



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

MARCH 2011



YOU'VE GOT MAIL!!

From: [Butch Mears](#)
To: [Charles Penley](#)
Sent: Monday, July 05, 2010 5:55 PM
Subject: Note

Charles,

Just a note to share an observation.

A few days ago I browsed into the TSNA website looking for a name I thought might be on the membership list.

I was so pleased to see that you had restructured the list to provide in-country service dates, the veteran's state, and an e-mail address contact point. I always believed it would work great.

Best regards,

Butch Mears

WELCOME HOME!

From: cepenley@chartertn.net
To: butchmears@hotmail.com
CC: cepenley@chartertn.net; lfr y 2 @ d e j a z z d . c o m
Subject: Re: Note
Date: Mon, 5 Jul 2010 18:12:30 -0400

Butch,

It is always good to hear from you. Hope that you had a good Jul 4, 2010.

I am glad that you like the membership listing with the additional information on it.

Would you give permission for Larry Fry to possibly put your message below into one of the upcoming Revet-

ments newsletters?

Your brother and friend,

Charles Penley

From: [Butch Mears](#)

To: [Charles Penley](#)

Sent: Monday, July 05, 2010 10:32 PM

Subject: RE: Note

Charles,

As I know you remember, we had discussed those changes on a number of occasions shortly after I joined TSNA so I don't have any problems with Larry using my "observation" in an upcoming newsletter. If I had not decided to use the TSNA membership list to research a name, I probably would never have known you had instituted the changes we had discussed years ago.

BTW - Some late breaking news I thought was fantastic so I thought you might enjoy hearing about it also.

About six weeks ago I had an e-mail from a person I did not readily recognize. Figured it was somebody phishing for something. The e-mail mentioned something about being in Vietnam while I was there, etc, etc. Initially, I blew it off but, I kept thinking about the name. It just didn't ring a bell.

Well, about two weeks passed and one afternoon I get a phone call from this same individual. He had, somewhere along the line, seen my name in the TSNA membership list someone had told him about, did some 411 LOCATE tracing, found my Dad and then found me.

Long story short - He and I were in Vietnam (TSN) together in '67-

'68. We worked in the same shop.

Since that phone call we (mostly him) have found ten other people that were with us there.

I thought that was pretty special. What do you think?

Regards,

Butch

P.S. Say hi to Janice for Linda and I.

Mon 07/05/2010 11:44 PM

Butch

I am glad that you were able to locate a friend of yours from Vietnam.

That as a result, you found ten other people.

Your brother and friend,

Charles Penley

VETERANS BELL MEMORIAL

Submitted by:
[Janice Jones](#)
[TSNA Cheerleader](#)

One of our TSNA Brothers, James Stewart, has commissioned a new website.

The name is the Veterans Bell Memorial and it started as a tribute by Charlie Emmendorfer to honor his father-in-law Richard Velat. Mr. Velat was a POW during the Korean War. The memorial was expanded to include and honor all U.S. Military Veterans from any service era and any state.

It has now been enlarged to honor

Active Duty Veterans as well as Reservists and National Guardsmen. All military men and women are a vital part of this memorial. The website address is <http://www.vetsbell.org>. Scott Jones is the creator and designer of this new website. He was aided by TSNA Brother Charles Penley. Jim Stewart is the Chairman. For more information, check out the site and if you would wish to become a part of this memorial, all the steps to do so are there. Everyone is welcome. All are invited to become part of the Veterans Bell Memorial.

This memorial is a beautiful design and each addition will enhance and honor our Brothers and Sisters.



ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE "MAJOR MOM" STORY

Kenneth Benson, 377th Security Police Squadron sent me the pictures below of the V-100 Armored Vehicle that they named after Major Mom.

The V-100 had an M-60 machine gun mounted on it and it also had a mini-gun mounted on it.

Thought that you would like to see it.

Your brother and friend,

Charles Penley



PROGRAM SPEEDS UP VA CLAIMS

A new innovative VA employee-developed software program is speeding up claims and eliminating errors and will soon be used by the VA nationwide.

A veterans service representative at the VA regional office in Phoenix, Arizona, has developed a program that automates the steps for determining compensation for varying degrees of hearing loss.

