



# REVETMENTS

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



APRIL 2024

## Tan Son Nhut Association Scholarship 2024

The Tan Son Nhut Association is adding a second new scholarship eligibility criteria in 2024.

As in past years, TSNA is accepting applications for the school year beginning in the Fall of 2024 for a \$5,000 scholarship from high school seniors.

**New** in 2024 is a \$1,000 scholarship for students who chose to attend a two-year technical, career or trade school instead of seeking a bachelor's degree.

The applicant must be a direct descendant of one who served in Vietnam for any period from January 1, 1959, to April 30, 1975. 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, 2024.**

The Scholarship Committee needs the help of TSNA members to get out the word of this scholarship's availability since it is not listed elsewhere. Unless you let schools in your area know about these scholarships, the schools cannot let their eligible students know about the scholarships. TSNA members should contact schools in their area to let counselors and/or principals know of the TSNA four-year and two-year scholarships.

The \$5,000 scholarship is awarded in equal amounts over a student's four years in school. To receive the second and subsequent year's allotment, the student must maintain a 3.00 grade point average at the end of each school term or at the end of a summer term, if needed, and complete a minimum of 30 semester hours each school year.

In order to get the next scholarship allotment, all scholarship recipients must furnish an official transcript at the end of each spring semester to the address below or by email to: [rcarvellsr@yahoo.com](mailto:rcarvellsr@yahoo.com).

Recipients of the \$5,000 scholarship must pursue a four-year degree as a resident student at an accredited United States college or university that grants bachelor or higher degrees but 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.

New in 2024 is a \$1,000 scholarship for high school seniors who attend a two-year technical, career or trade school instead of pursuing a four-year bachelor's degree. This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded in two \$500 increments provided the recipient achieves a 3.00 GPA. Scholarship recipients must send an official transcript at the end of each spring semester to the address below or email to: [rcarvellsr@yahoo.com](mailto:rcarvellsr@yahoo.com).

The application form is on the Tan Son Nhut Association website ([TSNA.org](http://TSNA.org)) and must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2024 and mailed to:

TSNA Scholarship Committee  
c/o Committee Chair  
4214 Brenda Street  
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405  
... or sent by email to: [rcarvellsr@yahoo.com](mailto:rcarvellsr@yahoo.com).

Please indicate whether you are applying for the \$5,000 four-year or the \$1,000 two-year scholarship.

**MORE ON NEXT PAGE** →

**Applications must include the following supporting documents:**

1. An official high School transcript showing your overall high school GPA. Minimum requirement is 3.0 on a 4-point scale for the three years of high school. Applicants must submit a copy of the transcript 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.

2. One faculty or administrator letter of recommendation (LIMIT TO ONE PAGE).

3. Copies of standardized test scores (ACT, SAT, or other acceptable test scores) if not on your high school transcript.

4. Resume’ or list of school and community activities, awards and leadership positions.

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

6. Proof (a copy of Vietnam service member’s DD Form 214 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. That service must either be with the Armed Forces of the United States of America or the Republic of Vietnam or service as a civilian on Tan Son Nhut Air Base as either an American or Vietnamese citizen.

If you wish to honor a person or 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.

Rich Carvell  
VP, TSNA  
Chair, Scholarship Committee



@@@#####%&&&&\*\*\*\*++++@@@@#####%&&&&\*\*\*\*@@@@#####%&&&&\*\*\*\*@@@@

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** In the March issue of Revetments, Tom Tessier had an excellent article about his duties at TSN.

**Tom (and I) would like to hear from any and all of you regarding your experiences or stories of what you did when the rocket sirens went off at night.**

Tom’s email address is: [tntessier47@gmail.com](mailto:tntessier47@gmail.com).

And mine is: [larlo4044@gmail.com](mailto:larlo4044@gmail.com).

Thanks!

# Tan Son Nhut Association is going to Have Fun in Huntsville

## We Hope to see you at the reunion

Room Rates:  
Standard King \$139.00  
Double Queen \$149.00  
256-772-9661

(Tell them you are with the TSN or Tan Son Nhut Association for group rates)



Possible tour of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center and plenty of free time to tour on your own, or enjoy the company of fellow Tan Son Nhut vets in our hospitality suite

## 2024 Tan Son Nhut Reunion

Huntsville Alabama

Four Points by Sheraton (Huntsville Airport)

1000 Glen Hearn Blvd, Huntsville, AL 35824

256-772-9661

September 18 September 20, 2024

Huntsville is a great place to visit, You have many options including Museums, The U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Redstone Arsenal, Outdoor adventures, and great places for dining, music, and entertainment.



**TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION 2024**  
**REUNION REGISTRATION**  
**Huntsville AL**  
**Sep 18-20, 2024**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TEL ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL NEEDS or MEALS (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose one of the following:**

**1: FULL Reunion Registration including banquet**

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ X **\$95.00** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Banquet Only Friday, September 20, 2024**

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ X **\$65.50** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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 4, 2024 (No refunds after September 11, 2024)**

Questions regarding Registration should be directed to:  
Paul Mortensen, Director of Reunion Planning  
[TSNAreunions@gmail.com](mailto:TSNAreunions@gmail.com)

**Hotel Information**

**Four Points by Sheraton (Huntsville Airport  
1000 Glenn Hearn Blvd Huntsville AL 35824**

Here's your reservation link you can use to make reservations:

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

Rm Rate \$139.00 plus taxes standard King- -\$149 for a Double Queen

Meal selection will be made closer to the event

Additional events may be added later

## THE ORANGE HEART MEDAL PROJECT

Submitted by Fred Benda

Sep 70 - Sep 71 823rd & 544th Red Horse Combat Engineers

The Orange Heart Medal Project was founded in January 2018 as a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission and purpose is to bring recognition for veterans who served in the Vietnam war and who were affected by exposure to Agent Orange, an herbicide and defoliant chemical. It is believed that August 10, 1961 is the first date that Agent Orange was sprayed. Five months later Agent Orange was widely used in Vietnam by the United States military as part of the herbicidal warfare program called "Operation Ranch Hand" from 1961 to 1971. This orange powder was sprayed over the land from helicopters or low flying aircraft. The herbicide quickly destroyed vegetation and crops. The goal was to destroy crops, defoliate rural and forested land and deprive enemy guerrillas of food and cover for their activities. Agent Orange allowed clearing of sensitive areas around military bases. The United States military sprayed nearly 20,000,000 gallons of Agent Orange. In addition to the damaging environmental effects, Agent Orange has also caused major physical injury to the 2.6 million American soldiers who were exposed. Agent Orange is a dioxin. It is a cancer-causing chemical that enters the body through physical contact or ingestion. Dioxin moves into the human cell nucleus where it attacks the genes and causes a number of serious illnesses. For many these effects laid dormant for 40 plus years. Conditions currently attributed to Agent Orange exposure include such illnesses as leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, Ischemic heart disease, soft tissue sarcoma, amyloidosis, diabetes, and cancers of the throat, prostate, lung, colon, and other life changing conditions. The genetic damage from Agent Orange, in some cases, has affected the second and third generations of veterans among those who were exposed. Noted conditions in those generations include such conditions as spina bifida and other congenital anomalies which have been diagnosed in the exposed veterans' children and grandchildren. Current studies are continuing at Vanderbilt University on the generational effects of Agent Orange exposure. Studies are currently showing exposure into the fifth generation. Today only approximately 600,000 of these veterans are still living while 390 deaths are occurring every day among soldiers who continue their march to join their fallen comrades.

The purpose of the Orange Heart Medal Project is to bring recognition to veterans who were exposed and subsequently were affected by Agent Orange during their military service in the United States Armed Services. The Orange Heart Medal Project was born in the heart of Ken Gamble, U.S. Navy Veteran, Vietnam as he laid receiving radiation and chemotherapy at the Veterans Administration Hospital for his own prostate cancer. After suffering in silence for many years with his own Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which is also common in many war veterans, Ken was now suffering the effects of his own Agent Orange herbicidal exposure. Ken took on the responsibility of being a voice for all of the soldiers who were and are still suffering the effects of Agent Orange exposure. Ken started the Orange Heart Medal Project in January 2018 using his own funds to design, patent, and create the Orange Heart Medal. Ken applied for and received designation as a 501c3 organization. Ken designed and received Trademark registration of the Orange Heart Medal emblem. We created, and are currently updating our website [www.orangeheartmedal.org](http://www.orangeheartmedal.org), where you will find applications for the medal, general information, articles on Vietnam and a blog that shares stories of veterans who have been affected by Agent Orange. This website is a tool to help educate the public on available resources for veterans and their families. Our primary goal has been to provide to each veteran or their surviving spouse the Orange Heart Medal, free of charge because in Ken's words, "the veteran has already paid for it." We believe that the Orange Heart Medal serves as a recognition of the chemical warfare exposure suffered by these soldiers. The medal also allows those memories to be shared as the Orange Heart Medal is passed on to the soldier's generations to come. In addition to the medals, we have used the Orange Heart Medal emblem to have shirts, caps, pins and patches made. These items are displayed and sold at community events to help raise awareness and funds to cover the cost of the medals. To date we are just a few shy of providing 4,000 medals to veterans or their surviving spouses. Applications have been received from across the United States, Australia, Thailand, and Puerto Rico. We are a privately funded organization receiving no federal funds for our efforts.

