



Volume 11 Vol. 1

The Straphanger Gazette



July-Sept 2018

Find us on the web at <http://www.araassociation.com>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AerialRocketArtilleryAssociation>



“Aerial Rocket Artillery”....when called on by those who were in danger, our units were there laying it on the line.

We were proud of our Aerial Rocket Artillery Team then and still proud of it now.

The Straphanger Gazette is a quarterly publication of the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association. Issues will be published on or about the 1st of January, April, July and October. Members who have e-mail will receive a copy as an pdf attachment

ARTILLERY IS ONLY GOOD WHEN IT IS ON TIME AND ON TARGET

**Let's get our reservations in to the hotel and our
commitment and monies in to our Treasurer!**

See the following pages



President's Corner

This will be my final message as your President for the July edition of the Straphanger. Summer is fast approaching and we will soon be celebrating the 4th of July. It has been an honor for me to serve as your President and I want to thank our Board and all our membership for your guidance and support. We truly have a special Association.

Our reunion at Fort Sill has been well planned and a special thanks to our host, Clovis Jones. He has spent countless hours selecting our hotel, dining facilities, and special events. I know that we will have an outstanding time celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the deployment of the 4th BN/77 Arty to Vietnam.

As veterans we die two deaths. One, when our final breath has left our body and a second, sometime later, when our names and our stories are not spoken aloud. As long as we have our reunions our names and stories will be relived. The friendships will continue. The memories will be retold and new memories will be added. We are the ARA a proud tradition.

We have plaques which are being placed at museums where we had a presence. Thanks to the efforts of Julie Szabo commemorative bricks are being placed at several sites so our story will continue.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that this coming Veteran's Day will be the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. Since October 7, 2001 we have been in a state of war. We need to remember this continued sacrifice and pray for their safe return.

I look forward to seeing you at Fort Sill in September.

Your President,

Dave Borgeson

21st AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY REUNION

Fort Sill/Lawton, OK September 12 – 16, 2018

The 21st Annual ARA Reunion will be very special since it will also be the 50 Year Commemoration of deployment of the 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery (ARA), 101st Airborne to the Republic of Vietnam. The reunion will be held at Fort Sill, OK and the dates are September 12 – 16, 2018. As Artillerymen we all know that Fort Sill is located adjacent to Lawton, OK.

For additional information about Reunion 2018 contact:

Host: Clovis Jones clovisjones@me.com

Dave Borgeson dborgeson41@gmail.com

Reference ARA Reunion 2018 in subject line please

WHERE WE WILL BE STAYING

Headquarters for the Association will be:

HOMEWOOD SUITES

4155 East Interstate, Lawton, OK 73501

(580) 357-9800 (Call this number [the hotel—not Hilton Central]).

Direct Link= https://homewoodsuites.hilton.com/en/hw/groups/personalized/L/LAWTNHW-ARA-20180910/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

This is an all suites hotel, one of the Hilton Hotel brands. They offer a guest social Monday through Thursday from 1730 – 1930 where complimentary beer and wine and a light meal is served. They will also provide a complimentary breakfast daily from 0630 – 0930. The hotel manager has blocked 40 rooms for our reunion, 30 are King Bed Suites and 10 Double Queen Bed Suites. Each suite has a kitchen.

ROOM TYPES AND CODES:

King Bed Studio - everything in one room, \$99.00 per night plus tax of 14.38% = \$113.24. Room code is **KSTN**.

King Bed Suite - separate bedroom, \$99.00 per night plus tax of 14.38% = \$113.24. Room code is **KHWN**.

Double Queen Suite - separate bedroom, \$109.00 per night plus tax of 14.38% = \$124.68. Room code is **QHWN**.

Note: Room rates are valid 2 days prior through 2 days after the Reunion.

IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT:

A VALID MILITARY ID OR VISITORS PASS WILL BE REQUIRED DURING PORTIONS OF THE EVENT - READ BELOW

As a group, we will go on to Fort Sill three (3) times during our reunion (see schedule) and we are required to travel by bus (same as Fort Benning in 2015); we will need to be cleared by the Visitor Control Center each time we enter. It is highly recommended that members and guests without a Military ID Card go to the Fort Sill Visitor Control Center during the day on Wednesday, September 12th (or date of arrival if checking in earlier/later) to obtain a Visitor Pass for the duration of their stay. It will take about ten (10) minutes to obtain your pass. This link will allow you to get a pass ahead of time. and will save time.

www.fortsillregistration.com Just follow the steps.

The Visitor Control Center is located just prior to the Sheridan Road Gate at T6701 NW Sheridan Road, Lawton, OK 73503.

IF YOU OR YOUR GUEST DO NOT HAVE A VALID MILITARY ID YOU MUST BRING A GOVERNMENT ISSUED STATE OR FEDERAL ID WITH YOUR PICTURE - SUCH AS A DRIVER'S LICENSE, STATE ID CARD OR PASSPORT - IDs CANNOT BE EXPIRED.

