SPS people present walked to the SPS memorial in the park and a photo was taken.

Friday – interlude

We had time to view the USAF Museum, I realized that to do it justice, a couple of hours was not enough. With a promise to return, back on the bus and back to the hotel. Time to prepare for the banquet.

This email with attachments is getting too long, I will do the banquet and attachments in the next email

Chuck Templeton



Greetings again.

The break between the dedication and the banquet was welcome. Time to take a deep breath and start to digest the waves of insight and emotion. My faith in God and the role of Christ in my life helped me to sort out this in-rush. The forgiveness that Christ, brings helped me to forgive myself and others.

The buses left for the banquet and before seating a 360 degree photo was taken of those present. When it comes available I will forward to everyone. See the banquet schedule for context. The festivities were held at the National Museum of the Air Force in the hanger containing Vietnam to current aircraft . For those who have been there, we were right next to the B52 and in front of the LAST FLAG display. The same honor guard that was at the dedication presented the colors and National Anthem. The missing man ceremony is much too long to go into here, TSN web site will cover better than I can, but there were not many dry eyes. A Necrology of members was presented and then we were then entertained by the WPAFP (Wright-Patterson Air Force Band) 5 piece entertainment ensemble. Patriotic music that raised the hair on the back of my neck and again not many dry eyes at my table and I think at all the rest also. Again I will not go into the background of Colonel Chuck De-Bellevue our speaker, except to say, a hero is a hero is a hero. Google this man, top US ace of the Vietnam war. The Colonel spoke about duty, honor and country in a time that has passed. We have much to keep our head high over. I will not go into the award and coin presentation, you will be able to get an overview of that at the TSN web site soon, suffice it to say many received a standing ovation for a job well done.

Sleep that night did not come right away, too much to digest and funny dreams that stayed with me.

Saturday and Sunday follow next.

Chuck Templeton

Saturday:

As it turned out, with the late start on the schedule I had a good sleep late in the morning and was looking forward to the day. A late breakfast and made it to the 10AM presentation by fellow 377 SPS member Tom Tessier. Tom was at TSN before, during and after my time there. He had been assigned to the TANGO Units (read tower for tango) with specific responsibility for spotting rockets being fired at the base and then plotting where they came from. There were three such towers on base and if two, or more, got a good PLOT, Army artillery had a spot to return fire. Tom and the other guys working the TANGO Units are the ones who caused the sirens to go off sending the whole base to bunkers, caused upgraded security for both our base and others in the region. Because of their range most rocket attacks were from 122MM rockets, fairly large and packs a punch, a direct hit on the base chapel destroyed it. As a side note during clean up part of the rocket was found and is now on display at the USAF Museum, see attached labeled TSN22-2. Tom's presentation and slide show filled me in on several aspects of Tango duty I was not aware of and also filled in some blanks on attacks before I got to TSN i.e. TET of 68 and mini TET following. Lively discussion followed the slide show and much insight was gained by those attending. I was grateful that Tom had kept such good records of this time period and was able to pass on to others, somewhat, what it was like. Another side note to the 122 MM rockets, these rockets are virtually the same as the ones used in the Middle East on Israel.

I had planned on going to the American Veterans Traveling Tribute, was even on the bus when nature called, by the time I got back the buses had left and I went back to the hospitality room. I spent the afternoon just listening to people who wanted to talk! Yes some war stories but they wanted to

talk to someone who understood where they were coming from. This afternoon I started to realize the meaning of what some veterans call brotherhood. The last page of the memorial folder came back to mind and the part where it says COMRADES GATHER BECAUSE THEY LONG TO BE WITH THE THOSE WHO ONCE ACTED AT THEIR BEST. We did not suffer the hardship of daily fighting that many who served did. The tension and dread of that time was something we had to contend with, as it was our duty to perform.

The board and business meetings will be presented on the TSNA web site. The door prize and silent auction went off and others made use of the last day to shop at the on site BX/PX, read store.

Sunday follows next.



