



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



OCTOBER 2015

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The October traditional celebration of Columbus Day as a beginning of development of our nation prompts a series of subjects to consider as we meditate on some of the changes our nation and our need for the supreme guidance of our God.

As chaplain I would be bound to comment that the development of the land that followed after the ships of Columbus returned to Europe gained most of its creation as a nation on strong religious life. That beginning in 1492 has produced change to what we recognize as the planet earth.

To be an American has some strict rules but it seems they are based on tolerance and loyalty.

A young woman shortly after being welcomed as a US citizen is quoted as saying "To me, the American dream is being able to follow your own personal calling. To be able to do what you want to do is incredible freedom".

This is all said but again there are some personal confinements. One could suspect that the apostle Paul was writing to us as well as the Ephesians [4:1-4] "With all lowliness and meekness with long suffering forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace".

End of sermon,

Chaplain Bob Chaffee



NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

We lived at 538 Troung Minh Young St, Saigon and moved back into the barracks in December, 1966. I was there during the April, 1966 attack and fixed more aircraft damage than I care to remember. I did my in-country R & R at Vung-Tau in January, 1967. Roommates were John C. D'Auria and Ken Mooney from Three Rivers, Michigan.

Wesley S. Williams
377th Field Maintenance Squadron
Feb 66—Feb 67.

Editor's Note: Please Welcome Wesley to TSNA! His Membership is a birthday gift from his friend and TSNA member, John D'Auria. John wrote the above comments.

Wesley's Birthday is September 30th, so Happy Birthday Wesley, slightly belated, and Welcome to TSNA.

FROM THE BOARD

Veterans News & Events: No. 3

By: Joe Kricho, TSNA Director of Veterans Services
67VietVet68@gmail.com

Honor Flights

In September, VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald met with more than 140 female Veterans who were in Washington D.C. as part of the first-ever all female Honor Flight. Honor Flights, as you may know, transport Veterans, at no cost to themselves, to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials built to honor their service. Their flight which arrived on September 22, consisted of 70 female World War II

Veterans and 70 post-9/11 era female Veterans. Secretary McDonald delivered remarks during a short ceremony at the Women in Military Service Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery to honor those Veterans.

It is fitting that the women who served our country during wartime are getting the recognition that they justly deserve.

Vietnam Veterans are also eligible for Honor Flights. However, priority is given to World War II Veterans, and terminally ill Veterans from all wars. You can find more information on Honor Flights, as well as an application, here: <https://www.honorflight.org/apply-for-a-veteran-honor-flight/>.

(Looking Ahead!!)



Reunion 2016!



As the dates on the 2016 Reunion logo show, please put September 22 to 25, 2016 on every calendar, computer, smart phone, dumb phone that you own - and plan to be in Huntsville.

**MACV
RULES OF ENGAGEMENT**

(Courtesy of Jerry Kinsey, 377th Supply Squadron, TSNAB, September 1968 - September, 1969)

{Sorry this is a bit angled. Nothing I tried to straighten it worked—only made it worse!!}

SUBJECT: MACV Rules of Engagement and Security Police Firearms Policy and Challenging Procedure.

1. All Security Policemen will be familiarized with Squadron Regs. 136-6, Firearms Policy and 07-10, challenging Procedures.

2. MACV Rules of Engagement

a. Guards, sentries, outposts, watchposts, and patrols will fire on any force or individual committing a hostile act either within the base or from outside the base. A hostile act is defined as firing in the direction of the base; setting up weapons within range of the base (unless prior clearance has been secured by friendly forces); attempting to infiltrate or overwhelm by numbers an outpost or failure to halt when ordered to do so when within the base.

b. All necessary force to defeat an attack shall be applied. such force may include small arms, automatic weapons, and crew served weapons and artillery fire; armed helicopter attack, attack by aircraft, or attack by infantry or armored formations.

c. All reasonable care will be taken to reduce damage to innocent personnel and buildings, but defense of the Air Base will be considered over riding.

