



# REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

JANUARY 2013



## Dear Revetments:

I was almost moved to tears by your plea for printed nourishment in the October 2012 edition. I felt bad because I'd been reading you for four years without responding.

Actually, as Willie Nelson put it, "you were always on my mind", especially each time that I returned to Viet Nam via Tan Son Nhut and saw your name-sake revetments still standing on the flight line, sentinels of memories long past. Although timeworn and somewhat overgrown with weeds after almost a half-century of neglect, they still stand, a tribute to quality engineering and workmanship.

I have seen them there many times as my airplane passed by in 1967, 1968, 1972, 1991, 1993, 2001, 2005 and 2009. I hope to see them still proudly standing guard as I pass in review again in November, American Airline pilots union permitting. Each time I see them I recall being under their protection while working on aircraft parked inside, sheltered from the fierce tropical sun, torrential monsoon rains, and random enemy rockets.

I am enclosing a photo of me and my

wife, Thuy, riding an elephant in Buon Me Thuot during our last visit in 2009. I'm the one under the TSNA cap. Thuy also has an interesting connection to Saigon and Tan Son Nhut. She was born there during the 1968 Tet Offensive around the time that I was hunkered down a few hundred yards from the base chapel on the night that it was hit by a VC rocket. Thuy and I met 37 years later in the Mekong Delta city of Long Xuyen where we both worked at An Giang University, she as an English/Vietnamese translator and teacher and I as a lecturer teaching Business and English to undergraduates.

Well, I hope that this light snack will curb your hunger somewhat. Now that I am retired, I'll have more time to drop a line or two as I work on my memoir...you've been warned!

Paul A. Allard  
460 AEMS, 1967-1968

Shortly after New Year of 1968 I was shipped to Mactan, in the Philippines. I was an aircraft mechanic on C-130's. They gave me a job in Maintenance Control and my boss said, "Don't bother to unpack because I am sending you to Tan Son Nhut." So off I went for a year of "fun" all through the Tet offensive, etc. We lived in the 800 area and worked on "Rebel" ramp and "Charlie" ramp. I remember coming under sniper fire on the way back to the cantonment, after swing shift one night, and nearly getting myself blown away. And I remember our C-130 getting hit on the Flight Line, and being shot down up north. Quite an experience. I will never forget it.

TSgt. Lynn E. Bullard  
Det. 1, 834th Airlift Division  
Jan 68—Dec 68

I spent my tour with the 45th Tac Recon Sq. working on the RF-101 Voodoo along with Sgt. Bill Graham, Sgt. James Brennan and TSgt. Whippler.

Does anyone remember Susie the dog and one of her pups named Rosco?

John F. Burns  
460th FMS-45th TRS Polka-Dots  
Sep 68—Sep 69

Assigned HQ 1964th Communications Group USAF. Bunked in 1876th Comm. Squadron under 1876's First Sgt. for housing. TDY to Phan Rang AB. Rocketed first night in and noon one other day. While under rocket fire at noon or thereabout, HQ CMSgt. called and HQ. had a good laugh while we were hunkered down. 1964th knew instantly when AB under attack because of Comms. Otherwise traveled to Bien Hoa, Cam Phan and an Army PBR Base (Cat Lai?). Loved to take Huey's anywhere we could on standby.

Frederick C. Brooks  
1964th Communications Group  
Jul 69—Jul 70

I was assigned to the 834th Air Division Det. 1. The 834th AD Det. 1 had approximately 50 members. We were the support group for C-130's TDY from Tachikawa AFB, Japan, and Naha AFB, Okinawa. We had at least 50 C-130's on the ground at all times. The C-130's supported the forces throughout Vietnam around the clock 7 days a week. I worked evening shift to turn around the C-130's for their next mission, working 12 hour shifts.

Harvey D. Clubb, Jr.  
834th Air Division Det. 1  
May 68—Apr 70

## PRAYER FOR A FALLEN WARRIOR

(Anonymous American Indian)

Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow;  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on a ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you waken in the morning hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush,  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft star that shines at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry.  
I am not there. I did not die.

