

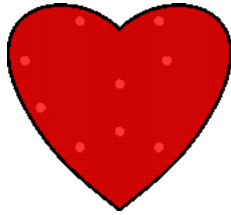


REVETMENTS

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



FEBRUARY 2024



EDITOR'S NOTE: Following on the next 2 pages is some information from TSNA member Jim Marshall

Just a New Year's wish from myself and Gail. I have been asked and accepted the position of moderating the AnCan Foundation's Veteran Support Group. It is Virtual and free to all Veterans and the spouses. The An-Can Foundation runs Free Virtual Support Groups for Prostate Cancer (High & Low Risk, Active Surveillance, Men Under 60), Blood Cancers, Thyroid Cancer, Renal Medullary Carcinoma, MS, Parkinson's, Sarcoidosis, Men Speaking Freely (WOEs about their cancers), Cancer for Caregivers (chance for partners to lament with other partners) and now Veterans.

AnCan itself is well respected in the medical world and has Non-Branded (no pushing their drugs or treatments) from Pfizer, Janssen (part of JNJ), Myriad Genetics, Sumitomo Pharma, Blue Earth Diagnostics and Telix. I have Non-branded sponsorship from Janssen (part of JNJ) and Sumitomo Pharma to offset the cost of my virtual meetings.

My Virtual Support Group has a retired VA doctor and one VA retiree to help us understand how to navigate the VA for health benefits. Myself, I have been getting smart on VA claims for disabilities and how to describe a thought to be Service-Connected Disability to garner the rightly deserved compensation; can range from \$1300+ to \$50K+ per year tax free along with possible free healthcare for the Vet and family if it is severe enough.

If you run into any Vets who are baffled by the VA system or did not apply for some disability because it was not apparently Service-Connected, I'd be happy to look it over and see maybe how it could be related. Just because some Vet did not GO over to Vietnam or serve in the Desert Wars in SW Asia, does not mean it could not be tied it to some Service-Connection condition.

You are welcome to forward this e-Mail to any Vet in need. I've been surprised at the number of Vets who are unaware of benefits they rightly earned and are not asking for them. Also if you know of anyone with the above medical issues, you can refer them my way and AnCan is a great place to be together with others with the same disease. Cancer is one journey NOT meant to taken alone.

Hope your New Year will prosper and 2024 is going be another interesting year for sure.

Jim Marshall, USAF(Ret)
100%++ VA Disabled Permanent & Total
Alexandria, VA
703-338-7341
Marshall-James@Comcast.Net

MORE ABOUT AnCan Foundation





P.S. In this photo, I am the one, standing, on the far left. It was a luncheon I organized for the AnCan'ers in the local area.

EDITOR'S NOTE: BELOW IS FROM THE ANCAN BOARD TO JIM.

Thank you for helping us continue to strive to fulfill our mission and reach our goal of providing easily accessible, inclusive, virtual peer support for every serious disease and condition with widespread participation, especially to those geographically, physically, or socially disadvantaged.



2023 AnCan Highlights

26 support meetings per month for 12 conditions and situations.

Veterans Virtual Art Class attracting over 60 participants per session.

6 virtual webinars in 2023.

Added Myriad Genetics and Telix Pharmaceuticals to our sponsors.

Exhibited a research poster at the 2023 ASCO.

80 active volunteers together with 4 paid contractors.

3 new prestigious members to our Advisory Board.

High Risk/Recurrent/Advanced Prostate Cancer Support Group approached 200 weekly attendance, largely through recording views.

AnCan pop-up lunches/dinners were held in Philadelphia, S. Florida, Houston, Washington DC, Connecticut and Tucson ... not to mention several in Tubac, Arizona.

Advocated loudly for improved mental health care, especially for genitourinary cancers.

AnCan was directly and intimately involved in resolving the acute shortage of radionuclide therapeutic Pluvicto, organizing a patient petition to the FDA that catalyzed a faster resolution.