REUNION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Registration and Welcome Reception

- 0630 to 0930 Complimentary Breakfast
- 1200 to 1530 Registration
- 1600 – Buses Depart for Fort Sill Visitor Control Center (VCC)
- 1610 – Arrive Visitor Control Center
- 1640 – Buses depart VCC for Fort Sill Historic Patriot Club – Old Officers Club
- 1650 – Buses arrive Historic Patriot Club
- 1700 - 1750 Cocktails
- 1800 - 2000 Buffet Dinner
- 2130 – Buses depart for Homewood Suites

Thursday, September 13, 2018 Live Fire Observation and Museum Tours:

- 0630 – 0830 Complimentary Breakfast
- 0840 – Buses depart Homewood Suites for Fort Sill Visitors Center
- 0900 – Buses arrive at Fort Sill Visitors Center

- 0930 – Bus departs for Firing Point
- 0950 – Buses arrive at Firing Point
- 1000 – 1130 Observe Live Fire Exercise
- 1140 – Buses depart Firing Point for Field Artillery Museum
- 1200 – 1300 Lunch – Dining Facility
- 1320 – 1445 Guided tour of Field Artillery Museum
- 1500 – 1600 Guided Tour of Air Defense Artillery Museum
- 1600 – Buses depart Museums for Homewood Suites
- 1630 – Buses arrive Homewood Suites
- 1730 – 1930 Hotel Social

Friday, September 14, 2018 Open Time – Activities of your choice:

- 0630 – 0930 Complimentary Breakfast
- 0930 – 1600 Registration
- All Day – Open Time - Lunch and dinner on your own

Saturday, September 15, 2018 Annual Meeting and Farewell Banquet:

- 0630 – 0930 Complimentary Breakfast
- 1000 – 1200 Annual General Meeting and Ladies Meeting(s)
- 1200- 1600 Open Time – Lunch on your own
- 1610 – Buses depart for Visitor Control Center (VCC)
- 1620 – Arrive VCC
- 1640 – Buses depart VCC for Historic Patriot Club
- 1650 – Buses arrive Historic Patriot Club
- 1700 -1750 Cocktails
- 1800 – 2000 Farewell Dinner
- 2130 – Buses depart for Homewood Suites
- 2200 – Arrive Homewood Suites

Sunday, September 16, 2018 Farewell Breakfast

- 0630 – 0930 Complimentary Breakfast and Good Byes

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

During Open Time on Friday and Saturday places of interest in the Lawton area are the:

Museum of the Great Plains
 The Holy City of the Wichitas
 The Comanche National Museum & Cultural Center
 The Historic Mattie Beal House.

There are a couple of Casinos - Apache Casino Hotel & Comanche Nation Casino - if you would like to gamble.

See you in OK!

For additional information about Reunion 2018 contact:
 Reunion Host Clovis Jones clovisjones@me.com
 Dave Borgeson dborgeson41@gmail.com. Reference ARA Reunion 2018.

“IN THE QUARTERMASTER’S STORE”

The old Boy Scout campfire song has taken on a new reality after these many years with the creation of a formal system for getting accoutrements and apparel.

NOTES FROM THE QUARTERMASTER

Jesse Hobby

Our President, Dave Borgeson, has designated me **ASSOCIATION QUARTERMASTER** since I’m the guy who gets the shirts, caps, cups, patches, bumper stickers, etc. for the Association. So, there are a few things I need to bring up at this time.

1. **ARA Apparel Clarification:** There were some references to ARA apparel in the last issue of the newsletter that need some clarification. We have the opportunity to purchase our items for a reduction in price due to negotiations with our vendor(s). The caps (men’s and ladies) will sell for \$10.00 and in addition to the ARA Logo they will embroider your name and call sign on right and left sides. Shirts (again men’s and ladies) which will be embroidered with the ARA Logo will sell for \$20.00 (all sizes).

2. ARA Unit Patches: In addition to the caps and shirts we will also have a supply of unit patches. This will probably be our last order (we are all getting older and the patch supply may outlive us) and it may well be your last chance to collect them. They will be available at \$5.00 each. There will also be a supply of bumper stickers for all units (Battalions and separate Batteries) and window stickers of the unit patches. Bumper Stickers will sell for \$2.00 and window stickers for \$1.00 each. To recap, our price list and available patches are below:

ARA Item	Price / each
Caps	\$10
Men's Shirt	\$20
Ladies' Shirt	\$20
Unit Patches (below)	\$5
Bumper Stickers	\$2
Window Stickers	\$1

ARA PATCHES & STICKERS



3rd Battalion/377th Artillery (ARA)/11th Air Assault Division (1963 – 1965)



2nd Battalion/20th Artillery (ARA)/1st Cavalry Division (1965 – 1968)



2nd Battalion/20th Artillery (ARA)/1st Cavalry Division (1968 – 1971)



"F" Battery (AFA)/3rd Brigade (Separate)/1st Cavalry Division (1971 – 1972)

4th Battalion/77th Artillery (ARA)/101st Airborne Division (1968 – 1978)



“A” Battery



“B” Battery



“C” Battery

3. Turnaround Time For Items: The vendors I am using need a lead time of ten (10) business days.

- A. If you **ARE ATTENDING** the Annual Reunion and wish to place an order for items to be delivered at Ft. Sill, please submit your order to our Treasurer, Herb Hirst, using the order form provided, no later than August 15th.
- B. If you are **NOT ATTENDING** the Annual Reunion or you want items shipped to your home address and timing is not a factor you may submit at any time.

