



# REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



MAY 2019

## CHAPLAINS CORNER

By Jimmy Smith  
TSNA Chaplain

Greetings Veterans and Fellow Members of TSNA: As your Chaplain my prayers and wishes for each of you is for everyone to have a blessed and happy May. There are three important events happening this month. Mother's Day on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Armed Forces Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> and Memorial Day on the 27<sup>th</sup>. If your mom is still alive contact her and tell her you love her, never pass up that opportunity. The TSNA organization sets a great example of Veterans supporting Veterans, brothers and sisters we served with in wartime. On Memorial Day remember all of those who lost their lives in service to our country, and those who survived the wars and have since passed. This country's freedom is owed to all of the brave men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. Serving is a privilege and an honor and deserves respect. So celebrate you brothers and sisters in arms by honoring the dead and letting the living know how much you appreciate them. If you are not already on the TSNA Facebook group or web page at TSNA.org, it is a good place to start. Better yet, join us at the TSNA Reunion this year in Little Rock, Arkansas 12-15 September. To all of my Vietnam Brothers and Sisters, I love and appreciate all of you. May God bless each of you for what you have for our country and the TSNA Organization.

Until next month, this is your Chaplain signing off. Have a blessed month and God's speed to all.

## TSNA 2019 Awards

We are looking forward to an eventful reunion in September in Little Rock, AR. One of the highlights of the reunion banquet is the bestowing of awards on deserving members and select others. 2019 will not be an exception.

The officers and board members of your Association do not nominate award recipients from behind closed doors while ignoring input from the membership. All members in good standing are encouraged to submit nominations. One of two awards committees, each composed of some association officers, board members, and an association chaplain, evaluates persons nominated to receive any award. The proceedings of the committees are confidential, and voting tabulations are not published or made public. In fact, one awards committee is not privy to the deliberations of the other.

A listing of the four TSNA Awards and criteria for each may be viewed on our website at [tsna.org](http://tsna.org). Click on the Awards tab.

If you nominate someone, be specific and document the attributes and achievements that make your nominee unique and deserving. What has this person done to further the goals and ideals of our Association or, in some cases, their community or the nation? Nomination is not tantamount to selection for an award. Of course, persons may not nominate themselves.

Please send your nomination to the chair of one of the awards committees. Award Committee 1 chairman is President Randall Brown at [browncigar1965@yahoo.com](mailto:browncigar1965@yahoo.com). Award Committee 2 chairman is Vice President Richard Carvell at [rcarvell@astate.edu](mailto:rcarvell@astate.edu). You may also send your nomination to me, the TSNA Secretary, at [dale.bryan@gmail.com](mailto:dale.bryan@gmail.com). It should go without saying that one does not submit their nomination to the person you are nominating. Most nominees will likely be considered by Award Committee 1, but if the nominee is a member of that committee or a relative of a committee member, that nominee will then be considered by Award Committee 2. Composition of the awards committees may be found on the TSNA website under Committee tab. If you need to send your nomination by surface mail, send it to Tan Son Nhut Association at P. O. Box 236, Penryn, PA 17564-0236. In the address block on the envelope, add Attn: Randall Brown or Rich Carvell or Dale Bryan. The unopened letter will then be sent to that person.

Deadline for nominations is July 1, 2019.

Dale Bryan, TSNA Secretary



RF-4C Recon. Photo Plane. Photo courtesy of George Greenwood, Sep 66 - Sep 67, 460th FMS Airframe Repairman

## Remembering Vietnam on Memorial Day

By Kathy Penn  
Wife of TSNA Member Hugh Penn

As a high school and college student during most of the Vietnam War, I was consumed by the drill team, dating, and studying—not the nightly news. It's only since I've known my Vietnam veteran husband that I've learned more about the war and the toll it took on our troops and the fabric of our country.

I was blissfully ignorant of the military and political battles waged back then, though I've since learned lots about both via movies, documentaries, and books. "Pac 6: A General's Decision" is a documentary about Linebacker II, the Christmas 1972 mission, credited with bringing the North Vietnamese back to the negotiating table after talks had stalled earlier that year.

Linebacker I was the U.S. response to the Vietnamese Army's 1972 Easter Offensive. That response brought the enemy to the negotiating table, but by December, President Nixon, frustrated and determined to get them to negotiate in good faith, ordered his Joint Chiefs of Staff to initiate three days of B-52/Tacair strikes on December 18, 1972, with the objective: "maximum destruction of selected targets." They were told to be prepared to go longer.

