



# REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



JULY 2018

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Brothers and Sisters, for my sermon this month, I would like to reflect on God's grace, and His saving us from death during the war. How grateful we should be. As a prayer in thanks, I would like to use Psalm 116: When the Lord Saves You from Death:

I love you Lord ! You answered my prayers. You paid attention to me, and so I will pray to you as long as I live. Death attacked from all sides, and I was captured by its painful chains. But when I was really hurting, I prayed and said, "Lord, please don't let me die !"

You are kind, Lord, so good and merciful. You protect ordinary people, and when I was helpless, you saved me, and treated me kindly, that I don't need to worry anymore.

You, Lord, have saved my life from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. Now I will walk at your side in this land of the living. I was faithful to you when I was suffering, though in my confusion I said "I can't trust anyone !"

What must I give you, Lord, for being so good to me ? I will pour an offering of wine to you, and I will pray in your name, because you have saved me. I will keep my promise to you when your people meet. You are deeply concerned when one of your loyal people gather in prayer. Shout praises to the Lord !

So we must be ever mindful of God's grace, and that His protective hand has been there so many times over our lives, to guide us, keep us safe, and protect us from death. So let's give praise, and thanks to God. Have a very Happy 4th of July.

Until next time, God bless you all dear ones, and may He keep you safe.

Through His Grace,

Associate Chaplain Paul A. Subbie

## Call for Candidates

Your Association continues as an active and vibrant veteran organization that serves its membership. Again, we are looking forward to an eventful reunion in September, 2018 in Dayton, OH. For reunions and other events to occur, TSNA needs qualified members to manage your Associa-

tion as officers and board members. It is they who keep our association viable and in compliance with national, state, and local laws and regulations. Due to the untimely death of our current Treasurer, Carol Bessette, the association needs nominations for this important position. There are no specific requirements to run for the position other than being a paid-up member in good standing of the Association. *However, having experience in finance, budgeting and/or bookkeeping would be valuable.* A person may nominate themselves for an office, or any member may nominate another. If you nominate another, be certain that person is willing to run and serve. Please send all nominations by name and position to me, Jim Faulkner, TSNA Chair Nominating Committee, at [jim1c21@aol.com](mailto:jim1c21@aol.com). If you must send your nomination by surface mail, send it to Tan Son Nhut Association at P. O. Box 236, Penryn, PA 17564-0236. Deadline for all nominations is **July 27, 2018**. A self-nominee or one accepting a nomination by another member must submit a statement of approximately three to five paragraphs of their vision for the future of TSNA and how they would help achieve that vision by serving in any one of these positions. Nominees running for reelection must submit a summary of their achievements during their term of office. The announcement of the upcoming election and a listing of all nominees, with their vision statement, will appear in the August 2018 issue of Revetments.

## FROM THE PREZ

We are fast approaching our TSNA Reunion in Dayton. I want to remind everyone to bring your toiletries and paperbacks we are collecting for our troops overseas.

We will take cash, checks, etc., donations also for those who cannot make the reunion.

If you are out there traveling, save those hotel toiletries. If you are wondering what to do with those paperbacks we can use them as well.

See everyone in Dayton.

Randall W Brown  
President-TSNA





### **Tan Son Nhut Association Scholarship Recipient**

Henry Jacob "Jake" Lesher is the recipient of the \$5,000 2018-19 Tan Son Nhut Association Scholarship. Lesher will attend California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California, in the fall. He is a graduate of Classical Academy High School in Escondido, California, with an overall high school grade point average of 3.97.

Lesher wrote, "I am so honored to be awarded this scholarship from the Tan Son Nhut Association. The financial assistance will help me reach my goals of pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering at California Polytechnic State University. I feel privileged to be recognized by a community of warriors whom I respect so much and I am so grateful for your generosity. I will work hard to maximize the impact of this scholarship as I set the course for the rest of my life."

His high school counselor calls him a "young man with many talents." In her recommendation letter, Natalie Mauhili wrote: "He ranks in the top decile in an exceptionally competitive senior class, has taken very rigorous courses and his extra-curricular activities are unique and exceptional. Some of his honors include being a founding member of the CAHS National Honor Society, being on the Principal's List and has been Student of the Month."

