



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

FEBRUARY 2012



INFORMATION CONCERNING ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

By: Carol Bessette
TSNA Treasurer

Recently, I saw an online comment from a man who identified himself as a Vietnam Navy veteran. He wrote about Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), and how he wished he could be buried there, but, alas, he was not eligible. There was no way I could trace him through his "moniker," although I tried; I wanted to tell him that he was, most probably, eligible to be at Arlington, although perhaps not in-ground burial.

The rules, regulations, and restrictions are outlined in a 36-page document. This is available at the new (and improved --greatly!) ANC website: www.arlingtoncemetery.mil. Even if you have no interest in eventually "residing" at Arlington, go to the website and the photo gallery. It gives you a feel for the place and for the dignity of the services there.

The following is an extract--I can't cover all circumstances, but these are the broad guidelines. The criteria is a bit different for **Interment** (in-ground burial of either a casket or an urn for cremated remains) and for **Inurnment** (placement of an urn in either the Columbarium--a series of dedicated buildings with niches--or the new Niche Wall, which is the boundary for a recently expanded area of the cemetery.) Most recent info given to the local tour guides is that 60% of all funerals at ANC today involve cremated remains.

Eligibility for Interment (Ground Burial of Casketed or Cremated Remains)

- Any retired member of the Armed Forces.
- Any former member of the Armed Forces whose military service terminated honorably, and who was awarded one of the following decorations:
 - Medal of Honor
 - Distinguished Service Cross/Air Force Cross/Naval Cross
 - Distinguished Service Medal
 - Purple Heart
- Any former prisoner-of-war
- The spouse or minor child of any of the above, or, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Army, an adult child of any of the above, provided the child is incapable of self-support because of physical or medical conditions.

Eligibility for Inurnment in Columbarium or Niche Wall

--Any former member of the Armed Forces who served on active duty and whose last service terminated honorably.

--The spouse, minor child, etc. as listed above.

Bottom line is that TSNA members who served, but did not retire from the Armed Forces, are eligible for the inurnment of cremated remains, providing they were discharged honorably.

Don't think that "inurnment" is a second-class treatment. About five years ago, a very close friend (who served at TSN as a "Weather WAF," 1970-71) passed away, and I was the person to organize the funeral. I was not particularly happy that she chose cremation and inurnment in the Columbarium. I wanted the whole "big show" for her--I had attended funerals at ANC before, and we have all seen the funeral services in films, etc. However, this was my first inurnment--and I was very pleasantly surprised. It was as dignified and solemn and as much of a "big show" as an in-ground burial. A ceremony involving cremated remains definitely is not "second-rate."

Arlington is an incredibly beautiful location, and there is the feeling of "being with my brothers and sisters." The wife of a friend was buried there several years ago, and she was buried next to a veteran of the Spanish-American War; which I really liked--the "continuity of history."



FROM OUR CHEERLEADER

Information is being requested from Brothers and Sisters: If you have a blood relative who is a Vietnam Veteran or - Father Bless - was a Vietnam Veteran, please send their name, address, rank and time served in Nam to Larry Fry, whose email address is: lfry2@dejazzd.com. We would be honored to recognize them and their service to us and to

**HOW I MET CAPTAIN THOMAS
WELLER MCCARTHY, USA, RVN
ADVISED KIA, MARCH 3, 1964.**

In a letter from my dad which I received in late February 1964, he wrote about having met a retired U.S. Army Colonel Charles W. McCarthy as part of a recent business transaction. My dad and Colonel McCarthy got to talking and discovered that each had a son serving in Vietnam. His son, a U.S. Army Captain serving as an Adviser assigned to MACV and me, a Staff Sergeant, assigned to the Tan Son Nhut USAF Dispensary. In my dad's letter was included a business card belonging to Colonel McCarthy. Written on the back of the card was written the name Capt. Thomas W. McCarthy, his unit designation, and his army service number. Within a few days of my receiving the information on Capt. McCarthy, I made some inquiries and was able to locate his unit and was informed he was currently out in field and would be back in the area within a day or so. They advised me they would have him contact me at the dispensary on his return. Short time later I received a call from Captain McCarthy. He introduced himself and told me a little of what he did. I gave him a short overview of my duties at the USAF Dispensary at Tan Son Nhut. He mentioned that he needed a few immunizations and was coming to the dispensary and while there would stop in and see me. The next day he showed up. After our short introductions, we sat and chatted, sharing some experiences since arriving in RVN. His visit was very interesting and informative.