The mission was ultimately successful in restarting the peace talks which led to the end of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War and the release of our POWs—some of whom had been held in inhumane and torturous conditions for more than seven years—but it started out disastrously for our B-52s and our airmen. Fifteen B-52s were shot down by over 1,000 Surface-to-Air missiles (SAMs). Of the ninety-two B-52 crew members who went down, thirty-three died, thirty-four were captured, and twenty-six were rescued. For details on the tactics that led to those losses, you can view the film at <https://vimeo.com/195186849> and read the story on <https://www.historynet.com/the-11-day-war.htm> and <http://www.linebacker2.com/-.php>.

This film, though, is about much more than military tactics and bravery in battle. It's the story of one man's integrity—one man making a difference, one man standing up to do the right thing. It's the story of Brigadier Glenn R. Sullivan's fateful decision to jump the chain of command, a decision that saved the lives of untold crew members and enabled the mission to be successful and to accomplish its overarching objective—get the talks going in earnest.

That decision cost General Sullivan his career, an outcome he would have been well aware of even as he took action to alter the dismal trajectory of the original tactics. Despite his leadership and his role in turning things around, he was denied a second star and retired two years later.

Like me, the General's son was a typical self-absorbed college student during the war, with little understanding of his father's involvement. This film, then, is also the story of that son and his search for an understanding of his father's role. The General died in 1998, and now twenty years later, this film honors not only those who gave their all but also one man who sacrificed the career he loved to do the right thing.

When Barry Dycus approached G. Ray Sullivan, the General's son, about making this film, Ray was reluctant because he knew his father wouldn't want his story to be the focus. Though it speaks to the respect the men had for General Sullivan, it's a well-balanced piece that allows those who fought and survived to express their perspectives on what B-52 aircrews came to call the "11-Day War."

The film was produced by Barry and Ray with the help of donations from veterans and civic groups. Their goal is to have it shown on a broadcast channel like the American Heroes Channel. Ray has presented to civic and veterans groups around the country and would be happy to visit your group to do the same. Contact him at [zenphoto@mindspring.com](mailto:zenphoto@mindspring.com). Stories like this serve to remind me of the true meaning of Memorial Day—a day to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. In the midst of family fun and cookouts, I encourage you to consider their sacrifice and to pause at 3 PM local time for a National Moment of Remembrance.

*Kathy is a Georgia resident. Find her books, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" and "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," on Amazon and look for Lord Banjo's new book coming soon. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](https://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/). Remembering Vietnam on Memorial Day*

# **TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION 2019 REUNION REGISTRATION**

**LITTLE ROCK, AR  
Sep 12-15, 2019**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

SPECIAL NEEDS (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Choose only the item(s) from the following that apply:

**Full Registration** (includes Banquet & daily access to Hospitality Suite, per person) .....\$75.00

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$75.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet Only** (per person) .....\$37.50

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$37.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Access to Hospitality suite** (per person, per day) .....\$17.50

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ x Number of days \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Order Reunion DVD** (each) ..... \$15.00

Number of copies ordered \_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL REMITTANCE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

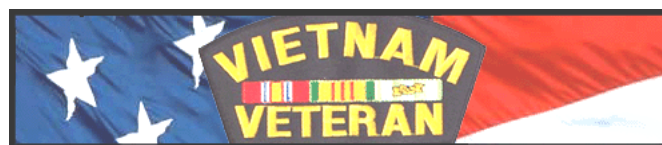
**Mail this form with payment (check only) to:**

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

**THIS REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED  
NLT AUGUST 30, 2019**

Questions regarding Reunion Registration should be directed to:

Larry Fry  
Director of Membership  
Email: [lfry2@dejazzd.com](mailto:lfry2@dejazzd.com)



# **TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION 2019 HOTEL REGISTRATION**

## **FOUR POINTS SHERATON LITTLE ROCK MIDTOWN**

925 S. UNIVERSITY BLVD & INTERSTATE 630  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72204  
(501) 664-5020

*NOTE: This hotel is now part of Marriott Hotels International*

**TSNA Room rate: \$96.00 + Tax (Currently: 15%)**

### **Option 1:**

You may make your reservation by telephone. To do so, call the hotel directly at:  
**(501) 664-5020**

Mention TSNA or Tan Son Nhut Association

### **Option 2:**

You may also make reservations through Marriott's nationwide Toll-Free Reservation Center at:  
**(800) 721-7033**

Mention this code: **TS-1089**

**Cutoff date for hotel reservations at our reduced rate is: August 10, 2019 at 5:00PM**

Any questions regarding hotel reservations should be addressed to:

**Joe Kricho**

Director of Reunion Planning

Email: [67vietvet68@gmail.com](mailto:67vietvet68@gmail.com)

(Please put "TSNA 2019 Reunion" in the subject line)





## Looking Back To 1972

By: Harold Boone, Sep 67 - Aug 68, 460th TRW HQ Section

The war in Vietnam was winding down with peace talks taking place in Paris. Troop levels dropped to 24,200. American deaths that year were 759.