Lesher also has been active in his community, volunteering with the Community Housing Works in Vista as a homework and reading coach to children in low income areas. He has worked on several Habitat for Humanity projects and has helped to feed the homeless through the Bread of Life Organization.

Lesher was the team leader for four years for his high school's robotics team which qualified for the world championships in 2016. But he also stepped out of his "comfort zone" to take on two leading roles in high school musicals. He is active in his church, North Coast Calvary Chapel.

He cites both his father, Henry Lesher, Jr., an H-60 Navy pilot, and his grandfather, Lowell Grimaud, Colonel, USAF, retired, as having served as role models for him. Col. Grimaud served as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer with the 460<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Col. Grimaud is a member of the TSNA.

<b>NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS</b>
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**W**as there for Tet offensive 67-68. Also trying to put out fires on aircraft that were hit.

William (Bill) T. Cook  
460th TRW, Det. 1, Crew Chief RB57 aircraft  
Nov 67 - Nov 68

## THE RF-101C VOODOO

By: Paul Subbie, TSNA Associate Chaplain

Here are my thoughts on the RF-101C Voodoo, and what it was like flying it in combat.

I was with the Air Force as a Reconnaissance Pilot from 1965 through 1977, and was based out of Tan Son Nhut AB in Saigon, as well as Udorn in Thailand. I flew the RF-101C Voodoo with the 460th Wing, 45th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. I received my 100th RF-101C mission patch for flights over North Viet Nam while at Udorn AB in Thailand. Personally, I loved the Voodoo, but some pilots I hear, called it a bunch of nuts, bolts, and aluminum flying in loose formation, because of the sounds it made while flying. I had just the opposite opinion, and found it to be very fast, quiet, reliable and a steady photographic platform. In its early stages, it was plagued with hydraulic and landing gear problems, but most had been resolved by the manufacturer, and Air Force, or crew chiefs in later days of the war. The Voodoo I flew always did just what I asked of her, and got me home safely after all my missions.

It was a real "hydraulic bird" though, and over a period of about nine years, and some 35,000 missions, 39 RF-101C's were lost. Of those, Thirty three were lost in combat, five to Surface-to-air missiles (SA-2's), and one to an airfield attack at Tan Son Nhut, on 17 February 1968 (Tail Code 56-0182). That was during the TET Offensive, and fortunately I was off-base at that time.

The RF-101C's did more than reconnaissance flights in combat, as we occasionally acted as "Pathfinders" for F-105's flying on missions over North Viet Nam, because we were equipped with LORAN navigation systems. In April of 1967, ALQ-71 ECM pods were fitted to some RF-101C's that offered some protection from surface-to-air missiles by scrambling the SA-2's radar guidance equipment. But there was a trade-off, in that these external pods created additional drag on the aircraft, and thus lowering the airspeed you could achieve. On those missions, an F-105 was required as an escort because they were armed, and we weren't, and the slower speed made us vulnerable to MiG's. I flew with the ALQ-71 pod twice, but hated the slower speed as speed was the Voodoo's main defensive advantage. On the third mission I flew alone, and felt much safer, as our motto said: "Alone, unarmed, and unafraid."

Missions flown over the North, however required an escort because of the heavy defended anti-aircraft emplacements, and SAM-2 missiles staged around major targets.

Flying the Voodoo on tactical missions required flying on the run-in to the target at around 600mph, doing a "pop-up," roll over about a quarter mile before the target, running the cameras, followed by a rapid descent while adding afterburner, and exiting the target area as fast as possible while still in afterburner. The Voodoo had gobs of power on tap, and the faster you left the target area, the harder you were to hit.

It was the "post-strike" runs that presented the most danger, because they knew you were going to be back for more photographs to use for BDA (Battle Damage Assessment). On these missions you were not only more vulnerable to attack, but, were a predictable target yourself. Usually, the cameras were switched on just before the target, and were kept running after the target. This was done to capture any additional targets in the immediate area.

The systems in the Voodoo kept you fairly busy with cockpit management, but it was a fairly roomy workplace. With all your flight gear on: K-2B flight suit, CSu-3/P G-suit, survival vest, HGU-2A/P flight helmet, and MBU-5/P oxygen mask on, you still felt comfortable. It felt like "strapping on" the Voodoo, man and machine acting as one.

