From The President
Milan Tesanovich

Americans celebrate the Fourth of July for various personal reasons. It may be as simple as providing an opportunity for family, friends, or colleagues who don’t often meet to get together. It may an opportunity to attend a public gathering, a parade, an amusement park, or a fireworks display. Popular culture classifies this day as a birthday party for the country. People parade and wave flags, bands march and play patriotic music, and bystanders cheer all of this. There are spectacles for all to attend and enjoy. But what is the meaning of the day?

One need only to look to John Adams' famous letter of July 3, 1776, to his wife Abigail to put the special import of the day into perspective:

“The Second Day of July 1776 will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more. You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not.”

Exact text from Adams' letter with his original spellings. Taken from The Book of Abigail and John: Selected Letters of the Adams Family, 1762-1784, Harvard University Press, 1975, 142).

The American Revolution was fought to end the rule of the tyrannical monarchy of George III in the American Colonies. The goal of the rebellion was to gain self-government, to

Concluded on Page 2
establish an independent state sovereignty for each commonwealth. The union that has evolved was formally established in the Paris Peace Treaty of 1783. The following words created the United States:

“His Brittanic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz., New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be free sovereign and independent states, that he treats with them as such, and for himself, his heirs, and successors, relinquishes all claims to the government, propriety, and territorial rights of the same and every part thereof.”

Maintaining our independence as a nation requires the same will and courage of our forbearers. Each of us in the CHPA pledged our personal commitment to maintaining that independent American sovereignty when we served in the US military. Celebrate this 238th anniversary of that declaratory day in any manner you wish. You've earned that right.

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.
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.

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.
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.

Bullwhip Squadron Association - The Bullwhip Squadron Association will be sponsoring a 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment 50th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony and Memorial Service recognizing the 3 July 1965, activation of the Squadron. The ceremony will be held at Doughboy Stadium, Fort Benning, Georgia, on July 2, 2015 at 0900 hrs honoring the 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cavalry Troopers, the unit lineage and the history within the 1st Cavalry Division. Refreshments will be served afterwards on location. You must RSVP by email, letter or phone by June 5, 2015. For RSVPs and information contact 1stSquadron9thCav50th@gmail.com. There will be no costs for attendees or registration fees.

Unfortunately this will be the last official Bullwhip function as the association will have exceeded its Mandatory Retirement Date (MRD) and will retire shortly after completing dissolution documentation and administrative requirements. The BWS website will remain in limited operation until Jan 2017 for limited contact capabilities and archiving member pictures and documents that they may want to be sent to future 1st Cavalry Division Museum.

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 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.
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](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 July 15, 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 ¼ 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](http://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](http://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.

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<th>Airlines</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<td><strong>Air Canada</strong></td>
<td>800.247.2262</td>
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<td><strong>Allegiant</strong></td>
<td>702.505.8888</td>
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<td><strong>American</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Delta</strong></td>
<td>800.221.1212</td>
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<td><strong>Southwest</strong></td>
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<td><strong>United</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. Airways</strong></td>
<td>800.428.4322</td>
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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.
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<th>DATE</th>
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<td>Convention T-Shirt (Select number by Size) S__ M__ L__ XL__ 2XL__ 3XL__</td>
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<td>Thursday, Sept 24</td>
<td>Indiana War Memorial Tour #1</td>
<td>2 – 4 PM (Group size limited to 25 people)</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<td>Thursday, Sept 24</td>
<td>President’s Reception (Backstretch Room)</td>
<td>Light food and Cash Bar: 6 – 9 PM (for Bartender)</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
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<td>Friday, Sept 25</td>
<td>Indiana War Memorial Tour #2</td>
<td>10 AM – Noon (Group size limited to 25 people)</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<td>Friday, Sept 25</td>
<td>Lucas Oil Stadium Tour</td>
<td>2 – 3:30 PM</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
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<td>Saturday, Sept 26</td>
<td>Annual Business Meeting and Election</td>
<td>Indianapolis Ballroom. 9 AM - Noon (Enter number attending)</td>
<td>Hotel Breakfast Coupon ($10 incl Tax/Tip)</td>
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<td>Saturday, Sept 26</td>
<td>Spouses Breakfast</td>
<td>Hotel Restaurant, 9 – 11 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Sept 26</td>
<td>Cocktail Hour</td>
<td>Indianapolis Ballroom (Cash Bar) 6 – 6:30 PM (Enter number attending)</td>
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<td>Saturday, Sept 26</td>
<td>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)</td>
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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.
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 Incident in Vietnam

This is a member submitted article. My apologies to the author as I have misplaced your information. Please contact HQ and we’ll run an attribution item in the July issue.

