



# REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association



JULY 2016

## REUNION GROUP PHOTO

The wife and I spent 3 days in Huntsville with Kerry & Margaret on putting some finishing touches on our September Reunion.

On talking with hotel and others at Airport, we are planning on our group photo to be shot inside airport.

Rocket City is Huntsville and the airport walls denote that, so the thought was to use that as a backdrop.

The backdrop has pictures of rockets, hot air balloons, etc. Plus we will be on second floor of hotel and only about 100 feet away. This will be so much easier than everyone going downstairs and outside.

So get ready to smile in September!

Randall W Brown  
TSNA President

## REUNION 2016 - LOOKING FORWARD

There are many outstanding activities planned for this years reunion:

As usual, great times with old friends, and making new ones for sure!!

Thursday the 22nd is official opening time—or should we say the start of the “BS” time?

Friday morning we get a nice tour of the Redstone Arsenal. Friday afternoon we will be visiting the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial Park.

And of course, Friday evening is going to be our Annual Banquet.

Saturday morning we will be going to the U. S. Veterans Memorial Museum for the Dedication of our Memorial Bench, as well as touring the grounds and buildings at the museum.

Saturday afternoon at 2 PM is a brief talk and then a book signing by author David Carney.

And during all this time is the food and fellowship in the Hospitality Suite, as well as the Silent Auction items for you to bid on.

And Saturday evening is the culmination of the Silent Auction, as well as the Annual Business Meeting.

And don't forget about the Sunday morning Farewell Breakfast!

All in all, it's going to be another great get-together, which you will not want to miss.

So go to the 2016 Reunion Registration Form on Page 5, write out a check, and send 'em both to the address shown.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Huntsville.

## NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

**M**y bunk was in Building 823. I was at Tan Son Nhut during Tet and during the rocket/mortar attacks in the months that followed.

Robert J. Allscheid  
377th Supply Squadron  
Oct 67 - Jan 69

**F**lew 278 missions - mostly in support of troops in South Vietnam. Supported Dak To, Cahm Duc. First and Second Tet, Khe San.

Ronald L. Clamme  
Sep 67 - Sep 68  
12th TFW, 557 TFS F-4C Pilot

**U**. S. Navy had an office at 7<sup>th</sup> AF HDQ at TSN. I was discharged from the Navy in 1969 in Saigon and went to work for a Department of Defense Contractor named Alaska Barge and Transport (AB & T). For AB & T I worked in DaNang, Nha Trang, Cam Ranh Bay, Phan Rang, and Vung Tao. Married my wife in Saigon in 1970. Had three children born in Vietnam. We evacuated from Saigon in 1975.

Lee “Barry” Davis  
U. S. Navy Com. 7th Fleet Detachment “C”, located at 7th AF HQ, TSN.  
Apr 66 - May 75



### New Member Melvin “Randy” Kaster

First, thank you for your service and everyone in the TSNA for their service. I have just mailed you an application for a Veteran Family Membership and I have enclosed a copy of my dad's (Ralph Kaster) DD-214 and his Bronze Star Medal Citation to show he was with the Det 5 6922nd Security Wing from Oct 1966 to Aug 1967. I hope that is the information to verify that my dad did serve and was stationed at Tan Son Nhut. He passed away 25 years ago.

Currently, I am working with a veterans charity organization here in the Birmingham Alabama area called: Priority Soldier Inc, which is providing homeless veterans an efficiency apartment and in that complex (Arlington Court) we have a training center where we have several businesses willing to train those veterans in the construction industry plus we are also contacting financial companies to see if they are willing to train veterans. I work very closely with the founder Major Ken Phillip (soon to be LTC) and Ret. Major General Ross of the ALVET NET which is Alabama Governor's Coordinator to combine all state services to assist veterans transition to civilian life or to get other needed service.

I also help veterans with getting their VA Claims organized so that its not a real hassle for them while I work a 40 hour full time job, but that's what we all do assisting veterans, their families and our community.

I am planning to attend this years Reunion and its great that its only a few hours away from where I live.

Melvin Kaster  
Former AF Security Forces and Army MP and MI  
P.S. I go by Randy, when someone calls Melvin then I know I am in trouble.



### NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

I was a Gun Captain on Mt. 51 on the U.S.S. Bordelon. We were on the Gun Line from the DMZ to Haiphong Harbor.

Ruther Joseph “Joe” Wilson  
U. S. S. Bordelon DD-881  
Jun 71 - Apr 73

Permanently assigned “C” Flight - LE Entry Controller for Cantonment Area #2 (USAF Officer Area) and (Chapel). On duty during Tet, and on March 1st, 1968 rocket attack which destroyed the Chapel and damaged the barracks of the 619th Tactical Control Squadron. I received a letter of Commendation for my actions taken during that attack.

