



REVETMENTS

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

NOVEMBER 2023



Hi Kerry,

My first job in Saigon was with Pacific Airlines. Their office was in the old O Club on the same street as the old Dodge City barracks. Then it was a warehouse.

I worked on TSN airport in a few locations. There were 3 old C-130 hangars off the frame to the right in the aerial tsn1965 photo. I worked for Air Meking in the last one to the right (not in the frame). And a new hangar built for VietStar Aviation Services as a continuation of the row. The old French concrete revetments were still there until this year. Now they are gone.

When working for AerCap as a consultant our office was between the two hangars at the top of that same photo. There's a space between them where an office structure was built, then extended out over the ramp. The hangars are still original with a few improvements.

Most of TSN is now terminals, streets and parking. All the infrastructure in that photo is now rebuilt. However, the hangars and out buildings in the upper section are VAECO, Vietnam Airlines Engineering Company. In a hangar just off the frame to the north was, until recently, the original Air Force sheetmetal shop with Lazy Susan's of old hardware.

The TSN golf course is now a beautiful park. The pool was still there last time I checked.

The main drag to the old Aerial Port going by MACV is now Troung Son St, Tan Binh, Ho Chi Minh City full of hotels, banks and restaurants. The city has absorbed the whole area and is only recognizable if you know the area or are an amateur historian like myself.

I'm going to Saigon in a few weeks for a medical follow-up and can do some photography for you if you want.

Cheers,
Dick Brown

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023, 4:31 AM Kerry Nivens <kknivens@yahoo.com> wrote:

Thank you.

Yes are still active and we had our TSNA reunion last week Jacksonville, Fl.

Thank you for reaching out to us.

Kerry Nivens
Web Master



Chaplain's Corner-Thanksgiving

During November we celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving. So often we really forget what we have to be thankful for given the surrounding circumstances. As things happen to us, our loved ones, our country and around the world that becomes our focus and our continued thought process.

Have you ever tried to list the things you are thankful for in the past? That was a common exercise for me in my youth in Sunday School or other places. Funny how that list that keeps on expanding the longer we think about it, however it slips from our minds quite quickly as other things happen around us.

For me that list includes my family, especially my bride of almost 54 years. My kids and grandkids are also at the top of that list. If you grew up like me, sometimes I am amazed, and thankful, that I am still alive. Our secure homes, our friends and certainly all of the blessings God has given us over the years are also on that list. I think about soldiers surviving in constant cold during the winter vs. my warm bed and hot showers.

We have the ability to pretty much go where we want to go and do what we want to do here in the USA. We are old enough and experienced enough to know that is not the same in many parts of the world. We are picky about food where some would gladly eat what we throw away.

But what should we be the most thankful for? Have we added God's blessing to that list? Have we added God's creation to that list? It takes dozens of amino acids to be present at the same time for a simple cell to survive, that is not by chance. Plants use our waste gases to survive and we use their waste gasses to survive, again not by chance.

There are many references to Thanksgiving in the scriptures. **Psalm 26:7** tell us ***"That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all your wondrous works . . . Verse 8 goes on to say, Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where your glory dwells. Psalm 50:14*** tells us, ***Offer to God Thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High*** (that is God).

Vows are things we say to God that we will do, just as we make a commitment to others including paying off a debt, providing a service, etc. Of course, all of these should be offered with care and thoughtfulness, but a vow to God is much more serious and He remembers our vows.

Remember He promises life, if we just follow His offer provided in the scriptures. **Psalm 100:4-5** tells us, ***Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.***

So, as we celebrate this Thanksgiving make sure you include God in your in serious thankfulness among the lighthearted fun we have during this season. **Praise God for His blessings and His indescribable gift, life with Him forever!!!**

Andy Csordas, Associate Chaplain



Dale Baker Photo
68-69 Det.1, 460th TRW

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the unavailability of anyone being able to be there, TSNA will not have a wreath and any members present at "The Wall".

And, due to the fact that I don't have a whole lot of "new" items for this issue, I have gone back through the years for Veterans Day items in previous Revetments.

And, here they are:

VETERANS DAY 2023

Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States, observed officially on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls.

What Does Veterans Day Mean?

Veterans Day is an important day set aside to honor and show appreciation for ALL who have served in the United States military—in wartime or peacetime, living or deceased.