March, 1963
Saturday, 1400 hours

An Army “Mohawk,” a twin engine aircraft, crashed in the mountains. The UTT Company was alerted to support a rescue mission.

A group of our helicopters took off to the north to an airport near the coastline where the operation was controlled. Medical supplies and personnel were picked up and the helicopters took off for a Special Forces Camp in the mountains. Five UH-1Bs made the trip.

The camp was located at an elevation of some 5 to 6 thousand feet in the midst of solid jungle. At this camp we picked up a company of Viet Rangers to secure the crash site in H-21s and we took off to the site about 15 miles away.

Just prior to this takeoff, one of the UH-1Bs had a power failure and made a forced landing, damaging the right skid and tail rotor. Shortly after takeoff, two of the H-21s crashed, one suffered minor damage; the other one was destroyed, injuring the crew chief and a Viet soldier.

The mission was aborted and we returned to the Special Forces camp. It was now dark, so we took off for our base camp at the coast, landed and parked along the runway. One of our pilots crashed on takeoff, landing in a mine field next to the strip. Fortunately, the crew was reached by camp personnel and informed of the mine field. No one was injured and the crew spent the night at the camp.

At 0630 the next day, we returned to Mon Buk (the Special Forces camp) with three helicopters. Shortly after arriving, two of our helicopters went out to the Mohawk crash site. Jim Bartley and I were in one of the choppers. We were accompanied by two Marine H-34s who were to drop a medic and Viet Ranger with a bloodhound into the crash site. Because of the high altitude, each Marine H-34 was able to carry only one passenger.

We circled the crash area while the one H-34 let the medic down on a rope as he hovered above the 150 foot trees. The H-34 then returned to Mon Buk to refuel. The second H-34 came into the crash area to let the Viet Ranger and his dog down also by rope. The Viet Ranger was halfway down the rope when the Marine pilot evidently either lost power or wasn’t able to maintain his altitude and suddenly took off down the mountain and crashed into the trees. I made a pass over his crash site and could see the H-34 on its left side and flames forming in the vicinity of the gas tanks. Shortly after this pass, the H-34 exploded and burned. There was no place to land and no way to assist. The medic on the ground had a radio and was able to be directed to the H-34 crash site which was about 100 yards from the Mohawk crash site. It took him nearly 30 minutes to cover this distance.

We had to return to our base camp at the coast to refuel as there was no fuel at Mon Buk. By the time we arrived at base camp, word had arrived that the three crewmembers of the H-34 were alive, but seriously injured. The Viet Ranger had been killed. The medic reported that there was no one at the Mohawk crash site, but there was evidence that the crew, an Army Lieutenant and a Viet observer, had survived the crash.

After our three helicopters were refueled, the ground controller received word that the VC were moving

Concluded on Page 13
into the crash sites. We headed back to the area and enroute were instructed to return to Mon Buk and await further instructions. While at Mon Buk we were told that another H-34 Marine helicopter had crashed.

We headed out to this new crash site to act as cover for another H-34 Marine helicopter that landed at the site and picked up the crew. They were lucky as they were able to land in a rocky ravine and all escaped serious injury. Their helicopter was broken in three pieces.

We returned to Mon Buk and escorted Marine helicopters hauling Viet Rangers into the second H-34 crash site who were to secure the area. Also, an Air Force Crash and Rescue Team were dropped in to proceed up the mountain to the first H-34 crash site. Earlier this same day, a company of Montagnards, the native troops, left Mon Buk on foot, blazing a trail through the jungle to the first Mohawk crash site. This 15 mile hike was to be done in two days. When we left Mon Buk, the native troops were still 3 to 4 miles away from the Mohawk.

Late Sunday, we returned to our base camp for the night. The VC had not moved in as yet, but shots had been heard, so we returned Monday morning to Mon Buk. We learned that the pilot of the first H-34 crash, a Marine Major, had died. We escorted a Marine H-34 carrying a doctor and supplies to the site and on the way our crew chief spotted something flashing, like sun on a piece of glass. We marked the site and after dropping the doctor and supplies, we returned to Mon Buk.