The items listed above are in stock or easily obtainable. If you would like to place a special order (cap with unit patch, shirt with unit patch, whiskey flask with wings, patch, call sign, etc. please contact me to with particulars and I will coordinate the order with the vendor for pricing and shipping and with Herb for payment. Other than the unit patches (which required a minimum order of 100) these vendors will make single items. Many of you have already received the reunion coffee cups from previous reunions, deployment plaques, etc. and know what the quality is.

Your ARAA Quartermaster

Jesse Hobby
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229-378-0661 (M)
jesse_hobby@hotmail.com

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



Audrey Scott (Jesse's granddaughter) - is modeling a lady's SMALL shirt and Godzilla is wearing the men's hat.

Audrey is an honors student at Texas Connections Academy and is a rising senior. She is spending her summer as an intern at the Houston Museum of Natural Science and is attending Tulane University for their Newcomb Women's Leadership Program and Material Science and Engineering.

FORT SILL 2018 REUNION

NAME	GUEST	REG-IST NUM- BER	PD AMT.	WED. DINNER	PD AMT.	BUS	PD AMT.	BAN- QUET	PD AMT.	TOTAL	HO- TEL	NOTES
Borgeson, David	Patricia	3	\$90.00	3	\$90.00	3	\$138.00	3	\$114.00	\$432.00	Y	Bentleigh ()daughter
Conn, Joseph			\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	Y	
Giles, James			\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	Y	
Godbee, Raymond	Lucy	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$288.00		
Govignon, George	Sheila	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$288.00		
Grice, Johnny			\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	Y	
Hirst, Herbert	Cindy	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$288.00	Y	OWES \$4.00
Hobby, Jesse	Gloria	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$288.00		
Jones, Clovis			\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	Y	\$12 overpayment reimbursed
Lahnstein, Joseph	Karen	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$288.00	Y	
McAlister, Rodger	Marilyn	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$72.00	\$284.00	Y	
McKinnie, Lynn	Penny	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$288.00	Y	
Miller, Edward	Patsy	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$288.00	Y	
Mitschke, James			\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	Y	
Mobley, Larry	Regina	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$288.00	Y	
O'Dell, Huey			\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	Y	
O'Keefe, Michael	Maryetta	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$288.00	Y	
Quesada, Porfirio	Isabel	2	\$60.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$228.00		
Szabo, Jule	Joan	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$288.00	Y	
Taber, John			\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	Y	
Talbot, Asa	Jean	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$288.00	Y	
Trevino, Francisco	Anita	2	\$60.00	2	\$60.00	2	\$92.00	2	\$76.00	\$288.00	Y	
Wachs, George	N/A	1	\$30.00	1	\$30.00	1	\$46.00	1	\$38.00	\$144.00	Y	
		32	\$960.00		\$900.00		\$1,472.00		\$1,212.00	\$4,544.00		

Here is the roll of Honor. We need all our members present for these important reunion site choices and election of officers.



ORDER FORM FOR APPAREL, CAPS, PATCHES, STICK-ONS

CAPS, Men's, come in one size (has adjustable headband) and will have the ARA Logo embroidered on the front and can have your name on the right side and call sign on the left side, if desired. **Cost will be \$10.00**

Print name as you want it to appear: _____

Print call sign as you want it to appear: _____

CAPS, Women's, come in one size and in two (2) styles – Short brim and low profile or as a Headband (both have adjustable headband) and will have the ARA Logo embroidered on the front and can have your name on the right side, if desired. If you would like to give yourself a call sign such as **DRAGON LADY, LADY TORO, GRIFFIN MISTRESS, BLUE MAX MISTRESS, FALCONESS** that can be put on the left sign. Cost will be **\$10.00**

Print name as you want it to appear: _____

Print call sign as you want it to appear: _____

Shirts for men and women are available in sizes Small, Medium, Large, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, and 5XL and will have the ARA Logo embroidered on the left side. Cost is \$20.00 per shirt regardless of size.

Men's Shirt(s) - _____ X \$20.00 = _____ Size _____
ordered

Women's Shirt(s) - _____ X \$20.00 = _____ Size _____
ordered

Patches, Cloth – _____ X \$5.00 = _____
Specify Unit

Bumper Stickers - _____ X \$2.00 = _____
Specify Unit

Patches, Stickers - _____ X \$1.00 = _____
Specify Unit

Total for order - _____

Send form and check(s) made payable to **ARA ASSOCIATION** to:

ARA ASSOCIATION
c/o Herbert L. Hirst
P.O. Box 220
North Plains, OR 97133-0220



21st ARA REUNION, FORT SILL SEPTEMBER 12 – 16, 2018
50 YEAR COMMERATION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE
4th BN/77th ARTY OF THE 101st Airborne Division

Reunion Registration Form

Send form and check(s) made payable to **ARA ASSOCIATION** to:

ARA ASSOCIATION
 c/o Herbert L. Hirst
 P.O. Box 220
 North Plains, OR 97133-0220

Information	
Name/Membership #	
Wife/Guest name(s)	
Additional Guest(s)	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone Number	Home Cell
Email Address	
Is Special Assistance Required	

Please list name(s) as you would like for them to appear on NAME TAG(S)	Where From
Member	
Spouse/Guest	
ARA Units(s)	
Dates	

REGISTRATION/EVENT FEES	Details	Price	# In party	Total
Registration Fee	Per member in party over 18	\$30.00		
Annual Membership Dues	If not already paid for 2018	\$25.00		
Wed. – Dinner at Historic Patriot Club	Per member in party	\$30.00		
Bus Transportation to and from all events at Fort Sill + \$6.00 Thurs. lunch	Per member in party	\$46.00		
Sat. – Final Banquet at Historic Patriot Club	Per member in party	\$38.00		
Total for Reunion	-----	-----	-----	

Please complete and return by August 1, 2018 so that we may finalize all plans and secure set prices for events. Registration forms will be numbered upon receipt in order to secure seats on bus. Please send confirmation of attendance e-mail to host for head counts. E-mail address for host is clovisjones@me.com Telephone (480) 650-9698

Thanks and hope to see you all at Fort Sill, Lawton, OK in September 2018.

AND THEY USED TO CALL THIS TREASON

Since Ken Burns produced his classic TV documentary, "The Vietnam War", astounding things have been coming to light.

From the book, *Basic Airman to General: The Secret War and Other Conflicts* by General "Pete" Piotrowski... pages 246 and 247:

"Nearly twenty years later, I saw former secretary of state Dean Rusk being interviewed by Peter Arnett on a CBS Documentary called 'The Ten Thousand Day War'. Mr. Arnett asked, "It has been rumored that the United States provided the North Vietnamese government the names of the targets that would be bombed the following day. Is there any truth to that allegation? To my astonishment and absolute disgust, the former secretary responded, "Yes. We didn't want to harm the North Vietnamese people- so we passed the targets to the Swiss embassy in Washington with instructions to pass them to the NVN government through their embassy in Hanoi." As I watched in horror, Secretary Rusk went on to say, "All we wanted to do is demonstrate to the North Vietnamese leadership that we could strike targets at will, but we didn't want to kill innocent people. By giving the North Vietnamese advanced warning of the targets to be attacked, we thought they would tell the workers to stay home." No wonder all the targets were so heavily defended day after day! The NVN obviously moved as many guns as they could overnight to better defend each target they knew was going to be attacked. Clearly, many brave American Air Force and Navy fliers died or spent years in NVN prison camps as a direct result of being intentionally betrayed by Secretary Rusk and Secretary McNamara, and perhaps, President Johnson himself. I cannot think of a more duplicitous and treacherous act of American government officials."

Contributed by Scott Williams



A SHORT GUN STORY

A GUY WALKED INTO A CROWDED BAR, WAVING HIS UNHOLSTERED PISTOL AND YELLED, "I HAVE A 45 CALIBRE COLT 1911 WITH A SEVEN ROUND MAGAZINE PLUS ONE IN THE CHAMBER AND I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING WITH MY WIFE."

A VOICE FROM THE BACK OF THE ROOM CALLED OUT,

"YOU NEED MORE AMMO!"





Chaplain's Corner

“Fixer Upper”

“One thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead.” Philippians 3:13

“ Most of us know about or have seen the TV series FIXER UPPER with Chip and Joanna Gaines where they take on a project of remodeling a house for a new buyer. Chip comes in with a sledge hammer demolishing the cabinets and walls and adding beams for required support and even redoing the roof. Joanna builds new walls and adds new appliances and decorates the entire house. The one thing I think about is how does the basement look. I have seen basements that were the arm pit of the world – junk, old luggage, rusty old things that will be part of a project someday, 40 years of National Geographic, the footlocker from WWII, Korea, or Vietnam, boxes of old pictures and newspaper clippings, and mold and mildew from water leakage. There could be a whole host of stories stored in the basement.

Where are you going with this Chaplain? Today, I want to talk about relationships. We have built our ARA Association on our relationships. We have built our personal lives on relationships. What does a dark dank dungeon like basement have to do with relationships you ask?

Well, let's let the basement represent our past; past broken relationships, past hurts and wounds, past negative experiences and pain.

How will getting a right relationship with your past help fix up your relationships in the present? Part of renovating a home is removing all the junk. When you buy a fixer upper some people rent a dumpster because there is so much stuff to throw out. You have to remove the trash and clutter before you can start fixing up your home. That's what this article is about – what do we need to remove from our “basement” – representing our past – so that we can have strong relationships today.

Some of you wonder why you keep having this cycle of broken relationships. You keep getting involved with the same type person. They have different names but they have the same characteristics – controlling, abusive, etc. Some ask, “Why am I repeating the same mistakes my parents made. Why does every relationship you have seem to fail; romantic relationships, friendships, work relationships, or why do you keep moving from church to church (it's always the pastor or this or that). But is it possible there are some things you haven't dealt with, and that if you do, your relationships will improve. Some of you are even convinced you can't have a healthy relationship with anybody.