Other national advocacy included active lobbying for Federal and State legislation; participation in developing medical guidelines; and efforts to improve clinical trial accessibility for People of Color.

Estimated at least 12,500 event participations and recording views in 2023.

AnCan wishes to remember the 12 AnCan'ers lost in 2023 of whom we are aware that moderated and/or participated in our programs and events. In particular we recall with great fondness Board and Advisory Board Member, Herb Geller as well as Moderator, Ken Anderson. May their memory along with all the others be a blessing to us all. All 12 are recorded on our In-Memoriam webpage.

"Be Your Own Best Advocate"

Chaplain's Corner-Life's Battles

By Andy Csordas, Associate Chaplain

Sometimes life's battles can seem overwhelming. It can be a health issue, a family problem, a job that just stinks or any number of other things. What do we do when we try to fight life's battles? We can respond in a number of ways, the option of fight or flight can take hold. If we, or a family member, are threatened how do we typically respond? If someone is in serious danger we typically fight, but sometimes using the flight option is a better choice.

What are some of the life battles you have had to fight? We have all had them. Some were major, some just annoying. Perhaps it is just a circumstance that overwhelms you and you do not know what to do or where to turn. When our son was born with Spina Bifida, it was a major circumstance. We had no idea it was coming and the next few months and years were very difficult.

Some of you know the story. He had to be sent to Albert Einstein Hospital in New York City where he had spinal surgery upon arrival and spent the next 30 days in what we now call a NICU. When he was discharged it was the start of a lifetime of healthcare. We were also told he might live to his early 20s at best. He has had some big health scares over the years. By the way he is now 49, married and has two wonderful little girls. God is good!

David, God's chosen king, also had some battles in his life. When he was younger he was part of then King Saul's inner group including being the best friend of Saul's son Jonathon. Saul was appointed as the Israeli king after the people defied God and demanded a king. God, through the prophet Samuel, warned the people that they would be subject to the king's arbitrary wishes if they went that route but the people insisted on having a king.

Saul started out good, but scripture tells us that Spirit of God later left him. **1 Samuel 16:14** tells us, **"Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit . . . tormented him."**

David was an accomplished musician, song writer (he wrote half of the Psalms) and a great warrior. He became a hero as a teenager when he killed Goliath as all of Saul's troops were afraid to challenge the giant. In **1 Samuel 17:47** we find David confronting Goliath, **"All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."** We know the rest of the story, the shepherd boy killed Goliath with a sling and a stone. David, who would not let Goliath blaspheme the Lord trusted in God to fight the battle, **"for the battle is the LORD's."**

It is recorded that Saul killed thousands of the enemy, but David killed tens of thousands. David was also one of Saul's great military leaders. That is until Saul became jealous and then tried on more than one occasion to kill David. You can read the details in the book of **1 Samuel** in the scriptures. It became an obsession for Saul as he and his army tried to find and kill David.

Later while David is hiding from Saul's men he wrote this in **Psalms 59:1-2**, **Deliver me from my enemies, O God; be my fortress against those who are attacking me. Deliver me from evildoers and save me from those who are after my blood.** There were other occasions where David was in mortal danger and he still continued to seek God's protection. He allowed God to fight his battles. David actually had opportunities to kill Saul, but he did not, choosing to not kill God's anointed king. That is truly allowing God to fight the battle.

How do you fight life's battles? It is particularly hard for men to give up control. We tend to do what men do, that is figuring out how to do it on our own. That is our normal reaction. Sometimes it has to be really, really bad before we turn to God. I have learned some valuable lessons over the years that I should have trusted God for the proper solution and outcome much sooner. I know some serious challenges, like major health issues for us or our family can be very difficult.

I figured out that if I give it to God, particularly things I cannot change it can give me a peace that you would not expect. Trusting in God is a continuing process, not just a onetime event. **Psalms 20:7** tells us, **Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.** Trust in the Lord for your life's battle, whether it is a family concern or any of a myriad of the things we face.

*Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Tan Son Nhut Association



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

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

MISS AMERICA, 1972 - AT TSN

By: Arnold Lilly

377th SPS

Mar 72 - Mar 74

I was sorting things after our move to Virginia and found a picture that was given to me by Miss America 1972 when she toured Vietnam with the USO Show. I did some internet searching and found several articles related to the USO Tour of Vietnam in August 1972 by Miss America and some of her competition in the Miss America competition. One photo was autographed by several ladies. It was attached to an article scribed by Retired LtCol Hardy W. Bryan from St. Petersburg, Florida.

I am attaching an image of the one that Miss America gave me at the Base Theater during her tour. I am attaching the photo posted by LtCol Bryan also but it may be subject to copyright rules. It can be found on Google Images.

LAUREL LEA SHAFER

MISS AMERICIA 1972

...I was assigned to Tan Son Nhut Airbase, Vietnam [5 March 1972~29 March 1973. My duty was Flight Commander of "Charlie Flight" Law Enforcement, 377 Security Police Squadron. Charlie Flight was the night shift ~ 2200 hours to 0600 hours. I was also the Manager of the Base Theater during the daytime movie schedule under supervision of the Morale, Welfare, Recreation Officer. We showed the movies available through the Armed Forces Motion Picture Service [AAFMPSPAC]. The movie was shown three times during the day and another crew showed it three times during the evening.

In mid-August, 1972 the MWR Officer, Captain Vince Catalano, Jr. brought a group to the Theater during my duty to scout the facility for the USO performance of the Miss America party. Miss America 1972, Laurel Lea Shafer greeted me and gave me an autographed picture. She talked about her current tour of the military bases in Vietnam, which was her last official duty as Miss America. After her tour of Vietnam she was attending the pageant for selecting the next Miss America.

Her conversation was all about me and my well being, length of my service career and wishing me health and happiness during my Vietnam service. After touring the theater facility they were taken to the shopping facilities of the Base Exchange on a walking tour greeting US military members and giving autographs. I was unable to attend the USO Show\performance due to my military duty schedule. My morale was uplifted by the casual contact and conversation with members of the touring group.

MORE 



RECORD OF SERVICE AND PROFICIENCY				
PERIOD	POSITION	RATING	INSTALLATION	ISSUING OFFICER
FROM Jan 72	ASST MGR	Excellent	Tan Son	VINCENT A. CATALANO JR
TO Feb 73	CASHIER		Huat, Viet Nam	
FROM				
TO				
FROM				
TO				

ARMY/AIR FORCE MOTION PICTURE SERVICE-PACIFIC	
SERVICE RECORD CARD	
ARNOLD R. LILLY	
NAME	MSGT 377 Security Police Squadron
RANK	ORGANIZATION
 SIGNATURE	
ISSUED BY (SIGNATURE) VINCENT A. CATALANO JR.	
Capt, 377 Air Base Wing (SSR) 11 Feb 73	
DATE & ORG.	DATE ISSUED

MORE TET PICTURES FROM TERRY LOVE



Damaged Aircraft



Damage by the Main Gate

EDITOR'S NOTE: Yea, another note! The next page contains excerpts from the official diary/report of the Chaplain section at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, February, 1962.

Not all the days are shown, since I wanted to show the info when, unfortunately, the first USAF casualties happened in Viet Nam. I still have the original "onionskin" carbon copy of the report.

And, yes, the "Airman Fry" listed was me. And the diary/report was typed at that card table, my official office. The Chaplain's "desk" is the wood table in the corner.

2 February 1962. Chaplain Kilpatrick was busy all morning with C123 plane crash. He visited various units within the Ranch Hand organization and made arrangements for a Memorial Service to be held at 100 hours, 3 February. Airman Fry went to Bien Hoa as a guard, then cleaned the Chapel and helped out in the Mail room.

