



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



APRIL 2016



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here is a website where you can buy your Huntsville shirts, etc. great design by Gary. All have the Huntsville Reunion Logo on them:

<http://www.cafepress.com/tsnareunionstore>

We are getting everything put together for the 2016 Reunion.

Our Boots on the Ground, Kerry Nivens has put together a good reunion.

We have a nice Hotel, wonderful speaker, and Kerry has our Color Guard set up.

He has our buses arranged for our tours and the lasting Memorial is coming together by our committee.

Rita and I will be in Huntsville again in June to finalize our reunion with Kerry. We will be meeting with Peggy at the hotel to go over our menu, rooms, meeting rooms, board

room and Johnnie's BX setup.

A few other nice touches are in store also. Cannot mention these just yet.

Get your reservations in and let's have a good turnout for the TSNA 2016 Reunion. Have you signed up that new member yet? Did you invite a member to come to a reunion, that has not attended one? Please do, as they will meet us and in turn maybe make some new TSNA friends.

Looking forward to a great 2016 Reunion in Huntsville.

Randall W Brown
TSNA President

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

All over the world the days of April announce change. Let the Bible give us some insight to the transition to a new month and new season to come. Here we quote the words of Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2. "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted"

The last few words of the text can be somewhat concerning! We are challenged to plan and prepare for a new season. Note the fact that April 15th, tax day, holds the words of the Greek proverb "A word out of season may mar a whole lifetime".

When April springs upon us we see our nation begin its color change to the beauty attached to the "Greening of Nature".

Robin Williams, the actor is quoted as saying "spring is nature's way of saying 'Let's party'? This Chaplain doesn't agree, spring is nature's way of saying 'Lets thank God' for this blessed season. April opens for us a time for understanding God's giving us a time upon this earth and in this nation.

April opens up for us this new season of growth and a time for opening our inner selves to some type of service. April opens the eyes closed by the darkness of winter. Spring brings out of us a sense of service. Remember: as Pearl Buck wrote "To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and a free mind."

End of Sermon

Chaplain Bob Chaffee



NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

I served as Flight Safety Advisor to the VNAF for the first 6 months and Chief Safety Advisor during the rest of my tour. During that time I flew combat support missions flying VNAF A-1 aircraft. I was assigned housing in the flight crew area.

John L. Schattel
Air Force Advisory Group
Sep 71—Oct 72

Lived in the 1876 Comm. Squadron barracks, near the flight line. Major memorable experience was the birth of my daughter while I was in country. She was 6 months old when I returned stateside.

Walter R. Muklewicz
1876 Communications Squadron
Sep 68—Sep 69

Lived in Saigon downtown, shipped over with 4th Air Commando Unit, then transferred to 377th when we got in country. I had just loaded my fuel tanker at the fuel farm when the mortar hit the storage tank. Took truck and trailer of 5000 gallons, to area where if hit no harm would come to planes or personnel.

Chuck Impey
377th Supply
Oct 65 - Nov 66

I was there when we helped Bien Hoa build the airstrip. The major problems were car bombs and restaurant explosions. I lived in the first makeshift barracks with mosquito netting on base, and with a lady of the night off base. I was a young 20 year old lad with a fiancée who wrote me a dear John because I was supposed to get married after 2 years in Japan and volunteered for Nam instead.

Dr. William S. Cottringer
6250th Air Police Squadron
Oct 64—Nov 65



Graphics by TSNA Webmaster Charles E. Penley

Our "Headquarters" for the TSNA 2016 Reunion
In Huntsville, AL, September 22-25.

See the Registration Form and other details of the reunion on other pages in this issue of Revetments.

COME ON DOWN!!



On Saturday, September 24, we will be having a Dedication of the 2016 Tan Son Nhut Association Memorial Bench at the U. S. Veteran's Memorial Museum.

The U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum - where every day is Veterans Day.

Located in Huntsville Alabama, this is one of the premier military museums in the country. The exhibits of memorabilia, artifacts, and military equipment range from the American Revolutionary War to present day. Included in the collection are many rare and important artifacts including the oldest surviving jeep: the **Ford Pygmy**



The Pygmy was hand built in the Ford development shop in Dearborn, Michigan using parts from Ford's commercial and agricultural lines. It pioneered such design features as

the flat grill with headlamps positioned behind it for protection, an intermediate bow for the canvas top, the fuel tank mounted inside the body under the driver's seat, and a two-piece opening/folding windshield. The headlamps were also positioned on a hinged bracket which allowed them to be pivoted to illuminate the engine compartment at night.