Richard J. Ross  
377th Security Police Sq.—LE  
Sep 67 - Sep 68

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



The month of July 2016 holds a number of historical dates and changes. First of all is the celebration of the beginning of our nation: one that we served in a military capacity in a land far away. That time resulted in TSNA. This year seems to tie July into a month of politics. In reality it's a month of birthdays of former presidents for our United States of America; Coolidge, George W. Bush, John Adams and Gerald Ford. The true celebration during this month of July is showing our thanks for our nation. To quote Theodore Roosevelt “Let us remember that, as much has been given to us, much will be expected from us!”

There is much to think about as we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July! I found this real deep statement of awareness that says much about this month to come, words by Corrie Ten Boom: “This is what the past is for—Every experience God gives us, every person He puts in our lives is the perfect preparation for the future that only He can see.”

A church choir sang the “Hymn for Our Time” by J .N. Beck. The last lines of this beautiful anthem sets us up for our land and our calling. May I borrow it for this year's July Revetments. “O Lord, for the priceless gift of freedom, for the home, the church, the school; for the open door to manhood in a land where people rule. God of justice, save the people from the clash of race and creed, from the strife of class and faction; Make our nation free indeed, Keep her faith in simple manhood strong as when her life began till it finds its full fruition in the brotherhood of man.”

Those are good words and deep thoughts but see what the scriptures say: Job 11:13-17.

We see the reason for this celebration of July 4th, America as a strong and powerful democracy. How about these words from a Japanese proverb: “Beginning is easy—continuing is hard”.

End of Sermon  
Chaplain Bob Chaffee

## HONOR FLIGHT - APRIL 2, 2016

By: John Bowen  
Nov 67 - Nov 68  
834th Air Division Hq. Unit

This was the first ever Honor Flight that honored both the World War II vets and their escorts.

Because this was the first time that all the escorts were Vietnam vets.

There were 77 WWII vets and 77 Vietnam vets on flight 1941.

Normally, the escorts were family members or friends of the WWII vet - and the escort pays his or her own way.

This time, though, Honor Flight wanted to do something different and honor both groups of veterans.

I heard about the special flight early in March, through a Vietnam veteran friend of mine. At that time they still needed a few Vietnam veterans, "Elite Escorts", for the flight.

I got in touch with Honor Flight and they sent me the paperwork. I completed it and sent it back in. I was interviewed, accepted, and told to attend a special training class they have for all escorts, on how to take care of their charges.

I was then given his name and contact information. I got together with him at his home and we got acquainted before the trip. He is a very nice 92 year old Navy veteran who seemed to have more energy than I did.

On the day of the flight I picked up my charge at 4:00 AM, at his home and drove him to Miami International Airport, arriving at 4:30 AM. I dropped him off at the Terminal and parked my van. I joined him in the Terminal, where we processed in, along with all the others. Everything went smoothly and was handled very professionally.

We finally left at 7:00 AM. While taxiing out to the runway our plane was given a "Water Cannon" salute by a local fire department, an Honor usually reserved for "Heads of State". We all felt honored and appreciated it very much.

Along with key Honor Flight personnel were a team of photographers, a medical team and also a group of NBC News media, to videotape the trip.

We arrived in Washington, D.C. around 9:00 AM. Immediately upon departing the plane, every WWII vet was placed in a special wheel chair which was then pushed around by his escort, for the remainder of the trip.



**(John's Special WWII Buddy for the day)**

Upon entering the Terminal we were greeted by hundreds of well wishers, of all ages, military and civilians. It was a touching scene and very much appreciated by all the veterans.

We were directed to our special buses outside by young Army troops who had volunteered to stay and help us for the entire day.

Our first stop was Arlington Cemetery, where we all witnessed the "Changing of the Guard" ceremony. We, and especially the WWII vets, were acknowledged there and everywhere we went by a grateful public.

A far cry from what a lot of Vietnam Veterans received upon our return.

Everywhere our buses went we had a police escort.

After Arlington we boarded our buses and were whisked off to the "Knights of Columbus" for a great sit-down lunch, served by our young Army volunteers.

After lunch we all boarded the buses and were escorted to the "World War II Memorial". Most of the old vets hadn't been there before and were very taken with it. It was a very emotional time for them. The public was great there and very engaging. All the WWII vets were lined up, in their wheelchairs and a panoramic picture was taken of them. The whole experience was very inspiring.