3. Firearms Policy which is primarily the MACV Rules of Engagement:

a. I understand that it is my duty to defend the Air Base against any action which may threaten life or property. Effective attack may be made by mortar, rockets, small arms, low trajectory weapons, and other devices located outside the perimeter of the Air Base as well as by infiltration.

b. I understand that I am authorized and directed to utilize whatever force necessary to render an attack harmless whether attack comes from inside or outside the base.

c. If I observe an attack or threat from outside the base, I will report the attack or threat and place the position or force which threatens the base under fire with the most effective means at my disposal. Within the base, I will not fire unless it is either a direct assault, I observe weapons being implaced, a direct assault, or a flash which I can recognize as a weapon directed against the Air Base, I will respond with maximum effective firepower.

d. I will fire my weapon only as a last resort to sound an alarm or warning when that situation warrants such action and other means of communications are not available or have failed.

e. I will fire my weapon only as a last resort to apprehend or prevent the escape of a known and dangerous criminal.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE →

4. Challenging Procedures:

a. When challenging, bring your weapon to port arms or raised pistol (Which ever is applicable).

b. The challenge must be effected on the assumption that the party being challenged is hostile. CSC must be kept appraised of the situation and you as the sentry must always keep the challenged party under close security, scrutiny and at a tactical disadvantage.

c. The command to halt must be executed in a voice loud enough to be heard by the challenged party. The word for halt, which is readily understood by the Vietnamese is "Dung Lai", which is pronounced "Dung Lai"!! If the nationality of the challenged party is not known, use both "Halt" and "Dung Lai". In an area of excessive noise, a whistle should also be used in conjunction with the voice command.

d. If the challenged party does not heed the first command to halt, repeat the command a second time.

e. If the challenged party does not heed the second command to halt, fire a warning shot at a 70 degree angle over the head of the challenged party, followed by a third command to halt. (this procedure is applicable on bases only, all off base incidents will fall under the provision of the MACV Rules of Engagement). If the individual fails to heed the third warning command, you as the sentry are authorized to fire to hit.

NOTE: Prohibited Practices

Under no circumstances will a weapon be pointed at an individual(s) or fired into the air merely as a bluff. The firing of a bluff shot is the misuse of a weapon and requires positive action to be taken by the Commander concerned and constitutes a serious incident which will have to be reported IAW paragraph 12, atch # 1, PACAF Regulation 125-3, dated 17 March 1965.

Statue of soldier and dog at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky, Ohio.

Photo Courtesy of Garry Arndt
4th SOS (AC-47 Gunship)
Aug 69 - Aug 70



Two of the greatest qualities in life are:

**Patience
and
Wisdom**



Thanks to TSNA member Garry Arndt for this!

BENNY AND THE C-141 FOR GALANTI

After our 2013 Chattanooga reunion we announced in the July Revetments that CDR Paul Galanti, a POW in North Vietnam for nearly 7 years, would be our honored guest speaker for our 2014 Evansville reunion.

Following that announcement, one of our members contacted me via email and said that he had several C-141 aircraft models and offered to donate one to CDR Galanti. He further offered to have decals made to accurately represent the C-141 that Paul and our returning heroes flew on to Clark, PI in the action that was named Operation Homecoming. The tail number of that bird was C-50236.

Several months later he emailed me again and said that the model was ready for presentation in Evansville. Unfortunately, Paul Galanti contacted me in May of 2014, saying that his wife had breast cancer and he would not be able to attend that reunion. I thanked him for the call and said that we would be praying for Phyllis. Sadly she passed on later that year and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

I asked our fellow member to hold on to the model as I was going to invite Paul Galanti to our 2015 Pigeon Forge reunion and he agreed to do so.

At the May 2015 reunion we surprised CDR Galanti with a presentation of the C-141 **after I read the following partially true, partially contrived story –**

After CDR Galanti agreed to be our honored guest speaker, I contacted our friends at the National Museum of the Air Force.

They very graciously provided me with copies of the actual flight manifests for the first 3 flights of Operation Homecoming, the repatriation of our POW's from North Vietnam. The flight manifests included names of the medical team and the POW's.

