



REVETMENTS



The Official Journal of the Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

Fall, September 2026

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

The website is now up to date. We are truly indebted to Charles Penley and Chad Towery and want to thank them for all of their help.

Our mailing address is:

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Let's not forget this is the 25th Anniversary of 9/11.



The picture above is of the Pentagon after the 9/11 attacks.

The picture to the left is the AirForce Memorial in Washington DC.

It is located on the approach path of the plane that struck the Pentagon.

They are presently expanding Arlington Cemetery; it will wrap around the sides of the Air Force Memorial.





NINE RULES

FOR PERSONNEL OF US MILITARY
ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM

The Vietnamese have paid a heavy price in suffering for their long fight against the communists. We military men are in Vietnam now because their government has asked us to help its soldiers and people in winning their struggle. The Viet Cong will attempt to turn the Vietnamese people against you. You can defeat them at every turn by the strength, understanding, and generosity you display with the people. Here are nine simple rules:

DISTRIBUTION — 1 to each member of the
United States Armed Forces in Vietnam

NINE RULES

- 1 Remember we are guests here: We make no demands and seek no special treatment.
- 2 Join with the people! Understand their life, use phrases from their language and honor their customs and laws.
- 3 Treat women with politeness and respect.
- 4 Make personal friends among the soldiers and common people.
- 5 Always give the Vietnamese the right of way.
- 6 Be alert to security and ready to react with your military skill.
- 7 Don't attract attention by loud, rude or unusual behavior.
- 8 Avoid separating yourself from the people by a display of wealth or privilege.
- 9 Above all else you are members of the U S Military Forces on a difficult mission, responsible for all your official and personal actions. Reflect honor upon yourself and the United States of America.



This sign was in the parking lot where the volleyball court was located in front of MACV across from Westmoreland's house.

Does rule number six from above apply in this case?

Chaplain's Corner-Our Countries Founding and 9/11

Andy Csordas-Associate Chaplain

As we approach the 25th anniversary of 9/11 many of us will have mixed thoughts. Certainly, we were angry about the attack. We wondered how the various agencies of our government simply failed by not protecting us. We were in awe of the heroes that day, many were ordinary civilians, who stepped up and prevented more deaths, but paid with their life. And of course, we cannot forget the incredible sacrifice of the New York Fire Department, NYPD, the Pentagon and the passengers on Flight 93.

I have not been to New York since that day and for that reason I have not been to Ground Zero. I have been to the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. If you are anywhere near central Pennsylvania a detour to the memorial is well worth the time and effort to stop. In addition, our family knew one of the naval officers killed at the Pentagon.



We, the American people, tend to have a very short memory. Why in the world do we allow what is happening politically with some elected officials openly trying to end our republic as it was founded. Our young people do not remember 9/11, just as they do not relate to the Vietnam War, etc. What happened to the unity or nation had after the attacks?



We have an obligation to make sure our young people learn the truth about the founding of our country, how it is different than any other government formed before that time. **Federal law** (36 U.S.C. § 106) urges state, county, city, and town civil and educational authorities to make plans for proper observance and to provide **complete instruction to citizens** about their responsibilities and opportunities as U.S. citizens. How many of our schools actually provide that instruction?

In my opinion we need to stand up for the original intent and our founding documents. How many politicians want to get rid of the Senate, the Supreme Court and completely abandon laws that have served us for over two centuries.

Our Founding Fathers studied the scriptures and used those principles to create a government that was unlike any before. Benjamin Franklin told the constitutional convention that they needed to pray to Almighty God for guidance or the Revolutionary War would have been a waste of treasure and blood.

Our government is based on God's law, not government law. The Declaration of Independence specifically says, **"to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them"**. Another quote is, **"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ!"**— Patrick Henry



"In the aftermath of the tragic terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush proclaimed September 14 a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance. At the Washington National Cathedral, he joined former presidents, national leaders, and a grieving nation for a moving service featuring Scripture readings, hymns, prayers, and messages of hope and determination. During this time of profound national sorrow, Americans once again turned to God for comfort, strength, and guidance as the country dealt with tragedy and began the healing process."**

"These examples display clear and convincing proof of the prevalence of faith not only in everyday life but also as an indispensable positive influence in shaping America's national public life. Our nation's history affirms a clear and firm reliance on God and the Bible. These representative examples are well-documented historically and readily available for the average American to discover online. Although much of this history used to be well known, sadly most Americans have not been taught these stories and therefore are largely unfamiliar with them."**

Let's do our part to make sure no one forgets and to teach our young people how blessed they are to live in this country.

