



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

AUGUST 2024



Chaplain's Corner-Nothing New Under the Sun

By Andy Csordas, Associate Chaplain

Please understand this article is not about politics or what side is right or wrong. The idea for this article was from a short study of the book of Lamentations over the weekend, more about that below. This is a discussion about history and how the scriptures talk about it. Many of us are dismayed about what seems to have happened to the country of our youth. Sometimes we think how can this be or we think something (whatever it is) has never happened before.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 tells us: ***“That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun”***. Of course we say, but that was before this or that was possible, true technology has advanced a great deal, but basic concepts, attitudes and moral standards are essentially the same.

Our founding fathers used much scripture and prayer as they formed this less than perfect but amazing type of government that had never ever been tried in the past. They prayed for God to bless our new country. God told the Solomon that he would bless the people if they followed his precepts. **1 Kings 9:4-5** records ***“Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father.”*** So, Judah was warned but apparently the warning did not take. They were prosperous and had been at peace for many years and forgot all about God's warning.

Later on the prophet Jeremiah reminded them about God's warning, they ignored that as well. Sometimes when times are easy, we tend to get soft and think that it will always be great and easy. That is not how it typically works out. If you study history, you will find many great empires collapsed because they had lost their edge and figured all would always be great. Think of the British Empire, the Ottoman Empire, etc.

I mentioned the book of Lamentations above and before the study over the weekend I always waded through that book thinking this is depressing, etc. The author of the book is not specified but scholars are pretty sure the prophet Jeremiah was the author. It talks about hopelessness, starvation and how God has forgotten the people. When you see the word she or her it is referring to Judah, not a person.

Lamentations is actually just stating that you (Judah) did not follow God's precepts and what God promised (see 1 Kings 9:4-5 references above) has happened to Judah. **Lamentations 1:3** says . . . ***“Judah has gone into exile. She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place. All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress”***. **Verse 1:7** says . . . ***“her enemies looked at her and laughed at her destruction”***.

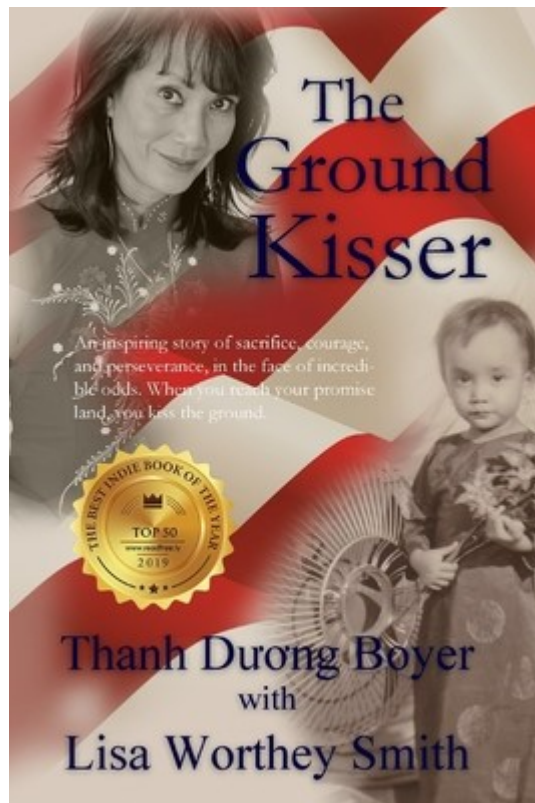
So again, this is not meant to be political or to be used to take sides in ideology, but just something that can make us think. All empires and countries have a shelf life so to speak, what is ours? Remember there is nothing new under the sun, the technology to achieve it may be new, but the process is not. Where is our country today, the country we sacrificed for to remain free, the country that stepped up for others to remain free of oppression. And perhaps more important, what can we personally do to ensure the same for our children and our grandchildren.

