



# REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



JUNE 2023

## Chaplain's Corner - Duties as Citizens By Andy Csordas, Associate Chaplain

It is interesting how attitudes and perceptions change over time. We hear so much about what our rights and privileges are, or supposed to be, as American citizens now, but we seldom hear about our duties or responsibilities as American citizens. Of course, the longer we live the easier it is to see the changes. You actually have to make an effort to look at changes from a historical perspective and just assuming how it is at this moment was how it has always been will not tell the entire picture.

A couple of thoughts, is the normal expected workload of an employee difficult now? Certainly some jobs are much tougher than others, but compared to a coal miner 100 years ago is the normal job more difficult or easier? Who remembers pounding every nail with a hammer while building something in our youth? How does that compare to using an impact driver to drive a four inch screw in seconds? Compare putting shingles on a new roof one nail at a time or using a nailer today, what is easier?

There is no comparison to the duty of military service during previous wars and the ability to just sit it out at home today. The WWII generation is called the greatest generation for a reason. We younger vets know of the sacrifice and toll of war on our generation as well. Some of the long term effects of Vietnam are re-lived by some vets almost every day. Not having internet access for our phone is not on the same level of problem as compared to hunkering down and fighting back while the enemy is shooting at you.

We remember JFK asking us: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country". Our founding fathers sacrificed their blood and fortune to birth this country. We have been blessed with a country where the people are supposed to be the emphasis, not the government. Incidentally our founding fathers used the principles in the scriptures for the basis of our government, but also allowed everyone a free choice of religion. That was unheard of back in the day and is unheard of in many nations today.

That is a sermon for another day.

Scripture tells us in **Mark 12:17** (NKJV) to: "**Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**" When we think of this we typically think of paying taxes, but let me suggest it is much more. We have an obligation to our country to be productive members of society.

Peter Marshall (left), the Chaplain of the US Senate from 1947 to 1949 said during his call to honor God: ". . . I am rather tired of hearing about our rights and privileges as American citizens. The time is come, it is now, when we ought to hear about the duties and responsibilities of our citizenship. America's future depends upon her accepting and demonstrating God's government." Remember this was right after WWII; there was a considerable amount of sacrifice during that period of time.

Our founders, in the Declaration of Independence, said: ". . . we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness".

It further states: ". . . That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed". Nowhere does it say we are to sit back and not contribute. We have a duty to contribute to the good of our country. Let us be encouragers of that to our youth, show them that with rights and privileges come responsibilities.



## Veteran's Honor Flight

On April 29, 2023, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC with 75 Veterans and our Sponsors on the Cape Fear Area, NC Honor Flight. It was a lifetime experience that was both educational and emotional. We had 3 WWII Veterans and 2 Korean Veterans, one woman Navy Veteran Nurse and a few Cold War Veterans and the rest were Vietnam Veterans.

The day is a long day, starting at the airport and getting a sendoff from local dignitaries and a welcome at DC with a Firetruck Salute on the taxiway. Every Veteran had a sponsor to accompany them for support and anything we may have needed during our day. We visited the WWII Memorial first that was crowded with veterans and supporters from all over. We took our group photo here. Our convoy was three busses that moved around to the Navy Memorial, Arlington Cemetery for the changing of the guard then the Iwo Jima Memorial.

Next stop was the Korean Memorial, Woman's Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial, known as The Wall. The Wall was the toughest for some to get through. This was not my first time at The Wall but each visit has a different effect, different emotions run through your mind and body. I brought the names of 56 Brothers who were from my County in NJ and paid my respect to them as I do each time I visit The Wall.

Our last stop was the Air Force Memorial. This was my first time seeing this impressive Memorial. It sits directly across from the Pentagon and is in the direct path of where the plane approached the Pentagon on 9/11. I also learned that the area around the Air Force Memorial will be the new area that is part of the Arlington Cemetery that will be ready to inter 60,000 graves.

The Welcome Home we received at the airport was so emotional with hundreds of people there to Welcome us back. For me, it was the Welcome Home that I never received a lifetime ago.