We strive to educate, assist and work with local state, and eventually national legislatures to draft and pass legislation that will declare dioxin, Agent Orange, as chemical warfare. This recognition will help educate and assist all veterans with proof of exposure and will assist in securing, adequate access to and quality health service benefits for affected veterans as well as the veteran's future generations who are affected by Agent Orange exposure. We recognize that these men and women answered the call to defend and protect our great United States and likewise we should recognize and defend them.

Our foundation worked with our State Representative of Tennessee District 66, Sabi "Doc" Kumar, MD, FACS to draft and introduce Bill HJR0108, a Resolution to honor and recognize victims of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. This bill was introduced by Dr. Kumar and passed unanimously in the House on 2/6/2019. The Bill was then sponsored by Tennessee Senator Kerry Roberts and was unanimously passed by the Senate on 2/13/2019. The Bill was signed by the House Speaker on 2/15/2019, signed by the Senate Speaker on 2/19/2019. The Bill HJR0108 was signed by Governor Bill Lee on 2/22/2019 making this Resolution to honor and recognize victims of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War law in Tennessee. The bill was presented to us on the chamber floor of the Capitol on 3/18/2019. It has been estimated that within the next six and a half years all of the Vietnam veterans will be gone. For this reason, we believe that time is of the essence. Many other states have been closely watching and waiting for Tennessee to pass this bill and are currently planning to follow with introducing their own bill. Once more states introduce and pass their own bills, we will be able to approach Congress and hopefully achieve this recognition on a Federal level.

The Orange Heart Medal Project's current focus is working to establish a permanent monument to memorialise the veterans that served in Vietnam. The memorial will include the names of Veterans who returned from Vietnam, many who have died or are continuing their battles to join their fallen comrades due to the effects of Agent Orange. If the Veteran has lost their battle with Agent Orange, an orange heart will be placed next to their name. A rendering of the monument was completed and work is well underway to build the monument. We are currently taking applications to add the names to the wall. We ask for \$150 donation to add a veteran's name where they will be memorialized forever. Plans are to unveil and dedicate the monument on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020. The monument is being placed at the entrance to the Springfield Memorial Gardens in Springfield, TN where they graciously provided the land, worked with us to get the monument created and they will continue to care for the monument. The monument also has the capability to have more sections added as we identify the need..

A long reaching dream for our foundation is to be able to help children and grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans by establishing a scholarship program.

Our unwavering goal and hope is to ensure that all Vietnam Veterans and their families are recognized and that history never forgets the sacrifices these brave men and women made so that we might remain free.

Before you apply for this Medal:

Please read and if you do not meet the Medical Standards, do not apply.

We are also way Behind in Donations any amount would help with the Awareness Movement.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), IS NOT SIGNIFICANT, for an Agent Orange Medal.

It is a Mental condition not a physical condition.

There are now 18 conditions that are medically acceptable for this medal.

We hope soon this list will Grow.

THE EIGHTEEN PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS ARE LISTED BELOW:

1. AMYLOIDOSIS
2. PORPHYRIA CUTANEA
3. NON-HODGINS'S LYMPHOMA
4. HODGKIN'S DISEASE
5. CHRONIC B-CELL LEUKEMIAS

6. PROSTATE CANCER
7. PARKINSON'S DISEASE
8. ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE
9. PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY, EARLY-ONSET
10. RESPIRATORY CANCERS
11. DIABETES MELLITUS TYPE 2
12. MULTIPLE MYELOMA
13. CHLORACNE
14. CHLORACNE SOFT TISSUE SARCOMAS
15. HYPOTHYROIDISM
16. PARKINSONISM (PARKINSON-LIKE CONDITIONS)
17. BLADDER CANCER
18. HYPERTENSION

NOTE: Some conditions such as Chloracne and Peripheral Neuropathy (early onset) have to occur within certain time periods after possible Agent Orange exposure to be considered presumptive conditions.