When we do the missing man ceremony we pause after every line to use the word “Remember”. Let us remember where our great nation has been and what we need to do so it can continue. As Chaplain Chaffee used to say. “End of Sermon”.

***Opinions expressed are the author's and not necessarily those of the Tan Son Nhut Association**

**TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
2024 REUNION
BANQUET SPEAKER**

An inspiring story of sacrifice, courage, and perseverance, in the face of incredible odds. When you reach your promise land, you kiss the ground. Saigon had fallen. With Communism breathing down their backs and their wealth and freedom wiped out, Thanh's parents had to make an agonizing decision. Without enough gold to pay for boat passage for all eight family members, they had to choose whether to stay together and face whatever came in Vietnam, or risk separating the family to give a child a chance to survive. They had only hours to decide. Under the cover of darkness, two weeks after her twelfth birthday, Thanh left on an overloaded riverboat set for Australia through the pirate-riddled South China Sea. If their boat could survive that, then Thanh would find a way to have her family join her Down Under. But that would never happen. One after another, obstacles most people can't even imagine threatened to take her life. This is the true story of Thanh Dương Boyer's strength, courage, and perseverance in the harshest of circumstances to fulfill the dream of living under the banner of freedom. The Ground Kisser is a faith-building, flag-waving story that will inspire you to recognize the important things in life, treasure them, and take action to preserve them-even if it cost your life.



Tentative Schedule of Events
 Tan Son Nhut Association
 Four Points by Sheraton at Huntsville Airport
 September 18-20-2024

| Date and time | | Event | Room |
|-------------------------|------|--|-------------------|
| Wednesday, September 18 | | | |
| 1000 | 2000 | Set-up and Registration | Hospitality Suite |
| 1000 | 2000 | Hospitality/Social | Hospitality Suite |
| Thursday, September 19 | | | |
| 0900 | 2100 | Hospitality/Social | Hospitality Suite |
| 1000 | 1800 | Tour Space and Rocket Center | Huntsville |
| 1300 | 1400 | Memorial Dedication Ceremony | Hotel |
| 1700 | 2100 | Dinner/socializing on your own | |
| Friday, September 20 | | | |
| 0900 | 1600 | Registration | Hospitality Suite |
| 0900 | 1630 | Hospitality/Social | Hospitality Suite |
| 0900 | 1100 | Board Meeting | Board Room |
| 1100 | 1300 | Free Time/Hospitality | Hospitality Suite |
| 1300 | 1400 | General Meeting | Hospitality Suite |
| 1400 | 1445 | Officers and Directors Report | Hospitality Suite |
| 1445 | 1500 | New officers/Swearing In | Hospitality Suite |
| 1500 | 1530 | Officers and Directors Q and A | Hospitality Suite |
| 1530 | 1700 | Free Time/Hospitality | |
| 1600 | | Silent Auction ends | Hospitality Suite |
| 1600 | 1630 | Door Prizes | Hospitality Suite |
| 1630 | | Hospitality Suite closes | Hospitality Suite |
| 1700 | 1800 | Welcome Reception/Cash Bar | Banquet Room |
| 1730 | 1800 | Group Photo | Foyer |
| 1800 | 2200 | Banquet | Banquet Room |
| 1800 | 1815 | Welcome Remarks | Banquet Room |
| 1815 | 1830 | Presentation of Colors/Pledge | Banquet Room |
| 1830 | 1930 | Dinner | Banquet Room |
| 1930 | 2015 | Speaker Thanh Dur'o'ng Boyer | Banquet Room |
| 2015 | 2145 | Awards | Banquet Room |
| Saturday, September 21 | | | |
| 0900 | 1100 | Breakfast/on your own | Restaurant |
| 1100 | | Reunion Ends | |
| 1100 | 1600 | Free Time, self guided tours of Huntsville | |

You will need a military or VA ID to get on military facilities



TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION 2024 **REUNION REGISTRATION**