(More) →

After the taking of many photos we were loaded back on our buses, then driven over to the “Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall”. More pictures, much emotion and engaging public.

Then back to the airport where we saw more well wishers shaking our hands and patting us on the back. All of the vets were visibly affected by the public support.

Our plane finally left Washington D. C. at 7 PM. Something extra they did for this special flight was “Mail Call”, where everyone, WWII & Vietnam vets received a package of notes, letters, and drawings from people honoring them for their service and showing their appreciation. It was a complete surprise and very touching.

We arrived in Miami at 9:00 P.M. and received another “Water Cannon” salute. We were one hour late and all very tired.

We departed the plane, and the WWII vets were put in their wheelchairs, for the last time that day. We wheeled them up the ramp and into the Terminal.

It was unbelievable the crowd that was waiting for us there. I’m sure it numbered a thousand people. Servicemen and women, schools, civilians of all ages, even a drum and piper band. It was unbelievable and very emotional.

My WWII vet told me “I’m not an emotional guy, but I have tears in my eyes.” I actually felt the same way. It was something I will always remember—people taking pictures, veterans taking pictures of the crowd, people applauding, waving little flags, the band playing.

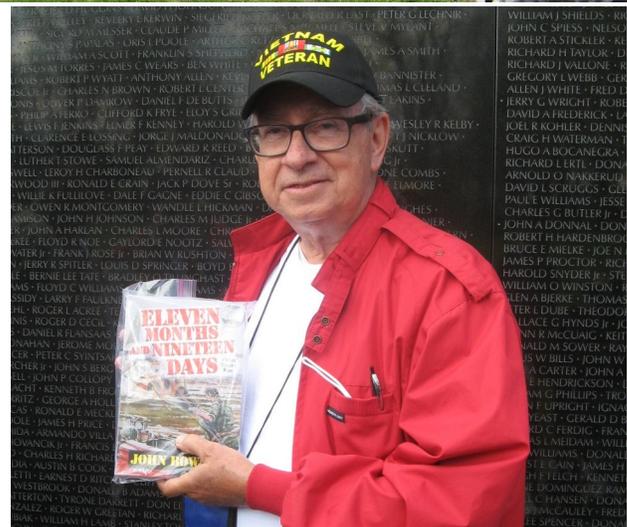
It must have taken us one hour to get through the Terminal. When we did get outside I left my vet there, in his chair, to get my van.

I finally got him back to his home at 11:00 PM. I got back home at 11:30 PM.

I was spent both physically and emotionally, but very happy and inspired.

I feel very honored to have been a part of that particular “Honor Flight” - a part of history. I will never forget it or my part in it.

I am still in close touch with my WWII buddy and plan to keep seeing him.



(John Bowen and his book at the VV Memorial Wall)

# Tan Son Nhut Association 2016 Reunion Registration

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

**Four Points by Sheraton Huntsville Airport, Huntsville, AL September 22 - 25, 2016**

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. = \_\_\_\_\_

PRE-ORDER VIDEO OF 2016 REUNION \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15. = \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT to TSNA MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 6, 2016.**

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

**TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION  
P. O. Box 236  
Penryn, PA 17564-0236**

Reunion begins Thursday, 9-22-2016

Reunion ends Sunday, 9-25-2016

## ACTIVITIES (NO EXTRA COST)

**Please check the Master Schedule for the timings of the following!!**

Access to the TSNA Hospitality Suite (drinks, snacks, and war stories!) (\$10. daily if purchased separately.)

TSNA Friday Banquet Buffet Dinner. (\$30. *if purchased separately.*)

*(Please circle which activities that you are paying for separately, if you are not paying the full fee.)*

Friday morning tour of Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial.

*(Please indicate how many people will be taking this tour) = \_\_\_\_\_.*

Saturday morning Memorial Bench Dedication ceremony and tour of the U. S. Veterans Memorial Museum.

*(Please indicate how many people will be taking this tour) = \_\_\_\_\_.*

## HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Room rate has been group discounted to **\$103.00** per night, including tax. This rate will be honored up to three days prior to and two days following the reunion. Hotel reservations must be made no later than September 14, 2016 to receive this special rate. Two breakfast coupons are included in the guest room rate, for a hot breakfast.

Here are links for you to access the site to learn more about the event and to book, modify, or cancel a reservation. Hold on your CTRL button, then click your mouse button:

[Tan Son Nhut](https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1602029501&key=D93685F) (OR copy and paste the following link into a web browser):  
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1602029501&key=D93685F>.

