



# REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



JUNE 2017

## DRIVING TO COLORADO SPRINGS

By: Gary Fields  
Feb 69 - Feb 70  
377th CES



TSNA Director Gary Fields has driven to Colorado Springs, and offers the following advice:

*“Rt 24 from Limon to COS was a nightmare, mostly 2 lane with heavy traffic especially near COS- this was in October. Traveled the COS to Denver Route on the return, it was all interstate and a much more enjoyable drive-even with the heavy traffic on 229 near Denver where I picked up I-70. I do not recommend the Rt 24 cutoff, but of course that would be my personal choice, for me the extra 70 miles would be a no brainer.”*

Thanks Gary. I know Lois and I are going to go “the extra mile(s)”!

## BONTYA'S SHADOW BOX



## THE SHADOW BOX

Here is my Shadow Box. It has my awards/medals/ribbons from Tuy Hoa AB (Feb-Oct 1970) and Tan Son Nhut AB (Oct 1970-Feb 1971). The 2 medals on the bottom right and left are from the Governor of New Jersey for Distinguished Service and Vietnam Service.

George A. Bontya  
Oct 69 - Feb 61  
377th CES Sign Shop

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It may be time to stop murmuring about our country and to look into the depth of the words that prompt the ongoing purpose of the May date of 29<sup>th</sup> and pass that purpose on to Memorial Day (29 May 2017).

A few paragraphs in the local newspaper recognized this chaplain's former unit assignment about the current “good job” received the “Carl Spaatz” award. Yet the news print also included something that slips out of our minds; info that is history in a different name “Operation Enduring Freedom” instead of “TanSonNhut Saigon”.

This “Corner” is asking our TSN vets to offer up a prayer for those who this very day serve in “operations” that this day stands under the US Pentagon named “Operation Enduring Freedom” The “corner” for this issue of our TSNA calls for support prayers for those who today have a need as we did in Vietnam some years ago! We received our nation's prayers then and now our nation and troops need and calls for the commitment to introduce “Freedom” to those who combat the global war on terrorism!

This closes this sermon (but NOT its requests) It's a reminder of Memorial Day!!

Chaplain Bob Chaffee

Another thought by H.W.Mabie “Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love”.



## Looking Back to the Year 1962

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

The Cold War almost became a white hot war as the Cuban missile crisis occurred. AT&T launches Telstar 1, the first communications satellite. John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth. Amnesty International was founded. The oral polio vaccine was developed.

Money wise: first class stamp cost 4 cents, Federal spending \$107Billion, Federal debt \$303Billion, Federal minimum wage \$1.15 per hour. Gasoline cost about 29 cents per gallon.

1962 was a "Mart" year as both K-Mart and Wal-Mart opened for business. Is anyone looking for a "blue light special"?

The United States Supreme Court ruled prayer in public schools to be un-constitutional.

That little known place called Vietnam now had approximately 11,300 "advisors" to train and advise the South Vietnamese forces. Casualties continue to mount as 53 died in 1962.

In a rite of passage, I registered for the draft at my local Selective Service Office. I still carry my draft card in my wallet. Strangely, I used my draft card to prove my identity when I last renewed my North Carolina driver's license. Does anyone else carry their old draft card?

In the world of entertainment, Marilyn Monroe died of a suspected suicide via drug overdose.

At the movies in 1962, we watched *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Longest Day*, *Mutiny on the Bounty*, *Days of Wine and Roses*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Birdman of Alcatraz*. The smooth and elegant movie character, James Bond (aka Agent 007), was introduced to the world via the movie, *Dr. No*.

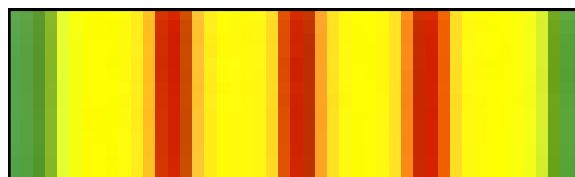
On TV were shows named *Gunsmoke*, *Have Gun Will Travel*, *Andy Griffith Show*, *Rawhide*, *Bonanza*, *Hazel*, *Perry Mason*. Johnny Carson begins his long run on the *Tonight Show*.