As he was preparing to leave after having gotten his needed shots, he asked me if I would like to have a VC flag. I said "sure." He said he would be going back out soon and would bring me a flag when he returns. He and his driver got into their vehicle and drove off. I never spoke to him again.

A few days later, we got a signal that two casualties were coming in to our

dispensary. Both deceased. Routinely, we were provided a heads up as to the rank, branch of service and name of each casualty if available. Sadly, I was informed that Captain McCarthy was one of the two individuals killed. It was something I never before experienced and it was difficult for me. I returned from RVN in late April 1964. A few weeks after my return home, I made telephone contact with Colonel McCarthy and family. They welcomed my wife and I to come visit them. A visit was set up as we only lived about ten miles away. It was a good visit, meeting the family and sharing with them about the day I met their son and my time spent with him.

In addition to other awards, Captain McCarthy was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC).

Robert D. Jarboe, 377th Dispensary
CMSgt, USAF, (Ret.)
3714 Marlborough Way
College Park, MD 20740-3918



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Winter seems to be in full blast north of the Mason-Dixon Line and yet the predictions for the future of it come the second day of the month of February with the infamous "Ground Hog Day". The month ends with "Leap Day". School kids hate the day because it adds to classroom time, yet the month contains a "love day" also called Valentine's Day.

It also includes a national holiday "President's Day".

All this is well and good for the secular year but the month also includes Ash Wednesday, the first day of the Christian season of Lent.

This is a time that Christians are asked to take time of personal spiritual evaluation. In reality it is the time of preparation for Christendom's highest and most important event: Easter.

Chaplains and churches take this season seriously and I would be remiss if I did not take my brief moments here to bring up the importance to many of us.

One of the feelings that I would foster is that we spend extra efforts during the Lenten Season caring for God's children—each other. There are many ways that Lent is viewed yet it is a time of the all encompassing realization that God acts upon our lives on this earth.

Yes, sometimes I do preach a "churchy sermon" but during Lent I try harder to live it. I'm almost ready to ask you to join me.

End of Sermon
Chaplain Bob

ARTICLE IDEA(S)

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

(From a recent email to the Editor)

Larry,

I know you are always looking for "Revetments" materiel, articles, etc. Here is another suggestion for you. Along with the photo of the month, how about devoting some space to a "Do You Remember This" article. Instead of a photo of a person or plane, let it be something as simple as a calendar, tool box, flak jacket, a word or phrase, R & R hotel bill, travel orders. Anything to jog our cobweb filled memory. Such could be used as a filler when you need to finish out a page or column.

I know it is a long-shot but thought I would offer my suggestion. Some weeks ago, I found my hotel bill while spending time in Sydney on R & R and began to wonder if others had small items for inclusion in Revetments.

SEND IN YOUR ITEMS—PLEASE!!

NEW BX ITEMS

By: Johnnie Jernigan
Director of Merchandising
TSNA

The TSNA BX has a couple of new items that are in limited supply. The "Boot" and the "TSNA Box" are leftovers from the Charlotte Reunion where they were a big hit. The "Boot" comes in left or right foot. They are about 5 inches tall and the sole is 5 inches long. They make a great pen holder for your desk. Due to the shipping cost they are going for \$17.50 each (T-39) or two for \$30.00 (T-40).



↑ The Boot



The Box

We have acquired some nice cloth tote bags (T-42) with the TSNA Logo printed on them. They are 14 by 14 by 3 inches and are made of 100% natural 8 oz cotton canvas. They are great to carry your notepad, gloves, pencils/pins, camera, etc. They will be selling for \$10.00 each which includes postage.



