



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



OCTOBER 2019
2019 REUNION SPECIAL



VVR RADIO AT THE 2019 TSNA REUNION

Bennie and Delight with VVR Radio were a great hit—everyone loved their shows—they have been Invited back for Tucson next year.

Janice Jones Memorial Silent Auction

The Tan Son Nhut Association members who have been around for a while all know who Janice Jones was and what she did at the reunions. She also was the unofficial greeter and good will ambassador. She often gave small gifts to new members and frequently sent out cards and notes to the members. Janice passed away during May of this year.

Janice had not been able to attend the last few reunions due to health issues and her absence has been obvious. The board has decided to give the Silent Auction a name. The name is the **Janice Jones Memorial Silent Auction** and will be identified as such for all future reunions.

This year during the Little Rock Reunion we raised \$1,205 through the silent auction. Remember to bring some good items for the Silent Auction to our reunion next year in Tucson.

In addition we received \$60 for the Memorial Fund, netted \$230 from the 50/50 drawing and the ladies game table raised \$410 at this year's reunion.

Andy Csordas, TSNA Treasurer

FOOD FOR THOUGHT (or a thought about food!?)

Rena & Andy,

I want to thank you both for what you do in getting, lugging and setting out all of the refreshments. And, for re-filling everything also.

Sometimes our guys take for granted and just expect it. They sometimes do not realize you get up early, go to the store and lug up, when elevators do not work.

So, from me and on behalf of our TSNA membership I say:

Thank You Andy and a bigger THANK YOU TO RENA.

Randall W Brown
President-TSNA



THANK YOU LITTLE ROCK!

TSNA President Randall Brown is shown making a plaque presentation to the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, to Thank them for their excellent help with this year's reunion.



THANK YOU 4 SEASON SHERATON

This is our presentation to the 4 Season Sheraton on behalf of TSNA.

I gave the plaque to Ms. Morales from Sales who worked with Joe Kricho to get our Reunion there.

Also shown are the Food Manager, and Sales Dept person who help accept the plaque.

Randall

REUNION BX REPORT

Thanks to all who purchased items at the BX during the reunion. We had a great result of approximately \$750. Sorry we didn't have many new items this year but maybe next year with your help we can have new items. I need suggestions for new items to stock. Please send them to: jernigan1@ameritech.net.

Also, I will be reworking the BX web page removing items we no longer carry and due to cost of postage rising, I will be increasing the prices. I will try to keep them as low as possible. Again, thanks for your year round support. The BX is a large contributor to the health of the Association.

Johnnie Jernigan



THE BEARDED ONES are together again! Left to Right: Rich Carvell, Jimmy Smith, and Lynn Patton—together at the 2019 TSNA Reunion in Little Rock, AR.

REUNION REGISTRATION

Missed this year at registration was our dear friend Janice Jones who along with Larry, always greeted all attendees, and made it a point to really welcome new attendees.

Joe made the name tags and all but two were picked up, which means almost everyone who registered got a chance to attend.

The registration was set up in the hospitality suite, and most took advantage of this benefit to eat, visit, and renew old friendships, or develop new ones.

A huge thank you goes out to Larry and Joe for ALWAYS making the reunion such wonderful events.

For those who have not attended lately, seriously think about attending in Tucson, September 17-19 2020. For those who have said they attended once and didn't know anyone, please come to Tucson, and I'm sure you will go home with lots of new friends

Paul Mortensen
Director of Membership Development



"Shootin' the breeze"



Swearing in the Board members up for re-election



This year's Honor Guard



Awards time!

Janice Jones Memorial Silent Auction

When Janice Jones passed away in 2019, many of the board members were able to attend her memorial. It was suggested that a permanent memorial be made for Janice because she was always the TSNA cheerleader. The Board voted unanimously on naming the silent auction in her memory and having a banner made that can be placed at all future auctions that would honor this great lady. Several board members immediately pledged enough money to purchase this banner.

With Dale Bryan as chair, and Gary Redlinski designing the banner, members of the committee proceeded to work on purchasing the banner so that it could be unveiled at the 2019 reunion.

This was accomplished and the wonderful banner was unveiled at the general membership meeting and hung for all to see.

It is with great pleasure that the Board of Directors of the Tan Son Nhut Association honor Janice Jones by naming all future silent auctions in her name.

We encourage all members to attend the 2020 reunion September 17-19, in Tucson, see the banner and honor Janice by submitting bids to purchase items displayed on the table.

Paul Mortensen
Director of Membership Development



This is a picture of the 30 inch plaque which Kerry Nivens had made for use at the 2019 Reunion. It was made for us by the "Nxt Level Medals" company.

TSNA VP Rich Carvell will be seeing that it gets delivered to the Little Rock DAV folks, who have a place to hang it for us.

It's beautiful! Thanks to all who had a part in it.

TSNA 2019 Banquet Speaker

By: Rich Carvell, TSNA VP

Our 2019 TSNA Reunion Banquet speaker told us about “a journey that changed my life.”

