



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



APRIL 2014

THE NAVY SEAL MUSEUM

By: Andy Csordas
Jun 70 - Dec 70
Special COMSEC Support Detachment

I was in Ft Pierce FL and visited the Navy Seal Museum. One of the things that catches your eye right away is the bigger than life bronze statue honoring Seals that have earned the Medal of Honor. The statue was officially unveiled at the 2013 Muster in September. Commissioned by Ross Perot, it features two US Navy SEAL Medal of Honor recipients who have been honored guests at our TSNA Reunions, Mike Thornton and Tom Norris and honors these two heroes and the three other recipients: Joseph Robert Kerrey, MA2 Michael Anthony Monsoor and Michael Patrick Murphy.

The museum also features items from WWII to the present. They have 2 Vietnam Era brown water PBR (Patrol Boat Riverine) boats exhibited outside along with other craft and other exhibits, including a Seawolf Huey helicopter which featured two door gunners with M-60's and 2.75" rocket Launchers. Inside they have many weapons and equipment from all eras on display, including of course Vietnam.

On display is the actual Maersk Alabama lifeboat, bullet holes and all, from the rescue of Capt. Richard Phillips after his capture by Somali pirates. They also have a model of the Bin Laden compound and house. There is a very nice exhibit about the "Navy Seal Multipurpose Canine".

In short there is a lot to see displayed very well in a relatively small space including some interactive items kids and adults can touch and enjoy. If you are in the area stop by for a visit.

<https://navysealmuseum.com/>.

3300 N. Highway A1A, North Hutchinson Island
Fort Pierce, FL 34949



REVETMENTS - ALL REVETMENTS

Our great Webmaster - Charles Penley, has been at work doing something for all of us!

The COMPLETE compilation of all known issues of Revetments are now available on the TSNA website. Be sure to visit and start looking at all the issues. Check it out at: <http://www.tsna.org/revetments/index.html> Thanks Charles!

THE FIRST REUNION

Dear Larry,

Attached are scans from the first 460th/360th reunion booklet that you expressed interest in as well as a few pictures. The picture with the large group is from that first reunion. It matches exactly the photograph in the booklet. We also had our second reunion in Evansville and I am pretty sure the picture with the smaller group is from that one. Maybe Sue Ellen can verify it.

The letter from Don to those that attended on the second page is particularly interesting because it first mentions the idea of a base wide Tan Son Nhut reunion. It didn't go over real well with many of those that attended the first reunion, but John and Don pressed forward with it and the association idea was approved at the 1994 reunion and so here we are!

Also attached is the letter I received from Don after I inquired about the reunion after reading about it in Air Force Magazine. It is a little light but still readable.

I will bring the booklet along with some other things I found to the reunion. Charles, you can add them to our archives after the reunion.

Regards,

Bill Coup



Page 2

November 22, 1993

524 South Gibson Street
Princeton, Indiana 47670

Dear Brothers,

I believe the first reunion we had together in July was a great success. Although I didn't serve personally with very many of you, we all had the same basic experiences and we understood the memories we shared in our short time together.

All the ladies enjoyed their lunch together on Saturday while we ate at the world's largest VFW post. Afterwards, gathering at Evansville's monument to the Four Freedoms and the nearby Korean War memorial was very moving for all of us.

The time has come for you all to have the names and addresses of veterans who attended and those who weren't able to join us. A few extra names and addresses came in the mail through the past week, so I added them to the list, too.

Now is the time for us to decide about our future reunions. I would personally like to have one in 1994, because there were so many who were unable to attend the '93 reunion and want to get together. I also believe that, as Vietnam Veterans, we have been excluded from the thoughts of many people as the heroes we were. We served honorably and didn't get the "welcome home" we deserved.

That is all past us now. We have each other. Over the years we have gained the respect we deserved all along from other veterans and from the general public. I believe we should no longer be excluded from anything — nor should we exclude any other Vietnam Veteran!

Therefore, it is the firm belief of both John Peele and me that we should form a Tan Son Nhut Air Base Association. A group that includes all U.S. Air force personnel who served there — the 460th TRW, the 360th TEWS, the 361st and 362nd, the 12th TRS, the security squadrons and all others including combat support squadrons.

