the swash plate

MONTHLY CHPA NEWSLETTER

July 2015

From The President

Milan Tesanovich

We're Having a Party (the CHPA Convention and Election) and Nearly Nobody's Coming!

First, I want to remind everyone that the CHPA is fewer than 60-days out from its *annual business meeting* and *biennial convention and Board of Directors and Officers election* and is fewer than 30-days out from the deadline for obtaining a drastically reduced hotel room rate at our event venue (the Indianapolis Hilton Hotel and Suites). You can find all the information you need to sign up for both the event and the hotel on our website http://www.chpa-us.org.

Next, I want to inform everyone that the CHPA has over 500 dues current members; yet fewer than 10 have signed up to attend this event so far. That causes me to be concerned as to why. Since February, we have been sending periodic snippets of information about the annual meeting and election, about the local events planned in Indianapolis, and about the on-your-own attractions available in and around Indianapolis. Indianapolis is a great place to visit and partake of the local attractions and cuisine. Therefore, I don't think it is lack of information or knowledge about the annual meeting or the tours and attractions in and around Indianapolis that is causing the low numbers of participation. It must be something else.

So, as I wrote this month's President's message, I paused to consider several questions that arise when I tried to decipher why we have such a low participation rate at this moment in time. Those questions are: (1) Why, less than 60-days out from our biennial election of our Board of Directors and Officers, do we have such a low number of members signed up to participate? (2) Is that low participation rate related in any way to why each of us initially joined the CHPA? (3) What exactly did and do each of us expect to receive from our CHPA membership? (4) Why do each of us who have been dues current members for more than one-year stay on each year as a member, in other words, why is it that for nearly all of us who stay on, our only participation in CHPA is paying our annual dues and buying CHPA branded store items? (5) Why did over 700 former members decline to renew their membership? (6) What

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Presenting!

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- **"Robert N. Tredway Award"**
  HAI News Staff
- **"Nui Ba Ra"**
  Donald "Deuce" Gaudreau

And much, much more!

would motivate those former members to rejoin the CHPA? (7) What would motivate each of us current members to become more involved in the CHPA, either its governance and/or its programs?

Over the next few months, you will be receiving surveys designed to answer those and other questions. Please participate in those surveys. The honest answers to those questions will help us to improve the CHPA's governance, its programs, and its service to its members.

Hoping to see you in Indianapolis in September,

Above The Best

Jay Brown

CHPA has partnered with Artist Bryan Snuffer to offer an 18x24" Commemorative Edition Print "Above the Best," honoring combat helicopter pilots and crews from Vietnam to present. This Limited Edition Print is signed by the Artist and numbered. This is a special limited edition run of 300 pieces and would make an excellent gift to yourself or a fellow Combat Aircrew member. Each print lists for $125.00 plus shipping. Click here for complete ordering information:
http://www.bryansnuffer.com/prints/prints.html#!/ARMY-Above-the-Best-18x24/p/44898323/category=12403394

The artist will donate 30% of the sales of this print to CHPA. CHPA will apply that donation to the annual Christmas Boxes for the Troops program and the sponsorship of new Active Duty members.

Share the "Swash"

Please feel free to forward this issue of "The Swash Plate" to your colleagues, potential members and other interested parties!

Sponsorship

Please consider sponsoring CHPA's programs. You may make tax deductible donations to support the Goldie Fund, CHPA's Scholarship program, the Holiday Boxes for the Troops, T-shirts for Heroes or the Association. For further information please look at Sponsorship at the website, http://www.chpa-us.org.

How Are We Doing?

Jay Brown

Every month we try to bring you articles and notices that interest all of our members. Of course that entails gathering news items and articles from various sources and varying topics, from the humorous to serious news of world events. We hope we're meeting your needs and providing entertainment and we'd love to hear from you on whether we're meeting those goals.

If you have a comment or suggestion on what we've done well, where we could improve or want to submit a story drop us an email at HQ@chpa-us.org or give us a call at 800-832-5144 and let us know. Always of particular interest are stories from our members and supporters. Anything from tales of woe in Flight School to genuine TINS TIW stories can be submitted. So drop us a line and tell your story.

Richard Yood, MAS
Vietnam
67 - 68 & 70 - 71
Master Army Aviator, Ret

vernon
graphics | promotions

Unit Insignia or Logos on:
Coins, Caps, Shirts, Knives, Awards, Mugs, Badges and Much More!
(Some minimums will apply)

Contact Rick Yood
850-222-7755, Fax: 850-222-2266 Cell: 850-339-0116

www.myvernon.biz/rickyood

Reunions and Gatherings

Are you planning a reunion or event that may be of interest to our members? Let us help you get the word out and support veterans groups of all sizes and locations. Just send a message with the information to HQ@chpa-us.org. If you have a logo, send that along as well. Be sure to include accurate contact and registration information and we'll take care of the rest.

Battery E, 82nd Artillery. Good day, fellow Woodpeckers. E Battery/82nd Arty, 1st Air Cav Div, a direct support aviation unit of the 1st Cav Div Artillery will be holding their reunion October 12 to the 14 at the Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino, Santa Fe, NM. Mark down on your calendars and if you want, stay longer. When guests call to make their reservations ask them to call our In House Reservations Department at 505-455-5555, then push #1, then push #2 to be connected to that staff. Contact: David McClimans, d_mac550@centurylink.net.

187th AHC - The Reunion will be held 7 - 12 November, 2015 in Orange Beach AL. View details of the reunion at 187thahc.org under the reunion tab. For questions and information Contact Reunion host Ray Root by email at rayroot1@gmail.com or by telephone at 251-213-8846.