If you have never been on one of the Honor Flights I would encourage you to sign up wherever you live. For me, the experience that I shared with my Sponsor and the other Veterans will last me a lifetime. I am now pondering going again but this time as a Sponsor so maybe I can share in another Vets experience.

George A. Bontya  
USAF, Vietnam '70-'71  
TSNA, Life Member



George, 2nd from right



At the World War II Memorial



# **2023 Tan Son Nhut Reunion**

## **Jacksonville Florida**

**Double Tree by Hilton**

**Jacksonville Airport**

**September 20-September 24**

### **Hotel Information**

**DOUBLETREE by Hilton JACKSONVILLE AIRPORT**

2101 Dixie Clipper Drive

Jacksonville FL 32218

**855-689-8135**

**Registration must be made by telephone.**

**Mention Tan Son Nhut Association, Code: TSN**

**Standard Rm Rate \$124.00 plus taxes (Suites \$144.00 plus tax)**

Beaches. Parks. Museums. Sports. Shops. Food. Street Art. History. Jacksonville has it all, and now it's your turn to experience this exciting Florida destination!



**TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION 2023  
REUNION REGISTRATION**

**Jacksonville FL  
Sep 20 - 24, 2022**

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](mailto: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**

**FROM THE EDITOR:**

**ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:** While looking at Facebook recently, I saw a great poem, and decided to copy and save it for this issue of Revetments.

But I wanted to be sure I had permission to use it, so I wrote a Facebook "Message" to the Facebook "member" where I found it.

Within minutes, I had a reply, saying it was sent to them by one of their members, author unknown, so go ahead and use it.

The Facebook site I am referring to is "SIERRA HOTEL AERONAUTICS".

*Here's to the men with greasy hands  
Who fuel our planes when the pilot lands.  
Who change the tires and oil the squeaks,  
Fix the flak damage and stop the leaks.  
Tend to the controls to make them fly straight,  
Wait for the planes when the pilots are late.  
Who smooth the scratches and rivet the panels,  
Check "Loud and clear" on the radio channels.  
Who read the write-ups and make the repairs,  
Check the lines and wires for chafing and tears.  
Who pull the chocks and walk the wings,  
And do a million maint'nance things.  
Who watch as the bird takes off and flies.  
So here's a salute to those hard-working guys  
From a group of flyers who seldom ponder  
The men who keep us in the wild blue yonder.*

And here is why it was on Facebook on May 24, 2023:

Aviation Maintenance Technician Day is a day of recognition, observed every May 24th to give due recognition to the endless efforts of aviation maintenance professionals as well as the achievements of Charles Edward Taylor, the man who built the engine used to power the airplane of the Wright Brothers.

[Sierra Hotel Aeronautics](#) will get you to their website.

## Chaplain James M. Warrington

### (From source #1)

With sadness we share the news of the death of the Rev. James Malcolm "Jim" Warrington, 95, on August 17, 2022, in Falls Church, VA.

After serving in the Army in World War II and then working at the NSA, Jim was called to the Episcopal Priesthood and ordained in 1960. He served as an Associate Priest at several churches, including Church of the Atonement, Tenafly (1963-1964) before enlisting in the Air Force to serve in the Vietnam War as a military chaplain. His desire to be a priest, and more specifically a military chaplain, was inspired by having known and deeply respected the Rev. George L. Fox, one of the "Four Chaplains" who heroically gave their lives trying to save others during the sinking of the SS Dorchester in 1943.

Jim is survived by a nephew, a niece, a niece-in-law, a grand-niece, and many friends.

### (From source #2)

James Malcolm Warrington, known to family and friends as Jim, was born on September 19, 1926, in Boston, MA. During the Great Depression, his family moved several times including to Philadelphia and Little Rock, before settling in Arlington where Jim graduated from Washington-Lee High School in 1944. He then attended Virginia Military Institute for one semester before he was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served during World War II. He was deployed to Munich, Germany, immediately after the end of the war where he worked on securing and rebuilding the city which had been heavily destroyed by bombing during the war. In Germany, Jim developed a love of German beer. American soldiers were given a ration of American beer and cigarettes; Jim didn't smoke so he traded his cigarettes with the Germans for German beer and the occasional ride around town. Seventy years later, Jim still loved listening to the songs he remembered from his time in Munich, especially Marlene Dietrich's version of Lili Marleen.