(From TSNA Member Harlan Hatfield, Via TSNA Cheerleader, Janice Jones)

## THE TIME IS NOW

(Author Unknown)

If you are ever going to love me,  
Love me now, while I can know  
The sweet and tender feelings  
Which from true affection flow.  
Love me now  
While I am living.  
Do not wait until I'm gone  
And then have it chiseled in marble,  
Sweet words on ice-cold stone.  
If you have tender thoughts of me,  
Please tell me now.  
If you wait until I am sleeping,  
Never to awaken,  
There will be death between us  
And I won't hear you then.  
So if you love me, even a little bit,  
Let me know it while I am living  
So I can treasure it.

Sent in by TSNA Cheerleader, Janice Jones



From: Vietnam Research  
[vietnam@louredaproductions.com]  
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2012 8:07 AM  
Subject: Vietnam Era Film Wanted

Dear friends,

My name is Sonny Silva and I am Vietnam combat veteran.  
I served with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry

Division in Tay Ninh Province from October 2, 1969 to October 12, 1970. Since 2010 I have served as the National Vice President and Historian of the 8th Cavalry Regiment Association.

Last summer I helped Lou Reda Productions produce the documentary series "Vietnam in HD" for the History Channel. I assisted them with research, and with gathering and viewing personal film collections from other Vietnam veterans. The experience of working with Lou Reda Productions was extremely therapeutic and rewarding for me. (You can see their website at [www.redafilms.com](http://www.redafilms.com) <<http://www.redafilms.com>>).

Currently, Lou Reda Productions is beginning work on another Vietnam program and I am again helping them gather home movie film collections to use in it.

If you have color films that you shot at home or in Vietnam and you are interested in sharing them for a very worthwhile project, please write me back at this email address ([vietsam@louredaproductions.com](mailto:vietsam@louredaproductions.com) <<mailto:footage@louredaproductions.com>>).

In exchange for granting Lou Reda Productions permission to use your home movies, they will transfer your films (8mm, super8 or 16mm) for free. They will clean your original film, put it through a high-resolution film scanner, and then return your original films and a DVD copy to you to keep.

If you do not have any films, but know someone who does, please pass along my contact information to anyone within your group. Also, if you are willing to put a post on your website to help get the word out, I would appreciate that as well.

Thank you for your help.

Sonny Silva  
2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division

Email: [vietsam@louredaproductions.com](mailto:vietsam@louredaproductions.com) <<mailto:footage@louredaproductions.com>>

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Easton, PA 18042  
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# TSNA REUNION 2013 (June 13-16)



The picture of the Southern Belle and the information below used by permission of Chattanooga River Boat.

## Chattanooga Attractions

There are so many things to do in Chattanooga! After a day of exploring Rock City and taking in the view on the Incline Railway, join the crew aboard the Southern Belle Riverboat for a relaxing dinner cruise along the Tennessee River. These are just some of the best Chattanooga attractions.

The **Southern Belle Riverboat** is one of the favorite attractions. The Southern Belle offers daytime sightseeing cruises and daily lunch cruises along the Tennessee River. The nightly [dinner cruise](#) is famed for its prime rib. Specialty musical performances accompany most dinner cruises and are wonderful for the whole family. A favorite Chattanooga tourist attraction, special nights provide a performance on the calliope from atop the Southern Belle. ([Click here to listen to the Southern Belle calliope](#))

[Rock City Gardens](#) is atop [Lookout Mountain](#). This attraction boasts massive rock formations, gardens with more than 400 native plants, Fairyland Caverns, Mother Goose Village and a panoramic view where tourist can see 7 states. This attraction is a must see Rock City for all.

The world's steepest passenger railway is in Chattanooga. The [Lookout Mountain Incline Railway](#) climbs a mile up the side of historic Lookout Mountain. This is a national historic site so you know this is one Chattanooga attraction that is a must see.

[Ruby Falls](#) has been a favorite tourist attraction for more than 70 years. Tours start at the top with tour guides taking you more than 1000 feet into Lookout Mountain where you explore the Lookout Mountain Caverns culminating in a fantastic display of Ruby Falls itself, a 145-foot waterfall inside the cavern.

Not far from the Southern Belle Riverboat is the [Tennessee Aquarium](#). While the outside architecture will catch the eye, go inside and visitors will find the River Journey and Ocean Journey. There is more than fish in this Chattanooga attraction.

The [IMAX 3D Theater](#) is part of the Tennessee Aquarium attraction offering many current shows on the IMAX screen and behind-the-scenes tours.

