



REVETMENTS



The Official Journal of the Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

May 2026-Memorial Day

Just a reminder

Revetments, our newsletter, will now be published every three months. Please feel free to contribute, including stories, pictures or information for future publications

As noted last month the website updates were a challenge. We are happy to report that Charles Penley and Chad Towery spent weeks updating the website. We are truly indebted to them and want to thank them for all of their help.

The mailing address is:

**Tan Son Nhut
Association
810 Cindy Blair Way
Lexington KY 40503
Contact Information:
Andy Csordas:
acsordasvvet@gmail.com**





II. Number and Percentage Breakdown of Total Military Casualties by Status and Casualty Type

TOTAL DEATHS BY STATUS: Number and Percentage

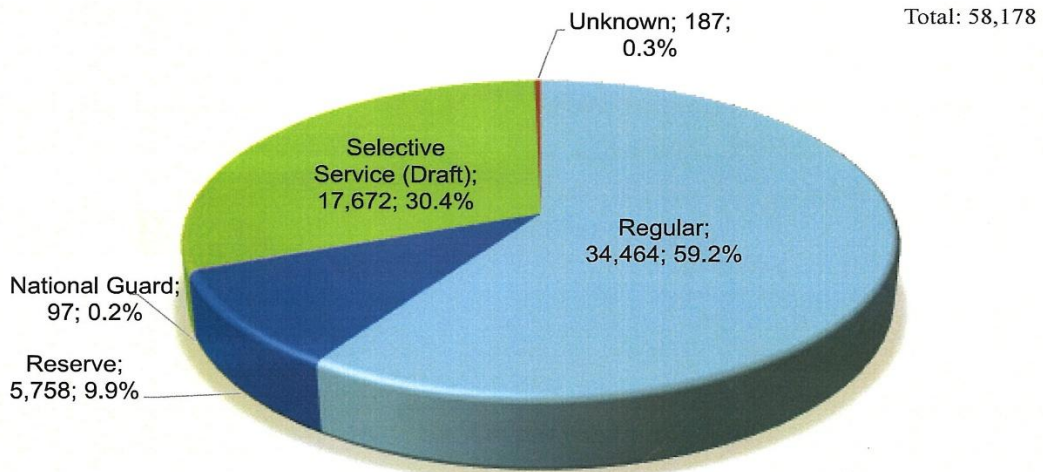


Figure 1. Status

TOTAL DEATHS BY CASUALTY TYPE: Number and Percentage

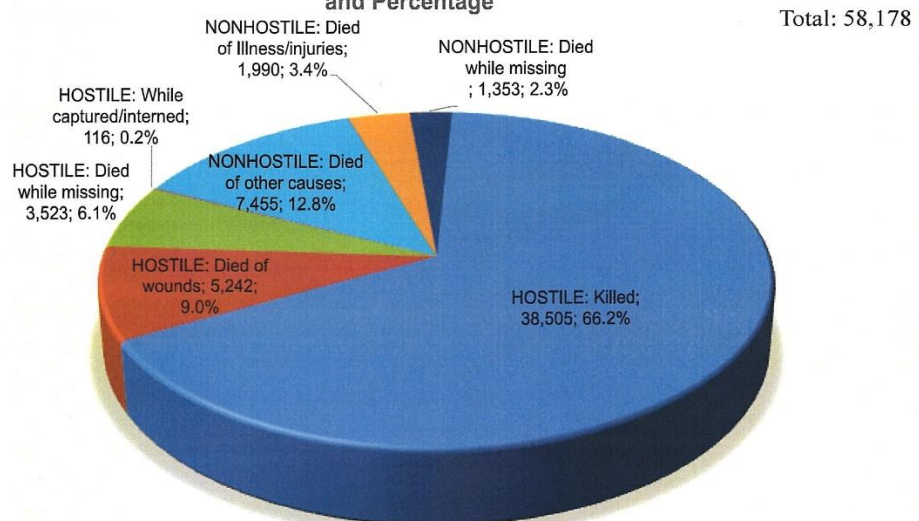


Figure 2. Casualty Type



Source: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial—<http://thewall-usa.com/summary.asp>

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From: *United States Military Casualties in Southeast Asia: 1957-1979*

Compiled by Vietnam War Veteran: David Wilson

Chaplain's Corner-Memorial Day

By Andy Csordas, Associate Chaplain

As we approach Memorial Day this year, we are again reminded of our Brothers in Arms that made the ultimate sacrifice. We also need to never forget their families as well, so if you know of a friend or neighbors' family that were affected by the loss of a family member it is a good idea to acknowledge the sacrifice of their family member.



Our founding fathers knew there would be sacrifices as we fought for our freedom. The second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence says we are endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights including Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Those rights included a caveat relating to the success of our form of government. **John Adams** famously stated, **"Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to a government of any other"**. **George Washington** said, **"Religion and morality are the essential pillars of civil society"**.

