



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association
A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



APRIL 2023

Chaplain's Corner-United States Military Code of Conduct By Andy Csordas, Associate Chaplain

Do you remember what happened on June 2, 1995? Probably not but it was a very harrowing day for Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady. While patrolling the UN no fly zone over war torn Bosnia in his F-16, flying at 27,000, feet he was struck by a SAM missile from a previously unidentified launch site. His warning system lit up, but without enough notice to allow him to visually see the rocket's exhaust. So he was blindsided by the missile as it came up through cloud cover striking the plane on its underbelly cutting the F-16 in half. His ejection seat shot him into the sky at 350 miles per hour while his plane disintegrated around him. After a long slow descent he landed in enemy territory with burns to his face and neck from the explosion.

He spent the next six days, an eternity in that situation, evading capture by the Bosnian Serbs who hunted him relentlessly. Using his survival equipment and training to the maximum degree, he continued to evade capture. He ate ants and plants while on the run. His survival water ran out but it rained on the fourth day which gave him water, but that also caused problems due to his exposure to the cold and wet.



While in hiding the pursuers were sometimes close enough during the first two days that he could see the Serbian pilots faces in their helicopters. He was able to evade capture, but an interesting thing occurred on the third day. He experienced the love of God to such a level that it took away his fear of death. This love sustained him while 80 miles inside enemy territory until his recovery. He ran from the woods on the morning of June 8th to two Marine CH53 Super Stallion helicopters that had Cobra gunships for protection.



At a national press conference after his return he said "If It wasn't for my love for God and God's love for me, I wouldn't be here right now." The scripture references the love of God in many places including **Jude 21, "Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ . . ."**

Article Six of the United States Military Code of Conduct states: **"I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free, I will trust in my God and in the United States of America."**

Let us never forget the founding fathers love for God and how it shaped this nation. Always remember God's love for you. If you are struggling with anything you can trust God and his love for you



TSNA 2023 REUNION GUEST SPEAKER

Biography: CDR Alan J. Billings

U.S. Naval Aviator - Systems Engineer - Inventor - Author

(The authors below, are unknown, and from 3 different sources/references!)

As a U.S. Naval Aviator, CDR Billings rose from the enlisted ranks to become the Commanding Officer of the oldest combat search and rescue squadron in the Navy. He was a member of the Navy's only helicopter attack squadron (which was the most highly decorated squadron of the Vietnam era.). CDR Billings was a highly decorated combat veteran serving four tours in Vietnam. He was awarded more the 40 medals and citations for his service to the country, including the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry along with 24 Air Medals. He completed a successful 22-year naval career in aviation and has qualified in more than 20 different aircraft. His final two tours included; Air Boss on the USS Belleau Woods, LHA-3 and Program Manager for the Navy's air and surface computer software.

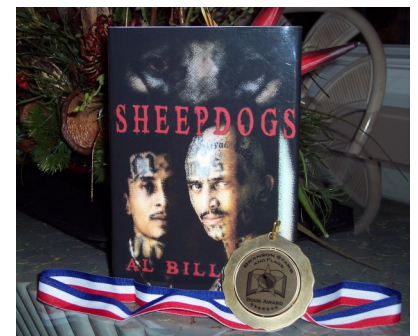
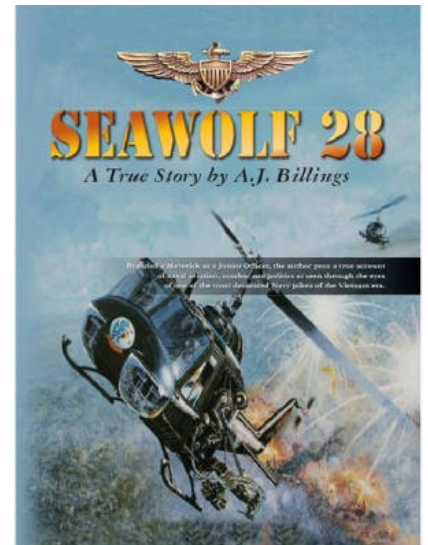
CDR Billings holds a master's degree in computer systems from the Naval Postgraduate School and an undergraduate degree in engineering. He has designed, and built ground support hardware and software for combat aircraft (F/A-18, AV-8B) that were used in Desert Storm. He invented the Ground Maintenance station adopted by the Naval Aviation Logistics Command Management Information System (NALCOMIS). CDR Billings holds a Commercial pilot's license including fixed wing, rotary wing, multi-engine, and instrument ratings, land.