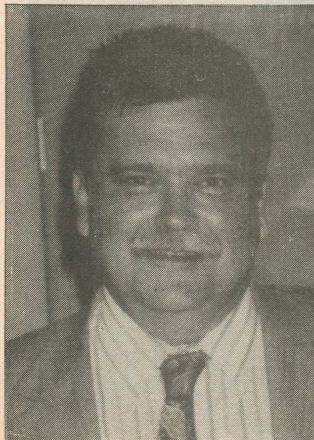
None of the units within the association would lose their identity. John, a member of the 460th, suggested that each year a different unit could be distinguished as the Honor Unit. The Tan Son Nhut Air Base Association's motto could be: Never Exclude; Always Include.

I was told that including all USAF veterans at TSN would make our group too large. John and I disagree. We can always find a hotel, a banquet hall, a convention center large enough to hold us. The only thing, in my opinion, that is too large is The Wall — too large because there are over 58,000 names on it. Our group must be formed to help people remember those 58,000-plus deceased veterans who are no longer with us.

It will now be up to each of you to vote on the name of our organization, who can be included in it, and when our next reunion will be held. If it is to be in '94, John and I — with the help of our wives, Michelle and Sue Ellen — will be glad to host it again. If it is to be another time and place, it would have to be organized. Another person would have to be responsible. Will you do it?

Sincerely,

Don E. Parker



Don E. Parker



These five found the snacks near a comfortable couch.

The First Years of the Tan Son Nhut Association

By: Sue Ellen Parker
Wife of TSNA Co-Founder Don Parker

In the beginning, there was China Beach, the TV show....

Don didn't want to watch it on his night off, so I taped it. One night when he was home he said, "go ahead and watch your show." On one episode, one of the donut dolies got killed in a rocket attack and he started to hyperventilate.... That's when I realized why he didn't want to see it. He had never talked about Vietnam very much. Maybe after a few drinks he'd talk about a young Vietnamese boy who got killed in a rocket attack or a SMSgt who was killed the night before he was to go home; but it was rare to hear anything about his experiences or his friends.

The next time Don watched the show, it was a "reunion" episode – 20 years later for the characters. Everyone got together in Washington, D.C. After the show's credits ran, Don looked at me and said, "I wonder if any of the guys I served with ever get together?" My answer was for him to "call someone," but he couldn't. When he returned to the U.S., he put Vietnam behind him. The guys, the work, the place, all were lost to his memory.

I called a retired general (a friend of my parents) and he gave us some suggestions: put a notice in the VFW, American Legion, DAV and Sergeants magazines. We did. Then we waited....

We started getting calls from everywhere – even Alaska! A man who had served in the 360th TEWS (Technical Electronic Warfare Squadron) with Don called while Don was working evenings. When we hung up, I called Don and said, "Guess who called?" When I gave him the man's name, Don said, "I give up. Who's that?" Another person who was no longer in his memory.

One man sent us boxes and boxes of trays of slides he had taken while in Vietnam. We had to find a slide projector to look at them. As we did, I made a video with my huge Panasonic video camera.

Suddenly, Don recognized someone! He said, "That's the little guy from _____! Every night he'd get drunk and pick a fight with the biggest guy around! He got his butt kicked every night!" It wasn't much, but it was a memory. The first of many to come.

One night Don was home when a call came for him. John Peele had seen the notice in one of the magazines. He was thinking of trying to get his unit, the 460th Field Maintenance Squadron, together for a reunion. John told Don that if they combined their efforts and had the two reunions as one, they'd have a larger pool of people to draw

from and could get better rates at hotels with a larger crowd.

Since Don had already advertised his as going to be in Evansville, Indiana, in June of 1993, it was decided we would host it. John and his wife, Michelle, gave us all the moral support in the world, but the commute would have been too much for them!

We went to the Evansville Visitors Bureau and planned the reunion to be held at the largest hotel in the city, the Executive Inn. Rates were established for guests, but we stayed in the Presidential Suite where the men and women would spend most of their time as it was also our hospitality room.

We walked around Evansville and came up with items for "goodie bags" for each person to take away with them. We had pencils, food coupons, key rings – you name it, we begged for it (then we took it home where I bagged it)! Don made plans for the men to eat lunch at the World's Largest VFW post (Evansville post 1114). I didn't want the women to feel left out, so we contacted the Reitz Home and we were able to have lunch in the carriage house then go on a tour of the historic structure. Afterwards, the ladies visited Rose Marie's, a beautiful old river home with Department 56 and other gorgeous items on display and for sale. Even those who bought nothing, enjoyed the sight-seeing!

There were so many people there that first year, including men who had been "lifers" in the Air Force, serving in both World War II and Korea before flying the EC-47 Gooneybirds in Vietnam.