Kids things to do in Chattanooga would include the [Creative Discovery Museum](#) which is specially designed for children 12 and under. This is just one of many kid friendly attractions to visit during your stay in Chattanooga.

The [Chattanooga Nature Center](#) at the foot of Lookout Mountain will be enjoyed by kids of all ages. Eagles, Owls, Bobcats and Wolves are just a few of the animals found at this attraction.

See the next page for TSNA Registration and Hotel Information

# Tan Son Nhut Association 2013 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 \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME & PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF YOUR GUEST(S): \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE (WHILE AT REUNION) \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION FEES

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

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Access to the TSNA Hospitality suite in Penn Station, (drinks, snacks, and war stories!) - \$20. *daily if purchased separately.*
- TSNA Friday Banquet buffet dinner. \$65 *if purchased separately.*
- Please circle which activities you are paying for *separately.*
- FREE Saturday 1 ½ hour Tennessee River Cruise with deluxe buffet lunch. Please cross out this activity if you do not plan to take the cruise because TSNA must pay in advance for all participants.
- Upon request to the Choo Choo, airport transportation via the Choo Choo shuttle will be provided at a cost of \$10.00 per room each way.
- Free parking.
- Honored guest speaker to be announced at a later date.

Your room rate has been group discounted to \$120.00 per night. This rate will be honored up to three days prior to and two days following the reunion. The reservations phone number at the [Chattanooga Choo Choo](#) is 1-800-872-2529. Hotel reservations must be made no later than **May 22, 2013 to receive this special rate.**

**PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN MAY 30, 2013.**

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



**REUNION DETAILS**

The dates are June 13, to 16., (Thursday through Sunday).

Check-in time is 3PM. Check-out time is 11AM.

The Hospitality Suite will begin operation on Wednesday, June 12. We would greatly appreciate volunteers arriving early to help unpack and set up displays and to stay later on Sunday to repack everything.

The room rate is \$120. per night. This includes all taxes and fees. This rate will be honored for up to three days prior to and two days following the reunion.

48 rooms are available on restored train cars for a higher rate.

Reservations must be made by May 22, 2013 to ensure room availability.

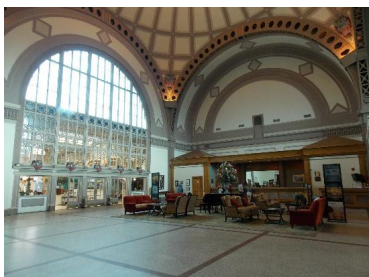
The supply of handicapped accessible rooms is limited.

Parking is free.

Upon request, airport transportation can be provided by the Choo Choo shuttle. The cost is \$10.00 per room each way.

Breakfast buffet discount coupons in the amount of \$5.00 for up to two per room per day will be provided. Normal buffet prices are \$12.95, \$13.95 and \$14.95. Plated breakfasts, for which the coupon does not apply, are \$11.95 and \$13.95.

There is a free shuttle that tours downtown. It originates and ends at the Choo Choo.



**REVETMENTS**

**TSNA AWARDS**

Fellow Members,

With the Chattanooga reunion approaching, now is the time to submit written nominations for TSNA awards. Your nomination should include specific justification for the award. Nominations for awards should be submitted to me (for Board members) or to a Board member (for everyone else). TSNA awards follow in order of descending precedence are:

**SUPREME MILITARY ORDER OF THE DRAGON**

REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS AWARD ARE THAT THE PERSON BE A PREVIOUS DRAGON AWARD RECIPIENT AND WHO HAS, BY HIS OR HER EFFORTS, CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE OPERATION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR A SUSTAINED PERIOD OF TIME.

**MILITARY ORDER OF THE DRAGON.**

A MEMBER WHO PERFORMS ACTIVITIES WHICH ADVANCE THE STATED PURPOSES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

**ANCHOR AWARD.**

A MEMBER WHO IS STEADFAST IN ALLEGIANCE TO THE ASSOCIATION. ONE WHO HAS ATTENDED MOST OF OUR REUNIONS, REGARDLESS OF THE COST, LOCATION OR TIME OF YEAR; OR A MEMBER WHO CAN BE CALLED UPON TO HELP AS NEEDED, A "GO TO" PERSON.