Greetings again:

Sunday has come and where did the time fly to? I just got here did I not? After a short devotion in my room it was time. The farewell breakfast was held in the hospitality room with the buffet displayed food in the hallway just outside. It seemed like most attendees had checked out, put their stuff in the cars and came in for breakfast and one last encounter with what had become for me to be a family. It was bittersweet to shake hands or hug or both fellow brothers and sisters of the TSNA and say good bye. Unlike the old adage – Fish and family can get stale after 3 days, this family visit was not long enough. One last check of the BX/PX, one last wave as you go out the door and it is over. The trip home and digest what had transpired.

Epilogue:

My wife and I have a hobby business and one of our suppliers lives just outside of Dayton. I had made arrangements to meet them Monday morning and save shipping costs on some product and demo equipment. I had Sunday afternoon to fill and on Friday, had not done justice to the USAF Museum. Arriving at the museum just before 11am I paid homage in memorial park to the TSNA bench and looked up the memorial to my dad's WWII outfit the 92nd Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, B17. My dad was a tail gunner and was downed over northern France early in the war, his escape through Spain is a story in itself.

Where to start in the museum? The beginning of course. Lighter than air, Wright Bros, WW1, Billy Mitchel, WWII, fighters, bombers, advances in engineering, Korea, Vietnam, current stuff that flies, drones and stuff that used to be part of Science Fiction. With all that equipment on display, they have not forgotten about the people involved. Starting with the pilots, air crew, maintenance crews, and adding in the pioneers of aircraft design, both military and civilian, they all had tributes here and there. Between

displays or in little alcoves you would find displays about the people and history. Particularly moving, to me, was the display honoring the flight nurses who handled the wounded and saved so many down through the years. Guess what, they even had a display of the history of the outfit I belonged to. Not being called police anymore they are known as Security Forces. Taking a break in the snack bar I picked up the base newspaper and there was an overview of what my Air Force Career field had become. I have attached an image of the article. I would be remiss if I do not mention the big tribute in the main hall way to Bob Hope, I had the privilege to see him twice, once at NKP and once at Bien Hoa. The slice of normalcy, taste of home and big belly laughs remain in my memory. I missed one hanger which was remote from the 3.5 hangers which house the main museum. This history of the X Planes is one of the reasons I will return and I also ran out of time and did not partake of the IMAX theater on site. The admission is free and I urge anyone who gets close to take in the treasure of history.

Well this completes my narrative, I hope you did not find it to wordy but I sat down to write an overview for a few and the words just started coming out.

My thanks again the Brothers and Sisters of the TSNA for my reception, the site for next year's TSNA reunion in the spring is Chattanooga TN, see the TSNA web site for updates.

To all fellow veterans, welcome home.

Chuck Templeton
377th SPS
Oct 68—Nov 69



Templeton, Charles



This is one night this airman won't easily forget. Thanks Charles & Janny!



Bill & Mary Ann Carlson preparing to receive their award.



Tobey Salisbury receiving her award.



Thank you, Chuck DeBellevue

(EDITOR'S NOTE)

Saturday afternoon October 13th, in the Hospitality Room, a Special Presentation was made to new member Susie Ahrens.

TSNA Life Member Dean Gard presented Susie with a beautiful rug, and TSNA presented her with an award thanking her for her efforts on behalf of Tan Son Nhut Air Base residents for her work with the 377th Services Squadron while she was an employee at TSN.

FROM SUSIE AHRENS (EMAIL RECEIVED 10/18/2012)

What an experience ! The TSNA reunion in Dayton was such a memorable weekend for both me and my husband since it was our first attendance.

Before signing up to go, I was a little worried because Dayton is a long way, and we knew no one except Harlan Hatfield, and was not sure what to expect. With me being a new member (even though I've been viewing the TSNA website for some time) and Vietnamese, I didn't know how well I would be welcomed and accepted. I have met several Vietnam Vets in my days, some of them are work friends, some are Glen's family, I've received different kinds of reactions, some are warm and friendly, some are cold and distant, and some are still carrying a grudge and bitterness. Nevertheless, I've tried to understand these emotions as I know the Vietnam war has been a wound that was hard to heal with most of the VN vets.