Some were hurt or so broken in the past that whenever you are happy you feel guilty about it. You carry such a burden of shame. The worst aspect of shame is that it isolates us from God, from others, and even ourselves. Since we are made for relationship with our Creator and those made in His image, isolation is a debilitating result of shame. Since toxic shame tells us we are defective, irredeemable, and unlovable, all we can do is hide and hope that others won't figure out our cover.

If we can remove some of the junk, trash, and broken things from our past relationships, maybe we can have strong relationships.

This applies to all of us at some level. All of us have some junk in our basement, some old items, some scary stuff – we need pitch it.

So how do we get a right relationship? Remove the baggage from the past!

A lot of people keep luggage in the basement. So let this luggage represent our “baggage” from the past. One reason current relationships suffer is that we bring baggage into the new relationship, baggage we haven't dealt with. What kinds of baggage am I talking about? Labels people have put on us, something a teacher or coach told us, a demeaning statement from a parent, or something about our looks. They are reminders to us that words are very powerful. These things can become baggage that we carry into the future and can harm our relationships.

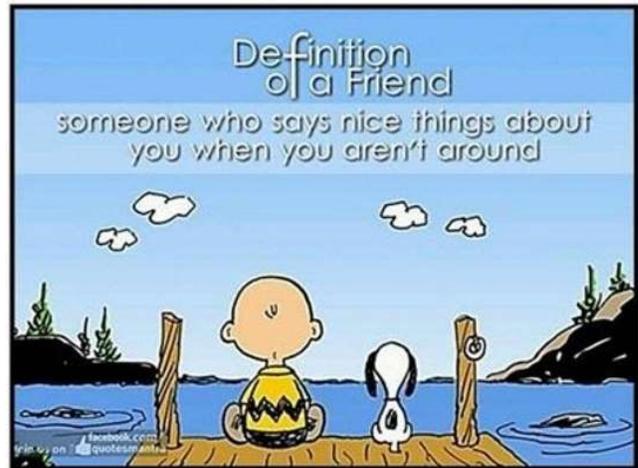
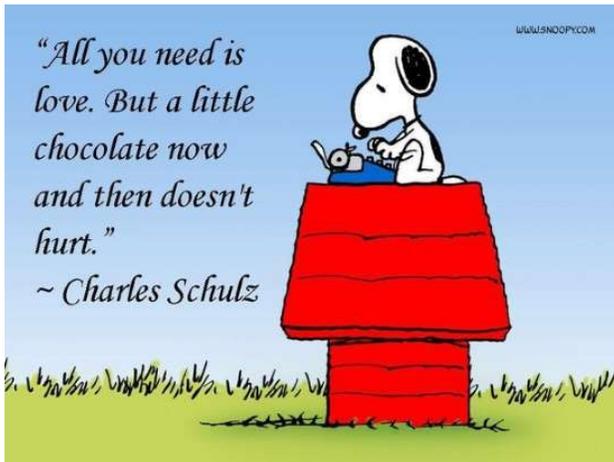
One hindrance to present relationships is the pain from old relationships. For those of you who have been divorced, you have to deal with the pain of that. The word divorce in the Bible paints a picture of the ripping of the flesh – a wound. For whatever reason, one needs to take time to get healing before one enters into another relationship. If we try to find intimacy with another person before achieving a sense of wholeness on our own, all our relationships become an attempt to complete ourselves.

If we are going to have healthy relationships now we have to remove the baggage. Too many people let the past define them. The past defines our present. It's like this old baggage that we keep but it weighs us down and keeps us from the healthy relationships God wants us to have at home – at work – at school – at church.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” I love the way this is portrayed in the Lion King. As Timon and Pumbaa said to Simba, “You have to put your behind in your past.” So let’s throw the baggage of the past into the dumpster and move on to strong and healthy relationships now.

Peace,

Bruce Wilder,
Chaplain



KEEPER

I grew up with practical parents. A mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen before they had a name for it. A father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones.

I can see them now, Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat and Mom in a house dress, lawn mower in one hand, and dishtowel in the other. It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep.

It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, healing, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more.

Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away ... never to return. So ... While we have it ... it's best we love it ... And care for it ... And fix it when it's broken ... And heal it when it's sick.

This is true. For marriage ... And old cars ... And children with bad report cards ... And dogs with bad hips ... And aging parents ... And grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it. Some things we keep. Like a best friend that moved away or a classmate we grew up with.

There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special ... And so, we keep them close!

I received this from someone who thinks I am a 'keeper', so I'm sending it to the people I think of in the same way ... Now it's your turn to send this to those people that are "keepers" in your life. Good friends are like stars ... You don't always see them, but you know they are always there. Keep them close!