The British music invasion didn't officially start until 1964 with the arrival of the Beatles. However, an instrumental piece by the British solo artist Mr. Acker Bilk became a number one hit in 1962. Later in the year, a British band named The Tornados also had a number one instrumental hit. The song, "Telstar" was named for the AT & T communications satellite, Telstar.

Here are the top 10 songs from 1962 as listed by Billboard.: *Stranger on the Shore* by Mr. Acker Bilk; *I Can't Stop Loving You* by Ray Charles; *Mashed Potato Time* by Dee Dee Sharp; *Roses Are Red* by Bobby Vinton; *The Stripper* by Dave Rose; *Johnny Angel* by Shelley Fabares; *The Loco-Motion* by Little Eva; *Let Me In* by The Sensations; *The Twist* by Chubby Checker; *Soldier Boy* by The Shirelles

Just a baseball game of the week on TV, but Dizzy Dean and Pee Wee Reese could entertain fans between innings, meanwhile . . . . .

In professional sports, the Yankees defeated the San Francisco Giants in the World Series. The Green Bay Packers were once again the NFL Champions. Southern California was Champions in college football while Cincinnati defeated Ohio State in College Basketball. Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain scored 100 points in a single game which remains the record for professional basketball.



## Award Nominations

We are looking forward to an eventful reunion in September in Colorado Springs. One of the highlights of the reunion is the bestowing of awards on deserving members and selected others at the banquet. 2017 will not be an exception.

The officers and board members of your Association do not unilaterally choose award recipients. One of two awards committees, each composed of Association officers, board members, and a chaplain, evaluates persons nominated to receive awards. The proceedings of the committees are confidential, and voting tabulations are not published or made public.

Any Association member in good standing may nominate a person for consideration. The TSNA Awards and criteria for each may be viewed on our website at [tsna.org](http://tsna.org).

If you nominate someone, be specific and document the attributes and achievements making your nominee unique and deserving. What has this person done to further the goals and ideals of our Association or, in some cases, their community or the nation? Nomination is not automatic selection for an award. Of course, persons may not nominate themselves.

Please send your nomination to the chair of one of the awards committees. Award Committee 1 chairman is President Randall Brown at [browncigar1965@yahoo.com](mailto:browncigar1965@yahoo.com). Award Committee 2 chairman is Vice President Richard Carvell at [rcarvell@astate.edu](mailto:rcarvell@astate.edu). You may also send your nomination to me, TSNA Secretary, at [dale.bryan@gmail.com](mailto:dale.bryan@gmail.com). It should go without saying that one does not submit their nomination to the person you are nominating. Most nominees will likely be considered by Award Committee 1, but if the nominee is on that committee, that nominee will then be considered by Award Committee 2. Composition of the awards committees may be found on the TSNA website at [tsna.org](http://tsna.org). If you must send your nomination by surface mail, send it to Tan Son Nhut Association at P. O. Box 236, Penryn, PA 17564-0236. In the address block, add Attn: Randall Brown or Rich Carvell or Dale Bryan. The unopened letter will then be sent to that person.

**Deadline for nominations is June 30, 2017.**

Dale Bryan, TSNA Secretary

## An Association Milestone

Occasionally, it is my pleasure to make a significant and pleasant announcement to, you, the membership. This is such an occasion.

Our logo that heads page 1 of this newsletter and the term Tan Son Nhut Association® are now trademarks registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. That means no other entity may use our logo and name for commerce without our permission. Most significantly, no one may prohibit us from marketing items bearing our name and logo.

You will observe there is now the mark or symbol ® on the left most logo on page 1 of this newsletter, and it will also appear on our website and numerous TSNA documents.