**(Editor's Note: DO NOT type in the words "Tan Son Nhut" into a web browser - you won't get what you want. JUST CLICK on the wording Tan Son Nhut above, or the web address given. Either one will take you to the same place.)**

Other hotel amenities include free parking and free Wi-Fi.

Our Honored Guest Speaker is Colonel John Reitzell, U. S. Army Retired.

4/14/16 Rev.



**POSTS FROM THE PREZ:  
(Veterans Resource Fair)**

Friday May 27th, the VA, along with 42 vendors, held a Veterans Resource Fair at the Elks Lodge in Hartford City, Indiana.

I was able to touch base with Veterans with Diabetes and guide them in the right directions for help.

I also met with Congresswoman Susan Brooks, pictured with me holding my Continuous Glucose Monitor). I was first in VA to get a CGM and it has saved my life a few times. Congressman Brooks is leading the charge on getting Medicare to pay for these to help save lives for those who suffer from diabetes.

Since my Pancreas has quit, this has been a truly life saving device. I came home from Vietnam in 1968 and developed diabetes at that time, which was from Agent Orange. So as my diabetes has worsened over the years and body parts shutting down the VA Doctors put me on the CGM. Now with the CGM and using Glucagon in my Pump, I am able to stay alive.

So the Veterans Resource Fair was twofold for me. As I was promoting my Vietnam Veterans With Diabetes, I also was passing out TSNA cards and Applications.

September is fast approaching for our reunion. Do you have your registration in yet?

We are going to have a nice Reunion in Huntsville. There is a lot to see and do.

Randall



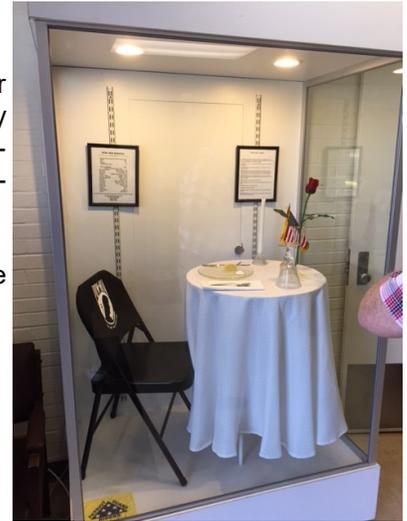
Also -

This among other things are on display at the Alabama Veterans Museum in Athens, Al.

A short 14 mile drive from Huntsville.

Nice place.

Randall



**HUNTSVILLE MEMORIAL BENCH**

This is the "Before" picture of where we will be dedicating the bench at Huntsville.

If you want a firsthand look at what it will look like AFTER the Dedication, then please sign up for the reunion—NOW!!

## FROM OUR CHEERLEADER

Your TSNA website has a page called "Yearbook". It has the photographs of our members. If you have not sent your photo of yourself in Vietnam or a current photo, please send Charles Penley your handsome photo asap.

If you are married and your beautiful lady has not yet joined, please, ask her to join asap and, yes, send her gorgeous photo to Charles Penley to be placed in your yearbook. The fee is \$20 for one year, \$80 for five years and \$180 for a lifetime membership! With your membership comes all kinds of benefits. The best benefit is that you become an extended family "cousin"! Yes, we are a large family with plenty of room for more kinfolks!

Come and spend time with your new kinfolks in Huntsville, Alabama this September. We have a ball! Laughter, tears, great food and beverages, half and half giveaway, awesome silent auction table, lots of b.s., music of the Vietnam era, more b.s. and loads of talking!!!

If this sounds appealing to you, check out the Revetments and webpage for further news on your family reunion.

Oh, yeah, I forgot. You also get lots of hugs and handshakes and hugs! Bring your cameras to take home lots of memories! Our autograph book is available for your comments and signature! Aw, come on down and visit with your new family. you just might love us! We already love you, brother and sister!

See y' all there! Janny (aka Janice Jones)