However, the minute we walked thru the hotel door, we were greeted with the warmest welcome and I immediately felt like I had been to this before and known all of you. It was fun to put the names with the faces and tried to imagine them 40 years ago running around TSN. It was fun to talk about places that everyone knew and had been at one time or another. The bond between the group was undeniable strong despite the distance be-

tween all of us.

I want to thank the TSNA for the very nice and touching tribute for me with Dean Gard. It was overwhelming to see somebody who was in the same unit, working with the same bosses. We didn't know each other personally then, but it was amazing to see him, as we served under the same bosses. I was particularly touched to know he made this trip mostly because of me, despite his poor health. I want Dean to know how much I appreciated this.

The banquet was very impressive, especially how it was being done in the museum, and we were surrounded by the coolest airplanes. The Hospitality room was a perfect setting for us to visit and socialize, nobody was a stranger, you could feel that bond so strongly, maybe it was just me, and being the first time attending, I felt some strong emotions the whole time while walking down memory lane, the images of TSN came alive like a movie on my mind, and the 40 years in between became yesterday.

I'd also like to acknowledge my husband Glen, even though he was lucky enough and missed Vietnam, he encouraged me to attend the reunion because he knew it would be so meaningful to me, and it was, between him and Harlan, both of my arms were twisted, and I am thankful for that.

Glen and I felt honored to take part in the Dedication of the TSN bench. The ceremony was very impressive and touching and would stay with us for a long time.

Last but not least, we were also happy to meet the TSNA board and other members. I was very touched to see the aging members, some in wheelchairs, some are not in the best of health, but still made the trip. Thank you again for the warm welcome, and your sacrifice and service will always be remembered by me and the Vietnamese everywhere.

Sincerely, Susie Ahrens



And from an email from Susie received November 8th:

I'm still amazed of how well the TSNA organizers organized the Dayton reunion. I know it was a lot of time and work and I really appreciate it. Everyone seemed to have a great time and it was well worth the long trip. In fact, it's the most memorable weekend for Glen and I.

I've been very busy with the Vietnamese Community of Utah, with the holidays coming, we are organizing a "Thank you dinner" for our community for supporting us all year. We will invite some dignitaries in the area so we have to make it good. This weekend we are decorating a Vietnamese Xmas tree for the "Diversity Trees Exhibit" at the Multi Cultural Center. I was given the job of making Vietnamese dolls out of dough (and I'm not crafty) so it's quite a project for me. The exhibit begins Nov 15 and goes to Xmas. I was going to write something about the Dayton reunion in our Vietnamese Newsletter since it's Veterans Day coming but I just don't have time for it. We have a lot of Vietnamese veterans in our community that would love to hear about it, so I might have to tell the story verbally at the dinner. After December, we'll have to worry about organizing our New Year (Tet) celebration, which is the biggest and most expensive event of our activities.

Other than that, I'm still keeping busy at the office, We've had nice weather until today, last Sunday, I decided to go fishing for a couple of hours and we both caught 2 nice fish. It will be stormy tonight and will be stormy thru the weekend. Fishing season is done and we're officially in winter now.

The November 2012 Revetments and the reunion inspired me to write an article I have been meaning to get to. What a grand time I had at the reunion. Thanks for making it so special and preserving the memories for me.