Dale Bryan, Secretary

## NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

From arrival in September 1964 to departure assigned to Tent City #2.

Worked 12 hour days Mon - Sat. Sunday fill sand bags at times.

At other times spent at NCO Club or played sports on base.

Once in a while go into Saigon.

Anthony W. Graf  
6250th Combat Support Sq.  
Sep 64 - Sep 65



## Welcome to Colorado Springs!

A visit to Colorado Springs is just the beginning of a great Colorado adventure. There is so much to see and do that it would take several editions of *Revetments* to try and describe them all. So, to begin our adventure, let's start with the elephant in the room.

### Pike's Peak

Pike's Peak is literally in the backyard of our hotel, the Colorado Springs Marriott. There are several ways of visiting this most famous mountain in Colorado. For those who wish to take it easy and view all that there is to see, there is the Cog Railway. Cost is \$40.00/person plus a \$5.00 vehicle parking fee at the foot of the mountain. For the more adventurous, one can drive to the top of the mountain. The roadway is now paved all the way to the top, so no more sliding around precipitous curves on gravel roads. Cost is \$15.00 for one or \$50.00 for a carload of 5 people. And for the even more energetic, there is also an option to ride your bike to the top. Let's just say that not many in our group will be exercising this option. The temperature differential between the base and the top of the mountain can be 30-35°F so be sure to bring along a sweater or jacket.

### Garden of the Gods

Located less than twenty minutes from our hotel, this park, as well as its Visitor Center, are free and open to the public. This is a "must see" destination while in Colorado. The natural rock formations are breathtaking and you are likely to see rock-climbers scaling the heights as you walk through the park. Just a reminder that the walk through the park can be quite exhausting as there are some sections of the paths that can be quite steep. Be sure to bring plenty of bottled water and any walking aides, such as a cane, as you may feel necessary. The Visitors Center is located across the highway from the park and contains a Café as well, making this the perfect spot to end your park visit.

### Cave of the Winds

Located just West of town, this attraction has been drawing thousands of tourists yearly. Guided tours are available daily, and cost approximately \$19.00 per person, depending on type of tour. Not only is the cave the attraction, as views from the visitor's center are spectacular as well.

### Manitou Cliff Dwellings

These Anasazi cliff dwellings date back 800-1000 years. These are not just something you look at and take pictures of. You are able to walk thru the dwellings to experience what life was like back then. In addition, there are two museums, one dedicated to the Pueblo, and the other to the Caves. In addition, there is a gift shop and snack bar. Sen-

ior admission is \$8.50.

### Royal Gorge

There are two ways to see these natural, as well as man-made wonders. Soaring over 1000' above the Arkansas River, the bridge can inspire both fear, and/or wonder, as you walk across. In addition, there are gondola rides available, and for the truly adventurous, a zip-line! Whichever you choose, this will remain firmly in your memory for years to come.

Another, more "civilized" way of viewing the bridge is by booking a reservation on the Royal Gorge train. With a cold beverage in hand, a three-course meal in front of you, and a 360° view of the Super Dome train carriage, you can enjoy a relaxing journey through the canyon, 1000' beneath the bridge. They will be offering a special Oktoberfest menu and selection of locally brewed beers at that time of year.

### Cripple Creek

This little mining and gambling town has grown to become one of the more popular gaming and shopping centers in the State. Currently there are 8 casinos in operation. Its Main Street has been restored to its Old West glory days and provides a picturesque setting nestled in the mountains. Just be sure to keep a tight hold on your wallet or purse.

### Other Attractions

There is just so much to see and do in Colorado that it is just impossible to try and condense that into a one or two-page article for *Revetments*. The few things that I mentioned above are all less than one hour from our hotel. And let's not forget Colorado Springs itself. It has an "Old Town" area with boutiques, art studios, and eateries. The city is also home to the United States Olympic Training Center. And the world-famous Broadmoor Hotel is close by. And from the city one can view Cheyenne Mountain, home of NORAD.