All of these features were incorporated into the standard WWII jeep, the Willys MB. The pilot vehicles were the property of the manufacturers and after testing was complete, the Army returned them. Though neither the Bantam nor the Willys pilot vehicles are known to have survived, the Pygmy is preserved in virtually original condition as acquired from The Henry Ford Museum in the 1980's. Fortunately, the second Ford pilot was discovered in 1998 derelict in a field in California. It has been restored, and is currently held in a private collection in The United Kingdom. The only known surviving Bantam BRC-60, serial number 1007, with date of delivery "11 29 40" stamped on its data plate was delivered to the Army six days after the Pygmy arrived at Camp Holabird for testing.

While the large and truly impressive vehicle display is astonishing, the most remarkable sight is nestled in between them.

The museum hosts the most complete collection of Jeeps in the world! This collection, laid out in chronological order, starts with the oldest Jeep in the world, Ford's pilot model #1, handcrafted by Ford engineers and technicians over the course of 30 days in 1940.



TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

2016 REUNION

September 22 - 25, 2016

Four Points by Sheraton Huntsville Airport, Huntsville, AL

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>DAY</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
TBD	Wednesday	Noon	Hospitality Suite & Registration Opens
TBD	Thursday	9AM	Hospitality Suite & Registration Opens
TBD	Friday	9AM	Hospitality Suite & Registration Opens
TBD	Friday	TBD	Tour of Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville/ Madison County Veterans Memorial
TBD	Friday	TBD	Buses return to hotel from above activities
TBD	Friday	6PM	Cash Bar Opens & Seating is Available
TBD	Friday	6:50 PM	Group Photo???
TBD	Friday	7PM	Banquet Begins

(A SEPARATE SCHEDULE FOR THE BANQUET WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE BANQUET)

TBD	Saturday	9AM	Hospitality Suite Opens
TBD	Saturday	TBD	Buses leave for Bench Dedication
TBD	Saturday	TBD	Bench Dedication Ceremony & Tour of U. S. Veterans Memorial Museum
TBD	Saturday	TBD	Buses Return to Hotel
TBD	Saturday	TBD	Book Signing ??
TBD	Saturday	5PM	Board Meeting
TBD	Saturday	8PM	General Business Meeting
TBD	Sunday	7:30AM-9:30AM	Farewell Breakfast Buffet

Tan Son Nhut Association 2016 Reunion Registration

OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF TAN SON NHUT AND THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Four Points by Sheraton Huntsville Airport, Huntsville, AL September 22 - 25, 2016

NAME _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF YOUR GUEST(S): _____

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

REGISTRATION FEES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING _____ X \$75. = _____

PRE-ORDER VIDEO OF 2016 REUNION _____ X \$15. = _____

PAYMENT to TSNA MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 6, 2016.

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS PAYABLE TO THE "TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION" AND MAIL TO:

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 236

Penryn, PA 17564-0236

Reunion begins Thursday, 9-22-2016

Reunion ends Sunday, 9-25-2016

ACTIVITIES (NO EXTRA COST)

Please check the Master Schedule for the timings of the following!!

Access to the TSNA Hospitality Suite (drinks, snacks, and war stories!) (\$10. daily if purchased separately.)

TSNA Friday Banquet Buffet Dinner. (\$30. *if purchased separately.*)

(Please circle which activities that you are paying for separately, if you are not paying the full fee.)

Friday morning tour of Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial.

(Please indicate how many people will be taking this tour) = _____.

Saturday morning Memorial Bench Dedication ceremony and tour of the U. S. Veterans Memorial Museum.

(Please indicate how many people will be taking this tour) = _____.

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Room rate has been group discounted to \$103.00 per night, including tax. This rate will be honored up to three days prior to and two days following the reunion. Hotel reservations must be made no later than September 14, 2016 to receive this special rate. Two breakfast coupons are included in the guest room rate, for a hot breakfast.

Here are links for you to access the site to learn more about the event and to book, modify, or cancel a reservation. Hold on your CTRL button, then click your mouse button:

[Tan Son Nhut](#) (OR copy and paste the following link into a web browser):

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1602029501&key=D93685F>.

(Editor's Note: DO NOT type in the words "Tan Son Nhut" into a web browser - you won't get what you want. JUST CLICK on the wording Tan Son Nhut above, or the web address given. Either one will take you to the same place.)

Other hotel amenities include free parking and free Wi-Fi.



Our Honored Guest Speaker is Colonel John Reitzell, U. S. Army Retired.

3/29/16

Memories of Vietnam:
Do You Know – Mom & Pop Kincaid?

By: George Greenwood, 460th FMS, Sep 66 - Sep 67

While at Tan Son Nhut AFB, Saigon Vietnam (Sept. 1966 - Sept. 1967) my good friend and AF buddy - Airman Don Scoville (Reconnaissance Photo Technician) and I - Airman George Greenwood (Airframe Repairman) attended "The Saigon Christian Servicemen's Center".