"We can't all be heroes; someone has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by."
—Roy Rogers

Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL who have served, living or deceased, but in particular the living veterans among us.

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day in the United States, commemorating the signing of the agreement that ended World War I at 11:00 A.M., November 11, 1918. President Woodrow Wilson celebrated the first Armistice Day in 1919.

In 1938, November 11 became a legal holiday by an act of Congress.

In 1954, this federal holiday was changed from "Armistice" to "Veterans" Day.

Although this holiday initially honored those who perished in service to their country, when the holiday's name was changed to Veterans Day, it became a day to honor ALL the men and women who have served in the armed forces of the United States.

VETERAN'S DAY 2008

November 11 is coming soon.

The Tan Son Nhut Association will be again placing a beautiful wreath at the wall in memory of those who gave their all for our freedom.

Below is a picture from Earl Cary from last year's parade and activities. (Jim Stewart second from the left in full camo)





And on this Veteran's Day, 2009, let us never forget to honor our fellow veterans who have gone before and given the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country.

May we also remember as well, those who are Prisoners of War and Missing in Action in conflicts around the world.

The Tan Son Nhut Association will again this year be participating in the Veteran's Day Parade and Memorial Celebration at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall ceremonies on Wednesday, November 11. Check your C-Span station for the broadcast of this event.

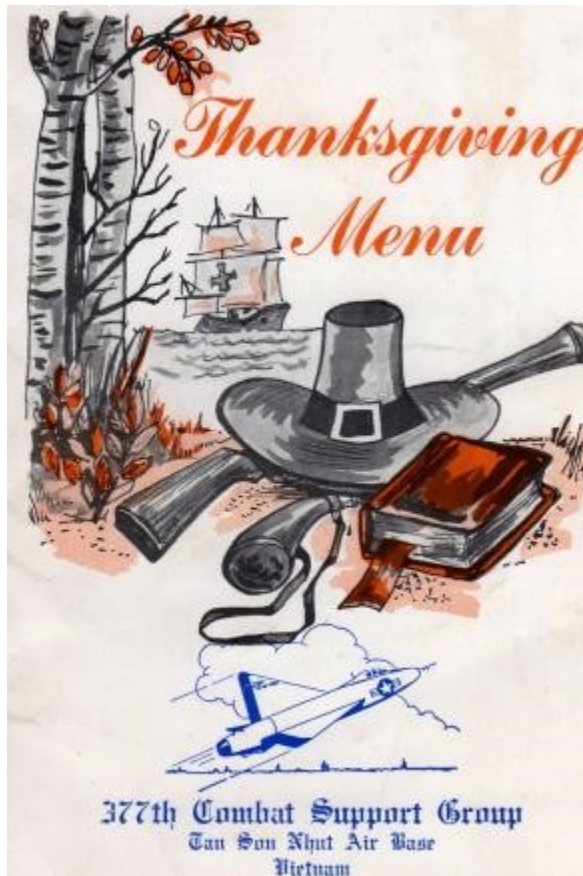


On this Thanksgiving Day, 2009, let us give thanks for the cornucopia of blessings that we have as Americans, and give thanks also for all of the members of our armed forces who have participated through so many years to keep America free.

(Source of photo and graphic unknown)

(From the November, 2011 Revetments)

1966
THANKSGIVING DAY MENU
TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE
COURTESY OF
BOB KAHLMORGAN
TSN MAIL ROOM
AUG 66-JUN 67



(See Next page for inside of Menu)

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

FAR FROM THE THANKSGIVING OF CHILDHOOD, WE FIND OURSELVES THIS DAY NOT AT THE FAMILY TABLE ENJOYING THE TURKEY, COMPANIONSHIP, AND THOUGHTS OF YESTERYEAR; BUT AT A NEW TABLE, WITH OTHER FRIENDS AND DIFFERENT THOUGHTS. THE MORE MATURE THANKSGIVING THAT THIS YEAR HAS BROUGHT US HAS FOUND US IN A PLACE WE HAD NOT EXPECTED, FACING AN EXACTING CHALLENGE ... WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES IN A WORLD THAT DOES NOT MEASURE UP TO OUR CHILDHOOD STANDARDS ... A WORLD IN WHICH A BASIC IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT REQUIRES OF US MANY SACRIFICES AND STRENUOUS ENDEAVORS. CAN WE NOT FIND, HOWEVER, IN THIS SITUATION THE REAL MEANING OF THANKSGIVING? THE REALITY OF A HARD WON AND HARD KEPT PEACE FOR OURSELVES, OUR FAMILIES, AND OUR NATION. CAN WE NOT THANK GOD THIS DAY WITH A TRUE REALIZATION OF THE VALUE OF OUR SEVERAL BLESSINGS? HAVE WE NOT LEARNED TO BE TRULY THANKFUL?