By this time more H-34s and H-21s had arrived to continue the search for the missing Mohawk crew. We gave them the location of our “flashing light” sighting and about an hour later they spotted the Mohawk crew down in a creek bed. They diverted the first land party to the Mohawk crew. We still needed to get the first H-34 helicopter crew that crashed out of the jungle, so a Marine chopper minus all the weight it could afford took off with one pilot and a crew chief in the cargo compartment to operate the winch. We accompanied to provide cover. After letting the cable down at the site, it proved to be 50 feet short of the ground. We returned to Mon Buk and sent word out for some rope and a snatch block.

It was 1500 hours before this equipment arrived and some bad weather was moving in, but we returned to the site and the Marine chopper was able to get the injured out and back to base camp where a C-123 was standing by to take them to a hospital. The Mohawk crew was also picked up, so by night fall, we were heading back to Mon Buk for the night. A Special Forces sergeant loaned me a toothbrush and Tuesday we returned to Tan Son Nhut.

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.)
“Alicia, I wish I could tell you about these pilots. They make me sick with envy. They ride their vehicles the way a man controls a fine, well-trained quarter horse. They weave along stream beds, rise like swallows to clear trees, they turn and twist and dip like swifts in the evening. I watch their hands and feet on the controls, the delicacy of the coordination reminds me of the sure and seeming slow hands of (Pablo) Casals on the cello. They are truly musician’s hands and they play their controls like music and they dance them like ballerinas and they make me jealous because I want so much to do it. Remember your child night dream of perfect flight free and wonderful? It’s like that, and sadly I know I never can. My hands are too old and forgetful to take orders from the command center, which speaks of updrafts and side winds, of drift and shift, or ground fire indicated by a tiny puff or flash, or a hit and all these commands must be obeyed by the musicians hands instantly and automatically. I must take my longing out in admiration and the joy of seeing it. Sorry about that leak of ecstasy, Alicia, but I had to get it out or burst.”

John Steinbeck, a Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize winning writer in one of his dispatches to Alicia Patterson at Newsday, part of his assignment to write about what he saw in Vietnam in 1966-67, just a year before his death. This time he was writing about Shamrock Flight helicopter pilots, D Troop, 10th Cavalry in Pleiku.
10 Things to Know About Agent Orange

Dr. Ralph Erickson

1. **Agent Orange was a herbicide and defoliant used in Vietnam**

   Agent Orange was a blend of tactical herbicides the US military sprayed from 1962 to 1971 during the Vietnam War to remove the leaves of trees and other dense tropical foliage that provided enemy cover. The US Department of Defense developed tactical herbicides specifically to be used in “combat operations.” They were not commercial grade herbicides purchased from chemical companies and sent to Vietnam.

   More than 19 million gallons of various “rainbow” herbicide combinations were sprayed, but Agent Orange was the combination the US military used most often. The name “Agent Orange” came from the orange identifying stripe used on the 55-gallon drums in which it was stored.

   Heavily sprayed areas included forests near the demarcation zone, forests at the junction of the borders of Cambodia, Laos, and South Vietnam, and mangroves on the southernmost peninsula of Vietnam and along shipping channels southeast of Saigon.

2. **Any Veteran who served anywhere in Vietnam during the war is presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange.**

   For the purposes of VA compensation benefits, Veterans who served anywhere in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides, as specified in the **Agent Orange Act of 1991**.

   These Veterans do not need to show that they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides in order to get disability compensation for **diseases related to Agent Orange exposure**.

   Service in Vietnam means service on land in Vietnam or on the inland waterways (“brown water” Veterans) of Vietnam.

3. **VA has linked several diseases and health conditions to Agent Orange exposure.**

   VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with **exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides** during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for compensation benefits.

   - **AL Amyloidosis** - A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters and collects tissues or organs.
   - **Chronic B-cell Leukemias** - A type of cancer which affects a specific type of white blood cell.
   - **Chloracne** - (or similar acneform disease) A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA’s rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.
   - **Diabetes Mellitus Type 2** - A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body’s inability to produce or respond properly to the hormone insulin.
   - **Hodgkin’s Disease** - A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia.