Stephanie Hanson Caisse was adopted as a baby, and knew nothing about her birth parents. But as an adult she began a search for her biological parents. In her Banquet address to the members of TSNA, she said that she did not realize where her search would take her. It brought her in contact with thousands of Marines and their families, including those who died in that helicopter crash in Vietnam with her Father.

One of the first things that Caisse learned was that her father, Gary Norman Young, died in a helicopter crash in Vietnam on 7 February 1969 ... two and one-half months before she was born. As a Navy Corpsman, he was accompanying Marines on a mission and was killed when the chopper went down. It was his first day of flying with the Marines.

But that was not the end of Caisse’s search.

She said she received thousands of letters of encouragement during her research time, which she said “helped me more than you will ever know.” She said she was genuinely “touched by the letters” which she received. The letters, she said, “showed emotions to a stranger.”

Her Dad, she said, “was a hero.”

Caisse said that her research pieced together what had happened to everyone aboard that chopper on that fateful 1969 February day. And, she said, her research “helped many other” families who lost a loved one in that crash.

In 1998, Caisse began her attempt to get her father’s Wings and other military medals. She was assisted by the current adjutant of the Purple Foxes, her Dad’s HMM 364 Unit. And eventually her request was approved ... 33 years after her Father lost his life in Vietnam.

Besides finding out about her father, what else did Cassie learn from her research? She learned that “by sharing stories, loved ones are not forgotten.” She learned that those who served in Vietnam “are among the nation’s finest.” She learned about the “kindness of strangers.”

She said that the legacy her Father left for her was to “speak for them,” that is, those who cannot speak for themselves.

Caisse closed by thanking the TSNA members for inviting her to speak at the Banquet and said, “Welcome Home.”



TSNA President Emeritus George Plunkett, who has known Stephanie for a number of years via emails, presents her with a special gift. I do believe she was “bowled over”.

2019 TSNA Awards

The Tan Son Nhut Association at its 2019 Reunion presented awards in three of four possible categories to some very deserving members of our Association and to other persons or organizations which have been supportive of veterans over the years. We bestowed the Golden Knight and Anchor Award and inducted three members into the Military Order of the Dragon.

The Golden Knight Award was presented to a business in South Carolina well known in Myrtle Beach for nearly 10 years of support of veteran's needs and ideals. The business is well known for the veteran memorabilia on its walls and for a museum devoted to veterans. The business' owners also support fund raising activities devoted to veterans and supported Veterans during Hurricane Florence one year ago. The Veterans Café and Grille in Myrtle Beach is operated by Lou and Rhonda Mascherino, and they define the term "pillars of the community". George Bontya, a resident of the Myrtle Beach area and patron of the cafe, received the award to present on behalf of TSNA to the Mascherinos.

Before TSNA was chartered as a non-profit corporation in the Commonwealth of Virginia, it was such a corporation in the State of Wisconsin. Under Wisconsin law, there had to be a registered agent who was a resident of the state. To comply with that law, the Board asked one of our Life Members who is a resident of Wisconsin to fulfill the duty. That member agreed and helped us for three years. So, for his help and assistance, we presented the Anchor Award to Richard Lindbeck.

If it were not for the work on the TSNA Scholarship Committee by the three Dragon inductees, the Scholarship Program would not be the success it has become.

The first Dragon inductee has been on the Board of Directors for three years and has just been reelected to a second term. He has been a fixture at many reunions, always pitching in behind the scenes to make each a success. He earned a college degree while on active duty as an Air Force NCO and was then commissioned as an Air Force officer. It made him an ideal person to serve on the TSNA Scholarship Committee. Jim Faulkner, Director at Large, was inducted into the Tan Son Nhut Association Military Order of the Dragon.

The second Dragon inductee's contribution to TSNA has been completely behind the scenes. Were it not for the service of this Dragon inductee, our TSNA Scholarship Program would not be what it is today. He was asked to serve on the Scholarship Committee because he pursued a college education after being honorably discharged from the Air Force. In his community, he has been very active in an organization of veteran business persons and makes many significant contributions to it. We rely on Hugh Penn to help select a student worthy of receiving a TSNA scholarship from a list of very qualified candidates.

The Scholarship Committee must review many documents. Among these may be one written in Vietnamese because members of the South Vietnamese military are eligible to apply for the scholarship. When a person was identified and asked to serve on the committee, she modestly considered herself not qualified. But with some prodding, she did agree to serve. And her contributions to the Scholarship Committee are many since becoming a member. Susie Ahrens was inducted into the Tan Son Nhut Association Military Order of the Dragon.



Hugh Penn and his award

Richard Lindbeck and his award, delivered to him by TSNA member and reunion attendee John Kuhaupt, who lives in the same town as Richard



Susie Ahrens and her award



Board and Membership Meetings

Saturday at the reunion was a day for administration. The annual meeting of the TSNA Board of Directors was conducted during the afternoon, and the general membership meeting occurred during the evening.