Huntsville AL
Sep 18-20, 2024

NAME _____ GUEST NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TEL (____) _____ EMAIL _____

SPECIAL NEEDS or MEALS (if applicable) _____

Choose one of the following:

1: FULL Reunion Registration including banquet

Number attending _____ X **\$95.00** = \$ _____

2. Banquet Only Friday, September 20, 2024

Number attending _____ X **\$65.50** = \$ _____

Mail this form with payment (check only) to:

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

REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED
NLT September 4, 2024 (No refunds after September 11, 2024)

Questions regarding Registration should be directed to:

Paul Mortensen, Director of Reunion Planning

TSNAreunions@gmail.com

Hotel Information

Four Points by Sheraton (Huntsville Airport)
1000 Glenn Hearn Blvd Huntsville AL 35824

Rm Rate \$139.00 plus taxes standard King- -\$149 for a Double Queen

Meal selection will be made closer to the event

Additional events may be added later

Rm Rate \$139.00 plus taxes standard King- -\$149 for a Double Queen

Meal selection will be made closer to the event

Additional events may be added later

History of the space program in Huntsville.

When Dr. Wernher von Braun arrived in 1950 in the tiny Alabama town which called itself the "Watercress Capital of the World," Huntsville boasted a population of 15,000. Today, it is forged forever in history as the place where America's space program was born; where the rockets were developed that put the first U.S. satellite into orbit and sent men to the moon; where the power for today's space shuttle was developed; where the modules for the International Space Station were designed and built; and where America's next great ship – the Space Launch System – is being designed.

During the final months that von Braun and his team of scientists were refining the giant rocket that sent Apollo astronauts to the moon, he was also preparing to launch another important project: a permanent exhibit to showcase the hardware of the space program. Von Braun was director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Huntsville when he approached the Alabama Legislature with the idea of creating a museum jointly with the U.S. Army Missile Command and NASA. After Alabama lawmakers and its citizens voted in 1968 to finance construction, the U.S. Army donated land on its Redstone Arsenal, which is also the site of the sprawling NASA center, and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center® was born.

Since opening its doors in 1970, nearly 16 million people have toured the Center. The vast majority of those visitors have been from out of state or from foreign nations. Many of the more than 600,000 annual visitors are school students on field trips to their future. Dozens of interactive exhibits encourage visitor participation, prompting one official to note: "Here, everyone can be an astronaut for the day!"

Home to [Space Camp®](#), [Aviation Challenge® Camp](#), and [Robotics Camp](#) the U.S. Space & Rocket Center (USSRC) is the largest spaceflight museum in the world. Its large rocket and space hardware collection is valued in the tens of millions of dollars. From America's first satellite, Explorer I, to next generation space vehicles like Sierra Nevada's *Dream Chaser*, the museum showcases the past, present and future of human spaceflight. The U.S. Space & Rocket Center serves as the Official [NASA Visitor Center](#) for [Marshall Space Flight Center](#) and is an [affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution](#).

The USSRC is more than just artifacts! Experience the physics of astronaut training like never before in simulators like Space Shot™ and G-Force. Our [Spacedome IMAX® Theater and our National Geographic Theater](#) transports you to different worlds with amazing documentary films like *Hubble*, and live demonstrations in the Discovery Theater will have you seeing space science in a whole new light. There's always something happening at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center!

Notable Artifacts

National Historic Landmark Saturn V Moon Rocket
Pathfinder – the world's only full-stack space shuttle display
Apollo 16 Command Module
Skylab Orbital Workshop

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Below is a link I found, relating to "THEN AND NOW" PICTURES, MOST OF THEM AROUND SAIGON. As usual, "PRESS CONTROL AND CLICK TO FOLLOW LINK."

https://www.google.com/search?q=saigon-cholon+then+and+now+photos&rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS811US811&oq=saigon-cho- lon+then+and+now&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqBwgCECEYoAEyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAIQIRigATIH CAMQIRigATIHCAQQIRigATIHCAUQIRigAdIBCTMzMzA1ajBqN6gCCLACAQ&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON HUNTSVILLE AIRPORT HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