Why You Need To Attend the Convention

Indianapolis, Indiana (September 24-27, 2015)

Did you know that according to our By-Laws, our *biennial convention*, the time when we elect our Board of Directors and Officers, is held in the odd numbered years of the calendar (2013, 2015, 2017, and so on). That means that your Board of Directors is elected every two years for a two-year term.

Additionally, our By-Laws require 12 members to comprise the Board of Directors. The Chairman of the Board is always the preceding term's President, *i.e*. the outgoing President assumes the Chairman position upon completion of that two-year term as President. Therefore, we will always elect 11 CHPA members to the Board during our biennial meeting. Some of those may be members who have sought re-election to the Board as permitted by our By-Laws. Others will be new Board members who are filling vacancies created by sitting Board members who have either reached the maximum period they may serve on the Board, or have otherwise elected not to continue as a Board member.

Serving on a Board of Directors/Trustees for any organization is a thankless task. Our By-Laws prohibit any Board member from realizing any financial gain from such service. If performed correctly, the role requires several hours of volunteer service governing the CHPA. That may include some travel and some financial costs (out-of-pocket expenses) for which the Director will likely *not* be reimbursed. But, you may be able to deduct those expenses on your personal tax return.

Five of the 11 Board members we elect at the meeting will become the CHPA's Officers – ***President***, ***Vice-President of Administration***, ***Vice-President of Membership***, ***Treasurer***, and ***Secretary***. Three of those officer positions (*President*, *Vice-President of Administration*, and *Vice-President of Membership*) have prerequisites to election to those offices. Each of those candidates **must** have been a dues current member of CHPA for at least a three-year period **AND must** have previously served on the CHPA Board for at least two-years (not necessarily consecutive) in order to assume that respective officer role. The remaining two officers (*Treasurer* and *Secretary*) need not have prior Board membership, but **must** have been dues current CHPA members for at least one-year prior to election to the Board.

Seven of the current serving Board members have expressed a willingness to run for re-election. Even assuming that all of those currently on the Board who are eligible for reelection, and who have expressed a willingness to continue to serve on the Board, do get reelected, we will still have four known vacancies on the Board.

So, I'm asking each of you to consider serving on the Board of Directors for the next two years, especially anyone who has an accounting and/or finance background who would be willing to serve as our Treasurer for at least the next two years.

Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting in Indianapolis in September.

CHPA 2015 Convention Information

Indianapolis, Indiana (September 24-27, 2015)

REUNION HOTEL: The Hilton Indianapolis Hotel and Suites, located at 120 W. Market Street, Indianapolis Indiana is our reunion hotel. **Reservations**: The Events Committee negotiated a rate of $129.00+ tax per night for the following room types: Traditional Queen; 2 Queen Beds Deluxe, Traditional King and 1 King Bed Deluxe. The hotel reservation website link is: <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/I/INDDNHF-COMHPA-20150922/index.jhtml>.

If you prefer to call and make your reservation, the number is 1-800-315-1906. If you are planning on attending the reunion, please make your hotel reservation as soon as possible. Deadline for taking advantage of this special room rate is August 23rd, 2015 or when the group block is "sold-out", whichever comes first. If you have special needs regarding your room, please make your reservation first so you have a confirmation number. Then contact Ashlee Anderson, our Convention Service Manager, by either email at Ashlee.Anderson@Hilton.com (preferred method) or calling (317) 822-5875 and she will be happy to assist you. The Hilton is one of the few hotels in downtown Indy who own their own garage so we were able to negotiate a parking rate of $10/daily for self-park and $18/daily for valet with in-out privileges. Attendees will enjoy free internet access in their rooms. The hotel restaurant, 120 West Market, is offering a complete buffet breakfast each morning during your stay for $10 (tax and tip included). The Hilton will provide you with the discount breakfast vouchers upon check-in.

TOURS: The Events Committee is excited to offer a couple of guided tours during the reunion for those who wish to partake. The first tour offered is the **Indiana War Memorial**, 431 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN. The tours (one Thursday afternoon and one Friday morning) will be conducted by BG J. Stewart Goodwin, USAF (Retired) who also happens to be the Executive Director. The mausoleum-style limestone and marble memorial was originally built to honor World War I veterans but now pays homage to Hoosiers who served during all wars. The memorial features a military museum with weapons, uniforms, flags, other collections, jeeps and even a Huey Cobra helicopter. The memorial has a working replica of the radio room of the USS Indianapolis that is staffed by Navy veterans. The Shrine Room, which has 24 stained glass windows, is not to be missed. The Indiana War Memorial is approximately ½ mile from the hotel. The tour lasts approximately 1 ½ - 2 hours. General Goodwin has requested his tours be limited to 20-25 individuals each, so if you are interested in this tour, please sign up early.

The second tour (Friday afternoon) is **Lucas Oil Stadium** where the Indianapolis Colts play their home games. This is a behind-the-scenes tour of this state-of-the-art sports mecca. Lucas Oil Stadium tours give participants an up-close and personal look at all the stadium has to offer. The tour includes a visit to the playing field, an NFL locker room, Lucas Oil Plaza, the press box, and numerous other areas (depending on availability) that are generally inaccessible to the public. Lucas Oil Stadium is located approximately ½ mile from the hotel. The tour lasts approximately 1 – 1 ½ hours.