Virtually all of our founders were devout Christians, even Franklin, who is said to not be a Christian, implored the founding fathers to pray for guidance as they tried to establish our constitution. **Proverbs 13:34** tells us, **"Godliness makes a nation great, but sin is a disgrace to any people"**.

I have observed that most cultures do not value life as we do, that even includes societies we tend to think are similar to ours such as western Europe. As I worked in western Europe back in the 1990s that actually surprised me. Of course, even western Europe is so much better than others, can we talk about Stalin, Hitler, North Korea or even Iran today? They just don't value life unless it is the leader's individual life. These leaders will sacrifice anyone and anything to save their life and retain their power.

Our military motto of not leaving anyone behind is different than the rest of the world. Think of Lt. Col. Hal Moore at La Drang, and others. Of course, men still end up missing and captured, but we will do everything possible to bring our troops back.

Scripture tells us to value life; God knew us in the womb. **Jeremiah 1:5** says, **"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.."**. what an incredible concept, the creator of the universe knew us before we were formed. He also knew what he had planned for our life. Have you accepted God as your savior? He has a plan for your life, and for your eternal life.

Unfortunately, God hates sin and will not allow any sin enter heaven. Forgiveness of that sin (we all sin) is through accepting Jesus Christ as your savior, He, sinless, takes on our sin and we can then become and do what God had planned for our life all along when he knew us in the womb.

Remember, like our military motto, God does not want to leave anyone behind. **John 14:6** tells us, **Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."** If you have questions I am available to talk.



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

Fred Benda sent me a number of pictures from his time in country. Some are included here with captions generated by Fred.

Some of us received awards from the South Vietnamese military while in country for things that directly supported them. Fred received an Air Medal for building housing for VNAF personnel and their Families, see award document below.

554 CAS

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH AIR FORCE (MACAF)
 APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

REPLY TO: DFY
 ATTN OF: DFY
 DATE: 28 April 1971

SUBJECT: Foreign Decoration/Device

TO: HQ 7AF (DBA)
 APO 96307

- Attached are award elements pertaining to the award of the Republic of Vietnam Air Service Medal, Honor Class to Sergeant Frederic R. Benda Jr., 028-38-0862.
- The requirements for award of this decoration/device have been satisfied. The only elements received through official channels for this decoration are attached and no other elements are forthcoming.
- The above individual is authorized to accept this award and have it posted to his personnel records, in accordance with Para 5-3, AFM 900-3, 20 November 1969. Instructions for wear of foreign decorations are contained in AFM 35-10.
- If recipient has been reassigned, request elements be forwarded to his new organization. If the current address is unknown, a request for locator service will be submitted to USAFMPC (AFPMORO) for officers, or USAFMPC (AFFMORA) for airmen. Randolph AFB, Texas 78148. Elements of award will not be transmitted with the request for locator service.
- Remarks:

FOR THE COMMANDER
 JAMES F. DWYER JR., Major, USAF
 Director, Awards and Decorations

1 Atch.
 Award Elements

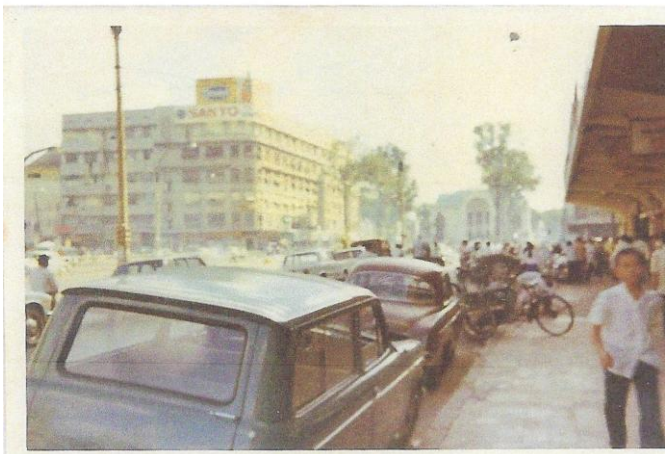
#16 Award some of us got for building the housing project for the VNAF NCO's and their families



Fred, Doug Emch and crew installing matting and drainage for the 8th Airport Taxiway

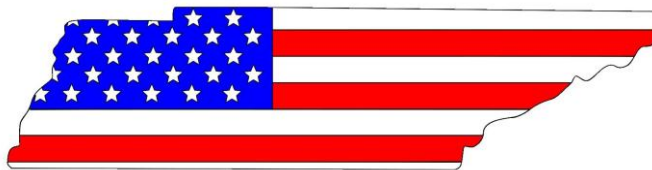


More picture working on the 8th Airport Taxiway, 1200 area.