IMPORTANT  
DAYS  
THIS MONTH

**Jul 08 1948** - The United States Air Force accepts its first female recruits into a program called Women in the Air Force (WAF). **Jul 01 1970** – Vietnam: 23 day Siege of Fire Base Ripcord began. **Jul 03 1950** - Korean War: 1st time US & North Korean forces clash in Korean War. **Jul 04 1944** - WWII: 1st Japanese kamikaze attack U.S. fleet near Iwo Jima . **Jul 05 1945** - WWII: Liberation of the Philippines declared. **Jul 07 1941** - WWII: U.S. forces land in Iceland to forestall Nazi invasion . **Jul 08 1950** - Korean War: Gen Douglas MacArthur named commander-in-chief UN forces in Korea . **Jul 09 1944** - WWII: The island of Saipan in the Marianas fell to U.S. troops following their defeat of Japanese defenders . **Jul 09 1944** - WWII: Napalm was used for the first time during the American invasion of Tinian in the Marianas. **Jul 09 1951** – WWII: Pres Truman asked Congress to formally end state of war with Germany . **Jul 10 1943** - WWII: Operation Husky - U.S. & Britain invade Sicily. **Jul 14 1945** - Battleship USS South Dakota is 1st US ship to bombard Japan . **Jul 17 1966** - Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh orders a partial mobilization to defend against American airstrikes. **Jul 18 1942** - WWII: German Me-262, the first jet-propelled aircraft to fly in combat, makes its first flight. **Jul 18 1971** - Vietnam: New Zealand and Australia announce they will pull their troops out of Vietnam. **Jul 19 1942** - WWII: German U-boats are withdrawn from positions off the U.S. Atlantic coast due to American anti-submarine countermeasures. **Jul 20 1944** - WWII: Adolf Hitler is wounded in an assassination attempt by German Army officers. **Jul 20 1950** - Korean War: The U.S. Army's Task Force Smith is pushed back by superior forces. **Jul 21 1944** - WWII: U.S. Army and Marine forces land on Guam in the Marianas. **Jul 21 1954** - Vietnam: The French sign an armistice with the Viet Minh that ends the war but divides Vietnam into two countries. **Jul 22 1966** - Vietnam: B-52 bombers hit the DMZ between North and South Vietnam for the first time. **Jul 23 1962** - The Geneva Conference on Laos forbids the United States to invade eastern Laos. **Jul 25 1944** - WWII: Allied forces begin the breakthrough of German lines in Normandy. **Jul 27 1944** - WWII: U.S. troops complete the liberation of Guam. **Jul 27 1953** - Korea: Representatives of the United Nations, Korea and China sign an armistice at Panmunjom ending the war. **Jul 27 1964** - Vietnam: President Lyndon Johnson sends an additional 5,000 advisers to South Vietnam. **Jul 28 1965** - Vietnam: LBJ sends 50,000 more soldiers to Vietnam (total of 125,000) . **Jul 29 1967** - Fire aboard carrier USS Forrestal in Gulf of Tonkin kills 134. \$100 million damage . **Jul 30 1942** - FDR signs bill creating women's Navy auxiliary agency (WAVES). **Jul 30 1944** - US 30th division reaches suburbs of St-Lo Normandy. **Jul 31 1991** - Senate votes to allow women to fly combat aircraft.

**HOW MANY OF THESE DAYS DO YOU REMEMBER—OR REMEMBER HEARING ABOUT?**

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

**Revetments** is an official publication of the Tan Son Nhut Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 236, Penryn, PA 17564-0236  
The Association is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt Veterans' Organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

President: Randall W. Brown  
Vice President & Director of Public Relations: Richard Carvell  
Secretary: Dale Bryan  
Treasurer: Carol Bessette  
Director of Communications: Gary Fields  
Director of Marketing: Johnnie Jernigan  
Director of Veteran Services: Joe Kricho  
Director of Membership: Larry E. Fry  
Director at Large Pro Tem: Andy Csordas  
Co-Director of Membership Development: Bill Coup  
Co-Director of Membership Development: Kerry Nivens  
Revetments Editor: Larry E. Fry  
Chaplains: Rev. Dr. James M. Warrington,  
Rev. Dr. Billy T. Lowe; and Rev. Bob A. Chaffee

Presidents Emeriti:  
Don Parker, (1947-2014), Co-Founder and President 1996-2002  
John Peele, Co-Founder and President 2002-2004  
Wayne Salisbury, (1940-2014), President 2004-2007  
Robert Robinson Gales, President 2007-2011  
George Plunkett, President 2011-2015

Web Master: Charles E. Penley  
**Web Site: [www.tsna.org](http://www.tsna.org)**  
Annual Membership: \$20.00  
Five Year Membership: \$80.00  
Life Membership: \$180.00



Photo courtesy of Robert Scott, Sr.

**NEW MEMBERS** 

Melvin Randall Kaster	Adger	AL	mrkaster@sbcglobal.net	Oct 66 - Aug 67	Det. 5 6922 Security Wing
Richard J. Ross	Edgewater	FL	rjross5713@gmail.com	Sep 67 - Sep 58	377th SPS Law Enforcement
Ruthel Joseph Wilson	Ashville	AL	wilsonjoe5926@gmail.com	Jun 72 - Apr 73	U.S.S. Bordelon Gunner