Contributed by Larry Mobley

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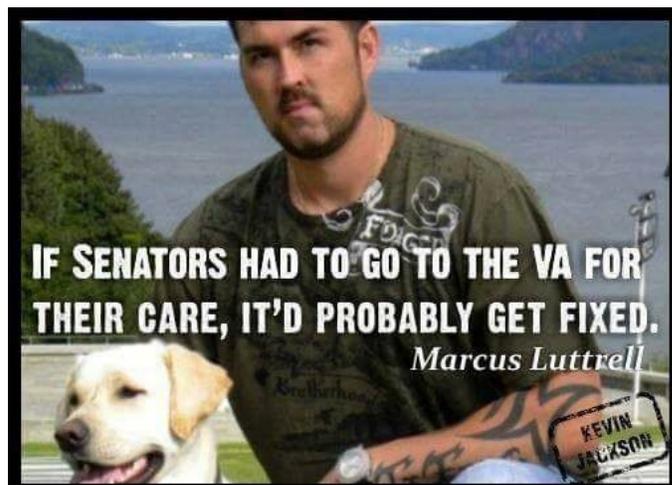
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This is an election year and since we did not have a quorum in Williamsburg due to the weather we must also decide where the next two reunions will be held. It is critical that we have as any of our members present and offering input as possible. There are a lot of possibilities and we must have strong leadership to accomplish our goals.

ATTENTION ALL ARA MEN:

DO NOT DELETE THIS PUBLICATION UNTIL ALL SPOUSES, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS AND COMPANIONS HAVE READ IT. THE INFORMATION IS FOR ALL IN THE FAMILY.



THE JULE SZABO NEWS

Our own Jule Szabo has been busy visiting sites and screening publications. It is our honor to share his contributions!

In case you missed it, March 29th was National Vietnam War Veterans Day—a long overdue recognition of the those who served in a place they had never heard of before. This date coincides with the day US Prisoners of War were returned and military forces withdrew from Vietnam. Since 1973 local, state and national organizations have commemorated this date through a patchwork of State and Presidential proclamations but in 2017 the Vietnam Veterans Recognition Act was signed into law ensuring future generations would remember the 9 million heroes who served and the more than 58,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice. The nation is encouraged to fly the American flag as a visible symbol of that remembrance. Put it on your 2019 calendar and spread the word.

The Helicopter War Gets New Monument

More than 100,000 served as rotary crew in Southeast Asia and many now lie in peace in the fields of Arlington National Cemetery. In April 2018 a new monument was installed and dedicated on the grounds. Designed and donated by the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots and Crew Association it stands at the corner of Memorial and Porter Drives (Section 35) and honors the 5,000 rotary-wing airmen who died during the 14 years of the Vietnam War.



The dedication ceremony was conducted in the Memorial Amphitheater with many Vietnam Veterans, Gold Star mothers and relatives of the Vietnam soldiers. The 1st Cav was well represented.

The National Museum of the U. S. Army Takes Shape

Although the Army is the senior service (23 of the 40 signers of the Declaration of Independence served as soldiers in the Continental Army) it is the last to receive its own museum. There have been many (approximately 40) museums built around the country to honor units, weapons and bases. This will be the first to take a holistic view of the Army as a total unit.



A shell now, this 185,000 sq. ft., five story, pavilion will soon house the National Museum of the U. S. Army.

The cost of the project, which has been in the planning since 2001, will be about \$200 million. Fairfax County has given \$2 million and the rest will be raised by the Army Historical Foundation (about 140 million has been gathered). The museum will be operated by the U.S. Army when it is finished in 2020.

It is expected to draw 700,000 visitors annually, of which it is hoped 30% will be children. With its proximity to Washington, DC, Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall and Woodlawn Plantation and other sites it will be an ideal historical adventure displaying 1300 artifacts in eight galleries delving into the history of the Army from The Revolution through Afghanistan. A 9,000 sq. ft. Army and Society gallery will show how the Army intersects with the civilian world providing scientific and technological advances, as well as social changes (racial integration).



This showcase will contain plaques honoring individual soldiers

Scattered about will be pylons and flip books which will showcase individual soldiers and allow visitors to submit photos and information about loved ones or themselves. The goal is to tell the Army's story through the eyes and voices of our soldiers from all eras. The central pavilion will house a 360 degree theatre with vibrating chairs, wind effects and an immersive experience.

A unique experiential learning center emphasizing STEM education, directed toward the anticipated school groups, and located next to an area especially for younger children called Fort Discovery, will feature five simulation areas with opportunity to try such Army skills as bridge-building, cartography, helicopter air drops and drone operations. Following the training, the children will reassemble in the learning lab to solve an assigned humanitarian mission using the skills they learned.

The 84 acre campus will also house a memorial garden, amphitheater, parade ground complex and an Army Trail providing interactive survival training for children.

There will be three digital registries recognizing active duty soldiers, Army veterans, civilians who worked with or for the Army and animals who served in conflicts. A commemorative brick program will serve as a tribute to individual soldiers, units, families, civilians and supporters of the museum. The ARA has put in a brick for the Association.

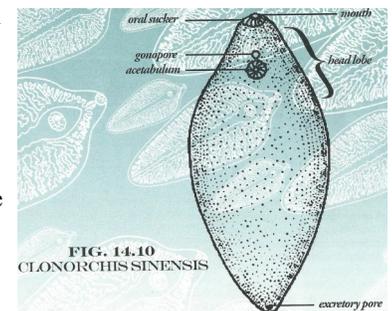
All in all, this may be an ideal site for a future reunion in 2020 or 2021. Admission will be free and there will be no need to go through Ft. Belvoir's security.