When his enlistment was over, he returned to VMI where he graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor's degree in English Literature. While finishing his degree at VMI after the war, Jim joined the newly created U.S. Air Force ROTC program. The USAF had only been created as a separate branch of the military in 1947 and Jim, who loved planes, was eager to join. After graduation, he served in the USAF reserves while working in the Department of Defense and National Security Agency. While Jim was at NSA, he helped his future brother-in-law James Leister by informing him that the NSA would hire him despite his 1A draft status in the Korean War. No other potential employer James Leister had contacted would do so. Jim Warrington continued that not only would NSA hire him, but that after he was drafted and had undergone basic training, instead of being sent to Korea or elsewhere, he would be ordered back to continue intelligence work at NSA near D.C. as a uniformed soldier.

After five years working at the NSA, he returned to VMI to work for the VMI Foundation. After a short time back at VMI, Jim was called by the Lord, Jesus Christ, to become a Reverend. He graduated from seminary school at Sewanee: The University of the South and subsequently became ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church on June 28, 1960. He initially served as assistant clergy at several churches, including one in New Jersey where in his spare time he earned a Masters in Business Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1966.

Right after earning his MBA, Jim enlisted in the USAF as a military chaplain to serve in the Vietnam War. Jim's desire to be a priest, and more specifically a military chaplain, was inspired by having known and deeply respected the Reverend George L. Fox who had been the rector at the church his family attended during summer vacations in Vermont. Rev. Fox was one of the Four Chaplains who heroically gave their lives trying to save others during the sinking of the SS Dorchester, which was torpedoed by a German U-Boat in 1943. While in Active Duty in the Air Force Jim served at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Vietnam, Texas, South Dakota, and then worked at Arlington National Cemetery for eighteen months performing funerals for soldiers killed in action in Vietnam. He later returned to Germany where he served at Ramstein Air Base. After retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, Jim worked as a civil servant for the Navy at NAVAIR. He also served as a chaplain on base at Fort Meyer, at the Civil Air Patrol, and with the USS Warrington veterans group for many years. The USS Warrington was named after Lewis Warrington, a distant cousin of Jim Warrington.

At the end of his military career, Jim settled in Northern Virginia, residing for decades in Falls Church. Until Jim

entered Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads in 2010, he lived an extremely simple life, without television, internet, or even air-conditioning. His brother-in-law James Leister jokingly referred to him as a monk. His life was filled with God, books, friends, and his beloved model train collection. He made many friends in the model train community and often travelled to train meets up and down the East Coast. Jim was known as a kind, loving, and intelligent man and his generous spirit will be remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He was deeply proud of his service to God and country and of having been both a World War II and Vietnam War Veteran.

On August 17, 2022, at the age of ninety-five years and eleven months, Jim went to meet his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lester B. Warrington and Helen L. Brackett Warrington, his sister Carol L. Warrington Leister, and his dearly loved cats. Jim is survived by his nephew Warren Leister, who was by his side while he passed, niece Kathy Leister, niece by marriage Ann Ward Leister, grandniece Jennifer Ann Leister, and many friends. He was deeply loved and will be dearly missed.



**TSNA Life Member Eddie Phipps Obituary**



Eddie D. Phipps, age 73 of Fairborn passed away May 17, 2023 at the Hospice of Dayton. He was born March 1, 1950 in Monterey, TN, the son of the late James and Laura (Stringer) Phipps. Eddie was a veteran of the United State Marine Corps and followed with employment at Miami Valley Publishing. He was a certified scuba diver; enjoyed concerts and fishing. His pride and joy were ones who called him Papaw. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife Deborah; brothers, Timothy and Terry. Eddie is survived by his daughter, Amanda Phipps, three grandchildren, Laura, Erik and Caitlin; as well as extended family

**RIP  
GENTLEMEN**



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**Penryn PA 17564**

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Graphic by Charles Penley



“Vietnam Reflections” Photo by AB Pan

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