The first C-141 was tail number 60177. It has become known as 'The Hanoi Taxi'.

The second 141 was tail number 50243. The third bird was 50236, and CDR Galanti was a passenger on it.

Using this information, I contacted the folks at the aircraft regeneration and long term storage facility, more commonly called "the boneyard" at Davis Monthan AFB in Arizona, asking for information on the C-141 fleet.

They said that all of these aircraft had been cut up for scrap and sold, except for a few that were deemed historically significant. These few birds were given to different bases and historical institutions to be placed on permanent display.

I found that tail number 50236 is on permanent display at the Heritage Air Park at Scott AFB, Illinois, and after protracted discussions with them, they gave permission for 50236 to make one last flight.

"50236, this is Paris Control, you are cleared to land at Tango Sierra November."

(TSNA VP Rich Carvell then entered holding the C-141 model airplane for CDR Galanti and gave it to him).

I think that CDR Galanti was surprised and pleased with the presentation, as was the award donor, MSgt Benny Goodman.

I promised Benny that I would not reveal his identity.

However, he has now gone on to a better place and I want all of our members to know what a thoughtful, loyal member he was.

CAVU Benny, CAVU.

We will meet again someday.

George

George R Plunkett
President Emeritus
Tan Son Nhut Association



As noted on the previous page in George Plunkett's story, TSNA - and the world - lost a great friend recently.

Benny Goodman was definitely no stranger after you met him—and you wanted to keep on meeting him and being around him.

I have taken some of the comments I have seen in various media forms and copied them below, in hopes that those of you that did not know him, might get a little bit of the feel of those who did. Larry

George Bontya: RIP Benny Goodman

Fred Treadway: Salute and RIP

Charles Penley: A "True Friend and Brother!"

Richard Carvell: Salute to my Vietnam Brother!!

Gary Fields: RIP Benny Goodman

Sue Ellen Parker: Benny was in the middle of everything at the Tan Son Nhut Association reunions. He was well liked by everyone. Rest in peace, Sir.

Kayla Goodman: I really can't even believe I'm saying this, but Rest In Paradise Uncle Benny Goodman. I will remember & cherish our trips to the mall & stopping to eat pistachio ice cream! You would act all sly & like our trip to the mall wasn't to get me a new charm for my charm bracelet, then when we walked by Kay you'd say "let's take a gander in here, just for fun".

I absolutely LOVED your visits, I'm so glad we got those. I just wish Jaycee would have gotten more time with you, she was supposed to know you.. But I'll tell her all the time. Thank you for stepping in for Grandpa when he had to go to heaven, & acting like a grandpa to me. I love you uncle Ben, give everyone in heaven love from Jaycee girl & I.

Buddy Hill: Don't have the words to express the sorrow I feel right now. From the moment I first met Benny, I knew he was special. He was an instant friend who was loved by all who were blessed to know him. Go rest high on that mountain Brother. Your duty has been fulfilled. I met Benny for the first time in Pigeon Forge at the TSNA reunion. It was instant friendship. Had the honor of sharing a meal with him in a little cafe overlooking Gatlinburg. A very special person. My heart is heavy hearing this. So sorry Gabriela.

Bill Coup: Rest in Peace Benny. You were more than just a good man. I will miss seeing you at our reunions. You served us and your country well.

Dale Bryan: Benny is now in a better place, and suffering has ended.

Carolyn Martha Goodman, Eugene, OR . Tonight heaven gained the sweetest Texas angel, father-in-law, dad, grandpa..... We love and will miss you Benny Goodman you gave me the best gift when your son married me. My heart hurts See you later xoxox.