My First TSNA Reunion Experience

I had the opportunity and privilege to attend my first TSNA Reunion in Dayton, Ohio, October 11-14, 2012, and what a wonderful experience it was for me. Unlike most of the members attending the reunion I was not stationed at Tan Son Nhut but served with the 15th Aerial Support Squadron, OLAA, Det. 2 at Qui Nhon Army Airfield, Jan 1968 – Jan 1969. Despite being an “outsider” of the Tan Son Nhut community, I was warmly welcomed and made to feel very comfortable with the group. Meeting new people, making new friends, participating in the many planned activities and listening to experiences in Vietnam and sharing in the conversation had a tremendously positive effect on me. Even though I did not go through Tet at Tan Son Nhut with the members who were stationed there, I can assure you I did not miss out. Qui Nhon was another place that was hit hard when Tet started. I could easily relate to the stories being told about Tet at Tan Son Nhut and quite frankly I believe it helped me in my own “healing” process. If you missed the reunion, you missed a great time.

At the banquet in the Air Force Museum sitting at my table were Harold Boone and his lovely wife Brenda. In our conversation Harold asked me if I knew or remembered a childhood friend of his, USAF SSgt Charles Larry McMahan, who died at Qui Nhon. The name was very familiar (1968 was a long time ago) and I could not immediately place Larry in my mind. Harold sent me a picture of Larry and I immediately recognized him. Larry and I traveled on the same flight from the USA to Vietnam, though we did not meet until our arrival at DaNang.

We were both being assigned to the 15th APS at DaNang. We arrived in DaNang on January 2, 1968 and were immediately placed on a C-123 Provider and flew to Qui Nhon learning that we were being reassigned to OLAA, Det. 2 at Qui Nhon Army Airfield. We landed after dark and Larry nor I had experienced an assault landing before and we thought we were crashing. We soon learned the reason for such a landing as mortars were targeting the aircraft; “Welcome to Vietnam!”

Larry and I were Air Cargo Specialists and worked together loading and unloading aircraft and helicopters and processing inbound supplies and ammunition for local deliveries to sites around Qui Nhon. A Korean company with civilian workers delivered supplies by truck. On occasion we were required to ride escort with them. If darkness fell before they could get back to the airfield, we spent the night with them on their compound. The only cargo aircraft actually assigned to Qui Nhon were the C-7A Caribou’s and the Chinook helicopters, both Army operated. All other cargo aircraft were in transit and included C-123’s, C-124’s, C-130’s, C-133’s, and C-54’s. Defensive aircraft at the airfield included the C-47 Gooney Birds, UH-1 Huey’s sometimes referred to as “slicks”, and Cobra helicopters. We also had observation aircraft used in spotting and tracking enemy movements and calling coordinates for artillery fire.

One of the most difficult aspects of working in air cargo in Vietnam, and one that had the greatest emotional impact for me, was handling stretchers with body bags and transfer caskets. Another was being called from the flight line to help carry stretchers of wounded from the Huey’s to the receiving section of the evac hospital on the airfield. When firefights in the area were intense there was, what seemed like, a steady stream of severely wounded warriors. Many could not be helped in time and did not survive. These visions remain with me

yet today, 43 years after returning.

When I left Vietnam in January 1969 Larry was staying behind. He had extended his tour for six months. I learned from Harold Boone that our friend USAF SSgt Charles Larry McMahan had been killed on February 23, 1969, Qui Nhon, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam just over a month from the time I left Qui Nhon. His name is on Panel W31 Line 12 of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. You can read his profile at www.VirtualWall.org/dm/McmahanCL01a.htm. His profile says he was killed by friendly fire. This, I believe, is quite possible as several times while I was there with Larry the airfield was infiltrated. We fended off the attacks while our Chinooks went for Republic of Korea (ROK) troops to help us. Air Force weapons were stored in a locked room and were issued when needed for tower guard duty or we were under attack. It is possible Larry got caught in crossfire while attempting to reach the weapons room.

I remember Larry as an upbeat personality, an easy person to make and be friends with, a jokester of sorts, a hard worker and a leader always encouraging others. RIP my friend.

SSgt Jimmy L. Smith
15th APS, OLAA Det. 2
Qui Nhon Army Airfield
Jan 1968 – Jan 1968

FROM THE EDITOR

By this time you might have asked— “what about Christmas?”