↑ The Bag

← The TSNA box (T-41) is made of solid wood and has a beautiful grain, color, and finish. The TSNA symbol on the lid really stands out and it shows the colors really well. The exterior measurements are 5 ½ by 5 ½ by 2 ¼ inches. The interior size is 4 ½ by 4 ½ by 1 ¼ inches. It is a great place for your watch and change at night or somewhere to put your TSNA coin and Warrior Bracelet. It also will make a great gift for that special someone in your life. Due to the shipping costs, the box will be selling for \$25.00

(Photos by Johnnie & Sharon Jernigan)

FROM THE TSNA TREASURER, CAROL BESSETTE

TSNA 2012 BUDGET--FINAL

	2011 BUDGET	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET
<u>CASH INFLOW</u>			
BX Income	3,000	2,125	2,000
Donations			
General Fund	500	703	700
Memorial/Legacy	150	8,707	1,250
Interest	100	0	0
Membership Dues	4,400	4,322	4,500
Reunion Income	11,875	9,321	11,325
TOTAL INFLOW	20,025	25,178	19,775

Note: \$3,682 of additional 2011 multi-year dues payments placed in Membership Reserve account. These funds will be transferred to Operating Fund in future years on a pro-rated basis. \$2,420 of Membership Reserve funds transferred to Operating Fund during 2011. Expected amount to be transferred from Membership Reserve to Operating Funds in 2012: \$2,356.

CASH OUTFLOW

Administrative/Discretionary Expenses	1,500	822	1,000
BX Expenses	900	1,177	1,300
Other Organizations	120	40	100
Membership Administration	1,600	1,027	1,700
Legal	2,400	1,526	2,400
Memorial	0	2,698	8,950
Reunion Expenses	10,800	10,041	15,050
Revetments	1,200	942	1,000
TOTAL OUTFLOW	18,520	18,273	31,500

TSNA FINANCIAL STATUS
DECEMBER 31, 2011

Awards Reserve	1,000
Certificate of Deposit	5,036
Operating Funds	12,586
Membership Reserve Fund	8,866
Memorial/Endowment Fund	7,594
Reunion Reserve	3,000
Total Assets	38,082



WHY I JOINED TSNA

For years I've searched for my buddies from the 377th Security Police Squadron that I served with in Viet Nam. My searches were fruitless. Then came the Internet. After years on the Internet, I got it through my naive head that I could use it to search for these guys. I started with a search for the 377th SPS, and by golly, there's a web site for them. I found four people I served with, and one of them (Chuck Akins) told me about TSNA and its web site.

When I attended the 377th SPS Reunion down in Tampa, FL., I met Lynn Patton, Mike DeTuccio, Jim Stewart and a few others who also belonged to TSNA.

I must say that even though I haven't met a single person I served with at these Reunions, I do feel that I belong, and I am glad to have made some new friends who have had the Viet Nam experience. Few understand, as we do, the effect it had on our lives.

Mike Cain
377th Security Police Squadron, Delta Sector November 1967 - November 1968

2012 REUNION

The 2012 TSNA Reunion will begin on Thursday, 10-11 and end on Sunday, 10-14.

We have contracted with the Holiday Inn in Fairborn, OH for our 2012 reunion.

Contact info for the Holiday Inn is www.holidayinn.com/fairbornoh. Their phone number is 1-877-834-3613.

The room rate is \$110. per night. That includes all fees and taxes.

FREE Parking.

FREE WiFi throughout the hotel.

FREE Hospitality Suite.

FREE Meeting Room.

FREE Meeting Room with auditorium style seating for guest speakers.

FREE Shuttle to and from the airport. It is the responsibility of the GUEST to notify the hotel at least 72 hours prior to arrival.

FREE Transportation to and from the NMUSAF and the traveling Vietnam wall.

FREE Breakfast daily in the hotel restaurant.

Room reservations will be honored at the guaranteed rate for up to 3 days prior to and after the reunion.

For reservations guaranteed by credit card, the credit card will not be charged until the day of arrival.