I suspect most of us recognize downtown Saigon

Upcoming Retreat



Looking for the best things to do in Pigeon Forge? Pigeon Forge is packed with unforgettable experiences for visitors of all ages and is very Veteran friendly.

Visit Iconic attractions like:

Dollywood, the award-winning theme park, and the Island in Pigeon Forge, where you will find rides, music, restaurants and more.

Discover interactive exhibits and hands-on learning at museums like WonderWorks and the TITANIC Museum.

Attractions from go-kart racing and mini-golf to world class shows and dinner theaters are there. Explore the most exciting and fun things to do in Pigeon Forge and make memories that last a lifetime. Whether you're here for the retreat or a full vacation, the adventure never stops in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

We look forward to seeing you in August 2026, just to "hang out" and relax, share stories and fond memories of Tan Son Nhut, and just have a great retreat getting to renew acquaintances or meet other veterans and their families. Please complete the registration form below and return it to Paul Mortensen as noted so we know how to plan.

Leconte Hotel and Conference Center

410 Pine Mountain Road

Pigeon Forge, TN 37863

865-428-8350

August 24-25, 2026

2026 Tan Son Nhut Retreat Registration



LeConte Hotel and Conference

Center 410 Pine Mountain Rd

Pigeon Forge,

TN 37863

865-428-8350

August 24-26, 2026

**Please make your room reservations
directly with the hotel.**

NAME _____ GUEST NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TEL (_____) _____ EMAIL _____

Total number of attendees for this registration form _____

No formal activities are planned except for our opening reception, which is a lunch on August 24, 2026 at 11:00 hours. All Tan Son Nhut veterans (anyone assigned to, or who passed through Tan Son Nhut airbase) and their guests are invited and welcome to attend. Attendees are responsible for the purchase of their own food, drinks, and admission to attractions. Many members may choose to have other meals together or have small get togethers to share stories and fond memories.

There is no charge for registering for this retreat, however, members who would like to make a \$25.00 cash donation at the lunch are welcome to do so.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND RETURN IT TO PAUL MORTENSEN EITHER BY MAIL (1214 N Earhart Parkway, Payson AZ 85541) OR VIA EMAIL TO TSNAreunions@gmail.com SO WE KNOW WHO WILL BE ATTENDING.

We hope to see you at the Retreat

Andy and Rena had a chance to have dinner with Ruth Inman, one of our 2025 Scholarship Winners. She is attending Cincinnati Tech. It was a delightful evening as we were joined by her Father and Grandmother. As a side note we did not have the wine, it was the best place for a picture at the restaurant.



Use Memorial Day this year to teach young people what the holiday really means, but also use it to celebrate our freedom and why we are able to have freedom.



The Tan Son Nhut Association continues to fund existing Scholarships, but will not award any new Scholarships.

This year we will write checks for four scholarships that started in 2023. We will write nine checks for scholarships that started in 2024. And we will write eleven checks for scholarships that started last year, 2025. The total funds to be disbursed this year is \$38,250.

When we are finished the Association will have disbursed over \$238,000 for 42 Students who have attended colleges and universities all over the United States.



May God Bless You, Your Family and our Country this Memorial Day as we remember our fallen comrades.



**In Memory of
Robert "Bob" Burdick,**

TSNA Life Member, passed away in Marquette, MI on March 9, 2026. Bob was a Crew Chief on F101s while at Tan Son Nhut.

As we age our membership has diminished.

If you know someone who has passed away, please let us know. You can send information to Andy Csordas
[information to Andy Csordas
acsordasvet@gmail.com](mailto:acsordasvet@gmail.com)

Or mail to:

810 Cindy Blair Way, Lexington, KY 40503

We want to put in a shameless plug for **Vietnam Vet Radio** and the wonderful folks that provide great music from our era, SFC Bennie and Delight Blount, plus other DJs. If you have not been listening, check it out!



**WELCOME
HOME
BROTHERS**



Revetments is an official publication of the **Tan Son Nhut Association, Inc.**

**C/O Andy Csordas
810 Cindy Blair Way
Lexington KY 40503**

The Association is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt Veterans' organization

The organization is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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Vice President: Bruce Wimmer

Secretary/Treasurer: Andy Csordas

Director of Meeting Planning: Paul Mortensen

Director of Membership and Revetments Editor: Andy Csordas

Director at Large: Rick Cooley

Web Master: Kerry Nivens/Chad Towry

Associate Chaplain: Andy Csordas

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Rev. Dr. James M. Warrington (1926 - 2022), Chaplain: 1997-2018

Rev. Jimmy Smith (1945-2025), Chaplain: 2028-2025

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Wayne Salisbury, (1940-2014), President 2004-2007

Robert Robinson Gales, President 2007-2011

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Richard Cooley, President, 2023-2025

Web Site: www.tsna.org