*****Other local attractions you might like to visit while in Indianapolis*****

Mind Tripping Show, Hilton Hotel & Suites (our hotel) – The Mind Tripping Show is the longest running live theatre show in Indianapolis. It is an intimate, interactive, theatrical show where mind reading, influence, psychological Illusions, and comedy all come together to create a fantastic night of delightful fun. Be prepared to have your perceptions challenged and your expectations turned upside down. Christian & Katalina, former Army Paratroopers, will have you laughing and scratching your head at the same time. Shows are Fridays & Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. Cost for Veterans, Military and/or Senior is $20.00.

Eiteljorg Museum, 500 W. Washington - the museum immerses visitors in the many cultures of the American West and Native America; it's the only museum in the Midwest to offer this combination of cultures. The museum is located in White River State Park which is approximately ½ mile from the hotel.

Indiana State Museum, 650 W. Washington – the museum is a dynamic gathering place, inviting exploration and discovery of art, science and culture. The museum is located in White River State Park which is approximately ½ mile from the hotel.

NCAA Hall of Champions, 700 W. Washington – this completely renovated college-sports museum entertains and inspires when you explore the galleries filled with interactive exhibits that capture the passion of the NCAA student-athletes. The Hall of Champions is located in White River State Park and is approximately ¾ mile from the hotel.

Sun King Brewing Co., 135 N. College – this is an Indianapolis-based, brewer-owned craft brewery with a focus on continually creating traditional, seasonal and unique specialty beer.

Indianapolis Zoo, 1200 W. Washington – (located in White River State Park) the Zoo's highlights include the groundbreaking new international Orangutan Center, which opened in May 2014, and features eight of the endangered great apes. Other highlights include the Ocean exhibit; dolphin experience; and the open exhibit area with 350 different animal species.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, 3000 N. Meridian – this museum has five levels and is the world's largest children's museum. You can walk among the dinosaurs, ride a carousel, sit beneath renowned artist Dale Chihuly's *Fireworks of Glass*, discover the stories of the three children who changed the world in *The Power of Children: Making the Difference*, and explore archaeology in *National Geographic Treasures of the Earth*. The museum has 11 permanent galleries, a theater, planetarium, and interactive library. It is a timeless destination for all ages.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum, 4790 W. 16th Street – Built in 1909, the famous track is a global racing landmark. Over the years, its on-site museum has amassed the world's largest, most varied collection of racing, classic and antique cars, including more than 30 cars that won the Indianapolis 500. The Tony Hulman Theater presents a 20-minute film depicting the history on the track and race highlights.

*****Out-of-Area Attraction*****

AMERICAN HUEY 369 and MUSEUM, 1697 Hoosier Blvd., Peru, Indiana
(approx. 75 miles NE of Indianapolis)
[Grissom Aeroplex, Montgomery Aviation (FBO) Hangar 11]
Web address: www.americanhuey 369.com
Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
If interested, you will need to contact John Walker (769) 469-2727 to make your arrangements.
****NOTE**, if you are planning to come to Indiana early, those CHPA members that have a Vietnam history and are looking for something to do the weekend prior to our reunion, here's a thought. The Howard County Vietnam Veterans Organization (www.hcvvo.org) has a large annual get together just South of Peru (Greentown, IN). This year, it is being held the weekend prior to the CHPA reunion. American Huey 369 intends to have both UH-1s at this event and the "Wolfhounds" (an awesome infantry re-enactment group) plan on being there. The hotels around Greentown, IN fill up early, so if anyone is interested, you might want to investigate as soon as possible.

Airport Travel Information:

Indianapolis International Airport (IND) is 16 minutes from downtown Indianapolis off I-70 via Exit 68. The airport averages 135 daily flights to 38 nonstop destinations on eight major airlines. In 2013, approximately 7.2 million passengers were served at IND.

A destination and launching pad for both commerce and community, IND is strategically located just minutes from major US interstates including I-65, I-865, I-69, I-70, and I-74, all of which connect to the city's I-465 beltway. It is also within minutes of US 40, US 31, and US 52.

The eighth largest cargo center in the US, IND is home of the second-largest FedEx Express operation in the world. Approximately 2.2 billion pounds of cargo were managed at IND in 2013. IND is an important catalyst for economic development in Central Indiana and the Midwestern region, generating an annual economic impact of more than $4.5 billion for the area.

One of the first new airports to open in the US since Sep 11, 2001, Indianapolis cut the ribbon to its 1.2 million square foot airport complex off I-70 on November 11, 2008.

Airlines:	*Phone*	*Concourse*
Air Canada	800.247.2262	A
Allegiant	702.505.8888	A
American	800.433.7300	B
Delta	800.221.1212	A
Frontier	800.432.1359	B
Southwest	800.435.9792	B
United	800.864.8331	A
U.S. Airways	800.428.4322	B

Rental Cars:

There's no need to take a shuttle to rent a car at Indianapolis International! Just a short walk from the terminal, eight rental car counters from which to choose are located in the Ground Transportation Center (first floor of the Parking Garage). Please contact the company of your choice for more information.

Alamo	800.327.9633
Avis	800.230.4898
Budget	800.527.0700
Dollar Car Rental	800.800.3665
Enterprise	800.736.8222
Hertz	800.654.3131
National	800.227.7368
Thrifty Car Rental	800.847.4389

Shuttle Service:

Embarque (formerly Carey) offers shared ride service between Indianapolis International Airport(IND) and Downtown Indianapolis. The shared ride service is $30.00 each way and includes gratuity. Shared-ride service can only be booked by calling (800) 888-4639. If you have more than one individual in your party, please inquire as to your most cost effective choice of service.