REUNION SPEAKER

On Friday evening, October 12, our banquet speaker will be Colonel Chuck DeBellevue.

1970s-1980s -- Chuck DeBellevue was the first U.S. Air Force weapons systems officer to become an ace during the Vietnam War in 1972. DeBellevue became America's top "MiG Killer" when he and his pilot, Capt. John Madden, downed two MiGs, giving him six in total, the most earned during the Vietnam War.

In October 1971, he was sent to the 555th TFS at Udorn Royal Thai Air Base. As a WSO with the "Triple Nickel," DeBellevue scored his first four aerial victories while crewed with Capt. Steve Ritchie, who became the first USAF Vietnam War ace. DeBellevue became the second when he downed two MiGs on Sept. 9, 1972 while flying with Madden on a four-ship combat air patrol.

During his combat tour, DeBellevue logged 550 combat hours while flying 220 combat missions. His skill as a WSO was recognized when he and the other two U.S. Air Force aces, Ritchie and Capt. Jeff Feinstein, received the 1972 Mackay Trophy, the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Armed Forces Award and the Eugene M. Zuckert Achievement Award.

DeBellevue retired from active duty as commander of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 440, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia Mo., in January 1998, after 30 years of military service.



2012 TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION REUNION SCHEDULE

Thursday	9 AM		Registration Desk Opens and Hospitality Suite Opens
Thursday	????		Hospitality Suite Closes
Friday	10 AM (Buses leave at 9:40 AM, return at 12:15 PM)		TSNA Memorial Bench Dedication
Friday	12-4:30 PM		Hospitality Suite Open
Friday	2 PM (Buses leave at 1:40 PM, return at 4:15 PM)		NMUSAF Self Guided Tour
Friday	5 PM (Buses return to the hotel at 5:45 PM)		NMUSAF Museum Shop opens just for TSNA
Friday	6 PM		Cash Bar Opens in Banquet Area
Friday	7 PM (Buses leave the hotel at 6:30 PM)		Banquet Seating
	Introduction of Guests		President George Plunkett
	Presentation of Colors		WPAFB Color Guard
	National Anthem		WPAFB Band of Flight Soloist
	Welcome		President George Plunkett
	Missing Man Table Ceremony		
	Invocation		
	Necrology		
	Dinner		
	Musical Presentation		WPAFB Band of Flight
	Introduction of Guest Speaker		President George Plunkett
	Guest Speaker		Colonel Chuck DeBellevue
	Awards/Coin Presentation		President George Plunkett
	Retirement of Colors		WPAFB Color Guard
Friday	10 PM—?????		Hospitality Suite Open
Saturday	10 AM	Taryn Davis	Guest Speaker, founder of the American Widow Project (To be held in the Amphitheater)
Saturday	11 AM—11 PM		Hospitality Suite Open
	2 PM (Buses leave at 1:30 PM, return at 3 PM)		The American Veterans Traveling Tribute
Sunday	8 AM-10 AM		Farewell Breakfast

NOTE: The Hospitality Suite is located in the Challenger Discovery Room

Tan Son Nhut Association 2012 Reunion Registration

OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF TAN SON NHUT AND THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

YES, SIGN ME UP FOR THE REUNION!

NAME _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF YOUR GUEST(S): _____

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY: _____

REGISTRATION FEES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING _____ X \$125. = _____

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (NO EXTRA COST)

- Access to the TSNA Hospitality suite in the Challenger Discovery Room, (drinks, snacks, and war stories!) - \$20. daily if purchased separately.
- Leased bus round-trip to the NMUSAF for the TSNA Memorial Bench Dedication and Banquet.
- Leased bus round-trip to the Americans Veterans Traveling Tribute.
- TSNA Friday Banquet buffet dinner. \$65. if purchased separately.
- **FREE breakfast every morning.**
- Please circle which activities that you are paying for separately.

Your room rate has been group-discounted to \$110.00 per night. Those without Internet access can call the Holiday Inn, Fairborn (1-877-834-3613). Hotel reservations must be made no later than **September 20, 2012 to receive this special rate.**

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30, 2012.

