



REVETMENTS



The Official Journal of the Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

July 2026 Edition

Just a reminder

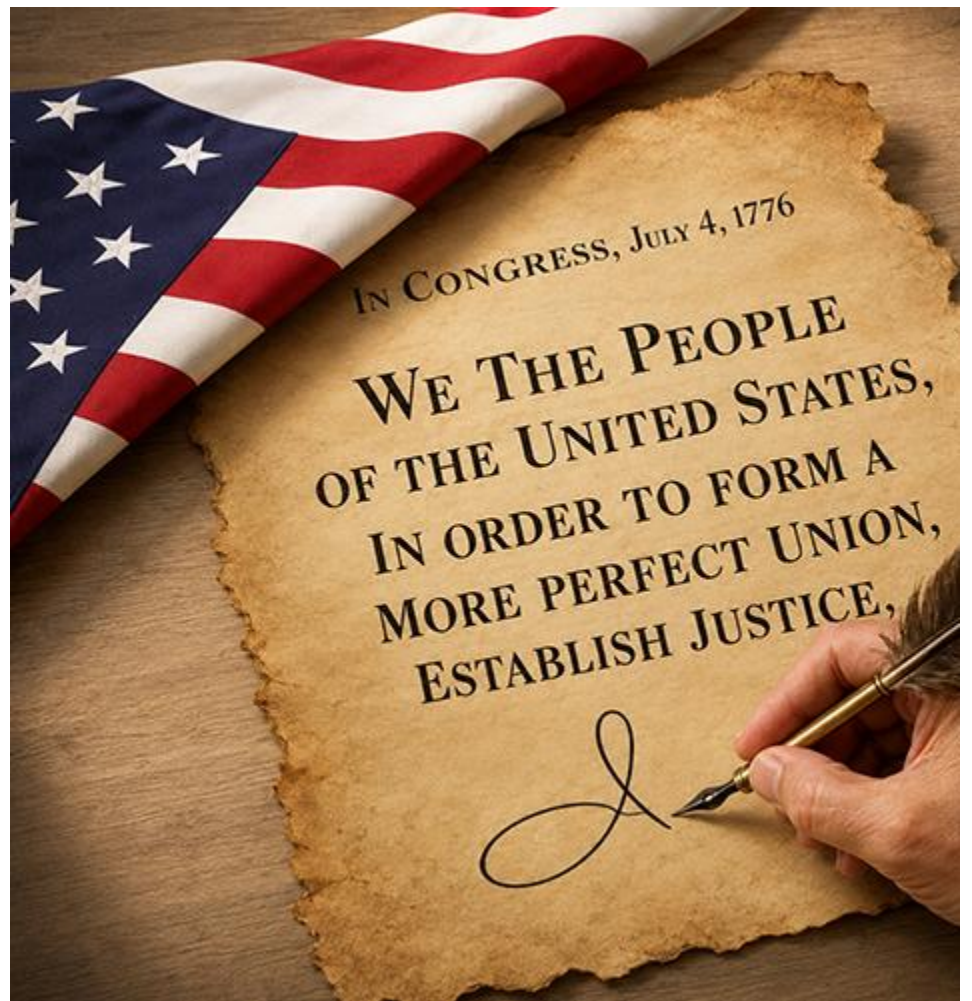
Revetments, our newsletter, will now be published approximately every three months.

Please feel free to contribute, including stories, pictures or information for future publications

The mailing address is:

**Tan Son Nhut
Association
810 Cindy Blair Way
Lexington KY 40503
Contact Information:**

**Andy Csordas:
acsordasvvet@gmail.com**



Anchor Award

As you may have noticed the discussions in previous issues about our web page update processes which were solved by Charles Penley and Chad Towery.

Chad is the son in law of our Board Member Kerry Nivens. Chad has been updating our web page for some time as a courtesy to the Tan Son Nhut Association. Recently the Board approved an Anchor Award for Chad. It is well deserved. Chad has not asked for any recognition, he just provides this in the background as a service to our organization. One of the criteria to receive the Anchor Award is to be a “go to person” for the organization. **Chad is a “go to person”!**



THANK YOU, CHAD!