Taxi Service:

Taxi service is available at the curb on the lower level of the terminal just outside Baggage Claim.

Minimum fares -

There is a $15 minimum charge for all fares from the airport, regardless of distance. If you need to travel outside the Indianapolis area, consult your driver for rates. Fares may not exceed the amount shown on the meter. Please tip drivers appropriately for their service.

COMBAT HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION
2015 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

DATE	EVENT	COST PER PERSON	QTY	SUBTOTAL
(Additional Late Fee Assessed after July 31st)	**CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE** Member (non refundable after July 31st)	$35.00		
(Additional Late Fee Assessed after July 31st)	**CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE** Spouse/Guest (non refundable after July 31st)	$30.00		
	Convention T-Shirt (Select number by Size) S__ M__ L__ XL__ 2XL__ 3XL__	$25.00		
Thursday, Sept 24	**Indiana War Memorial Tour #1** 2 – 4 PM (Group size limited to 25 people)	$10.00		
Thursday, Sept 24	**President's Reception** (Backstretch Room) Light food and Cash Bar: 6 – 9 PM	$5.00 (for Bartender)		
Friday, Sept 25	**Indiana War Memorial Tour #2** 10 AM – Noon (Group size limited to 25 people)	$10.00		
Friday, Sept 25	**Lucas Oil Stadium Tour** 2 – 3:30 PM	$5.00		
Saturday, Sept 26	**Annual Business Meeting and Election** Indianapolis Ballroom. 9 AM - Noon (Enter number attending)			
Saturday, Sept 26	**Spouses Breakfast** Hotel Restaurant, 9 – 11 AM	Hotel Breakfast Coupon ($10 incl Tax/Tip)		
Saturday, Sept 26	**Cocktail Hour** Indianapolis Ballroom (Cash Bar) 6 – 6:30 PM (Enter number attending)			
Saturday, Sept 26	**Banquet** (Baby Spinach Salad with bacon bits, sliced strawberries and roasted walnuts; ranch or balsamic vinaigrette dressing; red bliss mashed potatoes, roasted carrots and broccoli florets;, Entrée; New York style cheese cake; fresh rolls and Butter; iced tea; coffee or hot tea.) 6:30 - (Select number of Entrées Below)	$55.00		
	Roasted Pork Loin w/apple-caraway jus			
	Roasted Sliced Sirloin Beef w/merlot-green peppercorn jus			
	Vegetarian – Chef's choice			
	Non-refundable Late Registration Fee (If sent after July 31st)	$10.00		
	TOTAL			

See back of form for Name Tag and Payment information.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Name:_____ Name as you want it to appear on your badge: _____

Spouse or Guest(s): _____

Spouse or Guest name(s) as you want it to appear on their badge:

_____

_____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Payment Method:

☐ Cash ☐ Check (Please make check payable to CHPA) Credit Card ☐ AMEX ☐ MC ☐ VISA

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code ____

Signature _____

Completed forms may be mailed to CHPA, PO Box 42, Divide, CO 80814-0042; faxed to 719-687-4167 or emailed to HQ@chpa-us.org. Remember to include your check or credit card information.
Convention reservations are due by July 31st to avoid a late fee. For any questions call 719-687-4131 or 800-832-5144. Remember to make your hotel reservations online at http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/I/INDDNHF-COMHPA-20150922/index.jhtml or call the Hilton Hotel and Suites, 1-800-315-1906. Mention CHPA for the preferred room rate. The deadline for the negotiated room rate is August 23rd, 2015. After that date contact Ashlee Anderson by calling the hotel or via email at Ashlee.Anderson@Hilton.com to see if the negotiated rate is available.

GOT PATCHES?

CHPA continues to receive quite an assortment of patches from our members. These patches are displayed at our booth at HAI, Quad A, and VHPA. Several of you have donated patches, but we're always looking for more. They are very eye catching and help us garner attention. So please dig through your old patches and if you have some you'd like to share, send them to us at:

CHPA • PO Box 42 • Divide, CO 80814-0042

An Invitation

Bob Hesselbein

CHPA:

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association cordially invites the Combat Helicopter Pilots Association to join us at the dedication of a living tree memorial within Arlington National Cemetery. The tree is dedicated to honor the sacrifice of the almost 5,000 helicopter pilots and crewmembers that died while serving their nation in the Vietnam War.

Arlington National Cemetery holds the remains of hundreds of helicopter crewmen who died during the Vietnam War. It is the burial location of helicopter pilots who earned the Medal of Honor, and continues to be the final destination of whole helicopter crews who remains have been recovered decades after the Vietnam War ended. Now is the time, during the recognized 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War, to honor the many thousands who died flying helicopters during the "Helicopter War."

Please join us at the Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Amphitheater at 10:00 AM, August 28, 2015 to honor and remember the helicopter pilots and crewmembers who gave the last full measure of devotion to their nation in the Vietnam War.

Respectfully,
Bob

Bob Hesselbein, President
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association
2100 N. HWY 360, Suite 907
Grand Prairie, TX 75050-1030
608.628.9024
bobhesselbein@vhpa.org

CHPA Cook Book

Sue Prescott

For the benefit of those who haven't heard, CHPA will be assembling a cookbook and we invite you to participate. We need your input ASAP so we can get the book ready for sale at the 2015 Convention. The response will determine if this book will be available then. Please submit the recipes to recipesCHPA@yahoo.com in Word or RTF format if you can, but we can accommodate almost any format (with a little more work). If you don't have email, mail your submission to CHPA, PO Box 42, Divide, CO 80814-0042. Also, please remember, if you want to submit a recipe you copied from a website or book, change up the directions (they're the copyrightable content). Or let us know that they need to be changed; and please give attribution to the author. (This just keeps us safe.)