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

** From the Wall Builders website

Notes From our Pigeon Forge Meeting

Thank you so much to those who were able to attend our retreat in Pigeon Forge TN. Your presence, enthusiasm, and willingness to participate helped make the experience truly meaningful and memorable. Your willingness to share and give of your time and talents and your donations of cash and door prizes are appreciated. We got to know each other better during our opening reception, then the Board of Directors met to work on issues affecting the organization. Following the board meeting, we had the most delicious barbecue lunch prepared by 2 Coaches Catering, and had a fantastic discussion about our organization during our general membership meeting.

Throughout the retreat, we shared wonderful conversations, enjoyed moments of reflection, and created opportunities to connect with one another in a relaxed and supportive setting. From the group activities and thoughtful discussions to the laughter and informal moments we shared, each part of the experience was made special by your involvement.

We are grateful for the energy, openness, and positive spirit that each of you brought to the retreat and especially our discussions during our general membership meeting. Your participation helped create a welcoming atmosphere and contributed greatly to its success.

Thank you again for being part of this special experience. We hope you returned feeling refreshed, inspired, and connected, and that you will carry the memories and insights from our time together into the days ahead.

***The Tan Son Nhut Board of Directors Thank You.
Paul Mortensen, President***

Board Meeting Recap

The Board met while were in Pigeon Forge. Items discussed included: the State of the Association, the Future of the Association, the financial health of the Association and Scholarships.

Our Association continues to dwindle as members pass and are no longer with us. In addition, many members are no longer able to travel, etc. With that in mind we anticipate circumstances requiring us to eventually shut down the Tan Son Nhut Association, but that is not right now. It happens to all Veterans organizations; we are no exception. Paul will be researching the members who do not respond to emails, etc., to determine their status.

The association is financially stable with enough reserves to continue and to fund the scholarships we have awarded until their completion. We approved an additional amount to disburse to the remaining scholarship recipients which will be funded by our existing Scholarship Account. When we send the scholarship checks next year, we will still have 18 active scholarships in place. We wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the scholarship program, particularly the Bessette family.

It is with sadness that we discuss the future, not right now, disbanding of the association, as it has truly been a family, not just a veteran's organization.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Andy Csordas, Secretary/Treasurer

Some photos from the Pigeon Forge Meeting

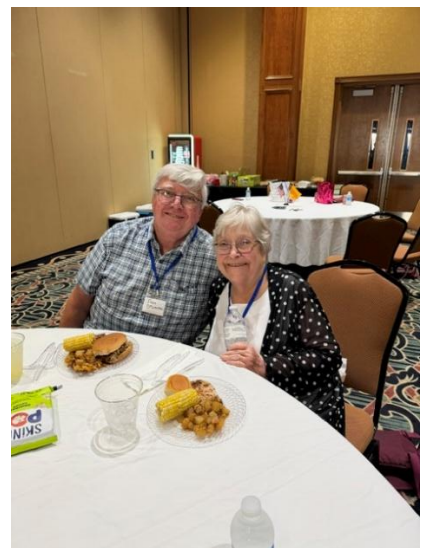


We at the Award Winning LeConte Hotel & Convention Center always honor our Veterans Every Day but occasionally they honor us as well. We have an Amazing Group in that wanted to present our Director of Sales - Christy & our Hotel with a patch for our Veterans Display Case. We want to say Thank You for Your Service & for allowing us to host your TAN SON NHUT REUNION!!





It was great to see old and new friends!



Recently we sent out information pertaining to a request from Vietnam about locating graves of North Vietnamese combatants killed during Tet of 1968 at Tan Son Nhut. Unfortunately, I should have checked with Charles Penley before that information was sent out. It turns out Charles was very involved in locating the graves years ago and said this request was likely a scam. We so appreciate Charles and all he has done for the Association over the years!

For that reason, I do believe we should ignore this request, particularly if you have contacted the requestor as it might be a scam to get your contact information. My apologies for the mistake.

Andy Csordas, Secretary/Treasurer

Some pictures from the 68 Tet attack at Tan Son Nhut



Members of the 377th SPS, supported by armor, move to resecure Tan Son Nhut AB after penetration by Communist forces on January 31st, 1968.

Above picture is of the O51 Bunker after the attack. We all appreciate what the 377th did to protect the base during Tet.



Does anyone have a photograph of **Adrian Cronauer** from when he attended our reunion?

We have recently run afoul of the Associated Press because the picture we had of Adrian on our Memorial page was copied from one of their publications and we do not have a license to use it.

If you have a good photo of him from the reunion he attended, please forward it to Andy Csordas, see below for information.

We are attempting to update our list of members who have passed.

If you know someone who has passed away, please let us know. You can send information to Andy Csordas
acsordasvvet@gmail.com

Or mail to:

810 Cindy Blair Way, Lexington, KY 40503



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

C/O Andy Csordas

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

The organization is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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Director of Membership and Revetments Editor: Andy Csordas

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

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Web Site: www.tsna.org

**WELCOME
HOME
BROTHERS**