The Voodoo did have a few tendencies, and a savvy pilot knew his plane well, and was aware of what to be cautious of. The Voodoo had a tendency to "pitch-up, and a number of accidents were attributable to this quirk, and could catch you off guard if you were unfamiliar, or got complacent. Usually this was at high angles of attack, where the wing's airflow became unstable, and the continued passage blocked out the high "T" tail's horizontal stabilizer lost lift, causing the nose to pitch up even further. On the later models of the Voodoo, they installed a "Stick-Shaker," which presented some advanced warning of an impending nose "Pitch-UP."

As I said previously, the Voodoo had gobs of power on tap when you demanded it. Takeoff was a thrill when the afterburners kicked in, and initial climb-out could shoot you up at 45,000 ft per minute, and that's within the FIRST MINUTE of climb ! The Voodoo's later versions, due to a stronger wing, increased the "G" tolerance level from 6.3 G's to 7.33 G's., a

definite advantage when trying to out maneuver a SAM-2 missile fired from below. The Service Ceiling was around 51,000' with a maximum operating altitude of around 53,000ft.

The Voodoo carried six photographic cameras, facing forward, down and oblique. Later versions also had limited night photographic capability with a "flash" pack.

It's notable, and not too many are aware, but Robin Olds, with four MiG kills to his credit during the war, also flew an RF-101 Voodoo (before being given his F-4 Phantom II), and actually formed an unofficial, and unsanctioned, aerobatic team, which performed in a similar fashion similar to the Air Force Thunderbirds.

My final comment about flying the RF-101C Voodoo, is: "Long live the memory of the One-O-Wonder."

### 2018 TSNA REUNION GUEST SPEAKER GUY DENNIS GRUTERS



Guy was born in Sarasota, Florida, in October of 1942, the first child of his parents. Guy was conceived before his father left to fight in World War II. Twenty-eight months later, his father returned from Europe. The family moved first to Washington, DC, where his father worked in the Pentagon, then to New York City, then to Fairlawn, New Jersey. Guy grew up in Fairlawn to the age of sixteen, when the family moved again to Sarasota, Florida, in 1958.

While growing up in Fairlawn, he attended Saint Anne's Catholic school. Guy was a member of the Fairlawn Rocket Club and also progressed through Cub and Boy Scouts, earning his Eagle Scout rank before moving to Sarasota. He also camped and trapped extensively in the Saddle River area.

Moving to Sarasota following his junior year, he played on the Sarasota High School football team in his senior year. Guy then applied to attend the Air Force Academy and was accepted.

He completed a degree in engineering science from the Air Force Academy. He was a top student, graduating with honors (Summa Cum Laude) in 1964. He was on the judo and boxing teams and also played football on a squadron team for two years. Guy also spent a few weeks in Georgia and earned jump wings upon completing the US Army parachute school at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

After graduating from the Academy, he obtained his Masters Degree in Astronautical Engineering from Purdue University. He married his wife, Sandy, during this period, and they welcomed their first two children.

Following pilot training in Valdosta AFB, Georgia, the assignment was F100 Fighter Gunnery School for six months at Luke AFB, Arizona. Upon completion, he volunteered for Vietnam service. As a new fighter pilot, Guy was assigned to serve as a Forward Air Controller, abbreviated "FAC," in a small O-1 "Bird Dog" aircraft. He flew low-level combat missions assisting the ground troops of the 173rd Airborne Brigade by directing fighter strikes on the enemy forces.



Near the end of his first year's tour in Vietnam, he volunteered to serve in a top-secret MISTY Squadron that flew fighter aircraft, F-100Fs, over North Vietnam. The MISTY Squadron flew low level flights to find targets and then directed other fighter aircraft to targets on the ground in North Vietnam, using smoke rockets to mark the enemy positions. They were called "Fast FACs," because they used fast fighters for the FAC mission.

He flew over four hundred combat missions in Vietnam, first in the O-1 over South Vietnam and then in F-100s over North Vietnam. He was responsible for saving many lives and on various occasions won significant combat awards: among

them two Silver Stars and two Distinguished Flying Crosses for risking his life to save his fellow countrymen and South Vietnamese civilians.

As a result of the extensive anti-aircraft fire involved, he was shot down twice over North Vietnam. The second time he was captured and spent the next five years as a POW in six different POW camps, twice kept in the famous Hanoi Hilton.