His first book, "Seawolf 28" received a five star review from the Military Writers Society of America (MWSA). His second "SHEEPDOGS" received a gold medal "First Place" from the Branson Stars and Flags Book Awards.

Branded a Maverick as a Junior Officer, a highly decorated Naval Aviator from the Vietnam era, pens a powerful, honest and uncompromising first hand account of combat and Naval Aviation. What makes the stories stand out is the candid and frank portrayal of military life, politics and the true character of individuals under the most stressful of times. For those who were there, it will remind them of the bonds that were formed only in times of conflict and bring back the memories both good and bad of those who lost their lives in one of histories most controversial wars.

Seawolf 28 gives the reader a dramatic account of a twenty-two year career of a Navy helicopter pilot during the Vietnam era. By the end of the Vietnam War "Hollywood Al" was a four tour veteran with well over 600 missions and the recipient of over forty medals and citations, including the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross. The story spans the gamut from a young cadet full of exuberance and high ideals, nine engine failures, dozens of life threatening in flight incidents and hair raising combat stories to standing up for what was right at all costs. Throughout his flying career Hollywood Al qualified in over 20 different aircraft and rose from the enlisted ranks to squadron Commanding Officer of the oldest combat rescue squadron in the Navy.

Seawolf 28 is a timeless, powerful, honest and uncompromising first hand account of a true Maverick that knew no limits when it came to standing up for his men and what he believed in. What makes this story stand out is the candid and frank portrayal of naval aviation, politics and the true character of individuals under the most stressful of times.



WELCOME, CDR BILLINGS

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION 2023 **REUNION REGISTRATION**

Jacksonville FL
Sep 20 - 24, 2023

NAME _____ GUEST NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TEL (____) _____ EMAIL _____

SPECIAL NEEDS (if applicable) _____

Choose one of the following:



1: FULL Reunion Registration including banquet

Number attending _____ **\$95.00 = \$** _____

Full Reunion Total Remittance: \$ _____

2. Banquet Only Friday, September 22, 2023

Number attending _____ x **\$65.50 = \$** _____

Banquet Only Total Remittance: \$ _____

3. Bus Tours

Bus tours can be selected and will be billed separately when destination and price is determined

Mail this form with payment (check only) to:

TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 236
PENRYN, PA 17564-0236

REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED

NLT September 1, 2023

Questions regarding Registration should be directed to:

Paul Mortensen

Director of Reunion Planning

TSNareunions@gmail.com

Hotel Information

Double Tree by Hilton Jacksonville Airport

2101 Dixie Clipper Drive

Jacksonville FL 32218 Phone (855) 689-8135

Booking Link: <https://bit.ly/TanSonNhut>

Please note, the entire URL must be copied and pasted for it to work properly.

In the event you encounter issues with the reservation link, please make reservations by contacting Hilton's reservations department directly at 855.689.8135 and reference the Tan Son Nhut Annual Reunion group block or the group code TSN

Room Rates: \$124.00 plus taxes for standard rooms, \$144 plus taxes for a suite

About DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jacksonville Airport:

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jacksonville Airport offers an outdoor pool. Free WiFi access is available. Rooms feature a private bathroom that comes with a bath or shower. An alarm clock and flat-screen, cable TV are included. Extras include a desk and small refrigerators. A 24-hour fitness center and luggage storage are available at this Jacksonville Airport DoubleTree. Other facilities include meeting spaces. Frequency Restaurant & Lounge serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. This Jacksonville hotel is located 15 miles' drive from EverBank Field and Jacksonville Landing/Riverwalk and 10 mi from Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens. Jacksonville International Airport is 0.6 mi away.