**GOLDEN KNIGHT AWARD.**

A MEMBER OR NON-MEMBER WHO HAS A PROLONGED RECORD OF HELPING THE POOR, THE HOMELESS, THE UNDERPRIVILEGED OR WHO ASSISTS VETERANS OF ANY ERA AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Thanks,  
George

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Again: for the past almost 50 years my January (first Sunday) has been titled "A New Year Dawns". As usual my words have the same TITLE (Now isn't that a surprise?)

Yes, but what is one to say as 2013 brings us a new year. There won't be a huge number of weddings in December I'm sure, because 12/12/13 doesn't ring like 12/12/12. No, there will be huge discussions about:

(Fill in the blanks with your ideas!)

- 1:??
- 2:??
- 3:??
- 4:?? +++++)

This Chaplain is not really up to predictions about "A New Year Dawns". I'm just sure the Mayan calendar was not correct. (Worn out waiting for the Gregorian calendar to catch up).

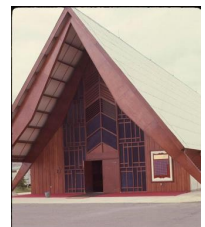
I have only this to predict: we must ask and beg our God to care for us and watch over us. But more important pray that we may be able to feel God's presence as we make decisions, fulfill commitments and learn the message of LOVE and NOT HATE!

Chaplain's Question: "Do you love beyond self and are able to ask God for forgiveness and overcoming hate?"

Well, that's my "A New Year Dawns" and much more, it is my personal "New Years Prayer".

End of Sermon

Chaplain Bob



**Tan Son Nhut Association Life Member  
Chairs Committee to Build a Veterans Memorial**

James Stewart, O.D. served as a sentry dog handler with the 377 Security Police Squadron from Sept. 1967 to Sept. 1968. Over the past 20 years he has compiled a database of 1,300 men who served in the 377 SPS during the war. He is currently the chairman of a committee to erect a veterans memorial building in Montrose, MI. He states, "This is not a local memorial. We will include any U.S. military veteran from anywhere in the U.S. from any service period."

Charlie Emmendorfer, a Michigan welder/artist, has created a six-foot tall stainless steel bell to honor his father-in-law who was a prisoner of war during the Korean War. He is donating this sculpture, valued at 80 to 100 thousand dollars, to be the centerpiece of the memorial. The building to house the bell is the current fund raising project for the Veterans Bell Memorial committee. Stewart says, "Our volunteers are making the memorial's post and beam main structure from ash trees that have been killed by the emerald ash borer. We plan to begin construction on our octagon-shaped building in the summer of 2013."



To be included in the Veterans Bell Memorial please go to the website created by Scott Jones, Charles Penley's nephew, at [WWW.VETSBELL.ORG](http://WWW.VETSBELL.ORG)

You can download a donation form there and send it along with a copy of your photo, preferably in uniform, along with a copy of your DD-214. The DD-214 will not be displayed but will be used for information and accuracy. The committee will keep your service record secure.

Jim says, "I would like to include as many Tan Son Nhut Association members as possible in our memorial. Remembering the dedicated service of the people who served at our base is the main idea of the TSNA and recognizing the service of millions of Americans in protecting our way of life is the goal of the Veterans Bell Memorial which will be located in Montrose, Michigan."

On a personal note Jim states, "It was a great honor for me to receive the inaugural Golden Knight Award from the Tan Son Nhut Association at the recent reunion in Dayton, OH."

I hope to be able to continue serving my brother and sister veterans in a variety of ways in the future."



VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING SKETCH

(LEFT) Bill Mickle, Jim Stewart (with Golden Knight Award), Tom Tessier, and Dave Tolley at the TSNA 2012 reunion dinner

**FEBRUARY 2013 REVETMENTS**

For the past 5+ years I have attempted, and usually succeeded, in publishing Revetments right around the first of each month.

February 2013 will be a little later than that.