In the hospitality room, the men were on the bar/dining room side talking about "old times" while the women stayed in the "living room" part of the suite. They talked, we talked. I found out that none of the men talked about their service in Vietnam very often.

Two of the women, whose husbands had made the USAF a career, were discussing how much their husbands had changed when they returned home from Vietnam. One turned to me and said, "Sue Ellen, did Don change very much?" I told them I didn't know. "I was in high school at the time." I swear they all scooted away from me after I said that.

Don and John were two of the youngest fellows at the reunion at 45 and 42. There were men in their 50s, 60s and 70s who were attending.

All in all, the 360th-460th reunion was a vast success. Nearing the end of the weekend, the men gathered for an impromptu "what's next" type of meeting. I don't remember who suggested having another one in 1994 or who said it

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

should be for all Vietnam veterans, but I remember the man who vetoed the idea. He said it would never work and if they decided to continue in that line, he wouldn't be back. He never returned, but I think including everyone has worked well. The point I brought up at the time – it wasn't a formal business meeting and, after all, I had helped Don get ready for this -- was "haven't you guys been excluded enough?"

And so the Tan Son Nhut Association was born. The first official reunion of the newly formed group was in 1994. Some didn't come back, some did. New people read about it and they came, too. It continues to prosper to this day. I can't tell you the number of times Don has asked me, "Can you believe it? Something a couple of lowly airmen started has become THIS...."

I can hardly believe it, but I'm glad it has happened. It was worth all the work for that first reunion.

I spent 33 months at TSN on two separate tours. I just came back from TSN on 23rd of March, 2012, so now have 1001 days in country.

Spent a month in the Delta (first time back since 1973) in the small village of Heip Duc.

Was a medic at TSN and was there during the pull out.

Was also stationed at UTAPAO in Thailand the 29th of April 1975 when Saigon fell. Was on a Bird Air C-54 going into TSN when I was pulled off the flight because Bien Hoa was overrun and TSN was bombed by friendly a/c and of course Vietnam fell to the North VN on the 29th.

(While in Saigon in February I asked guards at TSN if I could tour the base. They said the government has not ok'd that for US citizens yet but are working on it. While landing at TSN I thought I saw the old in-country terminal and the building I used to work from on the flight line.

MSgt. Michael L. Green
377th USAF Hospital
Feb 66-Jan 67
Jun 71-Mar 73

Presently 100% service connected disabled Vietnam Vet. Army says I was exposed to Agent Orange July 1967 at Bien Hoa AB Vietnam but our C-130 aircraft at Det 1, 834th AD, TSN carried the barrels throughout Vietnam. Our aircraft brought in body bags from different areas of Vietnam back to TSN that we were responsible to notify the morgue to pick up the bodies. Bodies were from our allies as well as Americans.

William R. Moffitt, Ph D.
Det.1, 834th Air Division
Feb 68 - Aug 69

I did two tours of duty in Vietnam, both assigned to the HQ staff, as part of the Director of Intelligence. Interestingly, I had the same hooch maid for both tours. I also used to escort General Jones, as his request, back to his quarters at the end of the evening.

William E. Schlueter
7th AF Dir. Of Intelligence
Jul 68-Jun 69
Oct 70-Sep 71



From French Indochina to Viet Nam, vets' reunions take the place of a hero's parade

The following story appeared in the *Princeton Daily Clarion* on Veterans' Day as part of a four-war series. It was written by Sue Ellen Parker, wife of Viet Nam veteran Don Parker.

Twenty-five years ago, returning veterans from Viet Nam were not welcomed home with open arms. Most avoided speaking about service to their country for fear of being called "war mongers" and "baby killers." Some came home in their "civvies" instead of their uniforms to disassociate themselves with their immediate past.

Most protesters against The War have mellowed with age. The veterans, while sometimes bitter, now openly want to talk about their past with fellow-veterans who served in The Nam.

A former Oakland City resident, Don E. Parker joined the US Air Force when called by his country in 1966. Although able to obtain a deferment as the last male in the family,

he thought it was "the thing to do — to fight for my country."

Like many others, though, he chose to forget his honorable service upon his return to the States. Gone were memories of comrades, places he had served, things he had seen.

In the fall of 1992, after watching a television show on a Viet Nam reunion, he wondered if anyone in his group had been to a reunion. Parker couldn't remember what unit he was in while in Viet Nam. With the help of service affairs officer Bob Emge, he received copies of orders from Washington. The places and dates brought back memories, but no names.