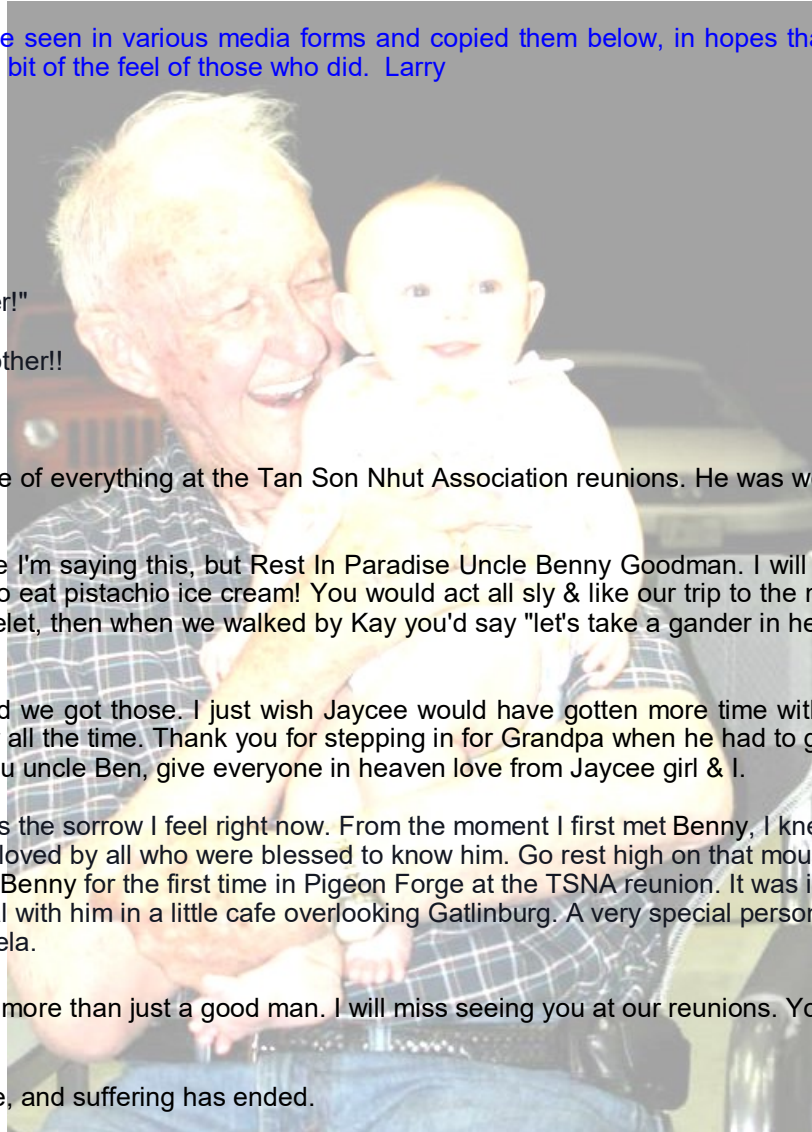
George Plunkett: RIP Benny, you are missed already.....

Kerry K. Nivens: RIP Benny you served you country and the TSNA with dignity.

Dewey Tweed: RIP from one old MSgt to another.

Editor's Note: Yea, I know the picture is off center, but there was no way I wasn't going to show those smiles in an open space!

Rest in Peace Dear Benny. We will miss you!



POW/MIA is Still Very Real to Families

Andy Csordas
U. S. Army
TSN 1970

One day last winter Rena was brought home by an employee, Kathy Minton, from the assisted living facility where her mother lives here in Rome, GA. Kathy noticed our POW/MIA sign hanging in front of our flag pole, became excited and asked where we found it. The sign is one we bought through Gary Redlinski after a TSNA Reunion a few years ago. Kathy's father, SSG Robert Lee Curlee, is still MIA. He enlisted at the age of 17 in 1948.