The Conversation

Jay Brown

Last night while in a reflective mood, I recalled a conversation I had with a neighbor awhile back. I first met my neighbor, "Gunny" while he was walking up the road to another neighbor's house to use their phone. There was a storm brewing, the kind of storm you only find at 9200 feet in the Rocky Mountains so I invited him in to use our phone, and to keep from getting very wet. As he walked into the house he noticed my "I love me wall" and the framed awards and decorations above my desk, including the Master Aviator Badge. That led to a bit of a conversation and a very close friendship that has lasted years.

Gunny is part Ogalala Sioux and was US Marine Recon in Vietnam, 1968 – 1969. Those of you who were there, or are familiar with the history of the Vietnam War know the significance of that time frame. After Gunny left the Marine Corps and held a few civilian jobs, he returned to military service and retired after a total of 33 years federal service as a Master Sergeant Sniper with 5th SF. There have been many conversations over the years of where we've been and what we've done.

One evening I was with Gunny in his gunsmith shop. A small room in his garage with walls lined with photos of him on his pan head during a post Vietnam head-clearing cross country trip, numerous deer mounts, turkey mounts, hunting equipment and gunsmithing tools. Gunny was busy putting the finishing touches on a Colt 1911 while we talked. The topic of conversation was his time in Vietnam. He paused and looked at me and said, "I remember hearing helicopters, mostly Hueys, all the time, flying everywhere. I remember the way they sounded. I remember, on those occasions when I was in trouble, being outnumbered and literally running for my life the way they sounded when they were coming for me. It was a different sound. Those helicopters who were just 'passing through' had a rhythmic whop, whop sound. The one that was coming to help me sounded different, more urgent, even angry sound; more of a budda-budda-budda sound. When I heard that I knew you guys were on the way." I explained to Gunny why the sound was different, how when we got the call of a small band of ground troops in trouble we "bent it over" and flew "balls to the wall." Time was nobody's friend.

Gunny listened to the explanation, shook his head and stuck out his hand and said, "Thank you. For more times than I can talk about, Thank you." So I'm passing this along.

To all you helicopter crews who have stood the watch, from the beginning in Burma through Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, Persian Gulf, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan, from my good friend, Gunny, Thank you for all the times you "bent it over" and flew "balls to the wall," jumping into a fight you didn't start and had no part in to pull grunts in trouble out and take them to safety, sometimes to medical help, always away from the danger at hand. Even though most times you never knew whose bacon you had just saved Gunny wants you to know it was always greatly appreciated.

First Team Marks 50th Anniversary

SSG Bryce Dubee
Ft. Hood Sentinel, July 16, 2015

Veterans of the 1-9 Air Cav. Regt., 1st Cav. Div. (Airmobile), and attendees of a ceremony recognizing the 50th anniversary of the activation of the unit, wave and take pictures as a UH-1 Huey helicopter flies overhead at Doughboy Stadium at Fort Benning, Georgia, July 2. The squadron was the first of the division's units to be activated as airmobile – a revolutionary new concept in warfare at the time.

It had been nearly 50 years to the day since the last time many of them had stood on the field at Doughboy Stadium.

Fifty years ago on July 3, 1965, the men were young troopers in the newly activated 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), standing in formation as their commander, LTC John Stockton, reviewed the troops from horseback, wearing his iconic, black cavalry hat.

"Little did we realize that 50 years – plus a day – that such a legendary organization was being born," said retired LTC Billy Williams, a former member of the "Bullwhip Squadron" who spoke during a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the unit's activation here July 2.

Gathered on the field for the ceremony were Vietnam-era veterans from the squadron, Fort Benning leadership, current members of the First Team's honor guard and band and Family members of fallen troopers from the squadron.

Veterans of the 1-9 Air Cav. Regt., 1st Cav. Div. (Airmobile), salute as the 1st Cavalry Division Honor Guard posts the colors at the start of a ceremony recognizing the 50th anniversary of the activation of the unit at Doughboy Stadium at Ft. Benning, GA, July 2.

The squadron was the first of the division's units to be activated as airmobile – a revolutionary new concept in warfare at the time.

"I'm humbled and honored to be a part of this event," said COL John Cushing, commander of the 194th Armor Brigade and the 1-9 Air Cav. Regt. commander from 2009-2011.

Cushing addressed the crowd, reflecting on his time with the squadron, now nicknamed the "Headhunters," and provided an update on the unit – currently deployed to Korea with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div. as part of the US Army's first-ever rotational brigade to the peninsula.

"Once again, the 'Headhunters' are leading the way," he said.

Before the ceremony, Cushing reflected on the legacy of the squadron, and especially on the bond they share with the Vietnam veterans who came before. "It truly reminds us that we are part of something larger than ourselves," he said.

During Vietnam, the troopers of the 1-9 Air Cav Regt participated in 13 campaigns, accounting for more than half of the enemy killed by the division and earned three Presidential Unit Citations and five Valorous Unit Citations. Three troopers from the squadron also earned the Medal of Honor during Vietnam – all

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posthumously.

"I'm very proud of my brother, I'm very proud of the men he served with, and I'm very proud of the present 1st Cav.," said Karen Poxon Beckwith, the sister of 1st Lt. Robert Poxon, one of the fallen troopers recognized that day.