Well, as I said before, most of this issue is Part 2 covering the Reunion. There WILL BE another issue in a little over a week, and that will be the Christmas issue.

My thanks to all who had a part in making both of them.

Larry

NEW BX ITEMS

We have two new items in the BX, and they will make great Christmas presents to you or to others. They will look great in your "War Room" or "Man Cave" along with your other TSN items. They are 8 x 10 inches, and are mounted on solid wood. Each plaque is black and is designed to hang on the wall. It can be made to sit on your desk by leaning it against something.

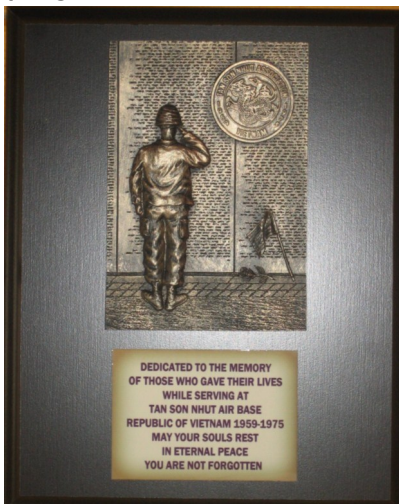
Item #T50:

The first is the "Soldier's Cross". This "Cross" was started in the Civil War and continues today. It is to honor the fallen and to welcome them home. It has our TSNA logo.



Item #T51:

The second shows a veteran saluting "The Wall" and the words on this plaque are taken directly from one of the plaques we dedicated at the NMUSAF this past reunion. In the upper right hand corner is an impression of the TSNA Challenge Coin, making this one special to honor the fallen associated with TSN.



Because of the initial cost and shipping, these items are priced at \$40. each or two for \$75.



In Flanders Fields

The use of the poppy as a symbol on Veterans Day (Remembrance Day in the Commonwealth) is derived from its symbolism in the poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae. These poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders in World War I, and their brilliant red color was an appropriate symbol for the blood spilt in the war.

In Flanders Fields
By John McCrae 1915

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.



A LETTER FROM STUDENTS

On the following page is the letter—individually signed, that our TSNA members received at the 2012 Remembrance held at "The Wall".

Everyone who received it was very moved by the effort that these students put into this project.

TSNA Secretary Dale Bryan passes by Woodbridge on his way home each weekend. He will see that they get a copy of this issue of Revetments, and to thank them personally.

November 11, 2012

To you, our Veteran,

Elmer Davis once said, "This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." We at Forest Park High School strongly believe in honoring the service you have given our country and the sacrifices you made to preserve our freedom and the American dream. Veterans Day is set aside to remember those who have taken up arms to defend our country. You are truly the finest among us. In honor of your service on this day, we simply wish to say thank you.

Today we remember the fallen. Today we also honor those who have served our country. We are humbled by those who have fought till the battle was done, soared into the wild blue yonder, cleared the decks for the fray, and kept our honor clean. You have protected us from danger and have given others the opportunity for a better life. You are a true American hero that deserves the thanks of every person in this great nation.

So, without further ado, the students of Forest Park High School and the members of Forest Park's America's Club wish to give you our deepest thanks. Thank you for serving The United States of America when we needed you most. Thank you for protecting the blessings of freedom. Thank you for coming here today to honor and remember your fellow comrades who did not make it back. We want you to know we will never forget your service and sacrifices you made for us. Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,

The Students of Forest Park High School and The Member of Forest Park's America's Club

Hannah Zaehman

Nick DeLuca

Kelsey L.

Yumma Khalid!

Chelsea Ortiz

Kelle Dazzy

Karina Guadron

Ashley Lane

Casey D

Jordana Chaner

Judith

Forest Park High School
15721 Forest Park Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22193
www.forestpark.groupfusion.net

Reflections

By: Joe Kricho
1876 Communications Squadron
Dec 67 - Dec 68

I had no idea what to expect from this my first visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. In the past, I had been to the "Wall That Heals" when it was in Clinton Township, MI, and the "American Veterans Traveling Tribute" in Xenia, OH, both scale replicas of the memorial in Washington DC. Neither one of those prepared me for the emotional impact of being at "The Wall."