Five men were arrested in a breaking into the Democratic Party Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover dies. The pesticide DDT was banned. Jogging suits become popular. Life Magazine ends publication. Governor George Wallace of Alabama was shot and disabled while campaigning for the Presidency. Terror found the Olympics as 11 Israeli team members were killed by Palestine terrorist. China gives two Pandas to the National Zoo in Washington. Bobby Fisher (U.S.A.) defeats Boris Spassky (Russia) in chess. Richard Nixon reelected as President.

In the world of business, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (Dow) closes above 1,000 for the first time. Fast forward to the year 2017 and see the Dow above 25,000. Gasoline was about 55 cents per gallon. Atari introduces the first video game called PONG. The TV subscription channel HBO was introduced. A Ford Pinto cost around \$2,000.

In the world of entertainment, we still had an expanding television service along with the movies and sports. Some of the more popular movies were The Godfather, Cabaret, Sounder, The Poseidon Adventure, and Sleuth.

Television was expanding in number of programs available as well as content. Some of the top programs were All In The Family, Sanford and Son, Hawaii Five-0, Maude, Adam-12, Bridget Loves Bernie, The Mary Tyler Moore Show, and Gun-smoke.

There was some special music in 1972. Here are the top songs from that year.

The First Time I Saw Your Face by Roberta Flack

Alone Again (Naturally) by Gilbert O'Sullivan

American Pie by Don McLean

Without You by Nilsson

Candy Man by Sammy Davis, Jr.

I Gotcha by Joe Tex

Lean On Me by Bill Withers

Baby Don't Get Hooked On Me by Mac Davis

Brand New Key by Melanie

Daddy Don't Walk So Fast by Wayne Newton

In the world of sports, UCLA defeated Florida State to win the National Championship in college basketball. The Oakland Athletics defeated the Cincinnati Reds in the World Series. In the NBA, the Lakers defeated the Knicks to become champions. In the NFL, the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Miami Dolphins in the Super Bowl.

## A FUNNY THING

(Reprinted from the May, 2008 Revetments)

By: Kerry Nivens, 377th Combat Support Group (POL), Dec 66-Dec 67

A funny thing happened to me this past December 14th. I was sitting at my desk doing some reports, the phone rang and after finishing my conversation, I looked at my watch for no special reason and noticed it was 11:00 AM. I paused for a few seconds and wondered what made me look at the time at that particular moment. 40 years earlier at that exact time was when my flight left TSN and I was headed home. A lot of anniversary dates of that time had passed and I never really thought too much about it.

The phone call was from a friend of mine who was in Nam, and as always when I say hello he would reply "Welcome Home Troop".

I really enjoy reading the Revetment and looking for names that I might remember. So far no luck,, but will keep reading and some day maybe one of those names who I have so many faces and no names will come together. Hope to be able to make one of the reunions some day.

But for now let me say: "Welcome Home Troop."

## **REUNION NEWS**

**Little Rock, AR, Sep 12-15, 2019**

Many of you are familiar with the ***Vietnam Vets Radio*** program which you can access on your wireless devices at: [www.vietnamvetsradio.org](http://www.vietnamvetsradio.org). Well, guess what? It appears that that radio program will be coming to us at our reunion this year in Little Rock. Two of the on-air personalities, Bennie & Delight Blount have agreed to do a live remote broadcast from our reunion. They will be traveling from their home in Oklahoma. This was suggested by our Treasurer, Andy Csordas.

Once I work out the logistics involved, I will be able to give you more details next month.

This will be a tremendous opportunity for our Association to spread the word about who we are and what we do. Hopefully, we will be able to expand our membership base while also letting everyone become aware of our scholarship program and other activities.

## **Tucson AZ, Sep 10-13, 2020**

I spent a week out in Tucson this past February staying at hotels and gathering information on potential activities while out there next year. I can't say enough good things about the welcome I received and how my hosts went out of their way to accommodate my needs and requests for information. I would like to call attention to one person in particular. That would be RoxAnne Erickson, the National Sales Manager for the Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau. She set up my entire schedule; arranged for my hotel rooms; and made sure that I was well taken care of.

Based on my observations while there, I passed that info on to our Board of Directors so that they could make a decision on which property best met our needs. Subsequent to that decision, I contacted that property to start working out the fine details so as to come up with a contract proposal that met both our, and their needs. And that's where I ran into a seemingly insurmountable issue. Since my visit, there was a change in management, and we were told we would not be allowed to bring in our own food & beverages for our hospitality room.

Luckily, there was a backup plan with one of the other properties, as well as another property which I did not have the time to look at while I was there. Also, we have a few members who live there. I discussed this with Randall Brown, and since he was still in the Tucson area, he agreed to visit those two properties. (He is actually visiting them as I write this, and I am looking to hearing his findings soon.)

