



# REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association  
A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

FEBRUARY 2025



EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS IS FROM TSNA PAST PRESIDENT Randall Brown.

Larry,

I stay in touch with Guy Gruters, who was a great speaker at Dayton for TSNA.

He sent this note today to me. I got my book already. I thought might be of interest to our members to get at Amazon for those who heard him speak. Maybe a short article for the newsletter?

## Faith Conquers Through Courage Tested: A Combat Veteran's Story Paperback – December 5, 2024

by [Milton A. Toratti](#) (Author)

The 'real story' is not about war, but about the indomitable spirit of man. It is about how men, American fighting men, trapped in the most hellish of circumstances endured. It is about how, left only with their faith in God, their country and their fellow pilots, they managed to keep fighting in every way they could without physical weapons. It is about how they survived and 'returned with honor'. This story is not about me. It is about Bud Day and Bob Craner and P.K. Robinson, John McCain, Misty pilot POWs, and more than 500 other POWs, and an extraordinary man named Lance Sijan, and about faith in God and how it sustains us all. The torturers and the treatment in the remote areas was brutal in every way. The eyewitnesses by Mistys, the unit I was in, had as one of its responsibilities flying overhead and coordinating the rescue of pilots shot down. In just the previous months before I started flying with them, the Mistys had seen two pilots surrounded by North Vietnamese civilians and troops on the ground hacked to death with machetes as the Mistys were circling trying to rescue them. Guy Gruters

[https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Conquers-Through-Courage-Tested-ebook/dp/B0DPTK8YJ1/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&dib\\_tag=se&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.wQ5WfvtO2EtELB7Gq1l-w.zS-QpAHLDe25gzXVbbmEyou6pGUX3WZkZhGr92ootgA&qid=1737318901&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Conquers-Through-Courage-Tested-ebook/dp/B0DPTK8YJ1/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&dib_tag=se&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.wQ5WfvtO2EtELB7Gq1l-w.zS-QpAHLDe25gzXVbbmEyou6pGUX3WZkZhGr92ootgA&qid=1737318901&sr=8-1)

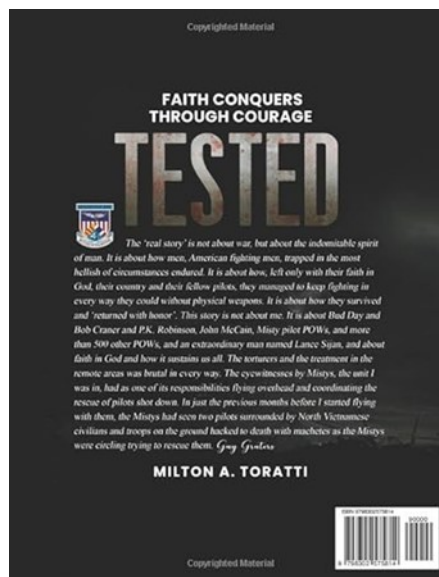
## Faith Conquers Through Courage Tested: A Combat Veteran's Story

by Milton A. Toratti | Dec 5, 2024

[Paperback](#) \$25.99

[Kindle](#) \$9.99

[Hardcover](#) \$33.99





# Who wants to join us in Tucson in 2025?



Members of the Tan Son Nhut Association who live in the west are thinking about a reunion in Tucson either in late spring or early fall of 2025.

Let us know if you have an interest in attending! Tours can be arranged of the:

Air Museum

Bone Yard

Missile Museum

AND MORE LOCAL  
ATTRACTIONS

Meet and Greet other members and enjoy the company of a brotherhood of Tan Son Nhut Veterans.



Association Members and non-members can attend (Membership information will be available for those who wish to join).

**Please let us know if you would like to attend the reunion.**

Email: [TSNAREunions@gmail.com](mailto:TSNAREunions@gmail.com)

Let us know your thoughts.



# Thanks to all the TSNA Members!

# We Honor Veterans Newsletter



**EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS EVENT IS IN MARYLAND, SUBMITTED TO ME BY TSNA MEMBER JOSEPH LAZARAVICH.**

Gilchrist's 7th annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration is on Sunday, March 30, 2025, at Martin's West. The celebration begins at 12:00 noon.

The Keynote Speaker will be Captain Charlie Plumb.

Captain Charlie Plumb served as a Navy Fighter Pilot and was a Vietnam War POW. He is also an author and a top motivational speaker. During his nearly six years of captivity, Captain Charlie Plumb distinguished himself among his fellow prisoners as a professional in underground communications and served for two of those years as the Chaplain in his camp. Since his return home, more than 4,000 audiences in nearly every industry have been spellbound as Captain Plumb draws parallels between his P.O.W. experience and the challenges of everyday life.

Here is a brief video of Charlie Plumb talking about his parachute. This will give you a great reason to attend this event and see him in person: [Capt. Charlie Plumb's Parachute Packer Story \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Here are comments from those who have attended this welcome home celebration in the past:

*"It's a wonderful service that Gilchrist offers ...and everything you do is professional and caring."*

*"Every volunteer, staff person and participant were knowledgeable, warm, and dedicated to the Vietnam veteran."*

*"It is a good event for me to open-up about my experiences. I have found that those who didn't go to Vietnam don't typically understand."*

We need your help! Please spread the word about this event. We would like to reach as many Vietnam veterans as possible.