DIRECTIONS TO HUNTSVILLE

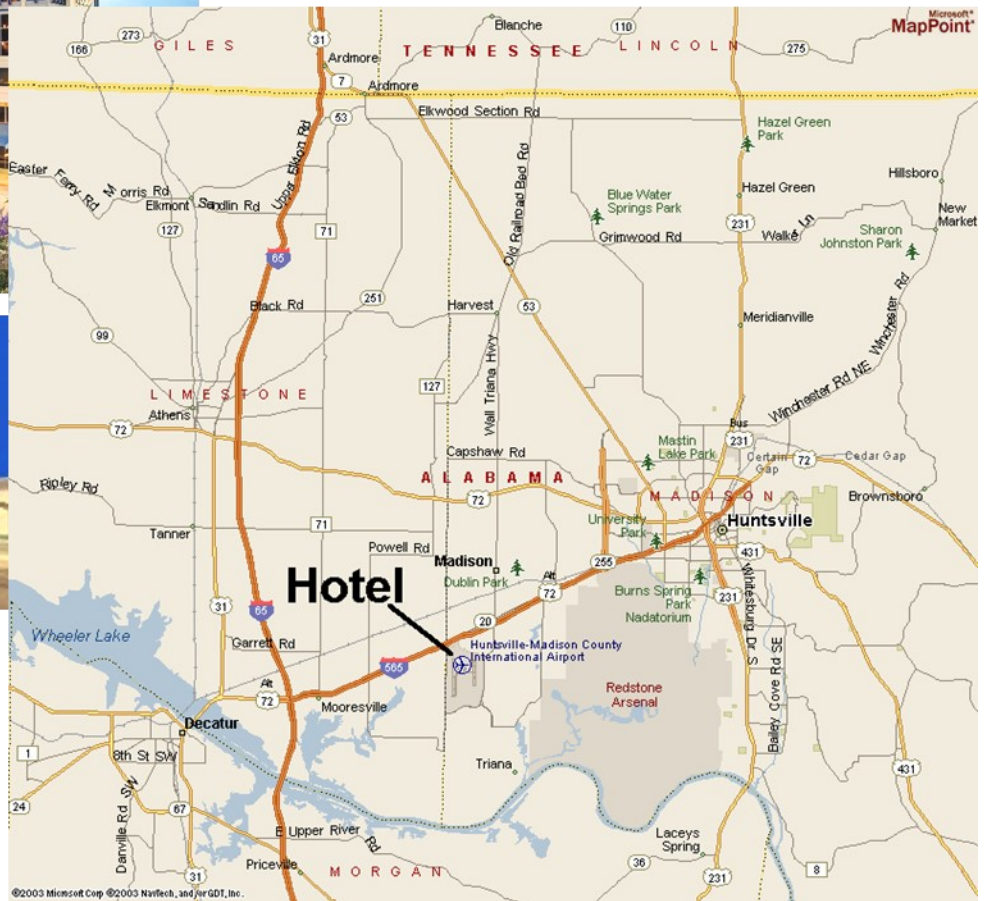
From Chattanooga, TN. I 24 W to US 72 W (Exit 152A) When you get into Huntsville 72 will change into I 565. Continue on 565 to Exit 8 to the Airport. The hotel is located in the main Airport building, second floor.

From Nashville, TN. I 65 S to exit 340B in Alabama I 565 E to exit 8 follow the above direction to hotel.

From Birmingham, AL. I 65 N to Exit 340, I 565 to exit 8, follow to above direction to hotel.

From West Memphis, AR. I 40 E to I 55 S to 240 E to 385 E to US 72 E. Follow 72 through MS to AL through Muscle Shoals, AL to US 72 Alternate follow 72 Alt. through Decatur, AL till 565. Exit 8 off of 565 and follow the above direction to hotel.