3 February 1962. The Break Hanger was turned into the Chapel for the Memorial Service, which was held at 100 hours. Attendance was about 300, including BG Anthis, and Ambassador Nolting, and many VNAF Officers and men. Airman Fry cleaned the Chapel and made things ready for Sunday Services.

9 February 1962. Chaplain Kilpatrick, Airman Fry, and Sgt Ortiz, went to the VNAF School to look over their playground equipment (1 broken swing), and then went into town to buy materials to fix said swing. Later in the day, Chaplain Kilpatrick, Airman Fry, and Sgt Ortiz went into the Plaza Hotel and through the Mess Sgt there, secured the services of a 5 piece rock and roll combo to play at Tan Son Nhut on 10 Feb.

10 February 1962. Airman Fry cleaned the Chapel and got things ready for Sunday morning services. Chaplain Kilpatrick prepared Sunday sermon and remained at site to help out combo which played for the troops from 5 - 7 p.m.

11 February 1962. Catholic Mass was held at 1000 hours, attendance was 17. Protestant Sunday School was held at 1015 hours, attendance of 3. Protestant Worship Service held at 1100 hours, attendance of 28.

12 February 1962. Chaplain Kilpatrick had to cancel trip to Nha Trang due to emergency (plane crash). Chaplain Kilpatrick prepared letters to Chs Davy, Radtke, Richards and Venters. Airman Fry typed same and sent them out. Chaplain Kilpatrick kept abreast of news of plane crash and met helicopter when bodies were returned to Det 8. Airman Fry had 2nd ADVON CQ from 1630 - 0730, 12-13 Feb.

13 February 1962. Chaplain Kilpatrick, Airman Fry, and Sgt Ortiz, went to Bien Hoa (Det 9) by truck. Met with Det 9 Commander and made arrangements for a Memorial Service to be held at 1830 hours 13 Feb, then returned to Tan Son Nhut. Chaplain Kilpatrick and Airman Fry met the Bien Hoa Courier Run (c-47) at the Terminal at 1515 hours, and returned to Bien Hoa with it. Visited the men there and made final arrangements for Memorial Service. Service began at 1847 hours due to late arrival of VIP's. VIP's in attendance were: General Harkins, General McGarr, General Timmes, General Weede, General Anthis, and General Le Van Ty, Chief of the VN Armed Forces, Mr. Nolting, U.S. Ambassador to Viet Nam, Mr. Ansbacher, Chief of USIS, Col Turcott, Col Ritchie, Col Osborn, Lt Col Beebe, Maj Bentz, Maj Kius, Lt Col Aquila, Maj Bartlett, Maj Fahy, Capt Perry, Capt Richardson. Chaplain Kilpatrick and Airman Fry returned to Saigon in VIP airplane.

14 February 1962. Chaplain Kilpatrick wrote a rough draft of his Memorial Service address. Airman Fry obtained the names of the VIP's in attendance and also names of the deceased personnel, and typed up the address.

You can tell it was an old typewriter, and I also had a number of typos - and since they weren't easy to erase, what you see is what they got.

Who knows? Maybe in those early days, I didn't even have an eraser!!



Peace Was at Hand

...or so the World was told on 27 January 1973 when the Paris Peace Accords were signed ending the Vietnam War. To those of us serving in the 12th Reconnaissance Technical Intelligence Squadron (RITS) on Tan Son Nhut Air Base, it was a mixed bag of joy that the war was allegedly over, uncertainty as to what we as individuals and a unit would be doing next, and staying the course by continuing to exploit current imagery still being flown over South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia and perform bomb damage from the 12 days of Linebacker II Operations over North Vietnam. Individually, "short timers" among us would be DEROS'ing back to the "Big BX", while the rest of us learned we would be packing up all our classified files, our safes filled with classified materials, and relocating to Udorn Royal Thai Air Base, in Northeast Thailand in increments via C-130s. We would stand-down the 12th RITS and "move in with" the 432nd Reconnaissance Technical Squadron at Udorn.