The center was run by "Mom & Pop Kincaid" from the state of Washington. They opened the center and invited any military, civilians and nationals into their home. They fed us and gave us spiritual food. It was a "Home Away From Home". We were able to sleep over night and enjoy home cooked meals with a home like atmosphere. IT WAS GREAT!!!

First Picture:

Pop Kincaid was the 3rd in line (with a tie), Mom Kincaid was the lady & my friend Don was the 6th person (in front with dark shirt & white pants).

Second Picture:

"Pop" Wade Kincaid – "That's me" George Greenwood – "Mom" Ruth Kincaid

Mom & Pop were in country from 1965 to 1970. After that they returned back to their family, friends, in Washington State.

Their story needs to be told.

They can be found in part on Face Book:

Mom & Pop Kincaid Saigon Christian Servicemen's Center

Please feel free to E-mail us at: geonliz@frontier.com.

Or you can call me at 1(208) 957-1394



"IMPORTANT" DAYS—IN APRIL

APRIL 4, 1949 NATO FOUNDED

APRIL 6, 1917 US ENTERS WWI

APRIL 6, 1991 PERSIAN GULF WAR ENDS

APRIL 12, 1981 FIRST US SPACE SHUTTLE LAUNCHED

APRIL 14 PAN AMERICAN DAY

APRIL XX ARBOR DAY (LAST FRIDAY IN APRIL)

APRIL 22 EARTH DAY

APRIL 25, 1898 SPANISH AMERICAN WAR BEGINS

APRIL 30, 1975 VIETNAM WAR ENDS

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

FRIENDSVILLE, MD MARCH 29, 2016

By: Lynn Patton, Jan 71-Jan 72, 377th Security Police

On March 29, Vietnam Veterans Day, I had the privilege to address a group in Friendsville, MD during a remembrance service for the Friendsville 6. During the Vietnam War, this small town in Garrett County MD lost six of their Sons between 1967 and 1971. The remembrance service was held in the front circle of the Elementary School, where the monument to them was erected. The remembrance service was arranged by the DAR - Youghiogheny Glades Chapter, NSDAR, Garrett County, Maryland.

I was very thankful that it was a sunny day, but it could have been a little warmer. There was a decent size crowd of about 70 adults, most of them representing the various Veteran Service Organizations. As the program was about to begin, all the students came out and joined us in the service. The students led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and sang a song that honored the veteran. And they did an excellent job.

It was somewhat of a typical gathering with the standard guests, Federal, State and Local politicians with some community figures, with all their proclamations. They were read and fortunately their words were few. At least they maintained their focus on the family members of the Friendsville 6 attending and honoring the Vietnam Veteran. It was the first attempt of the DAR to host such an event. They did a wonderful job. It was well organized and they were well prepared. I was proud to be a part of this event.

The six are:

Danny Eugene Nicklow - USMC - KIA - March 16, 1967 - Panel 16E □ Line 95

Ross Francis Fike - USMC - KIA - May 16, 1967 - Panel 20E □ Line 7

Charles Wayne Hook - U.S. Army - KIA - June 17, 1967 - Panel 21E □ Line 121

Norman Eugene Thomas- U.S. Air Force - KIA - November 17, 1969 - Panel 16W □ Line 91

Roger Lynn Garlick - U.S Army - KIA - Mar 17, 1969 - Panel 29W □ Line 60

Thomas Eugene Fike - U.S. Air Force - KIA - December 4, 1971 - Panel 02W □ Line 84

On a personal note, in preparing for my speech I looked up the six on the Virtual Wall in an attempt to learn more about them. Naturally, I emphasized my search on the two USAF members. While reading some personal messages left for Norman, one was from the air craft commander, Louis Hari, of the C-130 where Norman was KIA from a rocket strike. The email address on that message was 9 years old but I took a chance and sent him an email. I heard from him the following day. He informed me Norman was KIA at Qua Lot where they had landed from Cam Ran Bay. He also told me that he was initially assigned to Cam Ran Bay. His unit was later reassigned to Tan Son Naut. I did tell him about our organization and invited him to join.

One part of the remembrance was very touching. When each name of the six was read, the bell on top of the monument would toll and a family member or friend of the six would place a rose on the monument. When they read the name of Norman Thomas, there were no members of his family or any friends were present. The Mayor of Friendsville, Spencer Schlosnagel, quickly looked at me and whispered will you take care of this. I was honored.

Concerning Thomas Fike, I found this on the personal notes from <http://thewall.usa.com/guest.asp?recid=16112>.

Sgt. Tom Fike was KIA in December 71. It was his last mission before rotating home (it was to be a milk run out of Saigon and back). His crew was shot down as they were returning to Saigon. The pilot thought that they had seen a rocket launcher set up in a rice paddy. They went in low level to check it out (flying a UH-1N slick), and they received heavy ground fire. Sgt Tom Fike, a door gunner was killed, the other door gunner was seriously wounded and at least one other crew member. He was one of the last members of the Green Hornet Squadron killed in Vietnam.