Within nine months, with the help of veterans' publications, hundreds of dollars of telephone calls and the help of John Peele of the 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (Tac Recon), Parker had organized the first-ever combined reunion of the 460th Tac Recon and the 360th Technical Electron-

ic Warfare Squadron (TEWS). Also invited were men from security squadrons, other TEWS units and "anyone else who wanted to come."

The Evansville-based reunion grew from a Friday through Sunday get-together for about 20 men to a four-day affair with more than 50 men from 24 states — from California to Maine and from the Gulf coast to the Canadian border. "One of the guys called from Barrow, Alaska," Parker recalled,

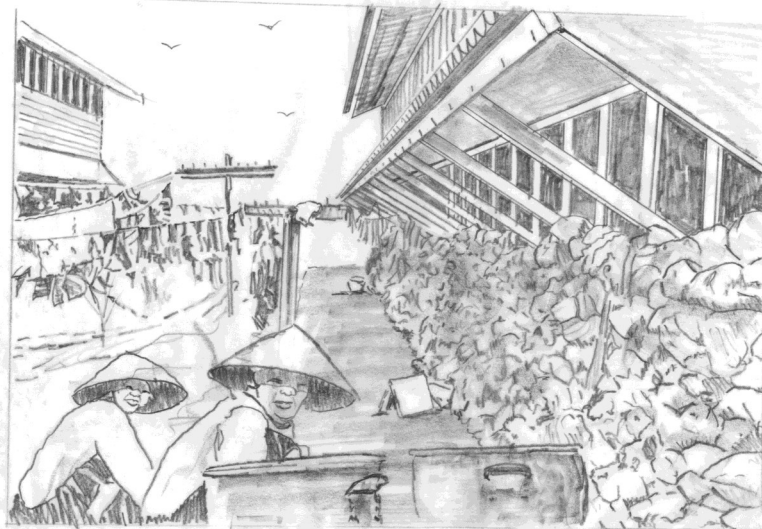
"but he couldn't come this year.

"The veterans and their spouses were happy to be together, pleased at the friendly attitudes of the people of Southern Indiana and amazed at the heat and humidity here in July," Parker laughed.

"Everyone had a good time," he recalled. "Not many of us had served together, but we all had similar memories. We understood each other," he said.



The Presidential Suite was crowded Friday night, but no one minded the noise — or the heat! Everyone had a good time.



By: John Bowen

LAUNDRY

REUNION NEWS

All:

CDR Galanti will not be able to attend our reunion this year due to a close family member having some severe health problems. We sincerely hope that he can join us next year.

John Bessette recommended a Washington, DC area fellow USAF Vietnam vet as a replacement to be our honored guest speaker, and a most worthy replacement he is !!!

Colonel Wolfgang Samuel was a blue suiter for 30 years and is the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross and multiple Air Medals.

In addition, he is an accomplished author, having published seven books.

Colonel Samuel will be holding a book signing on Saturday afternoon from 2 - 3PM in the hospitality suite.

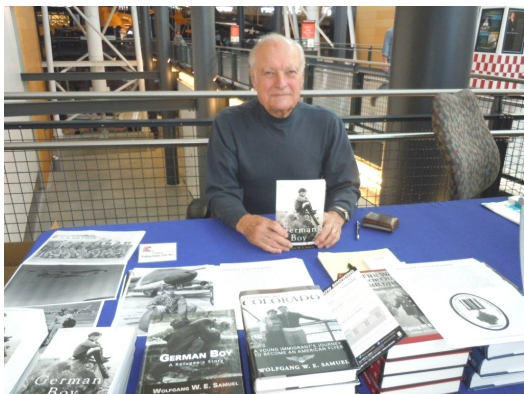
We are working on a plaque dedication for Saturday morning, but details have not been finalized.

There are no strangers here, only new friends waiting to be discovered.

George

WOLFGANG W. E. SAMUEL BIOGRAPHY

Wolfgang W. E. Samuel was born in Germany in 1935, immigrated to the United States at age 16, and finished high school in Denver, Colorado, two years later. He graduated from the University of Colorado in 1960 and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. Air Force. Wolfgang served 30 years in the U. S. Air Force, flew strategic reconnaissance against the Soviet Union in the Cold War years and combat against North Vietnam; being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross three times and numerous Air Medals. He obtained an MBA from Arizona State University and graduated from the National War College at Ft. McNair, Washington D. C. After retirement from the Air Force in the rank of Colonel, he worked for a defense contractor in the Washington area, then retired once again to write German Boy, his first book, which was introduced by Stephen Ambrose and very favorably reviewed by the New York Times. German Boy is Wolfgang's story of survival in WW II Germany and the immediate postwar years. Other books followed.