To be honest, I personally did not know anyone whose names that were on 'The Wall.' But over the years, I have come to know the names of those who meant so much to me.

I was scheduled for my first 'Reading of the Names' at 9:12 PM on Thursday, Nov 8, 2012. It was dark & cold with a brisk wind. As I walked down the path in front of the memorial it slowly began to rise above me. In the night, the highly polished black granite surface was like a mirror, reflecting whatever there was in front of it. By the time I reached the apex of the memorial, it was well above my head. Standing at the apex and looking to the West (the Lincoln Memorial) and East (the Washington Monument,) you could see the entire memorial enveloping you, along with the 58,282 names on it.

I turned from the wall and took my place in line for the reading of the names. There was a platform with a podium for those reading the names. I climbed the stairs to the platform and waited for my turn to speak. When it came, I walked to the podium. I had a sheet of paper provided by the organizers that had 30 names on it. I was allotted 2 minutes to read those names. Two of those names had special meaning. They were two of the four security policemen who lost their lives in bunker O-51 on the night of January 31, 1968, defending Tan Son Nhut during the Tet Offensive. I was on duty that night, but it was much later that I learned of their sacrifice.

Saturday morning dawned much warmer with clear blue skies. I was scheduled to read again at 1:36 PM. The weather had improved considerably as it was warm and sunny. The crowd had grown and only seemed larger as 'The Wall' reflected their presence. Once again, I read another 30 names.

On Sunday, Veterans Day, I met fellow TSNA members Dale Bryan and Carol Bessette, along with her husband John, at the Memorial for the wreath laying ceremony. Carol and I presented the Tan Son Nhut Association's wreath along with many other veterans groups. In addition to the wreath, we left a U.S. flag and other memorabilia provided by Janice Jones.

Visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was an experience I will remember for a long time. Taking part in ceremonies, being with fellow Tan Son Nut veterans, as well as meeting other veterans, made it all the more memorable.

Note: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund maintains the memorial and is the driving force behind the ceremonies held there, as well as the construction of the education center. For more information about the Education Center, the Memorial, or the Reading of the Names, go to: www.vvmf.org.



TSNA Wreath with the USA Flag obtained by Janice Jones.



Right to Left: Carol Bessette, Joe Kricho, and Dale Bryan.

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

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: George Plunkett
Vice President: Richard Carvell
Secretary: Dale Bryan
Treasurer: Carol Bessette
Director of Communications/Webmaster: Charles Penley
Director of Marketing: Johnnie Jernigan
Director of Public Relations: Richard Carvell
Director of Veteran Services: Joe Kricho
Director of Membership: Larry E. Fry
Director at Large: Hector Leyva
Co-Director of Membership Development: Bill Coup
Co-Director of Membership Development: Kerry Nivens
Revetments Editor: Larry E. Fry
Chaplains: Rev. Dr. James M. Warrington,
Rev. Dr. Billy T. Lowe; and Rev. Bob A. Chaffee
Co-Founders/Presidents Emeriti: Don Parker and John Peele
President Emeriti: Wayne Salisbury
President Emeritus: Robert Robinson Gales
Web Site: www.tsna.org

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



NEW MEMBERS



Mr. Robert G. Warren IN cometman_75@hotmail.com Sep 70 - Jun 72 834th AD, Det. 1, then 377th CAMS
Mr. James W. Scott, III NJ oanh_thu3@hotmail.com Jul 65 - Jul 66 8th Aerial Port Squadron
Mr. Joseph T. Ryan WA catcollectorjoe@gmail.com Oct 69 - Dec 70 Dept. of Navy Civilian

IN MEMORIAM

Major Taylor B. McKinnon CA May 65-May 66 33rd TAC Group Field Maintenance Officer
Dennis R. Hansey KS Early 60's

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.