Amenities

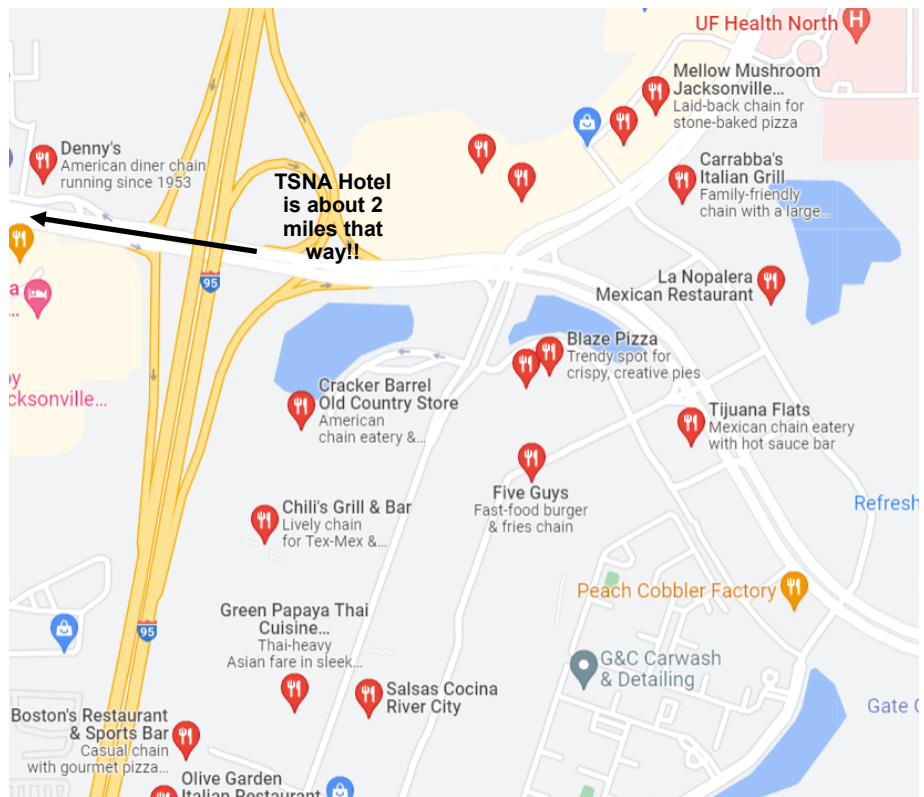
- Room Service
- 24 hour front desk
- Fitness Center
- Restaurant
- ATM Machine
- Airport Transportation
- Laundry

A couple of things nearby the hotel Very close to I-95. There is a major medical center. University of Florida Health North within 10 minutes as is the River City Marketplace. Some shopping information about the shopping there:

River City Marketplace is the largest shopping complex in northern Jacksonville, Florida. The expansive power center is home to over 80 retailers, with strong representation among category-leading brands, including Florida's only Duluth Trading location. Bed Bath & Beyond, PetSmart, Best Buy, Lowe's, Walmart, Michael's, Old Navy, Ashley Furniture, and Burlington serve as the center's major anchor tenants. Located on Airport Center Drive, the property is highly visible from I-95.

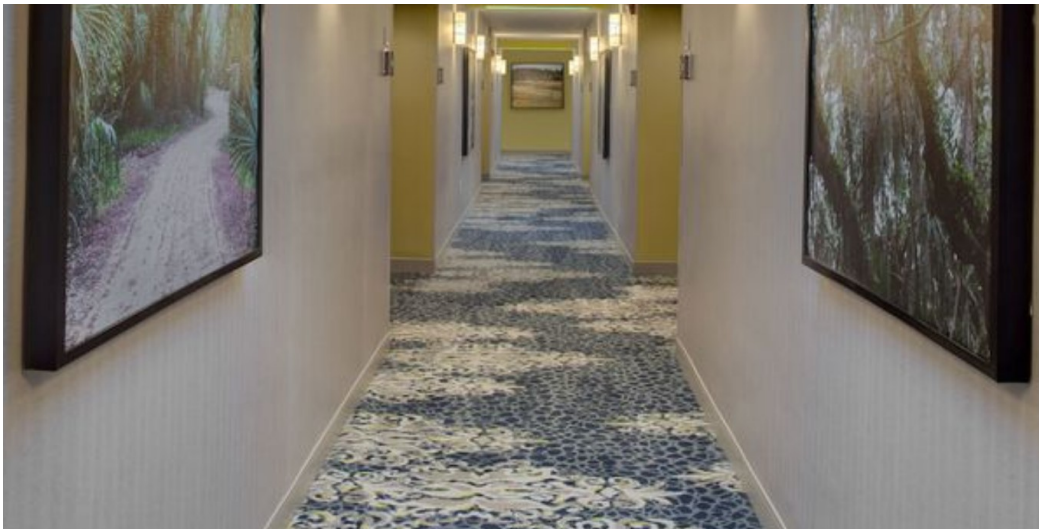
There is a lot of shopping including Walmart, Grocery stores and virtually everything else is nearby. Outside restaurants are nearby as well. The hotel is right next to the airport and the hotel shuttle is available.