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS PAYABLE TO THE "TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION" AND MAIL PAYMENTS TO:

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION

C/O GEORGE PLUNKETT
587 WILLIAMS CIRCLE
WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29172

Rev. 01/30/12



From The Editor: A lot of people have already put in a lot of work on this year's reunion to get things to where they are now.

It is NOW YOUR TURN to get active and make your reservations and let us know you are going to be there! Thanks!

FROM OUR CHEERLEADER!!

My Dearest TSNA Brothers and Sisters - I have been attending the TSNA family reunions since 2005 in Gettysburg and I have come to know and love quite a number of you. Y'all are an incredible group of Vietnam Veterans. Know this - if you have never been Welcomed Home - you must attend in Dayton, OH October 11-14, 2012. If you have never had someone say, "Thank You," you must attend. If you have never been told that "You did Good" - you must attend this next one. Y'all will experience the TSNA Memorial Bench and the Moving Wall. You can bet your bottom dollar that if you do come to Dayton, y'all will hear, "Welcome Home - Thank You - You did Good" more than one time. There will be hugs and you shall feel the love of your TSNA family. So, if the Father is willing and the creek doesn't rise, we will be so happy and honored to see you there.

Salute Brothers and Sisters,

Janice Jones

P.S. Y'all Rock!!!



Fellow Members:

A complete 2012 Reunion Schedule of Events and a Reunion Application are included in this month's Revetments. If you have delayed attending our reunions for one reason or another, do not wait any longer. This promises to be one of the best ever.

Our shuttle bus scheduling permits you to visit the NMUSAF for as long as you desire on Friday, with numerous opportunities to return to the hotel and rest or visit the Hospitality Suite.

Dining in an area surrounded by war birds of all eras will be an unforgettable experience.

I look forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones. I hope that you do also.

GBA,

George Plunkett
TSNA President



NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

My duty was Personnel Staff NCO to the Commander working in the Adjutant's Office. Cpl. Leggett was my supervisor and Capt. Olmstead my company CO. I volunteered as a gunner occasionally on a Huey D model going to Nha Trang, Tuy Hoa, Wey Phi By, Quin Ngan, Pleiku, DaNang, and Quin Nhon. I was assigned to HHC 34th General Support Group (AM&S) at TSN, 1966-67.

Louis F. Poulin
34th General Support Group (AM&S)
Hq. Co. (USARV)
Apr 66—May 67

I lived off base just outside the gate—on 99P Alley in a three story villa—Enjoyed the Scatback job but wanted to fly combat where many of my buddies were. Got some General (?) to get me transferred. Went to Can To/Bien Thuy—checked out in O-2. About November moved to NKP, later to UBON—flew 274 missions mostly night on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Awarded a Silver Star and three DFC's. Logged 953 hours during my tour. Was a flight commander at UBON, IP & Check Pilot.

Samuel R. Weaver
Scatback
Aug 67—Nov 67

Served at TSN from March 67 to March 68 during Tet offensive. Assigned to OL 1508 USAF Pac

Postal Courier Service (HQ CMD). Served as NCOIC, In-Country Breakdown handling all incoming mail into RVN. Was an SPS Quick Reaction Team (QRT) Augmentee. We routinely received incoming 122mm rockets falling indiscriminately days before and after Tet. During Tet was dispatched with SPS QRT to perform base security operations. For several days during Tet the air was thick with smoke from spent ammunition. Tanks lined the perimeter fence. Jeeps with 50 caliber machine guns roamed the perimeter firing into suspicious locations. Cholon fell and VC were penetrating TSN. Defensive operations was a serious matter. This was an anxious time for all assigned to TSN.

James R. Faulkner
March 67—March 68

I lived in a hooch not far from where the 2nd Air Division Headquarters was located and for the first nine months worked out of trailers parked behind it.

I was the first permanently assigned enlisted man to the unit; before me everybody else was TDY out of Clark AB in the PI.