Staff Sergeant Curlee found himself in the jungles of Southeast Asia fighting the Viet Cong on September 23, 1964. As a Combat Medic, he was serving as a medical adviser to the South Vietnamese soldiers. According to the Army, on May 25, 1965, a Special Forces Detachment landed at Dong Xoai, Vietnam, a village through which a Viet Cong supply lifeline from Cambodia ran. The Special Forces detachment, along with Navy Seabees, built a camp in Dong Xoai. Viet Cong shot mortar rounds into the new camp on a regular basis and soon large formations of Viet Cong started appearing in the area. On June 9, 1965, two Viet Cong regiments overran the camp and only a few soldiers survived. Before South Vietnam relief forces could get to the camp, a team of advisors were sent in from Tan Son Nhut on June 10, 1965. The team of advisors were flown in by helicopter pilot Lt Walter Hall and on board were SGT Craig Hagen, gunner; SSG Joseph Compa, crew chief; WO Donald Saegaert, co-pilot. The advisors were Special Detachment 5891, consisting of SSG Robert L. Curlee, medic; Cpt Bruce Johnson, advisor; and SFC Fred Owens, advisor.

When the helicopter was near the ground, with personnel unloading, it came under heavy Viet Cong mortar fire and gunfire. The helicopter tried to take off however it had been hit, crashing into some parked vehicles nearby, bursting into flames. The Army stated that another circling helicopter pilot immediately made contact with Captain Bruce Johnson, who was alive, and he stated that the helicopter crew and the two advisors with him, one of which was Staff Sergeant Curlee, were dead. Captain Johnson told the pilot not to send anyone in because the situation was very bad and there was heavy fire. The Army told Kathy's mother that a search was conducted of the area between Dong Xoai and Thuan Loi on June 15, 1965 and June 16, 1965. No bodies were found in the helicopter wreckage.

Villagers in the area stated that the Viet Cong had carried away the bodies of seven Americans and had buried them. Others have reported the bodies were dumped in a well by the Viet Cong. The military sent in a grave's registration team who opened two areas of freshly turned earth and

found nine bodies however they were Vietnamese and no trace of the American remains were found. No remains of Staff Sergeant Curlee were ever found however the Army concluded a year later that he was dead and not missing in action. Staff Sergeant Curlee's wife, Faith, a nurse in Minnesota, was notified that her husband was missing in June, 1965 and she was later told in 1966 that her husband had died on June 10, 1965, at age 34. Besides his wife, he left two children, James Robert and Kathy, when he died. Margie, Robert's sister stated that the first helicopter that her brother rode in was the one in which he was killed. The Army erected a memorial marker in 1966 at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota for Staff Sergeant Curlee. His wife and children lived in Minnesota while he was in Vietnam. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal posthumously for wounds received while in action in Vietnam.

Gary Redlinski still had one of the POW/MIA signs which he sent for us to give to Kathy. She was able to hang it before the 50th Anniversary of her father's death. It is a reminder that this POW/MIA symbol is real, people are still feeling loss. We need to take that symbol seriously. As Kathy said, "Gone but not forgotten".

Below is a picture of Kathy's front porch, proudly flying the flag and the POW/MIA shield.

Andy Csordas, SP5 US Army, TSN 1970



Information from the family and FindAGrave.com



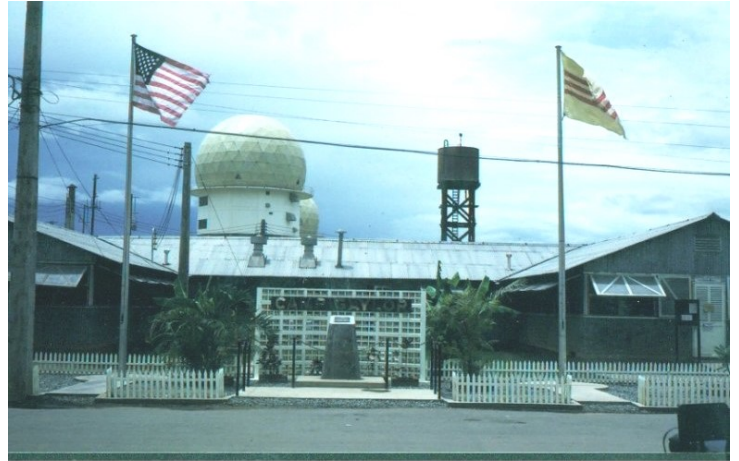
EDITOR'S NOTE:

I have heard and seen the name Camp Gaylor many times since I have been part of TSNA. One of our members, Terry Love, has a lot of good pictures of the place. Here are some of them. You can see many more by going to the internet and typing "Camp Gaylor". If your browser is anything like mine, one the first things you will see will be: [Camp Gaylorbrigade.potts4.net/albums/campgaylor](http://CampGaylorbrigade.potts4.net/albums/campgaylor).