Some Restaurants in the area shown here. There are others:





**PICTURES OF THE
DOUBLE TREE By HILTON
JACKSONVILLE AIRPORT**



THE TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION
2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

By: Rich Carvell
Chair, TSNA Scholarship Committee

The Tan Son Nhut Association is accepting applications for the school year beginning in the Fall of 2023 for a \$5,000 scholarship from high school seniors. The student must be a direct descendant of one who served in Vietnam for any period from January 1, 1959, to April 30, 1975. "Direct descendant" means the applicant must be a child or grandchild ("greats" included) from one who served in Vietnam.

Service may be either with the Armed Forces of the United States or the Republic of Vietnam or as a civilian at Tan Son Nhut Air Base either as an American or Vietnamese citizen.

Deadline to apply is May 1, 2023 and must be mailed to:

TSNA Scholarship Committee
c/o Committee Chair
4214 Brenda Street
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

TSNA Scholarship recipients must pursue a four-year degree as a resident student at an accredited United States accredited college or university that grants bachelor or higher degrees. However, the applicant may begin higher education studies at a two-year accredited institution and transfer to an accredited school to complete the final two years leading to a bachelor's degree.

The scholarship is awarded in equal amounts over four years, provided the student maintains a 3.00 grade point average at the end of each school term and completes a minimum of 30 semester hours each year. Scholarship recipients must furnish an official transcript at the end of each spring semester.

Complete information about eligibility, distribution of benefits, and renewal of the scholarship and the application are available at the Tan Son Nhut Association website (TSNA.org).

In addition to the application form found on the TSNA.org web page, applicants must submit a number of support documents, including:

A. An official high School transcript showing your overall high school GPA. Minimum requirement is 3.0 on a 4-point scale ... or a signed letter from the high school administration attesting to and listing the student's GPA for each of the last three years of high school.

B. One Faculty or Administrator letter of recommendation (LIMIT TO ONE PAGE).

C. Copies of Standardized Test Scores (ACT, SAT, or other acceptable test scores) if not on high school transcript.

D. Resume' or list of school and community activities, awards and leadership positions.

E. An essay/personal statement written by the applicant addressing what you hope to accomplish as a student in college. Please include your planned major, academic, personal, and leadership goals (LIMIT TO ONE PAGE).

F. Proof (a copy of DD Form 214 of the Vietnam service member and/or other acceptable Documentation) and applicable birth certificates to show that you are a direct descendent by blood or by legal adoption of someone who served in the Republic of Vietnam for any period from January 1, 1959, to April 30, 1975.

In addition, optional information includes participation in JROTC or other patriotic activities as well as the applicant's plans to pursue ROTC in college.

If one wishes to honor a person or to make a donation in memory of someone, please provide contact information so that we may properly advise the honoree or surviving family of your donation. Please send donations to The Tan Son Nhut Association, PO Box 236, Penryn, PA 17564-0236. TSNA is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt veterans' organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.





THE REAL “HARD COPY” OF REVETMENTS!!



Larry,

I live in Evansville Indiana, and the co-founder of the TSN ASSN, Don Parker was from Princeton, Indiana.

I met him when he planned the reunion here in Evansville a couple years before his death.

I am writing to say that a lot of our members have photos that were taken when they were at TSN. Pictures are worth so much to each of us. There is a monthly photo section on the TSN ASSN site.

Request you remind fellow TSN vets to send you photos of base, dates, where photo was taken etc. Photos are our memories. Stories written by fellow vets are nice but it is their memory, not mine. I sent photos and stories back around 2014 I believe. Please ask vets to send photos, they make my day. I have lost most of my Vietnam buddies now, some from Agent Orange. I am a 100% VA disabled unemployable veteran, exposed to Agent Orange. At 77 it would be nice to see photos of the base from vets. I was at TSN Feb 03, 1968 to 03 Aug 69 working on flight line in Bldg. 955, 834th AD. It was my 2nd tour. 1st tour was from 17 Sep 66 to 06 Dec 66 then relocated to 504th TASG at Bien Hoa AB Vietnam. In Dec 68 thru June 69, C119s were brought to flightline and of all places the reserves from Bakalar AFB, Columbus, Indiana with many of my high school classmates. Small world.

Thanks,

DR WILLIAM R. MOFFITT, PHD
SSGT USAF

Tan Son Nhut Association
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Web Site: www.tsna.org
Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00



**PHOTO from MP ROD HERWICK 716th
MP Bn Co C 67-68**

**AND YOU THOUGHT YOU
HAD PROBLEMS??!!**



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