**APPLY FOR YOUR  
FREE MEDAL  
TODAY**



SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY



**Orange Heart  
Medal Foundation**  
501(c)(3) Non Profit Charity Foundation  
**Ken Gamble**  
President  
[kengamble68@gmail.com](mailto:kengamble68@gmail.com)  
(615) 973-5279  
for your free medal application visit:  
[orangeheartmedal.org](http://orangeheartmedal.org)

*The House of Representatives*  
Commonwealth of Kentucky  
**Citation of Adjournment**  
*The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky does hereby adjourn this legislative day in honor of the*

**Victims of Agent Orange During the Vietnam War**  
and joins with Representative Jonathan Dixon in expressing deepest sympathy to all citizens who lost loved ones or whose health has been negatively impacted by exposure to Agent Orange while serving their country during the Vietnam War. More than eight million citizens of this country served with great valor during the Vietnam War, during which time Agent Orange was widely used in Vietnam by the U.S. Armed Forces as part of Operation Ranch Hand, an herbicidal warfare program, between 1961 and 1971. Nearly 20 million gallons of the orange powder were sprayed over the land from helicopters or low-flying aircraft, destroying vegetation and crops in order to deprive enemy guerrillas of food and cover for their activities and exposing 1.6 million American soldiers to the dangerous chemical. Agent Orange enters the body through physical contact or ingestion and moves into the human cell nucleus, where it attacks the genes and causes a number of serious illnesses, including but not limited to leukemia, lymphoma, diabetes, and various cancers. Agent Orange also causes genetic damage and, in some cases, the children and grandchildren of veterans exposed to Agent Orange have been born with spina bifida and other abnormalities. Today, only 800,000 Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange are alive and approximately 300 deaths occur among them every day. While fallen comrades are memorialized on The Wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., these veterans who are victims of Agent Orange are not recognized as fatalities of the Vietnam War. It is most appropriate, therefore, that this body honor these brave veterans, as they have made untold sacrifices to preserve the liberties enjoyed by American citizens today and that future citizens will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come. On this day of the 2024 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who were victims of exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War are honored with the utmost deference and gratitude for the sacrifices they made in service to their country and their fellow man.

Done in Frankfort, Kentucky, this thirtieth day of January, in the year two thousand twenty-four:  
*David W. Blanton*  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
*[Signature]*  
Clerk, House of Representatives

**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.

President: Rick Cooley  
Vice President: Richard Carvell  
Secretary/Treasurer: Andy Csordas  
Director of Communications: Gary Fields  
Director of Marketing: Andy Csordas  
Director of Reunion Planning: Paul Mortensen  
Director of Membership and Revetments Editor: Larry E. Fry  
Director of Membership Development: Rick Cooley  
Director at Large:  
Web Master: Kerry Nivens  
Chaplain: Jimmy Smith  
Associate Chaplain: Andy Csordas  
Chaplains Emeriti:  
Rev. Bob Alan Chaffee (1929-2017), Chaplain: 2009 - 2017  
Rev. Dr. James M. Warrington (1926 - 2022), 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  
Randall W. Brown, President, 2015-2023

**Web Site: [www.tsna.org](http://www.tsna.org)**  
Annual Membership: \$20.00  
Five Year Membership: \$80.00  
Life Membership: \$180.00

## IN MEMORIAM

Tommy C. Poole, Dublin, VA 1965-66 377th APS K-9 Sentry  
Involved in 12/4/66 attack. Received Silver Star & Purple Heart.

SEE BELOW



**DECEMBER 4, 1966**

By: Tommy C. Poole, 377 Air Police Squadron 1966-67

I lived in Air Police Barracks on Tan Son Nhut and worked K-9 on outer perimeter. I was in the stand off & sapper attack at Tan Son Nhut Dec. 4, 1966. I was working in the Utah ditch and reported movement in the ditch to CSC via radio and shortly afterwards mortars and rockets were fired toward the flight line. I also came in contact with the enemy on the ditch and a fire fight began. My dog and I were initially pinned down, but we were able to move behind mounds of dirt and continued to fire at the enemy. During the engagement I was wounded but continued to radio information and fire at the enemy. At one point I heard a mortar fire that sounded very close. I left my position and worked toward the sound of the mortar—I located the mortar and observed three or four of the enemy at the mortar. I worked in closer and opened fire on their position, and then worked my way back to my original position. I continued to fire at the force in the ditch and my dog Fritz continued to work his way through the tall grass to the enemy. I would hear screams and then gunfire and figured Fritz had been killed. But he would return and lick my wounds and then head back to attack the enemy. I was finally picked up by ambulance, but had to leave Fritz tied since he was trained to attack and would not be safe in the ambulance.

A2C Tommy C. Poole, a Sentry Dog handler, and now a Life Member of TSNA, received the nation's third highest medal, the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals for his actions taken on Dec 4-5, 1966.

(The above from the March, 2011 issue of Revetments)

TSNA and its officers, directors, employees and agents do not make any guarantees of any kind about the content, accuracy, or timeliness of information in the TSNA newsletter, *Revetments*. The use of information from this newsletter is strictly voluntary and at the user's sole risk. TSNA shall not be liable for any damages of any kind related to the information in this newsletter. The opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not constitute the opinion or policy of TSNA.