The calculator analyzes audio metric data from a hearing test and then determines whether a veteran has a hearing loss, the extent of the loss in terms of decibels, and the level of disability.

To date, the program has proven to be 100 percent accurate in its calculations.

Source: National Association of the Uniformed Services Weekly Newsletter, Feb 18, 2011

Submitted by: Carol Bessette
TSNA Treasurer

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER March 2011

By: Bob Chaffee
TSNA Chaplain



When I started this series of "Corners" using the month as a theme I failed to realize that some months have cross purpose calendar points. March is one of those months. Just think about it: Mardi Gras vs. Ash Wednesday, a little green man sitting on a pot of gold and community Shrove Tuesday pancake races, daffodils are blooming in Missouri lawns and Buffalo, NY has one more lake effect blizzard. I receive a lot of calendars every year from friends from many faith groups. One of the interests is the listing of Saint's days and March has a lot. They run the list from St. Joseph to St.

Cuthbert. Now you all know what latitudes I have to "creep into my 'corner'"

March 2011 is a month of "buffoonery" and "blessings". We change our clocks, accept a new season and play and pray. For some of us this is a month of transition. With the beginning of the Christian Lent we focus on the present but commit to the vision of the future in the events of Easter. So this little sermonette is a reminder that every day we have has meaning. One day to kick up heels and the next day to thank God for allowing you to do that. To remember those whose lives represent a humans service to God and an opportunity to show purpose in our own lives. Sometimes those "cross purpose months" can really get under our skins!



FROM REVETMENTS AUTHOR
CAROL BESSETTE:

CLARIFICATION: The June 2010 Revetments had some words from me about filing for disability compensation/treatment from the VA. I need to clarify one point. I have no idea who told me (or where I read) the part about "if your ship docked one night in -country. . ." I cannot verify that--it may/may not be true.

However, the May/June 2010 issue of the VVA publication, The Veteran, page 8, contains a list (by name or designator) of the vessels (and designated time periods, where applicable) of those "blue water" vessels that conducted operations on the "brown water" rivers and Delta areas. Plus, the VA has identified certain vessel types that operated primarily or exclusively on the inland waterways. Service on these vessels, if documented, leads to the presumption of exposure to herbicide agents.

A partial listing of these vessels is available at <http://www.vawatchdog.org/10/nf10/nfjan10/jan10files/CP%20Bulletin%20-Jan%2010%20Final.pdf>

By: Tommy C. Poole
377 Air Police Squadron
1966-67

I lived in Air Police Barracks on Tan Son Nhut and worked K-9 on outer perimeter. I was in the stand off & sapper attack at Tan Son Nhut Dec. 4, 1966. I was working in the Utah ditch and reported movement in the ditch to CSC via radio and shortly afterwards mortars and rockets were fired toward the flight line. I also came in contact with the enemy on the ditch and a fire fight began. My dog and I were initially pinned down, but we were able to move behind mounds of dirt and continued to fire at the enemy. During the engagement I was wounded but continued to radio information and fire at the enemy. At one point I heard a mortar fire that sounded very close. I left my position and worked toward the sound of the mortar—I located the mortar and observed three or four of the enemy at the mortar. I worked in closer and opened fire on their position, and then worked my way back to my original position. I continued to fire at the force in the ditch and my dog Fritz continued to work his way through the tall grass to the enemy. I would hear screams and then gunfire and figured Fritz had been killed. But he would return and lick my wounds and then head back to attack the enemy. I was finally picked up by ambulance, but had to leave Fritz tied since he was trained to attack and would not be safe in the ambulance.

A2C Tommy C. Poole, a Sentry Dog handler, and now a Life Member of TSNA, received the nation's third highest medal, the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals for his actions taken on Dec 4-5, 1966



Editor's Note: The following email was sent to me by Janice Jones, our official TSNA "Cheerleader". I'm sure many of you have met her in person or via her wonderful mailings. I am reprinting it here to show you just what all she does for TSNA.

Thu 12/23/2010 9:05 PM

This past two months has been busy for me. As of today, there have been 168 cards sent out. That includes the new members that you have sent me.