I will let you know next month where we will go from here. In the meantime, it's time to be making your plans and reservations for Little Rock.

Joe Kricho  
Director of Reunion Planning

## ***AND I QUOTE***

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

**John F. Kennedy**

Our defense is in the preservation of the spirit which prizes liberty as a heritage of all men, in all lands, everywhere. Destroy this spirit and you have planted the seeds of despotism around your own doors.

**Abraham Lincoln**



**Arkansas State University Alumni Association Honors  
TSNA Vice President  
Richard Carvell as a 2018 Distinguished Alumni**

In 2018, the Arkansas State University Alumni Association announced Tan Son Nhut Vice President Richard Carvell as a recipient of its 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award. Carvell was recognized at halftime of the ASU Homecoming football game Saturday, Nov. 3.

Carvell enjoyed a long career in broadcasting and higher education before retiring in 2008, concluding a 37-year career at Arkansas State. For the last 20 years of his career at Arkansas State, he was an assistant professor of radio-television, and during 19 of those years served as department chair and director of broadcasting. Earlier he served as station manager and in other capacities for KASU radio, the university's public broadcasting service. He was named as a President's Fellow at Arkansas State University in 1983.

As a 23-year member of the Nettleton School Board, he was recognized many times for his contributions to public education, including the *Arkansas Times* and Arkansas Friends for Better Schools award as Arkansas Public School Hero in 1995.

In 1994, he was awarded the Dr. Daniel L. Pilkinton Award for Service to the Public Schools of Arkansas by the Arkansas School Boards Association.

From 1994 to 1997, he served in several leadership positions in the Arkansas School Boards Association, including as its president in 1996.

In 2005, he was recognized by the Arkansas Advertising Federation with the organization's Distinguished Educator Award.

He achieved recognition from a variety of organizations for his journalistic efforts ... including awards from the Arkansas Associated Press Broadcasters Association in 1983, the American Legion for severe weather reporting in 1983, a Community Impact Award for Exemplary Broadcasting Services from the Southern Educational Communications Association in 1983, a Citation for Severe Weather Reporting from the City of Jonesboro in 1982, School Bell Awards from the Arkansas Education Association in 1982 and 1973, Public Service Awards from the Arkansas Chapter of American Women in Radio Television in 1977 and 1974, and a Public Service Award in 1975 from the National Weather Service for contributing to Public Safety.

He is active in his church, Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas, currently serving as Chair of the Church Council.

A native of Brinkley, Arkansas, Carvell earned a bachelor's degree in radio journalism at A-State in 1966 then started graduate studies at the University of Illinois. But his grad school education was interrupted by the Vietnam War. Carvell joined the Air Force and after completing USAF Officer Training School as a Distinguished Graduate, he served on active duty for four years, including one year in Vietnam, in charge of the Photo Lab at the 12<sup>th</sup> Re-

connnaissance Intelligence Technical Squadron. He rose to the rank of captain and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service after his tour in Vietnam. In addition to his assigned duties in the Photo Lab, Carvell served as his unit's Civic Action Officer and coordinated efforts to assist the orphanage Sanctuary de Phu My in Saigon.

After his discharge from the Air Force, Carvell resumed his formal education, returning to Illinois to complete a master's degree in broadcasting, then joined the A-State faculty.

His numerous public service activities include active membership and service in military Veterans' organizations, including as vice president of the Tan Son Nhut Association, adjutant of Chapter 26 of Disabled American Veterans in Jonesboro, and leadership positions in Chapter 21 of the American Legion in Arkansas. He also is a Commissioner for the American Legion Arkansas Boys State and serves as the chief photographer at the annual Boys State gathering.

He also is a member of the Northeast Arkansas United Cerebral Palsy Board and the Kays Foundation board of directors.

He and his wife Sue raised five sons, Rich Jr., Dean Collins, David, Jonathan and James, and have five granddaughters.

This is the 35th year the ASU Alumni Association has recognized the University's most distinguished alumni.



**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.

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**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 Fred Benda, Sep 70 - Sep 71,  
823rd & 544th Red Horse Combat Engineers

## LITTLE ROCK REUNION - 2019

Our TSNA President, Randall Brown, and his wife Rita have recently visited our September, 2019 Reunion host hotel.

Randall mentioned that "The Bar is super nice. Restaurant opens at 5:00.

Our room is spacious, microwave, fridge, coffee maker. Real nice.

My check-in was great, very friendly, helpful and everything was ready."

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION **NOW!!**

**NEW MEMBERS**

**David Banck Luverne MN [davebanck@hotmail.com](mailto:davebanck@hotmail.com) Dec 67 - Dec 68 1876 Comm. Sq. Comm. Equip Install & Maintenance**

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