THIS LIVER FLUKE IS NOT A FAKE

By your friendly Flight Surgeon

The existence of this insidious parasite has been in the literature since 2009. It is a fresh-water-fish bourn flatworm widespread in areas of southeast Asia and strongly linked to cholangiocarcinoma (cancer of the bile duct). The parasite is spread through the consumption of popular traditional dishes which are either raw or undercooked to kill the parasite and anyone who has been in that area may have been exposed to it.

The parasite can live and reproduce in the bile duct for thirty years or more all the while causing chronic inflammation that eventually creates cancer cells before producing noticeable symptoms. While easily detected and treated at an early stage by the time of discovery due to jaundice from a blocked bile duct the cancer is a Stage IV cancer and the outlook is dismal. Ironically, this blockage locks in a still thriving colony of liver flukes preventing their detection in stool samples. More often than not, liver flukes cannot be detected by the usual method (stool) as they are sealed into the bile duct. New technology is being developed using species-specific antigens in the urine but is still experimental.



It is critical that early detection be accomplished but even late information will help in establishing service connection for benefits. Unfortunately, lack of information, confusion about this cancer and the persistent mindset of, "If we wait long enough they will all die off" continue to obstruct such claims.

This author has been in contact with the Martinsburg, WV VAH because when he and two other veterans inquired about the simple stool specimen check they were met with looks of bewilderment. It was not the fault of the CBOC personnel - the entire system is clueless. However, a cooperative person in the Director's office was interested and was sent references from the literature about the problem. As it is not a disease recognized and approved by Congress nothing can be done. A massive letter writing campaign to Representatives and Senators may be required. **STAND BY! WAIT ONE! ROUND ON THE WAY!**

Ladies of the Association

Dear Ladies of the ARA,

My final message to all of you is to tell you how much it has been a pleasure to be a very small part of this group of very talented, friendly and kind ladies. I am so looking forward to seeing you all again in Lawton, Oklahoma!

I have received no news to report so as the saying goes, "No news is good news" and that must mean that you are all well and healthy and beautiful as ever.

To continue with the Borgeson Travelogue (I am sure you are sick of it) we had a wonderful family vacation last month to Belize and Guatemala and escaped 5 days before the volcanic eruption. In August, we have another family vacation to Jackson Hole to celebrate our nephew's wedding at which Dave will officiate (Bruce Wilder might have some competition).

A few of you asked for a copy of the poem I read at our ladies meeting in Williamsburg and so I am enclosing it.

UNTITLED

The battle's over

The victory's won.

A soldier makes his journey home.

He fought so hard; he fought so long.

And now he sings a victor's song.

It was not easy; it was not slight.

But it was such a worthy fight!

The battle scars ---they tell the tale

That war sometimes can be like HELL!

But he fought the fight; endured the pain

For he knew only he would gain.

Commendations. Medals, and cheers---those things fade across the years.

But his gain would be much more than that!

A place where only few have sat

An honored seat; a place of call.

To sit before his General and hear the words

That come from HIM.

YOU FOUGHT THE FIGHT----NOW ENTER IN!

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Xoxo

Pat

*Asa and Jean Talbot had a great 60th anniversary cruising through the Panama Canal, doing little or nothing
(reading and eating mostly).*

FORGET THE BLUE AND THE GREY

IT'S THE RED AND THE BLUE

Civil War:

This piece by Jack Minzy is so timely, and frightening, that it bears sharing in a “now free” nation with those who fought to keep it so. Professionally, Jack Minzy was head of the Department of Education at Eastern Michigan University as well as a prolific author of numerous *books*, most of which were on the topic of Education and the Government role therein. This is the last of his works:

How do civil wars happen?

Two or more sides disagree on who runs the country. And they can't settle the question through elections because they don't even agree that elections are how you decide who's in charge. That's the basic issue here. Who decides who runs the country? When you hate each other but accept the election results, you have a country. When you stop accepting election results, you have a count-down to a civil war.

The Mueller investigation is about removing President Trump from office and overturning the results of an election. We all know that. But it's not the first time they've done this. The first time a Republican president was elected this century, they said he didn't really win. The Supreme Court gave him the election. There's a pattern here.

What do sure odds of the Democrats rejecting the next Republican president really mean? It means they don't accept the results of any election that they don't win. It means they don't believe that transfers of power in this country are determined by elections.

There's no shooting. At least not unless you count the attempt to kill a bunch of Republicans at a charity baseball game practice. But the Democrats have rejected our system of government.

This isn't dissent. It's not disagreement. You can hate the other party. You can think they're the worst thing that ever happened to the country. But then you work harder to win the next election. When you consistently reject the results of elections that you don't win, what you want is a dictatorship.

Your very own dictatorship.