I also sent cards to people who served from 1962 and up. It also includes some members who had not renewed. Lastly, it included people who live in North Carolina - since that is where we will be next year.

Thanks for all of your help in getting me the names as needed. My old members list is marked up from the many projects undertaken. Many have sent me beautiful cards in return. Y'all have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. Give Lois a hug for me!

Love,
TSNA Sister – Janny

Editor's Note: Recently, the Board of Director's of TSNA voted to make Janice an Honorary Life Member of TSNA. That has been done, and following is her note to me after receiving her Honorary Life member package.

The package containing my new card and certificate of Honorary Membership and small things just arrived. The extra special oval "I Served" was so precious to me. You and the TSNA are the Best.

Love,
Janny



Janice Jones and MOH Recipient Tom Norris at the TSNA 2010 Reunion, San Antonio, Texas.

Thanks Janny, for ALL you do!!

F-100 MEMORIES

By: Larry E. Fry
Editor, Revetments

One of our members, Anne Cohagan-Coleman, (daughter of the late TSN veteran, Lt. Col. Paul Cohagan) has asked me to mention in Revetments about some activities taking place in March at the Collings Foundation Operations in Houston, TX. The Collings Foundation, a non-profit educational foundation devoted to supporting living history events to encourage learning by participation, has acquired an F-100-F for their fleet. She'll be painted in SEA colors and represent the Misty that Bud Day flew in Vietnam.

On March 29, 2011, Bud Day himself will be present for the presentation of the plane to the public.

Anne will be getting pictures from the presentation for a later Revetments article.

Also part of F-100 history is the Super Sabre Museum, which is the undertaking of the Friends of the Super Sabre organization: www.friendsofthesupersabre.com. Their museum is located at Fox Stephens Field in Gilmer, TX.

It is the only museum in the world that will display all models of one aircraft. The history of the F-100 is significant in history both for the jet age, the United States Air Force and NASA in their beginning days of research. The F-100 is the first to break the sound barrier in level flight, among many other items of interest, including its many activities in Vietnam.

Speaking of Anne, she was instrumental in covering the cost and coordinating the move of an F-100-A from Lackland Air Force Base to be on display at the HAMM Museum.

HAMM stands for Historic Aviation Memorial Museum. It is located in Tyler, TX

The web address for HAMM is: www.tylerhamm.com. Check it out!

In order to honor her father and all military aviators, Anne funded the rescue and restoration of the F-100.

Along with two retired Air Force officers, and members of the HAMM Museum, Col. John Mustard and Col. Bob Finley, they made sure the plane was painted with symbols and markings of her father's 481st TFS stationed at Tan Son Nhut.

According to the map directions I looked up on the internet, these two museums are only 36 miles apart. So if you are in the area, check things out.



Pictures taken at Historic Aviation Memorial Museum
Courtesy of Anne Cohagan-Coleman

**THE TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
2011 REUNION
OCTOBER 6-9
THE BLAKE HOTEL
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**



Mark your calendar NOW, and plan to attend.



Many more details to follow as they are available.

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P. O. Box 236
Penryn PA 17564

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Web Site: www.tsna.org

Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00



Thanks to Gary Redlinski, for his design of this year's TSNA Reunion Logo!

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Harvey D. Clubb, Jr.	SC	hclubb@aol.com	May 68 - Apr 70	834th Air Division Det 1
Mr. Tommy C. Poole	VA	bt_sm@live.com	65-66	377th Air Police Squadron
Mr. Hugh D. Penn, Jr.	GA	hpenn2@bellsouth.net	Feb 69 - Jan 70	633rd CSG - CBPO
TSgt. Lynn E. Bullard	TX	sgtbullard1@att.net	Jan 68 - Dec 68	Det 1, 834th Airlife Division
Mr. Donald J. Schram	OR	loudon56@comcast.net	Oct 70 - Sept 71	Det 14, 38th Air Rescue and Recovery Sq.
Mr. Frederick Brooks	PA	gbr199152@hotmail.com	Jul 69 - Jul 70	1964th Communications Group

Also during February, 20 Member Renewals were processed.

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