Tan Son Nhut Association 2014 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: _____

REGISTRATION FEES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING _____ X \$75. = _____

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (NO EXTRA COST)

- Access to the TSNA Hospitality suite in Royale FGHIJ, (drinks, snacks, and war stories!) - \$15. daily if purchased separately.
- TSNA Friday Banquet buffet dinner. \$30 if purchased separately.
- Saturday morning plaque dedication ceremony. Details to follow later.
- Please circle which activities that you are paying for separately.
- Free airport shuttle service.
- Free parking.
- Free WIFI.
- Free hot breakfast buffet.
- Honored guest speaker is Wolfgang W. E. Samuel, Colonel, US Air Force Retired.

Your room rate has been group discounted to \$92.00 per night, plus tax. This rate will be honored up to three days prior to and two days following the reunion. The reservations phone number at the Holiday Inn Evansville Airport is 1-888-465-4329. **Hotel reservations must be made no later than May 27, 2014 to receive this special rate.**

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN MAY 30, 2014

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 begins Thursday, 6-12-2014
Reunion ends Sunday, 6-15-2014



**TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
2014 REUNION
JUNE 12-15, 2014
HOLIDAY INN EVANSVILLE AIRPORT**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Royale FGHIJ	Wednesday	Noon	Hospitality Suite and Registration Opens
Royale FGHIJ	Wednesday	?????	Hospitality Suite Closes
Royale FGHIJ	Thursday	9:00 AM	Hospitality Suite and Registration Opens
Royale FGHIJ	Thursday	?????	Hospitality Suite Closes
Royale FGHIJ	Friday	9AM	Hospitality Suite and Registration Opens
Royale FGHIJ	Friday	1-3PM	John Bowen book signing "Eleven Months and Nineteen Days"
Royale FGHIJ	Friday	?????	Hospitality Suite Closes
Royale ABCDE	Friday	6PM	Banquet Cash Bar Opens

(A SEPARATE SCHEDULE FOR THIS EVENT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE BANQUET)

	Saturday	9AM	Hospitality Suite opens
	Saturday	10AM	Vans begin loading for plaque dedication ceremony
Evansville	Saturday	11AM	Plaque dedication ceremony
	Saturday	1PM	Vans return to the hotel
Royale FGHIJ	Saturday	1:30PM	Hospitality suite opens
Royale FGHIJ	Saturday	2-3PM	Book signing
	Saturday	5PM	Board Meeting
Royale FGHIJ	Saturday	8:00 PM	General Business Meeting
Royale FGHIJ	Saturday	????	Hospitality Suite Closes
Royale ABCDE	Sunday	6AM-9AM	Farewell Breakfast Buffet

Send in your registration NOW!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It wasn't in a movie but Walt Disney is quoted as saying "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing". Thus the "April Corner" might get short because of the date April 15.

The months of March and April 2014 contain special days for most religious calendars. For Christians, Lent and Easter, for Jews, Passover and other faith groups have celebrations and special religious times that this old Presbyterian either can't spell or speak the language.

Interesting enough there is a passage in the NT book of Matthew that seems to incorporate all these spiritual needs in chapter 6:24-34.

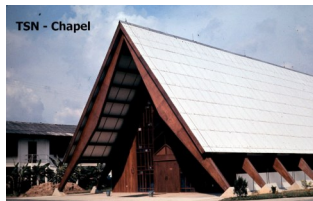
If a person is emotionally down this passage is sure to lift one up regardless of the differences of "faith groups"! To separate portions of this text leaves much out of understanding ourselves and our place of life.

After going through this strange winter, snows, cold, drought and many personal low points it seems time for a renewal of our beginnings. A Chinese philosopher reminds us "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

An African proverb is "If you want to know the end, look at the beginning".

Thus said: "Now where did I put that Form 1040?"

End of Sermon
Chaplain Bob Chaffee



Vietnam War Foundation and Museum

By: Bill Grayson
Det.5, 6922nd Security Wing,
USAFSS
Jul 66 - Jul 67

Phoenix Society member, Marty Cavanagh, brought to our attention the New Vietnam War Foundation and Museum to honor our Vietnam Veterans. The museum is located at 6265 Spring Hill Road, in Ruckersville, VA.