William P. Finnin
Det 5, 6922 Scty Wing USAF
Aug 65—Aug 66

During the Vietnam War I worked at Myrtle Beach AFB, SC and watched my friends go to and come home from Vietnam. So always felt a connection with Vietnam Veterans. My husband and I have attended ALL of the TSNA Reunions since the one in Dayton in June of 1996. I have always felt that I was very much a part of the group, so decided to make it "official".

Mary Ann Carlson
Wife of TSNA Member Bill Carlson



C-123 RANCH HAND PLANE CRASH FEBRUARY 2, 1962

By: Larry E. Fry
Det 8, 2nd ADVON
Dec 61—Mar 62

Somehow, I had come to know Captain Fergus Groves. I have pictures of him taken in the “mess hall” area. Chaplain Kilpatrick had been successful in getting some Vietnamese kids from an on base school to come and visit us, sing for us, and have ice cream with us. Captain Groves is the only one on the pictures I have of that time that was actually “passing the hat” to collect money to help do something for the kids

Then came a day when I was doing normal duties at the Chapel I suppose, which at that time were not that much, thus I tried as much as possible to make myself available for other things. But in addition to normal things, I was also assigned to “cq” duty that night, which meant doing some guard “challenges” near the main buildings, but also being part of the cleaning crew. I specifically remember dusting General Anthis’s office.

And when that shift was over the next morning, the word came in that the plane had crashed. And then the word as to who was on that plane – someone I had known! So the rest of that day was spent in notifications, meetings, setting up a Memorial Service, etc. I finally got to get some sleep after supper that night, after having been awake for around 36 hours.

I came to know and respect a lot of Ranch Hand folks during my 69 days at TSN, and Captain Groves stands out among them.

I wish I could remember more, but that is about it. At the time, I’m not sure anyone realized the unfortunate significance in the fact that it was the first USAF plane crash casualties of Viet Nam.

(You can see Captain Groves helping out the Vietnamese kids who sang for us, by “passing the hat” in this [picture](#).) →

After joining the Tan Son Nhut Association in 2002, I began more earnestly pursuing my interest in my time in Vietnam. I also found the Ranch Hand site on the internet and posted a note there that I had known Captain Groves and had two pictures which included him.

Sometime later I received an email—from HIS SON! His son was only 5 months old when his father was killed.

Captain Groves’ father, himself an Air Force Lt. Col. did put together a biography of Fergus, but Hugh Groves was very happy to hear from me; to have me tell him about his father

that I knew, however briefly, and to have two pictures of him as well.

I have since also heard from the son of the enlisted man killed in that plane crash, but I didn’t know his father.

2/2/62, USAF 464 TCW . Capt. Fergus Groves II . Capt. Robert Larson . SSgt. Milo Coghill



Captain Fergus Groves II, Vietnamese School Teachers, and Chaplain August Kilpatrick, 1/31/1962, 3 days before Groves was killed in the plane crash

Tan Son Nhut Association
P. O. Box 236
Penryn PA 17564



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

Who We Are **Our Mission**

Since 2001, over 6,200 U.S. service members have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Around half of these service members were married, leaving an estimated 3,000 military widows across our country. While the service member's sacrifice is acknowledged, many simply forget or fail to recognize the sacrifice of the spouse who is now left a widow of war. Oftentimes the invisible wounds of military widows are disregarded due to age or a simple lack of knowledge and understanding.

The American Widow Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to the new generation of those who have lost the heroes of yesterday, today and tomorrow, with an emphasis on healing through sharing stories, tears and laughter. Military Widow to Military Widow.

Taryn Davis, Founder and Executive Director, will be speaking to TSNA on Saturday October 13, 2012 at the TSNA Reunion in Dayton, OH.

Plan NOW to attend!



Mr. Jerry D. Gilley	NC	bluegilley@bellsouth.net	Apr 67 - Apr 68	377th Civil Engineering Squadron
Mr. Scott Jones	TN	19mojo45@chater.net	N/A	N/A
Mr. Donnie J. Singleton	AL	izzer54@att.net	Dec 69 - Dec 70	Det 1500 AF Postal & Courier Squadron

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