Commander

THANKSGIVING DAY MENU

Shrimp Cocktail Crackers
Roast Turkey with Giblet Gravy
Baked Ham
Bread Dressing Cranberry Sauce
Mashed Potatoes Candied Sweet Potatoes
Buttered Vegetable
Assorted Relish Tray
Hot Parker House Rolls Butter
Fruit Cake
Mincemeat Pie or Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream
Assorted Fresh Fruit
Assorted Nuts Assorted Candy
Tea Coffee Milk

**Re: November 11th
From Our Cheerleader**

I wish that there were enough words to describe how I feel about y'all. A few are love, honor, friendship, caring, kinship, precious (y'all are), important (y'all are), and my Heroes (y'all are). Celebrate and remember on Veteran's Day November 11 and for a few minutes, close your eyes and in your mind and heart, visit The Wall in Washington, DC.

Thank you for your service, sacrifice and your work on behalf of the TSNA and our Beloved America. Welcome Home! Thank You!! You did Good!!!

Salute,
Janice Jones

**NOV 11, 2013
AT THE WALL**
(Photo courtesy of
Angela Pan Photography)



NOVEMBER 11, 2013

By: Johnnie Jernigan
TSNA Director of Merchandising

We have received permission for the Tan Son Nhut Association to place a wreath at our Memorial at the NMU-SAF for Veteran's Day Nov. 11th. We will meet at the Memorial at 9AM and perform a simple ceremony to honor all Veterans. It will especially target those who were stationed at or passed through TSN. Help is needed to place the wreath and flags at the Bench and Plaques. Please let me know by e-mail if you are willing to help. My e-mail is jernigan1@ameritech.net.

This effort brings up the question: What is the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day?

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

While those who died are also remembered, Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL those who served honorably in the military – in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served – not only those who died – have sacrificed and done their duty. The above is a quote from a Washington Post article - (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2013/05/26/why-memorial-day-is-confused-with-veterans-day/>)

TSNA OBSERVES VETERANS DAY 2015

By: Carol Bessette
TSNA Treasurer

TSNA had a strong representation at the November 11 afternoon ceremonies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. Four TSNA representatives (Gary Redlinski, Russ Clark, Joe Lazaravich, and Carol Bessette) participated in the annual wreath-laying ceremony, and six other TSNA friends and relatives were in the audience. (This may be one of the largest levels of TSNA participation in recent years.)



VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11, 2017

“Veterans Day 2018 – 100 Years Later”
Tan Son Nhut Association “Revetments” Newsletter, November 2018
By Ira Cooperman

This month’s observance of “Veterans Day” has a significance beyond the usual. It is the 100th anniversary of this special day, a time when hope existed for the end to all wars.

Originally called “Armistice Day,” it was created in commemoration of the end of World War I on November 11th, 1918, and in honor of those who fought in “The Great War.”

In 1954, the year after the cessation of Korean War hostilities, the name was changed by the Congress to honor *all veterans* of America’s armed forces, past and present.

Over 70 million people were involved in World War I. It is estimated that 10 million soldiers were killed as well as eight million civilians.

While “The War to End All Wars” did not accomplish its stated purpose, it did change the nature of warfare. New 20th century technology -- with the introduction of military weapons such as tanks, machine guns, armored cars, poison gas, and using aircraft for bombing -- clashed with 19th century warfare tactics.

And as you and I have come to learn from history, instead of ending war, World War I began the deadliest century in the history of warfare. But what of the veterans of those wars -- people like us?

Every Veterans Day, my thoughts turn to my fellow vets and their experiences, the men and women ordered to fight our wars -- the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who were left with the unintended consequences of war.

If these Americans were lucky enough to survive World War I or II, or Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan or Iraq, they became our forgotten warriors.