Poxon was just 22 years old when he was killed during fighting in Tay Ninh Province on June 2, 1969. His actions in aiding a wounded comrade and assaulting and eliminating an enemy bunker – despite being seriously wounded several times – resulted in him earning the Medal of Honor.

"I have never been around so many heroes in my life," said retired SFC Walt Titchenell, another of the original 1965 veterans who recalled his experiences both training at Benning and later in Vietnam. "Old Bullwhip 6 trained us well right here."

COL John Cushing, commander of the 194th Arm. Bde. and the 1-9 Air Cav. Regt., 1st Cav. Div. commander from 2009 to 2011, renders a salute after presenting a folded US flag to Karen Poxon Beckwith, the sister of 1LT Robert Poxon, during the ceremony. All Photos by SSG Bryce Dubee, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs.

Describing the harsh living conditions and the brutality of combat to the audience, he said that the experience brought him and his comrades-in-arms together in a bond that few share.

"It was for the original guys, that's why we did it," said COL (retired) Joe Bowen, the Bullwhip Squadron association president and fellow 1-9th Air Cav. Regt. Vietnam veteran. "We're closer than Family."

Robert N. Tredway Award

HAI News Staff

HAI President and CEO Matt Zuccaro received an unexpected honor during his town hall meeting at the inaugural HAI HELI-DAYS event at Rotors 'N Ribs in Goshen, Indiana. Milan Tesanovich, president of the Combat Helicopter Pilots Association, presented Zuccaro with the association's Robert N. Tredway Award.

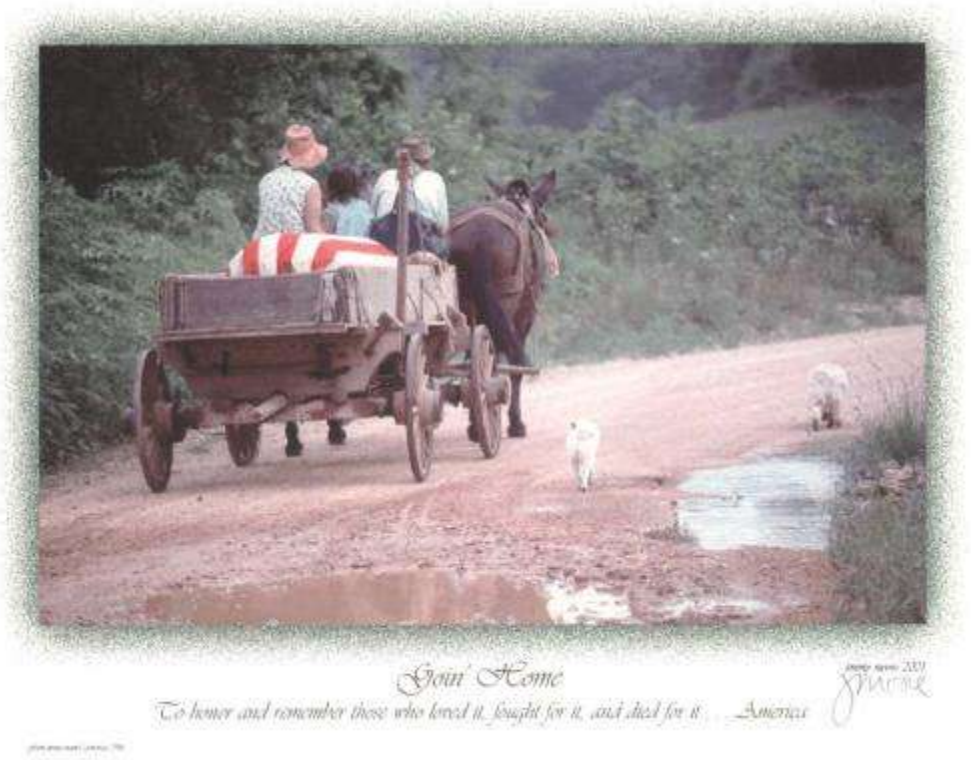
Zuccaro, a former combat helicopter pilot himself with the 7/17 Air Cavalry, was cited "for extraordinary support of the U.S. military helicopter community, U.S. military veterans and their families."

Milan Tesanovich (left), president of the Combat Helicopter Pilots Assn., presents Matt Zuccaro with the Robert N. Tredway Award during the inaugural HAI HELI-DAYS in Goshen, Indiana.

"I'm honored to receive this award from such an auspicious group of my peers," said Zuccaro. "All of us at HAI are committed to assisting veterans. There can be no greater cause than to support those who put themselves in harm's way to provide the freedom we all enjoy."

The Robert N. Tredway Award is presented by the Combat Helicopter Pilots Association to an individual or corporation for demonstrated accomplishments in support of the United States military helicopter community, U.S. military veterans with an emphasis on helicopter veterans, the Combat Helicopter Pilots Association, and the community at large. It is named for Col. Robert Tredway (U.S. Army, ret.), recipient of the Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, four Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts during two tours of duty in Vietnam.

CHPA Presents Special Edition of the "Goin' Home" Print to the 160th SOAR During the 2015 "Week of Night Stalker Activities"



On Wednesday evening, May 20, 2015, Alex Horony and his wife Edna, Randy Jones and his wife Judy, Rhea Rippey and his wife Marianne, and Milan Tesanovich and his wife Karen, members of the CHPA Board of Directors, joined together with world-renowned photographer Jimmy Moore and his wife Ava to present a special print of Jimmy Moore's poignant photograph of a fallen hero "Goin' Home." The presentation took place during the Social Dinner event for Families of fallen Night Stalkers, which is held as part of the annual *Week of Night Stalker Activities* (WONSA).