As usual, the board meeting was mostly routine to catch up on administrative tasks.

President Randall Brown mentioned that we are conducting the 21st reunion of our association. Also, during his opening comments, he stated that our scholarship is a trust for the future that could live on even after our association ceases to be the active organization it is today. He also directed the Vice President and Secretary to draft a Bereavement Policy document.

Treasurer Andy Csordas reported that we are financially sound and may continue to dedicate memorials at future meetings and place wreaths on veteran holidays at The Wall in Washington, DC and our memorial bench at the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB. The Scholarship Fund is flush enough to award two in 2020. The board approved a fund of \$2,000.00 for the Director of Reunion Planning to use in underwriting his activities that make our reunions such a success. Three possible locations for the 2020 reunion will be researched by the director.

BX sales this year are slightly down from previous years.

There are no issues related to either the web site or Revetments. Those entities are important, because to many members they are their connection with our association.

At the membership meeting, there was an update by the Scholarship Committee Chair, and he reported that we will award two in 2020. All recipients are excelling in their studies.

It was announced that the five board members who ran unopposed for continuing in office were unanimously reelected. They were then sworn in by Chaplain Jimmy Smith.

The potential sites for the 2020 reunion are Buffalo/Niagara, NY; Gettysburg, PA; and Williamsburg, VA. Final decision will be made in early 2020.

A banner that will hang over or on the front of tables for the silent auction was dedicated. See Paul Mortensen's article for details.

All-in-all, it has been a very good year for our association.

Dale Bryan, Secretary

(On Friday's Bus Trip and Tour of the Little Rock Area)



NOTATION FROM APPLICATION

Lived in SPS Barracks. Worked C Flt. Security then SPS Armory. Oldest son was born while I was at TSN. Father passed away while I was at TSN in April, 1972. Father was USA retired, and also served in Saigon in 1963.

Jimmie C. Zimmerman
Jun 71 - May 72
377th SPS
Cabot AR (New Member – Reunion 2019)



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings Veterans and Fellow Members of TSNA: As your Chaplain I welcome all new members of TSNA and I am grateful to have met some of our new members at the Reunion in Little Rock this month. If you missed the reunion this year you missed a great time of fellowship. My thanks to the Board of Directors and the members who worked so hard to make the Reunion a great success. My prayers and wishes for each of you is for everyone to have a blessed, safe and happy October.



The Road Home

October marks my favorite time of the year as it is the beginning of Fall. With Fall comes the start of cooler weather and changes in nature that beautifies the world with color for us to enjoy. The various shades of reds, and yellows and oranges have always fascinated me. I enjoy getting out for walks and photographing the beautiful scenes of color. It helps to draw me closer to our Creator and gives me comfort.

As we observe nature we can't help but notice the cycle of life in the creation. We know from experience that everything in nature has a birth, lives, dies and has a renewal of life in the Spring. Sometimes when nature dies it does not experience a renewal and returns to the earth from which it was created. Humans were created in much the same way. We are born, we live, we die and then we have a renewal of life. However, our renewal of life is not a physical renewal as in the nature around us, but a spiritual renewal. Man was created and given a spiritual part that will live on forever. The body will return to the dust of the earth but the spiritual part will return to the creator. The way we conduct our lives will determine where our spirit will reside.

Again I WELCOME all new members that have been reported by Larry and look forward to meeting them, at the Reunion in Tucson in 2020. I am blessed and I can say without reservation that I am proud to be a part of this important and caring organization. May God bless each of you for what you have done for our country and keep you safe throughout this month and the years to come.

Until next month, this is your Chaplain signing off. Have a blessed month and God's speed to everyone.

Jimmy Smith
TSNA Chaplain



Our Thanks again
to TSNA Life
Member Gary
Redlinski for his
great Reunion
Logos!



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.

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Director at Large: Jim Faulkner
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Chaplain: Jimmy Smith
Associate Chaplain: Andy Csordas
Chaplains Emeriti:
Rev. Bob Allan Chaffee (1929-2017), TSNA Chaplain: 2009 - 2017
Rev. Dr. James M. Warrington, TSNA Chaplain: 1997-2018
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 Site: www.tsna.org
Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00



Photo Courtesy of Tim Lee

NEW MEMBERS

Dennis W. Allyn	Spanish Fort	AL	dwallyn@yahoo.com	n/a	Friend of TSNA
Richard Ivars	North Little Rock	AR	rivars@comcast.net	Oct 71 - Oct 73	834th AD 374th TAW 21st TAS
Kenneth W. Leslie	North Little Rock	AR	oldcarguy1@sbcglobal.net	Oct 70 - Oct 71	Engine Mechanic
Jimmie C. Zimmerman	Cabot	AR	nannydaz@yahoo.com	Jun 71 - May 72	377th SPS

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