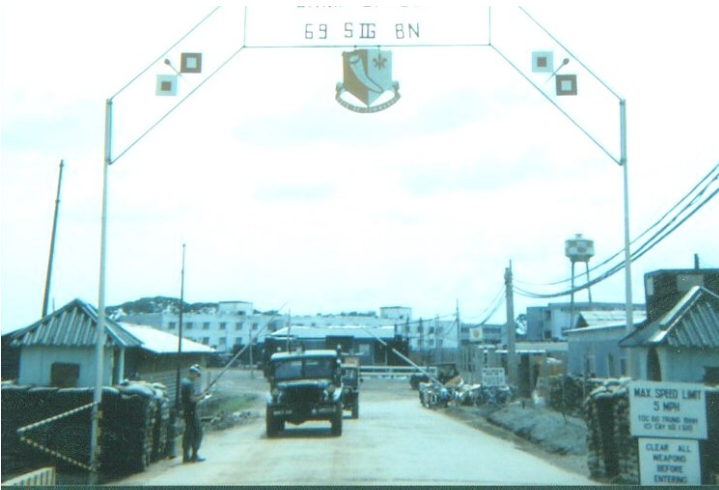
Click there and away you go!!



Camp Gaylor, Tan Son Nhut, Oct 67



Camp Gaylor, 69th Sig Bn, Tan Son Nhut, Sep 66



Entrance to Camp Gaylor, 69th Signal Battalion, Tan Son Nhut



Camp Gaylor, 69th Sig Bn EM Club, Tan Son Nhut, Feb 67

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

We operated an English Language Training Center (Tan Son Nhut Center) located outside the TSNAB perimeter. We trained various language levels for VNAF personnel and did other "advising" duties as assigned. I lived for several months in Cholon and then was transferred to the MACV Annex next to TSN.

Dr. Joseph S. Yarworth
MACV Advisory Team 62
Jun 70 - Jun 71

I grew up on Long Island. Drafted 19 April 65. Basic at Ft. Gordon, GA, later assigned Ft. Campbell, KY. Sent to RVN 26 Dec 65. First to Camp Alpha, then to Tent City B. While there, experienced both attacks (13 April 65, and 4 or 5 December 65). Pretty routine tour. Spent some time in UH1B flying over the Delta but mainly an office jockey.

Edward F. Dammer
HHD, USARV (Aviation)
Dec 65—Jan 67

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(“Family” taken from Facebook. Author unknown)

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. James A. Schwartzkopf	Hixson	TN	jaschwartzkopf@msn.com	Jan 69 - Jan 70	F Battery 16th Artillery
Mr. Bill Abel	LaQuinta	CA	flaviabill@yahoo.com	Oct 74 - Jun 75	U. S. Navy
Mr. Wesley S. Williams	Lakeland	FL	wescj@tampabay.rr.com	Feb 66 - Feb 67	377th FMS
Mr. Larry L. Shaw	Marion	IN	comdshaw@yahoo.com	Dec 65 - Nov 66	Co.B 8th CEB
Mr. Michael D. Daugherty	Hartford City	IN		Jul 69 - Jul 70	7/17 Air Cav
Mr. Edward F. Dammer	S. Williamsport	PA	falconmere@aol.com	Dec 65 - Jan 67	HHD, USARV
Dr. Joseph S. Yarworth	Reading	PA	palacedog1@gmail.com	Jun 70 - Jun 71	MACV Advisory Team 62

IN MEMORIAM

MSgt. Benny L. Goodman Westfield MA Aug 71-Aug 72 8th Aerial Port Squadron

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