The only legitimate exercise of power in this country, according to Democrats, is its own. Whenever Republicans exercise power, it's inherently illegitimate. The Democrats lost Congress. They lost the White House. So what did they do? They began trying to run the country through Federal judges and bureaucrats. Every time that a Federal judge issues an order saying that the President of the United States can't scratch his own back without his say so, that's the civil war.

Our system of government is based on the constitution, but that's not the system that runs this country. The Democrat's system is that any part of government that it runs gets total and unlimited power over the country.

If the Democrats are in the White House, then the president can do anything. And I mean anything. He can have his own amnesty for illegal aliens. He can fine you for not having health insurance. His power is unlimited. He's a dictator.

But when Republicans get into the White House, suddenly the President can't do anything. He isn't even allowed to undo the illegal alien amnesty that his predecessor illegally invented. A Democrat in the White House has 'discretion' to completely decide every aspect of immigration policy. A Republican doesn't even have the 'discretion' to reverse him. That's how the game is played. That's how our country is run. Sad but true, although the left hasn't yet won that particular fight.

When a Democrat is in the White House, states aren't even allowed to enforce immigration law. But when a Republican is in the White House, states can create their own immigration laws. Under Obama, a state wasn't allowed to go to the bathroom without asking permission. But under Trump, Jerry Brown can go around saying that California is an independent republic and sign treaties with other countries.

The Constitution has something to say about that.

Whether it's Federal or State, Executive, Legislative or Judiciary, the left moves power around to run the country. If it controls an institution, then that institution is suddenly the supreme power in the land. This is what I call a moving dictatorship.

Donald Trump has caused the Shadow Government to come out of hiding: Professional government is a guild. Like medieval guilds. You can't serve in it if you're not a member. If you haven't been indoctrinated into its arcane rituals. If you aren't in the club. And Trump isn't in the club. He brought in a bunch of people who aren't in the club with him.

Now we're seeing what the pros do when amateurs try to walk in on them. They spy on them, they investigate them and they send them to jail. They use the tools of power to bring them down.

That's not a free country.

It's not a free country when FBI agents who support Hillary take out an 'insurance policy' against Trump winning the election. It's not a free country when Obama officials engage in massive unmasking of the opposition. It's not a free country when the media responds to the other guy winning by trying to ban the conservative media that supported him from social media. It's not a free country when all of the above collude together to overturn an election because the guy who wasn't supposed to win did.

Have no doubt, we're in a civil war between conservative volunteer government and a leftist Democrat professional government.

Contributed by Larry Mobley

STORY OF MY LIFE

I used to think I was just a regular guy, but . . .

I was born white, which now, whether I like it or not, makes me a racist.

I am a fiscal and moral conservative, which by today's standards, makes me a fascist.

I am heterosexual, which according to gay folks, now makes me a homophobic.

I am non-union, which makes me a traitor to the working class and an ally of big business.

I am a Christian, which now labels me as an infidel.

I believe in the 2nd Amendment, which now makes me a member of the vast gun lobby.

I am older than 60, which makes me a bit less than I used to be.

I think and I reason, therefore I doubt much that the main stream media tells me, which must make me a reactionary.

I am proud of my heritage and our inclusive American culture, which makes me a xenophobe.

I value my safety and that of my family and I appreciate the police and the legal system, which makes me a right-wing extremist.

I believe in hard work, fair play, and fair compensation according to each individual's merits, which today makes me an anti-socialist.

I believe in the defense and protection of the homeland for and by all citizens, which now makes me a militant.

Recently, a sick old woman called me and my friends a basket of deplorables.

I need to thank all my friends for sticking with me through these abrupt, new found challenges in my life and my thinking!

I just can't imagine or understand what's happened to me so quickly!

Funny . . . it's all just taken place over the last 7 or 8 years!

And if all this crap wasn't enough to deal with.

I'm now afraid to go into either restroom!

In God We Trust.

From Larry Mobley



AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

Membership Application/Renewal Form

This form may be used for Applying for New Membership or for Renewing Existing Membership. Please circle that which is appropriate.

Name _____ Wife's Name _____

Rank _____ Membership Number _____

(At time of service in ARA)

(If known)

Retired Rank (if applicable) _____ Service Number _____

List all ARA Units that you served in. _____

<u>Battery/Battalion</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>
_____	From mo/yr to mo/yr	_____
_____	From mo/yr to mo/yr	_____

Current Address: _____

Street or PO Box

_____ City State Zip Code

Phone: _____

Home

Work (if okay)

Cell

E-Mail Address: _____

Association membership is on an annual basis (unless member opts for life membership) running from January 1 to December 31 and is past due on January 31.

Annual dues are **\$25.00** regardless of when submitting.

Life membership (if paid in full) is **\$250.00**. Life membership may also be paid in **\$50.00** installments on a quarterly basis until paid in full.

Total amount enclosed _____ (Please indicate in remarks section of check whether this is Initial Membership, Membership Renewal, Life Membership in full, Life Membership payment #.

Mail completed application to: Aerial Rocket Artillery Association

For Office Use Only

C/O Herbert L. Hirst

Check # _____

P.O. Box 220

Check Date _____

North Plains, OR 97133-0220

Amount _____

Web address – www.araassociation.com

Date Rcvd _____