While this is not a day to review our political feelings regarding America’s wars and those who ordered us to fight them, it is a time to ask questions of our history, of the way all veterans have been treated, of our responsibilities toward them.

Throughout our nation’s history, one of its most constant supporters has been its veterans -- people like us. And today, once again American women and men are serving their country far from home.

For veterans like TSNA members, who have served overseas in at least one of America’s conflicts, the current crises in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine and North Korea evoke memories of the past.

Six decades ago, as a young Air Force officer, I received orders to go to Vietnam. Unlike 58,000 other vets, I was one of the lucky ones who returned home. But I will never forget the veterans of my generation, or the heroes, like Senators John McCain and John Kerry, who have spoken out in support of veterans.

Make no mistake about it: Veterans have served honorably, “From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli,” from Flanders fields to Pacific islands, from frozen Korean foxholes to the quagmire of Vietnam, from the hills of Afghanistan to unwelcome Iraq villages.

Veterans have supported with spirit America’s sense of mission and have kept faith with presidential and national security commitments -- all in the name of protecting American “interests.”

Veterans are the citizens who put themselves in harm’s way so that others may remain free. Yet, since the founding of our Republic, veterans have had to fight for their rightful benefits, with the success of receiving those benefits dependent less on the country’s conscience than on expediency and political circumstances.

What have we learned from the sacrifices of our fellow veterans who have died as a result of our nation’s wars?

The lives of all those veterans who have served our nation challenge us, not only to remember them, but to give *meaning* to their lives. For as Archibald MacLeish has suggested in his poem, "*The Young Dead Soldiers*", "their lives will mean what we make of them."

On a day when some vets feel particularly haunted by the past, a day when my memory takes me back to Tan Son Nhut and the countries of Southeast Asia, I salute every veteran, as well as those who have experienced the loss of a loved one in military service.

I believe it is the duty of all Americans on November 11th -- and every day -- to remember and appreciate our nation's veterans, past and present, who provide us with the peace and freedom we seek.

Remembering veterans is another way to live with honor and act with dignity. For me, it is the only way to live.

[Ira Cooperman is a veteran of the wars in Southeast Asia, having served as an Air Force intelligence officer with HQ 7AF at Tan Son Nhut AB, Udorn RTAB in Thailand, and in Laos during 1965-66. His e-mail address is: iracooperman@gmail.com.]

Montagnard's, Missionaries and the Green Beret.
From: James D. Marshall Feb 70 - Mar 72
377th Combat Support Group & Air Base Wing Hq Squadron

Dr Paul T Carter has made another great video. Hope you enjoy and find it informative. Below is the message he sent with the link to said video.

Friends, in 1992, UN personnel in Cambodia were startled to discover an impoverished, armed militant group holed up in remote jungle. Puzzled UN personnel asked them to identify themselves. This group was the last guerrilla group still fighting the Vietnam war, having fled to the jungle in 1975 to continue the fight. I produced a video:

<https://youtu.be/NqIAm-IYk0s?si=XXWCBheC1CxBe5I3>

EDITOR'S NOTE: Yea, it's true that I am again trying to fill in space in this issue that still has blank space - or I could have added more pictures.

But I REALLY want to ask again - I need things to put into Revetments. You've just got to have things you can write about from your time at TSN.

I was only there for a little over 2 months, but I've published lots of stories in Revetments. **YOU CAN TOO!!**

Just type it into an email, or write it in Word and attach it to an email, and send it to me.

I have a new email address: larlo4044@gmail.com.

Earlier this year I also asked (pleaded??) for articles about January 31, 1968. Years ago I had the same request, and I got a good response. This year, not very much!

We have a number of new members, so please contribute.

Thanks

TSN, January 1962

Larry





George Greenwood Photos
Sep 66 - Sep 67
460th FMS Airframe Repairman



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NEW MEMBERS

Brenda S. Cooley	Smiths Station AL	Cooleybrenda@yahoo.com	Wife of TSNA President, Rick Cooley
Joyce Earnest	San Antonio TX	je2096@yahoo.com	Wife of TSNA Member Tom Earnest
Gregory M. Lowe	Luray VA	gmlowe1945@gmail.com	12th RITS Imagery Exploitation&Intel

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