Things America has Given to the World

If you watch the news, you will hear all kinds of comments about how America is not that great a nation. See the list below of a few of the accomplishments provided for the world.

1. Created the light bulb
2. Created electrical distribution so we can see at night
3. Created the telephone and the cell phone
4. Created wireless communication across the ocean
5. Installed the trans-Atlantic cables to allow instant communication across the sea
6. Created motion pictures
7. Saved the world from fascism during WWI
8. Saved the world from fascism and communism in WWII
9. Won the cold war over communism and saw freedom for the eastern Europe people
10. Dug the Panama Canal
11. Created the internet
12. Created the GPS system
13. Flew the first powered aircraft
14. Landed men on the moon multiple times
15. Created the assembly line which allowed the masses to afford automobiles
16. Created refrigeration which allowed people to have unspoiled food virtually anywhere
17. Created the elevator

Honor Flight

Recently Andy Csordas was honored to participate in an Honor Flight to DC with his nephew, Alex, who is a retired Army Major. It was an emotional day for both.

It was a long day, they arrived at the Lexington Airport at 5:00 am and landed back in Lexington after 8:00 pm.

The Friends of Coal was the primary sponsor of the flight and of course there were many other sponsors as well.

It included visits to most of the memorials in Washington DC and of course Arlington where some of our flight placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Chapain's Corner-The Scriptures and our Country's Foundation

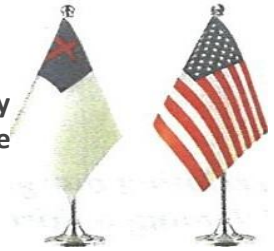
Andy Csordas-Associate Chaplain

Recently we had a prayer and praise dinner at our church. We thanked God for the insight and dedication of our Founding Fathers as they prayerfully considered how this country would be governed. There has been lots of discussion over the years saying we were not founded as a Christian nation.

But we were founded on the principles of freedom, for us as individuals and freedom to worship as we deemed proper. The constitution says there will be no state church, as they had in England. It does not say that Christians should not use their beliefs and moral convictions when they govern. For more insight read the letter from John Adams, excerpt listed below, to the Massachusetts Militia. Our form of government "only works with a moral and religious people."

July 1776 Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal. That they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



1770's First Great Awakening

The context of the War of Independence was the **First Great Awakening**. The First Great Awakening occurred primarily between the 1730s and 1770s. It was a major 18th-century revival in the American colonies that emphasized personal faith, and individual spiritual authority. Prominent figures included Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield.

November, 1777, text of the Continental Congress

For as much as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the super-intending providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to Him for benefits received, and to also smile upon us in the prosecution of a just and necessary war, for the defense and establishment of our unalienable rights and liberties. It is therefore recommended, to set apart Thursday, the 18th of December next, for solemn thanksgiving and praise.

June 28, 1787, Philadelphia, Constitutional Convention, **Benjamin Franklin's** speech,

I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth -- **that God governs in the affairs of men**. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without [H]is notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without [H]is aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that **"except the Lord build the House they labor in vain that build it."**

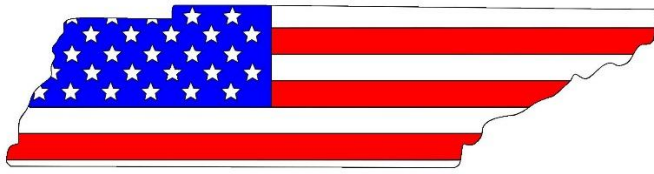
1798 letter from John Adams to the Massachusetts militia: **"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."**

1799-1801 Second Great Awakening Epicenter began in Kentucky, starting in Logan County and moving to Cane Ridge, Bourbon County where 25,000 attended outdoor meetings. "It all began with "Prayer Covenant and Communion Services."

June 14, 1954 Adding "Under God" to the Pledge by Pres. Eisenhower "From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty."

So, as we celebrate our country's 250th Anniversary with the type of government that had never been created before, be grateful to our Founding Fathers and subsequent leaders' prayerful consideration of the type of government we have. Let's make sure we keep it for our children and grandchildren. The movie, **The Great Awakening** shows how much our revolution was a result of the Great Awakening in the 1770s. It provides an incredible historical context.