Col James L. Paseur, Commander 12th RITS



2nd Lt Steven A. James encases the 12th RITS Flag

In short order, members of the 4-Party Commission designed to supervise the Cease Fire descended upon Tan Son Nhut AB. This included Polish and Hungarian Warsaw Pact officers who were now eating their meals with us in the Officer's Club and freely walking the streets of Tan Son Nhut – talk about an OPSEC threat.

As we moved, however, the reconnaissance missions kept flying and we had to keep exploiting the imagery. One Lieutenant described the situation as follows, “I came off night shift working several Bug (BQM -134 Buffalo Hunter drone) missions, packed the RITS exploitation floor (i.e., light tables, maps, safes, etc.), got it out the door, evacuated the 12 RITS building, stood on the flight line waiting for our aircraft, flew to Udorn, guarded the classified pallets at Udorn, then plotted / worked the day's Bug missions and then reported to the CBPO at Udorn for in-processing. I was on duty for over 36 hours. As I recall there were around 30 of us at the CBPO that were in the same condition – really grouchy and falling asleep on our feet. The CBPO Chief relented and sent us home to shower and sleep – which for me was the Udorn Hotel in downtown Udon Thani (as there was no room in the BOQ). When I woke-up I didn't even have any idea how to get back to base.”

By the end of March 1973, all traces of the 12th RITS would be gone and all tactical US Air Force photoreconnaissance exploitation operations in SEA were running smoothly out of the 432nd RTS at Udorn Royal Thai AB.

Dick Rewalt and Rick Driesbach
12th Reconnaissance Intelligence Technical Squadron (RITS)
1972-73

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Knowing we had a number of 12th RITS members in TSNA, I did a search of my Master List, and came up with this list:

Richard A.	Carvell	rcarvell@astate.edu	Jun 70 - Jun 71	12th RITS
Stephen	Jones	sj09009@yahoo.com	Jul 71 - Jan 73	12th RITS
Wayne A.	Voltz	gehrig1941@yahoo.com	May 72 - Feb 73	12th RITS
Margaret H.	Anno	stephen.anno@gmail.com	Nov 72 - Feb 73	12th RITS
Mark H.	Bastian	mhbastian@msn.com	Apr 70 - Jan 71	12th RITS
M. Lee	Derrickson	Lee.Derrickson@mchsi.com	Jul 71 - Oct 72	12th RITS
Rick	Driesbach	rick.driesbach@gmail.com	Oct 72 - Mar 73	12th RITS
John C.	Kuhaupt		Jul 67 - Jul 68	12th RITS
Gregory M.	Lowe	gmlowe1945@gmail.com	Aug 72 - Jan73	12th RITS
Richard	Rewalt	springlake@cheqnet.net	Jul 72 - Feb 73	12th RITS
Bruce E.	Wimmer	bewimme@attglobal.net	Sep 72 - Feb 73	12th RITS
Craig	Campen	cscsc74@gmail.com	Dec 71-Dec 72	12th RITS
Michael R.	Mitchell	mrmitch1947@att.net	Apr 67 - Nov 68	12th RITS
Harley S.	Badger	chipbadger@oh.rr.com	Apr 67 - Jul 70	12th RITS

FAVORITE SAYINGS



It only takes one slow walking person in the grocery store to destroy the illusion that I'm a nice person.

I can't believe I forgot to go to the gym today. That's seven years in a row now.

Being a little older, I am very fortunate to have someone to call and check on me every day. He's from India, and is very concerned about my car warranty.

It's fine to eat a test grape in the produce section, but take one bite of rotisserie chicken, and it's all “sir, you need to leave!”

Tan Son Nhut Association
P. O. Box 236
Penryn PA 17564

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



R. C. SCOTT, SR. PHOTO

NEW MEMBER

Ralph W. Richards Elkridge MD rsrichards@usa.net Dec 69 - Dec 70 460 AMS ECM Shop

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