Randy Jones, a CHPA Director and himself a Night Stalker Emeritus, attended the event in two capacities. As a Night Stalker veteran, Randy presented a beautiful large steel emblem of the Night Stalkers from him and his wife to this venerable unit. As a CHPA Director, Randy participated in the presentation of the special "Goin' Home" print to the Regimental Commander, COL Michael J. Hertzendorf. The annual event is held in honor of the 160th's Gold Star family members.

The next day, the CHPA Directors, their wives, and Jimmy Moore and his wife attended the annual memorial ceremony at the Night Stalkers' GEN B. Doug Brown compound at Ft. Campbell, KY.

During the memorial ceremony, held outside the regiment headquarters in front of the memorial wall, COL Hertzendorf recited the last line of the Night Stalker Creed, "I serve with the memory and pride of those who have gone before me, for they loved to fight, fought to win, and would rather die than quit."All of the hundreds of soldiers, family members, and invited guests who participated in that ceremony reflected on the 94 names of the fallen Night Stalkers and acknowledged the legacy of their supreme professionalism and sacrifice.

Nui Ba Ra

Donald "Deuce" Gaudreau

There are strange things done on Nui Ba Ra by the Deuce that loves his slick. There are 1st CAV tales that will make you wail with laughter and wonderment. Here is one.

In 1970 I was S-2 for the 229th Aviation Battalion, 1st CAV out of Bien Hoa, Vietnam. I will use call signs instead of names. We could have been Court Martialed for our adventures during that era.

Our call sign used for our unit was "Killer Spade." Our unit commander was call sign "Slinger." He was loved by h9is pilots and crew members. He was a George S. Patton type; a cigar in his mouth and his peace maker strapped to his leg. A Killer Spade hung from his pocket. He was a LTC who loved to fly, keep morale high and protect his troops, both ground and air. He was like a super bowl coach who wanted success, to be the best. He wanted his pilots and crew to have Distinguished Flying Crosses and Air Medals. We developed a unit with one slick to be an intelligence unit. We would work for Slinger to develop tactics, find out information for him, have more kills, keep morale high for ground and air and rescue and make sure all bodies were returned.

Our Huey crew consisted of Deuce as aircraft commander, Rummy as co-pilot, Lizard as gunner and Gofer as crew chief. Rummy was a Mexican-American Captain with a CIB on his chest from his first tour in Vietnam as an intelligence killer. He was trained by the army in kung fu and was fluent in Vietnamese, trained in an Army school in California.

Lizard was a boy who looked like he was twelve years old. He had a pet lizard on a gold chain who was always sitting on his shoulder. Gofer was always happy on speed from our survival vests. Lizard and Gofer had been together for two years. They refused to fly if they were not together in other units. Slinger got them from their other unit because of their great ability and teamwork as crew chief and gunner. Gofer was quick to get whatever we needed. Lizard always wanted .50 caliber even though they were against regulations. He was probably the best gunner ace with kills from the Huey.

The Huey, a D model, was brand new from Hotel 3 at Tan Son Nhut. We made deals with the parts people at Hotel 3 to help our battalion maintenance officer. We even got a Huey that was not on record as belonging to the 229th. This was our bird named "Belle." We could mount it with two .50 calibers and get away with it on our secret missions.

Matty and I put together the missions from division every night. Matty was our Ops Officer; only a CW2 but a genius with tactics. Slinger put him there to establish secret missions. Before flight school he was a Massachusetts State Policeman, very aggressive. I got the job as S-2 because of my rank as Captain, my experience with Armor School and as an Infantry platoon leader at Ft. Carson before I went to flight school. I took ROTC at Kansas State, was an Olympic weight lifter at school and I loved competition and war, especially in a helicopter.

There were three extinct volcanic mountains in our Area of Operations. It was a flat triple canopy area and you could see one from the other. They were Nui Ba Ra, Nui Chua Chan and Nui Ba Dinh. There was a 1st CAV Command Area and fire base named "Mace" at the base of Nui Ba Ra. Nui Ba Ra was very mystic under local legend; it was their Shangri La. At the top, at that time, there was a communications base and radar

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operation. The mountain was about 6,000 feet and, due to that height, about 30 degrees cooler on top. This made it a great place for the people who manned the communications and radar sites. They were mostly enlisted men from the Air Force. This was a crew who never wanted to come down and enjoyed the isolation and mystic time halt quality of the sister mount.

The crew on the top of the volcano was a total of twelve men who did not want troops of the CAV to provide security on their small perimeter. They had what they called a secret method to do so. The CAV agreed but had to supply food and all resupply for them with a logistics mission into a small wooden pad that only fit a Huey's skids.

Our crew on Belle was the only ones to resupply them because of the classified nature of their mission. The log mission this day was arranged by us to spend the night there. We were invited to their weekly party on top. That special day we took off from Bien Hoa and headed out to Mace. In late 1970 the CAV was beginning to pull grunts out of Vietnam. We had many missions to Mace to provide logistic support to the Nui Ba Ra "gang of 12."