Upcoming Retreat



Looking for the best things to do in Pigeon Forge? Pigeon Forge is packed with unforgettable experiences for visitors of all ages and is very Veteran friendly.

Visit Iconic attractions like:

Dollywood, the award-winning theme park, and the Island in Pigeon Forge, where you will find rides, music, restaurants and more.

Discover interactive exhibits and hands-on learning at museums like WonderWorks and the TITANIC Museum.

Attractions from go-kart racing and mini-golf to world class shows and dinner theaters are there. Explore the most exciting and fun things to do in Pigeon Forge and make memories that last a lifetime. Whether you're here for the retreat or a full vacation, the adventure never stops in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

We look forward to seeing you in August 2026, just to "hang out" and relax, share stories and fond memories of Tan Son Nhut, and just have a great retreat getting to renew acquaintances or meet other veterans and their families. Please complete the registration form below and return it to Paul Mortensen as noted so we know how to plan.

Leconte Hotel and Conference Center

410 Pine Mountain Road

Pigeon Forge, TN 37863

865-428-8350

2026 Tan Son Nhut Retreat Registration



LeConte Hotel and Conference

Center 410 Pine Mountain Rd

Pigeon Forge,

TN 37863

865-428-8350

August 24-26, 2026

**Please make your room reservations
directly with the hotel.**

NAME _____ GUEST NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TEL (____) _____ EMAIL _____

Total number of attendees for this registration form _____

No formal activities are planned except for our opening reception, which is a lunch on August 24, 2026 at 11:00 hours. All Tan Son Nhut veterans (anyone assigned to, or who passed through Tan Son Nhut airbase) and their guests are invited and welcome to attend. Attendees are responsible for the purchase of their own food, drinks, and admission to attractions. Many members may choose to have other meals together or have small get togethers to share stories and fond memories.

There is no charge for registering for this retreat, however, members who would like to make a \$25.00 cash donation at the lunch are welcome to do so.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND RETURN IT TO PAUL MORTENSEN EITHER BY MAIL (1214 N Earhart Parkway, Payson AZ 85541) OR VIA EMAIL TO TSNAreunions@gmail.com SO WE KNOW WHO WILL BE ATTENDING.

We hope to see you at the Retreat



May God Bless You, Your
Family and our Country on
its 250th Birthday.

We recently sent the checks for the existing 22 Scholarship recipients for the upcoming school year. Those checks were sent to 15 different institutions. Four of the students are finishing their fourth year of school. Nine students are entering the Junior year of college. The remaining nine will be sophomores this fall.

The amount of the recently issued checks totaled \$34,250, and over the lifetime of the program we will have issued well in excess of \$200,000 to Scholarship recipients.

**A huge thank you to all who
have donated to the program
over the years.**

Please note we are not going to be awarding anymore scholarships in the future due the aging and diminishing membership of the Tan Son Nhut Association.



As we age our membership has diminished.

If you know someone who has passed away,
please let us know. You can send
information to Andy Csordas
acsordasvvet@gmail.com

Or mail to:

810 Cindy Blair Way, Lexington, KY 40503

A big welcome to our newest member

Jeff Schroeder

from Grand Rapids, MI.

Jeff worked at the 7th Air Force
Headquarters performing various duties
including targeting, security services, etc.
from 70 to 72. Jeff found us on a google
search.



We also welcome back

Allen Chandler

Allen was at Tan Son Nhut from 66 to 68
in the 18th Combat Support Squadron as a
C-130 Crew Chief.

Revetments is an official publication of the
Tan Son Nhut Association, Inc.

C/O Andy Csordas
810 Cindy Blair Way
Lexington KY 40503

The Association is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt Veterans' organization

The organization is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

President: Paul Mortensen

Vice President: Bruce Wimmer

Secretary/Treasurer: Andy Csordas

Director of Meeting Planning: Paul Mortensen

Director of Membership and Revetments Editor: Andy Csordas

Director at Large: Rick Cooley

Web Master: Kerry Nivens/Chad Towry

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

Rev. Jimmy Smith (1945-2025), Chaplain: 2028-2025

Presidents Emeriti:

Don Parker, 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

Richard Cooley, President, 2023-2025

Web Site: www.tsna.org

**WELCOME
HOME
BROTHERS**