Continued on Page 16
• **Ischemic Heart Disease** - A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that can lead to chest pain (angina).
• **Multiple Myeloma** – A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow.
• **Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma** - A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.
• **Parkinson’s Disease** - A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement.
• **Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset** - A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and muscle weakness. Under VA’s rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.
• **Porphyria Cutanea Tarda** - A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA’s rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.
• **Prostate Cancer** - Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among older men.
• **Respiratory Cancers** - (includes lung cancer) Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.
• **Soft Tissue Sarcomas** - (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma, or mesothelioma) A specific group of malignant cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues.

4. Veterans who want to be considered for disability compensation must file a claim.

Veterans who want to be considered for disability compensation for health problems related to Agent Orange exposure must file a claim.

During the claims process, VA will check military records to confirm exposure to Agent Orange or qualifying military service. If necessary, VA will set up a separate exam for compensation.

5. VA offers health care benefits for Veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides during military service.

Veterans who served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, are eligible to enroll in VA health care. Visit VA’s health benefits explorer <http://hbexplorer.vacloud.us> to check your eligibility and learn how to apply.

6. Participating in an Agent Orange Registry health exam helps you, other Veterans and VA.

VA’s Agent Orange Registry health exam alerts Veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to Agent Orange exposure during their military service. The registry data helps VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively.

The exam is free to eligible Veterans and enrollment in VA health care is not necessary. Although the findings of your exam may be used to inform your subsequent care, they may not be used when applying for compensation as a separate exam is required. Contact your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator about getting an Agent Orange Registry health exam.

7. VA recognizes and offers support for the children of Veterans affected by Agent Orange who have birth defects.

VA has recognized that certain birth defects among Veterans’ children are associated with Veterans’ qualifying service in Vietnam or Korea.

- **Spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta)**, a defect in
the developing fetus that results in incomplete closing of the spine, is associated with Veterans’ exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during qualifying service in Vietnam or Korea.

- **Birth defects in children of women Veterans** are associated with their military service in Vietnam but are not related to herbicide exposure. The affected child must have been conceived after the Veteran entered Vietnam or the Korean demilitarized zone during the qualifying service period.

Learn more about benefits for Veterans’ children with birth defects.


8. **Vietnam Veterans are not the only Veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange.**

Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam were used, tested or stored elsewhere, including some military bases in the United States. Other locations/scenarios in which Veterans were exposed to Agent Orange may include:

- **Korean Demilitarized Zone** - Exposure along the demilitarized zone in Korea between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971.
- **Thailand Military Bases** - Possible exposure on or near the perimeters of military bases between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.
- **Herbicide Tests and Storage Outside Vietnam** - Possible exposure due to herbicide tests and storage at military bases in the United States and locations in other countries.
- **Agent Orange Residue on Airplanes Used in Vietnam War** - Possible exposure of crew members to herbicide residue in C-123 planes flown after the Vietnam War.

9. **VA continues to conduct research on the long-term health effects of Agent Orange in order to better care for all Veterans.**

VA and other Federal government Departments and agencies have conducted, and continue to conduct, extensive research evaluating the health effects of Agent Orange exposure on US Veterans.

An example is the Army Chemical Corps Vietnam-Era Veterans Health Study designed to examine if high blood pressure (hypertension) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are related to herbicide exposure during the Vietnam War. Researchers have completed data collection and aim to publish initial findings in a scientific journal in 2015.

Learn more about Agent Orange related studies and their outcomes here:

http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/research-studies.asp

10. **VA contracts with an independent, non-governmental organization to review the scientific and medical information on the health effects of Agent Orange.**

VA contracts with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences every two years to scientifically review evidence on the long-term health effects of Agent Orange and other herbicides on Vietnam Veterans. The IOM uses a team of nationally renowned subject matter experts from around the country to gather all the scientific literature on a topic, identify peer-reviewed reports, and then examine the
studies to determine the most rigorous and applicable studies. The IOM looks for the highest quality studies. The IOM then issues its reports, including its conclusions and recommendations to VA, Congress, and the public.

About the author: Dr. Ralph Erickson is an Army Veteran of the Gulf War (1990-91) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003). He retired with 32 + years active-duty service, during which he held a number of leadership positions to include: Commander of The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research; Command Surgeon, US Central Command; and Director, DoD Global Emerging Infections and Response System (DOD-GEIS). He is a board certified physician in Preventive Medicine and Public Health. He received his medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), Masters of Public Health from Harvard University, and Doctorate of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University.