The Vietnam War Foundation (VWF) is a non-profit, public educational foundation filed under 501(c)(3) of the IRS. The Foundation is dedicated to presenting the Vietnam Era story to schools and the general public through narration and static displays of actual equipment used by the men and women who served in VN during the 10 years of conflict.

This mission is accomplished through the acquisition, restoration and maintenance of historic vehicles (trucks, aircraft, jeeps, APCs, etc.), VN era memorabilia, "VC" artifacts, weapons, and civilian and "peace" symbols of the Vietnam Era. The VWF provides school children and the general public the opportunity to hear its veterans share their stories and see its military legacy.

THE FOUNDATION:

To secure the long term success of this "unique" organization, the Foundation has:

1. Incorporated as a Non-Profit Domestic Corporation, in 2009.
2. Received IRS approval as a 501(c)(3) public educational foundation. (Donations of money and equipment are fully deductible under IRS guidelines).
3. Qualified to receive Federal surplus property and supplies through the Federal Surplus Program.

EQUIPMENT PRESERVATION:

One of the unique functions of the

VWF is to obtain, restore and maintain in near operable condition, examples of historic equipment representing the Vietnam Era. No other known educational foundation is totally dedicated to preserving this unique VN era equipment and memorabilia for future generations of school children and the general public to experience and learn.

Following acquisition of equipment or memorabilia, the VWF has three primary tasks:

- 1. Whenever possible, to locate veterans who are experienced with the equipment and to guide the volunteers in its restoration.
- 2. The restoration of the equipment to its original specifications and ensure display of the equipment is realistic to the time and place of its use.
- 3. Research the equipment's military history and integrate it into the educational presentations.

Admission to the museum is free by appointment:

Hours: 9:00AM - 4:00PM, 7 days per week; closed Thanksgiving and Christmas

Equipment Collection includes: UH-1d Huey, M113 APC, Trucks, Jeeps, US weapons and equipment, NVA and VC equipment, Vietnam era memorabilia. Visit the website to learn more about the Foundation and Museum and to see the many photographs of items at the museum:

Vietnamwarfoundation.org.



The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.

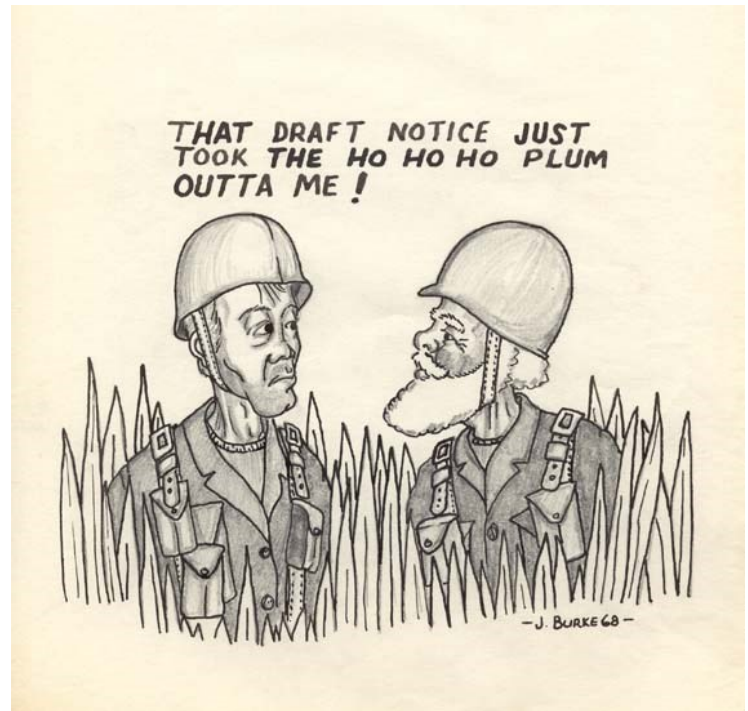
-Henry Van Dyke
Brainyquote

Tan Son Nhut Association
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Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00



And our thanks again to John Burke, TSNA Life Member, for another great cartoon.

GOOD INTENTIONS

At a business conference last week, the subject of "good intentions" was brought up and teams were asked to make up slogans. Third place went to: "Count the deed, not the thought". Second place was: "Good intentions might sound nice, but its positive action that matters. I won first place with: "He who speaketh by the Yard, but acteth by the Inch, should be kicketh by the Foot."



By TSNA Member Nick Economou March 20, 2014



Mr. Keith A. Cline OH kcline64@woh.rr.com Dec 66 - Jul 67 DCA-SAM (Defense Communications Agency Classified Courier

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