Registration will begin in early February. Check the following page for the "Registration" link in February. Then register! We hope to see you there!

[Welcome Home Celebration for Vietnam Veterans | Gilchrist](#)

This **free event** is supported 100% by community donations. If you know of someone who would like to become a sponsor or if you would like to donate, please visit the Gilchrist website link above and click on the link that reads: Donate to the 2025 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration.

## Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

### Our Promise

Gilchrist provides quality compassionate care, counseling and support to people at every stage of serious illness. A nationally recognized, nonprofit leader in serious illness and end-of-life care, Gilchrist is deeply committed to providing life-affirming programs to ensure that our patients have the best possible quality of life and the opportunity to live every moment to its fullest.

We pride ourselves in being committed to honoring every person's culture, values, and wishes by respecting who they are and what matters most to them — ensuring our partners and communities feel valued and appreciated as we interact with them. We do not exclude or discriminate against any person based on race, sex, color, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, diagnosis or medical condition, veteran status, ancestry, marital status, pregnancy, citizenship, source of payment or inability to understand the English language.



## Chaplain's Corner-Intelligent Design

By Andy Csordas, Associate Chaplain

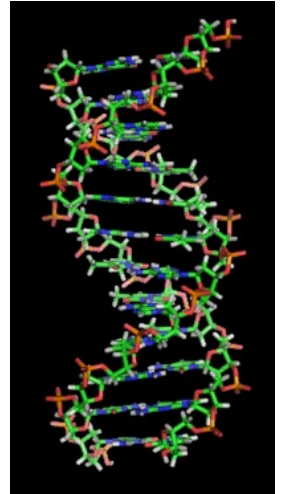
There has been much discussion about Intelligent Design vs. Evolution. Have you ever studied the complexity of God's creation? I recently had a detached retina. As I looked at the model of an eye in the doctor's office I marveled about how incredibly complex the eye actually is, and I did not even think about the connections to the brain that enables us to see things.

Evidence of God's creation is all around us and we most often don't even think about it. We just get used to things we see every day and forget how complex things around us are. I saw a headline the other day that said researchers discovered that the human brain is actually many times more powerful than previously assumed. Supercomputers have been compared to the human brain and they are nowhere as powerful.

In molecular biology, the term double helix refers to the structure formed by double-stranded molecules of nucleic acids such as DNA. If you study the double helix of DNA you have to come to the conclusion that this incredibly complex mechanism did not just happen. Even single cell mechanisms require a number of amino acids to allow then to function.

If we use the evolution argument for creation of beings the odds say it would take many thousands of mutations just to create one amino acid that a one cell organism requires. While we would wait for many more thousands of mutations to occur to create the second amino acid required by the organism the first amino acid would not survive because it takes all of the amino acids, in many case dozens of them, for the organism to survive. Multiply that times the billions of cells required for our body to function and you cannot comprehend the complexity.

A single strand of DNA has all of the items needed to create all of the different cells, organs, etc. required for a fully formed human. The same goes for animals. **Genesis 1:1** tells us, ***"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void"***. **Genesis 1:27** tells us, ***"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."*** **Psalms 148:** says, ***"Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created"***.



There are also many things in the world that if slightly changed would not allow life on earth to continue, things like the tilt of the earth's axis, the distance from the sun, the atmosphere that provides the rain and protects us from the sun and many others. Life would not be sustainable with minor changes of many things.

The conclusion is that the earth and its beautiful flowers, mountains, seas, fish and animals could not just happen; they were created by a loving God, who wants to fellowship with you. **Isaiah 40:26** says, ***"Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things."*** Lift up your eyes and talk to the God that created us.

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

**EDITORS SPECIAL NOTE:** This issue of Revetments contains the LAST "NEW" articles/announcements/notices/personal accounts, etc. that I have for Revetments.

For over 17 years I have included pleas for more items, but, until now, I have not done it with NOTHING "in stock"!

Our readers especially like to read our "personal accounts".

But I can only publish something I have.

Enough said!! MY EMAIL IS: [larlo4044@gmail.com](mailto:larlo4044@gmail.com).

Hi Larry,

Fred Benda here. Thank you very much for the Monthly news letter. Happy New Years to you and your family !!

Here's a new copy of the tune I wrote for the pipes to share with other Vietnam Veterans. I had to fix some art work.

Kind Regards

Frederick R. Benda Jr.  
Vietnam 1970-71



## 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

Commemorative March

November 11, 2025

Frederick. R. Benda Jr.

March

Slow Air



March



" Never Again Will One Generation Of Veteran's Abandon Another "

### FAVORITE SAYINGS:

I'm fairly certain that the first person to put the first "r" in "February" was also involved in how to spell "Wednesday".

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

People who are all wrapped up in themselves are overdressed.

Sermons and biscuits are improved by shortening.

Which is the strongest day in the week? Sunday, because all the rest are week days

If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.

100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.



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**Web Site:** [www.tsna.org](http://www.tsna.org)  
Annual Membership: \$20.00  
Three Year Membership: \$50.00



Source Unknown

Kevin Shwiner Pictures  
Jul 71 - Jul 72  
315 CAMS - 310 TALS - 21st TASS



Just a little foggy??

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