We always passed Xuan Loc artillery on the way out. The ARVNS took over the artillery about one month prior. We had a problem with the arty base communications. The ARVN on the horn was supposed to speak English but I don't think he could. The conversation went something like, "Xuan Loc Arty, this is Killer Spade, four miles to your east. We are crossing your area." They weren't usually firing at the time. The answer was, "Xuan Loc Arty, Xuan Loc Arty, Xuan Loc Arty." I made a joke to the crew on the intercom that there was no problem. The doors were open and any artillery would just pass through. Then Rummy would get on the radio and speak Vietnamese and we would get directions. This was good for Belle but the other Killer Spades had problems passing through.

Next we arrived at the logistics area and Lizard and Gofer loaded up the supplies to be taken to the twelve man crew at the top of Nui Ba Ra. We already had six cases of Budweiser, six cases of Mateus wine, three bottles of rum and two bottles of Jack Daniels loaded up from Bien Hoa. The load was big; five cases of frozen milk in half gallon containers, two marmite containers of hot mashed potatoes, three cases of frozen T Bone steaks, three marmites of Kool-Aid, four cases of bread, one large box of peanut butter and jelly, one box of paper towels, one marmite of sliced turkey, gravy and stuffing, two cases of canned corn and peas and, to top it off, six cases of C rations. Oh, there was also a 400 lb bladder of drinking water. Not bad for twelve soldiers in Shangri La.

We pulled a hover check with a good indication and took off, hit translational lift, circled around and headed up to our 20 by 20 wooden pad. Another thing we had on board was six rolls of 35 mm film, "Gone With the Wind" for amusement for our party. There was heavy vegetation all the way up the extinct volcano and we stayed low level in the trees all the way up. There was no fear of ground fire due to the classified set up we had with the monks at the Japanese style Buddhist monastery about half way up Nui Ba Ra. It was built into the side of the mountain but difficult to see with all the vegetation around it.

Another 1,000 feet up was a Japanese WWII aircraft that stood in the middle of the trees. It appeared to have crashed there. We hovered up to it at the top of the trees to get another look at its condition. It was a two wing canvas single engine with an open cockpit and big Japanese zeros on the wings of the canvas aircraft. We found out from the monks it landed there in 1938. The head monk of the monastery was the pilot. The aircraft looked as if it had crashed yesterday. There was no wear on it or the canvas after all those years. Time stood still on Nui BA RA.

The security situation and supply situation was put together by the twelve enlisted crew and a head monk three months prior. When the Air Force set up the communications center and radar operation at the top, the

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head monk walked in on the crew and explained that Nui Ba Ra was a strong religious area for his monks. The local people in the area, including the VC would not participate in violence in the area around the mountain or especially on the summit. The VC in the area were pushed by the NVA to spy on the summit and attack it but they would not violate their Japanese Buddhist religion. The NVA were mostly Catholic and didn't believe in Japanese Buddhism. The VC and NVA in the area did not agree with each other, to not commit any violence on Nui Ba RA. To get away with it the VC told the NVA they would get communications info from the twelve guys and act as spies, because the American "hippies" at the top wanted drug business and would supply the monastery and local VC villagers with food supplies from the top to give weed and other drugs to the "hippies" to give to the supply helicopter and set themselves up. This is what was going on. We made a deal with the head monk who controlled the VC. The VC acted through Rummy as double agents and supplied the Killer Spades with valuable information on the location of the NVA units in our area. The Air Force and the Army classified the mission and allowed this operation to happen. I, Rummy, Lizard and Gofer all had Top Secret Clearances. The VC were on our side and provided false information to the NVA. This ended up with us having complete control of the area and the NVA moving out of the area. Now you can see why we were anxious for our weekly entertainment at the top.

We landed on the pad and unloaded, with the help of monks and the twelve "hippies." At the edge of the perimeter were the VC villagers. The supplies for the VC were given to them to take to the monastery and villages at the bottom of the mystic mountain.

The set-up on the summit was unusual. The living area and area for the electronic equipment was between huge rock formations. They had complete generated electricity, refrigerators and luxurious sleeping quarters in an area that was a hidden temple 1,000 years ago. The party area had had an open top to see the stars, volcanic rock tables and benches. It could hold about 50 people. On one wall was a painted movie screen. In one corner was a shrine with burning incense. In the shrine was a fat Buddha, a gold Jewish Star of David and a copper Christian cross. Around it were small Christmas lights. Every time we walked by it we would put our hands together and bow.

The people were coming in; monks, VC, "hippies" and the Killer Spades. Belle was tied down on the pad and we had already called in to Slinger who would tell command we had to spend the night there due to low clouds and zero visibility at the top of the mountain; even though at the very top it was clear.

It was time for Shangri La. We had our Thanksgiving style feast then it was time for "Gone With the Wind." We sat on our benches with an outside air temperature of about 70 degrees, drank our booze and sucked on our weed pipes (all of us; "hippies, VC, monks and Killer Spades), completely enjoying ourselves. "Gone With the Wind" was a long movie and we were ready for sleep when it was done.

The *Swash!* [Call for Articles]

One of the things we all know, nobody tells a better story than a combat helicopter crewmember, whether it's the truth or "enhanced truth." Our most entertaining and informative stories come from you, our membership. We often receive responses from our members when an article is published that opens a memory or touches a nerve, in a good way.

So where are all the story tellers out there? All you veterans of the skies of OEF and OIF with an idea for an article, or a story to tell it's as easy as sending it in. Take a moment to lay fingers on keyboard or just put pen to paper and send them in. You can email them to hq@chpa-us.org or through the US Post Office to: CHPA • PO Box 42 • Divide, CO 80814-0042

Help us help you tell the tales of your experiences and continue to preserve our shared legacy of combat under a rotor disc.

Call on Us!

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