While in the camps, he experienced a thorough conversion experience and was able to finally forgive the guards that had killed his friend, Lance Sijan. The five years plus in prison affected him in many ways. He has been able to share his experiences with many thousands of people in the last twenty years as will be further described below.

He was freed from the prison camp when his brother, Terry, and others flew in a major series of air raids called Linebacker II in December, 1972, which brought the North Vietnamese to their knees.



He returned to the USA to be with his family, and then elected to leave the Air Force, feeling he had put his wife and parents through enough.

He entered civilian life, initially becoming an Eastern Airlines pilot. Upon the major furlough in 1973, he was hired by IBM and served as a Marketing Representative and transferred to the General Systems Division. Guy was very successful as an IBM salesman. When he resigned in May, 1979, he was national account manager for the GTE telephone company, a three billion-dollar corporation comprising fifteen operating companies nationwide. Awards with IBM included the hundred percent sales club each year, an award for the best demonstration programming in the country, and a first-place finish in the majority of IBM schools attended.

Leaving IBM in 1979, he joined with his brother Terry heading up a new software company that created, sold and serviced two significant software programs for the then brand-new PC computer. One was an accounting package and another an insurance agency package.

After years of great success, the new company suffered a major setback when one of the key employees sold the tax calculating component of the accounting package to a major accounting firm and placed Guy and Terry in a difficult situation with a fraudulent bankruptcy filing. After a five-year court battle, they won a major settlement and returned back to normal business again.

In addition, Guy had returned to Eastern Airlines when the seven-year furlough was over, and retired as an Airline Captain in 1991.

Guy went to work for Pearl vision in Dallas, Texas, and then McCrory Corporation in York, Pennsylvania, as VP-Management Information Systems, before moving to Ohio to work with his youngest brother, Peter. Peter had founded a non-profit corporation and requested Guy's help. Guy began his public speaking ministry in Ohio, which continues to this day.

During these years after returning from Vietnam, while living in the south, Guy and Sandy's oldest children attended college at Vanderbilt and Auburn Universities. They were also blessed with five additional children, all five of which attended Franciscan University (Steubenville) in Ohio following the move there. They have seventeen grandchildren who are a source of endless pleasure.

To Catholic and other religious groups, Guy's talks stress forgiveness, family leadership and the love experienced in war. To military and business groups, they stress leadership and teamwork lessons learned in the prison camps and the business world.

To further get the word out, he wrote and published a book titled *Locked Up With God*, which presents thirteen of his best talks. He also has developed and maintains his own website, [guygruters.net](http://guygruters.net), which is also educational in nature. A list of the many different talks given in recent years can be reviewed by choosing the page "Recent Talks."

He has provided speaking tours to military bases in England, Europe, Hawaii and the Far East. These are in addition to the many, many other talks given all over this country. He has appeared on EWTN on three separate occasions. He was also interviewed by Diane Sawyer on a ABC nightly news program. He has given many talks at the Air Force Academy, speaking particularly about a fellow POW whose name was Lance Sijan. Guy is the only one living that spent time with Lance during his last days in a North Vietnamese POW camp.

Lance was an F-4 air force fighter pilot downed over North Vietnam a month and a half before Guy was shot down the second time. Guy and the pilot that Guy was shot down with met up with Lance in a small jungle prison camp. Lance was tortured severely and slowly killed by the North Vietnamese guards for refusing to tell them any information about the American military operations. As a result of Guy and his fellow pilot being in cells close to Lance's during his final days, witnessing what Lance went through and hearing every word of the interrogations, they were able to tell the story when they returned to the US. Their testimony resulted in Lance being awarded the Medal of Honor post mortem.

Lance is the only Medal of Honor winner to have graduated from the Air Force Academy. Guy's testimony was given to Malcolm O'Connor, who wrote the book *Into The Mouth of The Cat*. Other books that have Guy's story, or part of it, include: *MISTY*, Edited by Major General Don Shepperd and *Bury Us Upside Down* by Rick Newman and Don Shepperd. In addition, Guy's story has appeared in numerous magazines and news articles many times over the years since returning from Vietnam. Guy also has a CD carried by Lighthouse Catholic Media titled, *Surviving With God In A Communist POW Camp*, that can be downloaded on any iPhone or similar device in which the Lighthouse App can be utilized.