So with so much more to see and do, I will leave you with two references which I believe everyone should order ASAP. The first is the official travel guide for the State of Colorado:

<http://www.colorado.com/guide-order>

And the other is the official guide for the Colorado/Pike's Peak Region:

<http://www.visitcos.com/>

Place your order now, and then sit back, relax, and plan your Colorado adventure.

Joe Kricho,  
Director of Reunion Planning

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The countdown has started for our 2017 Reunion.

Joe Kricho has been hard at work getting everything lined up. Some small glitches along the way but he has overcome!

Rita and I are looking forward to seeing everyone and visiting with friends and family and fellow TSNA members.

This is the requirement for those going to Peterson AFB Museum Tour on Saturday.

### GENERAL:

The Peterson Air and Space Museum contains 2 exhibit buildings, airpark, and Medal of Honor Park. It's about 6 acres in size. We have sidewalks and benches throughout the complex. Everything is accessible except inside the Missile Procedures Trainer and the Warning Star aircraft - both have steps for entry. Please ask anyone who uses a walker or wheelchair to bring that with them. The Museum doesn't have a snack bar or vending machines, so please ask everyone to make sure they've had breakfast or a snack before coming out. Photos and videos are welcome! We're pleased to have anything photographed. However, you can only take photos here at the Museum - you're not allowed to take photos of anything else on base without permission of the 21st Space Wing Public Affairs office. Pets are also welcome as long as they're on a leash.

### ACCESS:

Everyone who comes on the base will need to show driver's license or military ID (active duty or retired). Passports are also acceptable.

For those on your tour who do not have military ID, I'll need a list of names by Wed, 13 September to send to our security forces to ensure your entry on Saturday.

Please supply their Full Name; Birth Date; Drivers' License Number.

Residents of Washington, Montana, Missouri, Maine, and Minnesota will need additional ID -- other than a driver's license.

On 15 August 2016 the Department of Homeland Security implemented portions of the Real ID Act (2005) that may significantly impact you or your visitors who are requiring unescorted entry onto Peterson AFB. Driver's Licenses (DL) from the following states/territories will **no longer be considered valid as a sole-source form of identification (ID) for federal installations and facilities:**

***Minnesota, Missouri, Washington, Maine, Montana.***

Individuals with an Enhanced Driver's License (EDL) from Minnesota and Washington will not be affected. However, standard DLs from those states are not valid. If you are unsure if you have an EDL, contact the issuing agency to verify.

Individuals with DLs from Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, Utah, and Vermont are valid; UNLESS they have a statement printed on the face of the ID stating "Not for Federal Identification" or "Federal Limits Apply".

Personnel in possession of a valid Federal Government issued credential, ie. Common Access Card, Retiree ID, Dependent ID, Federal PIV, and etcetera, will not be affected.

If a person is in possession of an invalid ID, and do not have a current Federal issued credential, they must be either escorted onto the installation by a person with a Federal issued credential or the member must present one of the following in conjunction with your DL to gain unescorted entry on to Peterson AFB:

**United States Passport; Permanent Resident Card/ Alien Registration Card (Form I-551); Foreign Passport with (I-551) stamp; United States Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Legacy Card; United State Coast Guard New Merchant Mariner Credential; United States Social Security Card; Original Birth Certificate; Certification of Birth Abroad (issued by the Department of State); United States Citizen ID Card (Form I-197); Foreign Military or Host Nation Government ID Credentials.**

On Saturday afternoon we will have a special guest speaker and author also. So be prepared to come listen and enjoy her presentation to our group.

Kathy Penn is a world renowned writer.

"I published a book of my newspaper columns last year. I describe the book as, "Reflections on the simple pleasures in everyday life in stories about pets, holidays, loved ones and more." I am hoping it would be appropriate for me to make a short interactive presentation about my book at some point during the Reunion. One section that would resonate with veterans and their families is, "Proud to be an American—Patriotism, Parades, and Perspective."