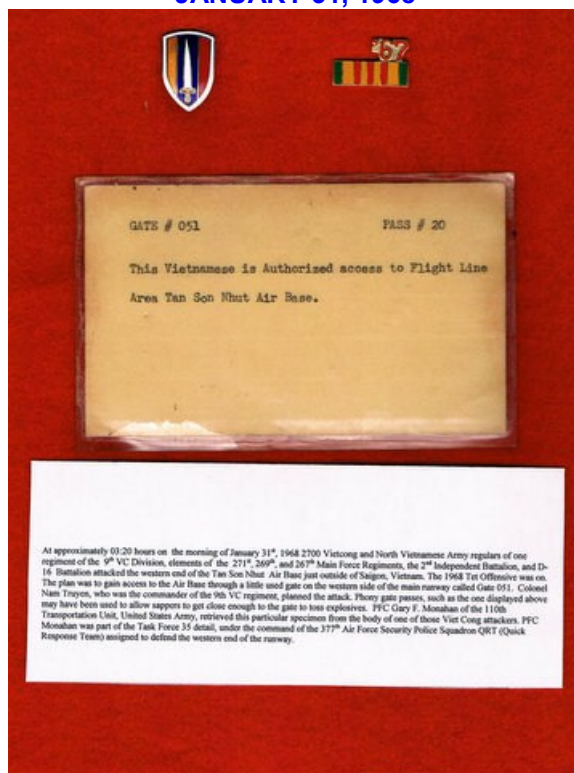
Lois and I are leaving on January 10 for a trip to Florida, and we won't return until late on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The February Revetments will be published as soon as possible after we return.

Thank you for your service and for your membership in TSNA.

Larry E. Fry  
Editor, Revetments

**JANUARY 31, 1968**



back from that area...on the way back toward the turning point at the west end of the runway there were several dead VC and this card was right next to one of them so I picked it up and put it in my pocket...Afterward, I wrote a letter to my Mom and put the card inside...in 1992 My Mom passed and my Stepdad found the letter and the bogus pass and gave it back to me...I framed it and it hangs on my wall in my office...It always amazed me at how simple it was to make and that it appeared to be typewritten on a U.S. typewriter...I have been questioned in the past about it's authenticity but I can assure you it came right off the battlefield that day...

Gary Monahan  
TSNA Member

## REVETMENTS

**FROM DAVE SANDERS**

Thanks Larry...I just received the disk of the 2012 reunion and was surprised and grateful. I could not make it this year but did the next best thing and had dinner with the 4 Star female General in charge of Wright-Pat while she was out here ...haha



32nd Annual AFA awards.

Not bad for an old buck Sgt. from the Tet arena....

Dave



"You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal." — Lead-in Fighter Training Manual

"Mankind has a perfect record in aviation — we have never left one up there!" — Unknown Author

(Thanks to Dave Koopman for the above)

(Written above with "the pass" is this text:)

*At approximately 03:20 on the morning of January 31st, 1968, 2700 Vietcong and North Vietnamese Army regulars of one regiment of the 9th VC division, elements of the 271st, 269th, and 267th Main Regiments, the 2nd Independent Battalion, and D-16 Battalion attacked the western end of the Tan Son Nhut Air Base just outside of Saigon, Vietnam. The 1968 Tet Offensive was on. The plan was to gain access to the Air Base through a little used gate on the western side of the main runway called Gate 051. Colonel Nam Truyen, who was the Commander of the 9th VC Regiment, planned the attack. Phony gate passes, such as the one displayed above, may have been used to allow sappers to get close enough to the gate to toss explosives. PFC Gary F. Monahan of the 110th Transportation Unit, United States Army, retrieved this particular specimen from the body of one of those Viet Cong attackers. PFC Monahan was part of the Task Force 35 Detail, under the command of the 377th Air Force Security Police Squadron QRT (Quick Response Team) assigned to defend the western end of the runway.*

(From Gary's email with the above):

At around 9:00 AM on the morning of the TET offensive our unit had made it as far as the small cemetery just across the road from the infamous Textile shop and were taking fire from that textile building...the building was pummeled by US Gun ships and mortar fire which allowed us to pull

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**P. O. Box 236**  
**Penryn PA 17564**

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**Web Site: [www.tsna.org](http://www.tsna.org)**

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



Cartoon from TSNA Member John Burke

### THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

January 1, 1962 President Kennedy establishes the first U. S. SEAL (Sea, Air, and Land) teams.

January 2, 1967 Colonel Robin Olds becomes the first and only U. S. Air Force ace to score aerial victories in both WWII and Vietnam.

January 17, 1991 Operation Desert Storm opens with massive air strikes against Baghdad.

January 23, 1968 North Korean patrol boats fire on and seize the USS Pueblo.

January 30, 1968 Fifty Thousand Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers break the Tet holiday truce with well-planned surprise attacks against allied targets across South Vietnam

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