As mentioned, Guy moved with his family over 20 years ago to Ohio to help his brother, Peter, on a special mission to save the family. Guy has been intimately involved with this effort during these years. The effort includes the writing and publishing of many books on family life and spiritual life. These books are meant to help families become holy Catholic families even and especially in the present world we live in.

The effort to save the family also includes the development of what is necessary to form a new religious/lay association in the Church to help families make it in today's society. Society itself is so harsh, so cold and so contrary to Christian values and traditions. And these proven traditions and values facilitate family love, togetherness and lasting union, which Guy experienced in the family he was raised in.

His family was certainly not perfect, but it was far better than most present-day families, which are so wounded and dysfunctional by the forces affecting them in today's society. Thus, the effort to save the family is continuing. The hope is that the new film being produced will play an important role in spreading God's love and be a witness to the great values of family togetherness and support it emphasizes. These values provided Guy and his family the ability to give and sacrifice in the many situations and aspects the film will portray.

In a way, the war continues for Guy and his brothers, but it is a different fight, a fight on the home front. This fight can also be won. Guy plans to spend the rest of his life doing what he can to overcome the forces against the family and the traditional American way of living family life.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

### **HOPE HOTEL REGISTRATIONS**

**THE HOTEL WEBSITE IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY!! DO NOT USE IT TO MAKE A RESERVATION!!**

USE THE PHONE NUMBER GIVEN: (937) 879-2696

**The only thing the hotel can accept is if you say "Tan Son Nhut Association". DO NOT SAY "TSNA"**

Their registration system can handle only one group name.

You must say our name in its entirety in order to get the **Discounted Rate**.

# TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION REUNION REGISTRATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TEL:(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL NEEDS? \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION FEES

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x **\$75.00** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Order Reunion Video: QTY: \_\_\_\_\_ x **\$15.00** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Remittance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN: August 31, 2018**

Mail Check to: **TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. BOX 236  
PENRYN, PA 17564-0236

Note: If not paying the full registration (**\$75.00**) then the following fees apply:

Access to hospitality suite (includes snacks & beverages): **\$12.50** daily

Friday Banquet Dinner: **\$37.50**/person (Cash Bar not included)

Additional charges (TBD) for tours; transportation; outside activities; etc.

## HOTEL INFORMATION

### **HOPE HOTEL & RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE CONFERENCE CENTER**

Bldg. 823, Area A, Gate 12A

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-5000

(937) 879-2696

Reservations must be made by telephone. Mention "**Tan Son Nhut Association**" when making reservation.

**Do not say: "TSNA."**

Room Rate: **\$109.00 + Tax** (includes breakfast)

NOTE: This special room rate is available three days prior and three days after the reunion

**ALL HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY: AUGUST 27, 2018!**

**All questions should be directed to:**

**Joe Kricho**  
Director of Reunion Planning  
[67vietvet68@gmail.com](mailto:67vietvet68@gmail.com)

Please put: "TSNA Reunion" in the Subject Line



**CAROL BESSETTE**  
**1938-2018**

Carol Schoeller Bessette, of Springfield, Virginia, passed away on 29 May 2018 at the age of 79 in her home, after a long struggle with brain cancer.

She was born in northern New Jersey in 1938, to Theobald Herman (Ted) Schoeller and Evelyn Lucitt Schoeller. She entered College Misericordia, Dallas, Pennsylvania, in 1956 and graduated four years later with a BA in Social Studies. She then entered the Air Force, being commissioned in September 1960 via Officers Training School. While there she tried to enter the intelligence career field but was told that "girls can't do intelligence." She knew better, so at Langley AFB, Virginia (her next assignment) she discovered a path to intelligence if she earned a Masters' Degree in International Relations via the Air Force. Selected for this program, she did enter the intel career field with an assignment to Hq US Air Forces in Europe (USAFE). After three years there with her new husband John (whom

she had married in 1964), she was selected for an intelligence billet at Hq Seventh Air Force at Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam, where she specialized in the Laotian portion of the SEA conflict.

She arrived at TSN in May 1968, just in time for the VC's May Offensive. Having survived those rocket attacks, and many others over the next 13 months, she was then sent as a student to the Defense Intelligence School, where she and John became students. Then ensued three years as an analyst in DIA, specializing in the China Air portion of the China Military Branch." She subsequently returned to USAFE Hq in Germany and headed the Third World Branch of its Analysis Division. After returning to the States in 1978, she became a dean in the expanded Defense Intelligence College. Then she was selected for a prestigious position on the Intelligence Community Staff, the pinnacle of the US intelligence community.

She retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel in 1985 and spent a few years as a defense contractor. But she shortly found a very satisfactory niche as a museum guide, then a tour guide, in the Washington DC area. She found her best calling in that field, teaching classes and leading tour groups throughout the region. She melded her extensive historical knowledge, her ability to lead, and her skill at teaching what she knew, and thrived in this environment.

Her Awards and Medals, in descending order:

- Bronze Star Medal
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Joint Service Commendation Medal
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and 2 Oak Leaf Clusters
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

In 2000 she became aware of the TSN Association and joined up. In 2009, she volunteered to become TSNA's treasurer, a position she held right up until her passing a month ago. Her leadership skills were valuable wherever she went, and TSNA became her special venue. She always loved the annual reunions, her last one being in 2017 in Colorado Springs. She will be missed greatly; not only by John, but also by anyone who ever crossed her path.

There will be a Memorial Service/Celebration of Life on Saturday, 21 July at 1400 (2:00 PM) at the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke, Virginia. Her ashes will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**TREASURER UPDATE**

As President of the Tan Son Nhut Association, I have appointed Andrew (Andy) Csordas as Treasurer Pro Tempore, until a Treasurer is elected to fulfill Carol's term.

We are saddened at the loss of Carol Bessette as our Treasurer, Friend, and TSNA Mate.

Randall Brown, President TSNA



## Tan Son Nhut Association Scholarship Recipient

### THE CAROL BESSETTE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

A second TSNA scholarship, in memory of the late Carol Bessette, Association Treasurer, has been awarded to David Hatcher of Atlanta, Georgia. Hatcher is a 2018 graduate of Holy Innocents' Episcopal School in Atlanta and plans to attend the University of Georgia in Athens in the Fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in International Business.

In accepting the TSNA Scholarship, Hatcher wrote: "As both a proud American with the utmost respect for our nation's military as well as the great-grandson of a Vietnam war veteran, I am incredibly honored to have been chosen by the Tan Son Nhut Association for this award. This scholarship will help me and my family financially as I continue my education at the University of Georgia. My values are a reflection of my great-grandfather's traditional values which have inspired me to be a role model for my peers."

In high school, Hatcher was a member of the National Honor Society, the Geography Club, and the Young Conservatives Club. He continued his independent study of both Chinese and Japanese languages and cultures. Hatcher spent two years as an exchange student in Japan, and he and his family were hosts for a student from Japan during Hatcher's senior year.

His high school achievements are not just in the academic arena. He also played football and participated in track and field.

His chemistry and physics teacher, Amanda Love, wrote that Hatcher "... is exceptionally intelligent, thoughtful and fascinated with the world around him." Ms. Love said her favorite thing about Hatcher is his character. Her recommendation continued: "He steps forward when others do not, handles every situation with grace and strives to be the best person he can be every day."

Hatcher is the great grandson of the late U.S. Army Lt. Colonel Elmer Dean Spence, who served not only in Vietnam but also in Korea and during World War II. LTC Spence is interred in Arlington National Cemetery

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PATCHES COURTESY OF THOMAS B. MARMON  
377th Field Maintenance Squadron  
November '70 - November '71

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

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Web Master: Kerry Nivens

**Web Site: [www.tsna.org](http://www.tsna.org)**  
Annual Membership: \$20.00  
Five Year Membership: \$80.00  
Life Membership: \$180.00



Photo Courtesy of George Greenwood  
Sep 66 - Sep 67  
460th FMS

**IN MEMORIAM**

Lt. Col. Carol S. Bessette 68-69 HDQTRS, 7TH AF

**NEW MEMBERS**

William Cook Denison TX [pookdeb@hotmail.com](mailto:pookdeb@hotmail.com) Nov 67 - Nov 68 460th TRW Det 1 Crew Chief RB 57 Aircraft

Kevin A. Shwiner Fuquay Varina NC [kshwiner@nc.rr.com](mailto:kshwiner@nc.rr.com) Jul 71 - Jul 72 315th CAMS, Aircraft Maintenance  
310th TALS,  
21st TASS

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