OUR 2024 TSNA REUNION “HOME”



Tan Son Nhut Association is going to Have Fun in Huntsville

We Hope to see you at the reunion



When I would go to the Navy Exchange in Cho Lon, I would always buy a pack of these blade. Well, anyone who has seen me lately know I don't use or need them. I recently found a bunch of blades and we will have them in Huntsville to give away to registered reunion attendees, probably as door prizes.

Can you believe these prices, and this is for five blades!

Come and share some photo's

Enjoy the company of other Tan Son Nhut Veterans

Share some small talk

Sept 18-20, 2024

Huntsville AL

Come and bring your family with you!

The origins of military challenge coins are unclear, but some say they date back to Roman times when soldiers were rewarded with coins for exceptional service. Others say the tradition began in World War I when a squadron leader gave bronze medallions to his fellow pilots, or during the Vietnam War when an Army bar required non-infantrymen to prove their combat service with a coin-sized item.



The modern tradition of challenge coins involves soldiers "challenging" each other to present their coins. If a soldier can't produce their coin, they may have to buy a drink or meal for the challenger. The tradition is now known as a coin check, or coin challenge

Come to Huntsville and while in the hospitality suite, **"CHALLENGE"** A Tan Son Nhut Board member, and if they do NOT have their coin, they will make sure you get a wine, beer, or soft drink for FREE. Then sit down with that member and swap some stories, remember some good times and maybe share some pictures.

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: Rick Cooley
Vice President: Richard Carvell
Secretary/Treasurer: Andy Csordas
Director of Communications: Gary Fields
Director of Marketing: Andy Csordas
Director of Reunion Planning: Paul Mortensen
Director of Membership and Revetments Editor: Larry E. Fry
Director of Membership Development: Rick Cooley
Director at Large:
Web Master: Kerry Nivens
Chaplain: Jimmy Smith
Associate Chaplain: Andy Csordas
Chaplains Emeriti:
Rev. Bob Alan Chaffee (1929-2017), Chaplain: 2009 - 2017
Rev. Dr. James M. Warrington (1926 - 2022), Chaplain: 1997-2018
Presidents Emeriti:
Don Parker, (1947-2014), Co-Founder and President 1996-2002
John Peele, Co-Founder and President 2002-2004
Wayne Salisbury, (1940-2014), President 2004-2007
Robert Robinson Gales, President 2007-2011
George Plunkett, President 2011-2015
Randall W. Brown, President, 2015-2023

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

NOTATION FROM APPLICATION

I was assigned to Long Binh HQ and frequented our Detachment at Camp Gaylor. The 221st was a multi-media company that employed motion picture cameramen, still photographers, combat artists, photo lab techs, and correspondents.

I was a Combat Correspondent/Photo Lab Technician.

Larry Edward Mathis
221st Signal (Photo), 1st Signal Brigade
Sep 69 - Sep 71

SCHOLARSHIP FUND CERTIFICATE DELIVERY

By: Andy Csordas, Treasurer, TSNA

Rena and I had the privilege to present this Scholarship Certificate in person to Sawyer Gribble of Versailles, KY. Sawyer is one of 10 Scholarship recipients for 2024. Sawyer is the son of Phillip and Jamie Gribble. He will attend Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY and become a Pharmacist. His grandfather was a Ranger in the 82nd Airborne during his Vietnam tour during 1969-1970.

We, the Scholarship Committee Members, rarely have the opportunity to do this in person as our recipients are from all over. So this was a rare treat to meet Sawyer and his family and have a delightful time with them in the process.

Your contributions to the Scholarship Fund make these Scholarships possible. The Tan Son Nhut Association, from inception to the present, has awarded 31 scholarships worth \$151,000 to deserving students. Help us by spreading the word to your local schools and of course donating to the fund.



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.