These Good Men
Michael Norman

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another.

I cannot say where we are headed. Ours are not perfect friendships; those are the province of legend and myth. A few of my comrade’s drift far from me now, sending back only occasional word. I know that one day even these could fall to silence. Some of the men will stay close, a couple, perhaps, always at hand.

As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades ... such good men.
Memories of Those Who Died
Terry Garlock

At the Peachtree City Memorial Day ceremony, Mike King did a nice job of focusing attention on a few of our own who died far too young serving the rest of us.

For families who have felt the personal pain of that loss, I want to tell you something. It won’t bring back your son, husband or brother, but it might help just a little to know how those who were there with them in combat think of them, and remember them. Many of us think of them nearly every day, as if we’re keeping an unspoken pledge to each other – I will remember you.

I never knew anyone who gave his life. I do know some who lost their life doing their duty, doing America’s dirty work in unpleasant places. Not a single one of them died willingly. They just wanted to get their job done and go home to live out their lives like you and me.

I was one of the lucky ones. I had plenty of time in hospitals to contemplate my close call. When I was shot down in Vietnam and John Synowsky and Graham Stevens risked their necks to rescue me, my prospects were grim. When they visited me in the hospital and I thanked them, they brushed it off and said any of the other guys would have done the same thing. They were right because that’s how we were, struggling mightily to keep one another alive.

But even then, I had no idea how combat changes everyone, and knew nothing of the unexplainable things that would bubble inside me as the years passed. I used to think it was just me.

Between 2005 and 2010 while I was working on a book about Vietnam veterans, I spoke to a great many of them, and to veterans of WWII, Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan. Listening carefully helped me see more clearly how all of us were changed by war. It helped me understand myself a little more and clarify some things that are very hard to put into words.

Bear with me while I try.

How does the military prepare the raw material of 18 year olds for combat or a support role? Intense training and drilling helps a lot, because every one of them is worried about measuring up, wondering if they are made of the right stuff, and knowing a routine helps.

When the time comes and the shooting starts, new guys are too busy doing their job to notice they are learning lessons that are not taught any other place. They thought they would be fighting for our flag, but it turned out they were fighting for each other. They thought courage was not being afraid, but they found out courage is doing your job while you are scared to death.

Combat is a cruel teacher, but like a hot forge blending men together instead of the ingredients of steel, somehow it turns a group of men into a sort of family where you may not like or even know a guy but you’ll take breathtaking risks to protect each other.

Amidst the chaos and urgency and danger of combat, beyond the mission there is powerful motivation that can be summed up in two words – honor and trust.

You might wonder what a 19 year old soldier in combat knows about honor. Quite a bit, I think. He may not ever put it into words but he knows honor is doing his job well and serving a purpose more important than himself; defending his brothers even at the risk of his life. He knows while looking in the mirror to shave in the morning whether he met the challenge. Passing that test becomes what he likes most about himself.

As he gets good at his job, at some point he suddenly realizes his brothers trust him to deliver, even under fire. He may never say it out loud, but he is enormously proud of earning that trust, and he would do anything not to lose it.

It’s almost like we proudly wore an invisible jacket of
honor and trust that we had to earn, a high achievement that our family at home would never know about or understand. The complete trust we had in each other made a closeness that only Shakespeare has successfully described as he wrote King Henry V’s inspiring speech to his men before the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. The bonds formed in battle are not new.

And so, even though everyone in combat fears dying, we feared even more that our courage might fail us; that we might screw up, fail to do our job, and we might lose our brothers trust or even lose their lives. We feared that more than anything.

If you asked us back then if we loved each other, we would have thought you were out of your mind. But when one of us was killed the cut ran very deep, and we crammed our anguish way down inside us into our own secret box and we closed the lid tight so we could carry on to do our job … and the ghosts of our dead brothers were never far away.

My roommate Pete was also a Cobra helicopter gunship pilot. On Dec 18, 1969 Pete was on top of the world when he received a telegram announcing the birth of his first child, a son; he wanted more than anything to be a Dad. Four days later he was on a mission helping the 3rd Mobile Strike Force, US Special Forces, stop an enemy force invading South Vietnam from the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Cambodia. Pete was in the front seat when his aircraft went into the high, thick jungle trees after tangling with an enemy anti-aircraft gun and died as it stuck about 200 feet up and burned.