When I came away from the remembrance, I was both Honored and Humbled. Honored that I could participate and Humbled by the true sincerity of the Welcome Home from the non-veterans. That is why I love small town America.

Here is the speech I gave:

"I would like to thank the DAR Youghiogheny Glades Chapter for making this remembrance possible.

Also, the Mayor of Friendsville and members of the Town Council for their support.

And to the Veterans Service Organizations and to all who took time out of their day to attend.

While preparing for today I found a wonderful quote from PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN.

It was part of his last Veterans Day Speech in 1988.

“Those who live today remember those who do not. Those who know freedom remember today those who gave up life for freedom.”

And today, part of this remembrance, involves 6 young men that all had ties to this town. They are: DANNY EUGENE NICKLOW, ROSS FRANCIS FIKE, CHARLES WAYNE HOOK, NORMAN EUGENE THOMAS, ROGER LYNN GARLICK, THOMAS EUGENE FIKE.

Many of you knew them or their families. Some of us were serving in country at the time of their deaths.

If we do not know their faces, we will always honor their service!! In many cases, there is no stronger bond than that of the brotherhood and sisterhood of veterans. Many times, stronger than family bonds.

It is VERY evident in the Bond of the Vietnam Veteran. And why not!!! Too many folks have chosen to believe the myths, that are constantly being propagated, even today, than actually try to learn the truth. It also doesn't help that, in society today, there are only about 10 % of the families that have a direct connection to a veteran, either a father, Mother, Sister or Brother.

In the case of the Vietnam Veteran, I am certain that the percentage is much lower.

As I have said, too many people chose to believe what they were told about us, and not take the time to learn the truth. Our service was honorable, and it is something we all should be very proud of.

And it is up to us, to get that truth out to the public.

Although it was a long time coming, I am pleased that this country has finally recognized our service.

But the fight is not over!!! We still have a long way to go. The scars from Vietnam or any war, whether visible or invisible, will always need to be addressed.

As we stood on the shoulders of those who served before, so does the Modern warrior stand on our shoulders.

What we do in our fight for ourselves, will also assist those who have served after us.

That is why I have a very high regard for the founding principle of the Vietnam Veterans of America; ***“Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”***

Every veteran has paid the price, our debt to them, is always due.

GOD BLESS you, GOD BLESS all who serve and have served, and GOD BLESS AMERICA!



**Lynn Patton, Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Friendsville, MD March 29, 2016**



Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Friendsville, MD



Friendsville, MD Elementary School Children



Vietnam Veterans, Friendsville, MD

FLAG RAISERS ON IWO JIMA

By: Garry Arndt
 Aug 69 - Aug 70
 4th SOS (AC-47 Gunship)DaNang;14APS(CRB)

Being in the Military is a Great Heritage as many Veteran's articles in "The Revetments" have attested to.

One of my goals was to visit the graves of the Six Flag Raisers on Iwo Jima.

That I accomplished two years ago. An Honor and a Privilege to know the stories of these men. Three of these men were killed just weeks after the Flag Raising: Harlon Block, Michael Strank and Frank Sousley.

Michael Strank, Ira Hayes and Rene Gagnon are buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Frank Sousley is buried in Elizaville in northeast Kentucky. Harlon Block is buried in Harlingen in southern Texas. John Bradley, the Medic, is buried in Antigo, Wisconsin. John passed away in 1994, the last of the six.

Note: There are two of the "Flag Raising Memorials". The first one was built in Harlingen, Texas. That was used as a 'Model' for the one at Arlington.

FLAG RAISING	IWO JIMA	23 FEB 1945	
STRANK, MICHAEL ARLINGTON	10 NOV 1919	1 MAR 1945	PA
BLOCK, HARLON HARLINGEN, TX	6 NOV 1924	1 MAR 1945	TX
SOUSLEY, FRANKLIN ELIZAVILLE, KY	19 SEP 1925	21 MAR 1945	KY
HAYES, IRA ARLINGTON	12 JAN 1923	24 JAN 1955	AZ
GAGNON, RENE ARLINGTON	7 MAR 1925	12 OCT 1979	NH
BRADLEY, JOHN ANTIGO, WI	10 JUL 1923	11 JAN 1994	WI



Mount Suribachi



SOUSLEY



BLOCK



BRADLEY



STRANK



HAYES



GAGNON

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Web Site: www.tsna.org
Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00



Picture courtesy of Mark Reveaux, 377th Supply Sq.
May 67 - May 68

NEW MEMBERS 

Mr. Walter Thoma	Norwich	CT	walter.thoma@snet.net	May 69 - May 70	1876 Comm Sq.7th AF
Mr. Thomas Bell	Franklin	OH	tbell001@cinci.rr.com	Dec 68 - July 70	377th Security Police Squadron

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