**Randall W Brown  
President  
TSNA**





## 2017 Reunion Marriott, Colorado Springs, CO

### Thursday – September 14, 2017

0630-0900 Breakfast in hotel restaurant  
0900 Hospitality suite opens for official reunion registration  
0900-1200 Plaque dedication at 460<sup>th</sup> Space Wing, Buckley AFB, CO (Limited to 12 people\*)  
2200? Hospitality suite closes

### Friday – September 15, 2017

0630-0900 Breakfast in hotel restaurant  
0900 Hospitality suite opens  
0900 Buses depart hotel for USAF Academy tour & lunch  
1400 Buses return to hotel  
1700-1800 Cash bar cocktail reception (Separate schedule of banquet events will be provided)  
1800-2200 Banquet  
2300? Hospitality suite closes

### Saturday – September 16, 2017

0630-0900 Breakfast in hotel restaurant  
0900 Hospitality suite opens  
0900 Buses depart for Peterson AFB tour & lunch  
1400 Buses return to hotel  
1400-2230 Free time  
1700-1830 Board of Directors meeting  
1900-1930 Raffle & door prize drawing (hospitality suite)  
1930-2100 Silent auction (hospitality suite)  
2300? Hospitality suite closes

### Sunday – September 17, 2017

0630-0900 Farewell breakfast in banquet room  
1000 Hospitality suite closes

**\*Anyone interested in attending the dedication must contact Joe Kricho ASAP. Former 460<sup>th</sup> TRW members have priority. Reservations will be on a first come/first served basis.**

**(This is a tentative schedule and subject to change.)**

**May 29, 2017 Edition**

**Like the note above says, the schedule is tentative. The REAL way to find out the final schedule is to make your hotel reservation and TSNA Registration NOW and come to the reunion!!**

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder for me to find one now.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments.  
~Janet Kilburn Phillips

Exercise is a nasty word. Every time that I hear it, I wash my mouth out with chocolate.



# Tan Son Nhut Association 2017 Reunion Registration

September 14 – 17, 2017

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

IS THERE ANYONE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS? **YES/NO** (Please circle one.)

## REGISTRATION FEES

Number of Persons Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$75.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-order Video of 2017 Reunion QTY: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT to TSNA MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN Aug 31, 2017.**

**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**

## ACTIVITIES (No Extra Cost) WITH FULL REGISTRATION FEE

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

**Access to the TSNA Hospitality Suite (drinks, snacks, and war stories!) (\$10.00 daily if purchased separately.)**

**TSNA Friday Banquet Buffet Dinner. (\$35.00 if purchased separately.)**

**Friday morning tour of the Air Force Academy (no extra charge)**

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

**Saturday morning tour of Peterson AFB (no extra charge)**

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



## HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Marriott Colorado Springs, 5580 Tech Center Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80919

(719) 260-1800    www.marriott.com

**Room with breakfast buffet for two: \$114.00**

**Room without breakfast: \$104.00**

Rate does not include tax, which currently is 9.63%. The special room rate is available three days prior and three days post the reunion. Included are free in-room Wi-Fi and free parking.

**Please hold “Ctrl”, and click on the following link to make your hotel reservation:**

**[Book your group rate for Tan Son Nhut Association Military Reunion](#)**

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

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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



Our thanks again to Member John Bowen for one of his illustrations  
(A "self-portrait" this time)

## NEW MEMBERS

Margaret W. Nivens	Huntsville	AL	mnivens@sirote.com	Wife of Kerry Nivens
William R. Moebes	Guntersville	AL	moebes@gmail.com	Apr 69 - Apr 70 360th TEWS Pilot, EC-47
Samuel J. Shelhamer	Berwick	PA	shelhamers@verizon.net.	Oct 70 - Oct 71 377th SPS Law Enforcement

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