While protesters were hurling insults, as well as packets of urine and feces, at our troops coming home from that war every day at California airports, Pete’s family got word of his death on Christmas Eve. Pete is just one of those buried in my own secret box deep in my gut, and the memories never fade.

No matter what war it was, the calendar days passed, some days boring, some days exciting and some dark with anguish, and we all fantasized about going home, getting away from the nastiness of war and back to those we loved.

We may have left home as boys but we would return home serious men who had learned to quickly separate the fluff from important things that might get our brothers killed or keep them alive.

When we finally arrived home the reunion might not have been as smooth as we expected since we had changed more than we realized. We may have seemed remote to some people since our dead brothers, tucked away out of sight in our secret box, meant far more to us than the dumbasses we met who would never sacrifice a thing for their country and wouldn’t know honor if it bit them on the backside.

It didn’t seem right that life went on as if there was no war, as if Americans were not still fighting and dying, and we found ourselves missing our brothers, both dead and alive, the people we respected now, the people who understood us now, the people we trusted completely now to watch our back.

How crazy is it that many of us secretly wished to be back where all but the new guys understood our most prized possession was our invisible jacket of honor and trust? Maybe we hated the war but felt the urge to be there again with the ones we were part of now.

We were cautious about opening our secret box to tell others about our dead brothers because the memories are wrapped in the same feelings we had when they died, just as fresh as yesterday, and we didn’t like losing our composure.

That is part of the power of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC. The names etched on the polished black granite wall make it personal. As family members and brothers in arms approach The Wall, the air becomes electric as memories wrapped in anguish fly out of secret boxes, finally set loose to run free.

We can almost see our dead brothers in the reflection of that polished wall, proudly wearing their jacket of honor and trust.
The Wall in Washington is our place to ease the pressure, to let loose those feelings we suppressed for so long, where we can talk to our dead brothers to tell them they are not forgotten, that we are teaching our children and grandchildren about them. It’s a place where we can confess a tinge of guilt that we lived through it and they did not, that we got to live out our life and grow old while their faces are frozen forever young. The Wall is our place, where we can go together with our brothers and sisters who lived, a bit like church, a place of healing.

This is the reason America should build memorials for Iraq and Afghanistan. Not to glorify the war, but to provide the men and women of those wars a place of their own to gather and grieve and cleanse their soul. We should build those memorials.

I think all these things I am telling you are part of why veterans are drawn to each other. It’s more than remembering the past and swapping old worn out tales. It’s the comfort of being with men and women who proved themselves worthy of honor and trust, people who did hard things well when they were young, people who understand when we say we can almost see the ghosts of our dead brothers among us, laughing and joking, sipping with us when we drink a toast to them and say our prayers in silence for them, the ones we miss, the ones we remember.

They died too young while doing America’s hardest work, and we know for every one of them there is a family of broken hearts. We can’t bring them back but they do live on in our memory, for many of us until our last day alive.

160th SOAR Memorial Ceremony

Recently, the 160th SOAR came together at their annual gathering to remember their fallen team members and to support their Gold Star family members. CHPA was honored to have a participating presence at this august occasion.

CHPA President Milan Tesanovich and wife Karen, Director Randy Jones and wife Judy, Director Alexander Horony and wife Edna, Jimmy Moore and his wife, Secretary Rhea Rippey and wife Marianne represented CHPA. At the dinner/social event the evening prior to the Memorial Ceremony, Randy presented an impressive, large (80-lb) metal sculpture of the 160th logo to the unit before introducing Milan. Milan rose to address the dinner assemblage about CHPA. Afterward, Alex presented the photograph used for the print “Goin’ Home,” followed by artist Jimmy Moore’s brief history of how the work came to be. The 160th appreciated the presentation.

The following day at the formal Memorial Ceremony held inside the 160th compound, the unit paid respects to their KIA in a ceremony capped by a low-level flyover of 160th aircraft in the missing man formation and a 21-gun salute. The entire series of events was very well executed by the STRAC 160th personnel.

I think it important to mention that each of us was treated with the utmost respect and appreciation. They seemed to understand our mission and to support it. CHPA was well-represented at an important aviation-related function.
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!
Contact Quick Reference

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