



The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 13 No 3

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

January—March, 2021

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

COVID BROUGHT US DEATH AND FEAR CHRISTMAS BROUGHT US HOPE AND CHEER



President's Corner

Dear Members, Family Members, Readers and Guests,

Hope all of you had a Blessed and Wonderful Christmas!!! I wish you a Healthy, Happy,

Peaceful, and Prosperous 2021!!!

I pray and trust that all of you and your Loved Ones are safe, well, and healthy. Please continue to take excellent care of yourselves and those whom you Love.

We are in a period of accelerating COVID-19 infections rates as well as the beginning of the traditional Flu season. This gives us a double challenge as we are all in a group classified as vulnerable. Dr. Robert R. Redfield, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is of the opinion that the next 60 days or so will be our most difficult time regarding infections from this virus. Continue to stay safe so we can meet again on the other side of this pandemic.

Joe L. Galloway, our keynote speaker at our 2019 Reunion in San Diego and world renowned author, has had some major health challenges of late and is continuing to recover. Marvin Wolf has begun a letter writing campaign to President-Elect Joe Biden for the purpose of honoring Joe with the Medal of Freedom. Joe is not only a friend; we are both Ia Drang Valley Veterans. I highly encourage each of you to write a letter to the President-Elect asking for this honor to be bestowed upon Joe while he is still with us. Please reach out to your Veterans friends and ask the to do the same.

The address to send your letters for Joe is:

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Portions of Marvin's Letter:

“Mr. Galloway, then a wire-service reporter, was the only civilian to be awarded the Bronze Star for Valor during the Vietnam war. This highly unusual event recognized his actions at LZ X-Ray in November 1965. You may read about that enormously consequential battle during which he served as a reporter-turned-infantryman in Galloway's best-selling book *We Were Soldiers Once, and Young*, or by viewing the Hollywood film based on it.

Nor was this the first time that Galloway, an untrained civilian, put aside his pen and notebook and took up arms for his country. During the siege of Plei Me Special Forces Camp in October 1965, Galloway received a two-minute tutorial on loading and firing a .30 caliber machine gun. For the next three days, he remained in a corner tower of the camp firing at the thousands of North Vietnamese Army forces surrounding it.

Galloway served four tours in Vietnam for United Press International, from the very beginning of the war to the fall of Saigon in 1975.

Later, as a correspondent for US News & World Report, he accompanied Major General Barry McCaffrey, commanding the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at the head of VII Corps on the now-famous Left-Hook, a 300-mile dash through the Iraqi desert to get behind Saddam Hussein's armies and end the war in days. Galloway was allowed this reporting access because General Norman Schwarzkopf knew him and his honest reporting from Vietnam and entrusted him with the greatest secret of the Gulf War.

Then and now, there is no civilian or journalist so honored and revered by America's veterans as Joe Galloway. During the run-up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003, Galloway was one of a small handful of American journalists (then working for the McClatchy newspaper syndicate) who refused to swallow the lies coming from the Bush-Cheney White House about the need to invade Iraq. Galloway's actions were chronicled in the Hollywood film, *Shock and Awe*.

Galloway's credo is that "The truth is not an option."

Even a cursory investigation of Galloway's record will show that he is beloved and admired by reporters and veterans alike. The latter know him as a true brother and as an advocate for soldiers, veterans, and their orphans and widows. This honorable and courageous man, a consummate professional and patriotic hero, is an outstanding representative of our national media corps. I believe that awarding him this distinction would go a long way toward restoring respect for our media.

I would be pleased to speak with anyone on your staff about Joe, and I will commit myself to advancing this cause by spreading the word among my many veteran and journalist friends.

Merry Christmas, and all best to you, Jill, and your family."



Marvin J. Wolf

The National Vietnam War Museum, Weatherford, Texas is looking for Vietnam memorabilia. The first ARA contribution to this Museum was one of our ARA plaques presented by Jim Mistschke. Those of you having items to contribute, please send them to the Museum's shipping address:

National Vietnam War Museum
C/O Jim Messinger
2350 Old Agnes Road
Weatherford, TX 76088

You may call the Museum at 940-325-4003 or visit their website: www.nationalvnwarmuseum.org

Remember to send copies of your books, notes, journals, mission briefings, personal accounts of missions; and audio recordings to the Morris Swett Library to be archived to document ARA's history.

Send to: Morris Swett Library, 730 SCHIMMELPFENNIG ROAD, FORT SILL, OK 73503

Blessings to you and your families in 2021.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

STAY SAFE, WELL, HEALTHY, AND PROTECTED!!!

All the Best,
Clovis Jones, Jr.
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Editor's Note: Clovis has kindly sent along the latest Artillery Museum newsletter. For reasons of length and style of this Straphanger it will be sent as a separate mailing to our members.



Gloria Hobby shows how a Redneck celebrates Christmas

Mission Recommences

In light of the seemingly ever-changing situation, our plans have again been set in motion and it might be well to repeat some of the information previously shared and keep tabs on the upcoming events.

Jerry and Ann Hipp have reset the accommodations with Holiday Inn Express at the exact same prices for almost the same dates. The 23rd ARA Reunion will held in Savannah, GA August 30 through September 3, 2021—with availability for those who wish it from August 28-September 5, 2021. . You can do that while you make your reservation for 2021. (1-912-231-9000 or 1-888-978-6498) .

.So far, it appears we will enjoy all the same venues as originally planned. The earlier information is reprinted here.

LIVE OAKS AND SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

The 2020 Reunion of the ARA is slated for Savannah, GA, August 30 through September 3. Savannah is one of the most beautiful and enjoyable cities in lower 48 and consequently a huge tourist attraction. Jerry and Ann Hipp, our hosts, have wisely adjusted the usual dates to avoid the high hotel rates inherent in the weekend.

We will set up station at the Holiday Inn Express, Savannah Historic District, 199 East Bay Street (intersection of Bay and Abercorn) which is virtually the center north of old Savannah. Final details on reservations are still being worked out but rooms will be \$119 Sunday 8/30 through Thursday 9/3 (as opposed to \$155 on Friday 8/29 and \$195 on the following weekend 9/4 & 9/5). Savannah is worth a few extra dollars to see at leisure. The rates DO NOT include 13% taxes and a \$6 City Occupancy fee. Parking is available at two nearby city garages at about \$10/night and valet parking only at the hotel for a reduced rate of \$25. Breakfast is included and a hospitality room on the lower level have already been contracted by Herb Hirst, as well as the site of the Farewell Banquet 9/3 (“Vic’s on the River” – across the street from the hotel).

The Welcome Banquet will be at world renowned Mrs Wilkes Boarding House. Mrs. Wilkes is normally open for lunch only, 5 days a week, and serves old fashioned Southern food for a fixed price and in a family style (that means large dishes of food for self-service with refills coming as needed. This reporter has eaten there and can vouch for its quality and quantity as well as its ambiance. We have a [special](#) booking there Monday evening at 6 p.m. The menu includes a dozen southern veggies, plus beef stew, pulled pork and fried chicken - ALL YOU WANT! Arrangements will be made for bus/trolley transportation to/from Mrs. Wilkes’. **NOTE: Only 82 can be accommodated so it is first come/first served on the signup.**

Hotel amenities include a rooftop pool overlooking the city and the Savannah River (which is right across the street from the hotel), a full service bar open every evening, use of the Hospitality Room for our annual meeting and the bar area for the Ladies meeting. Some free transportation about the city is available and the hotel is a scheduled stop for all tour companies. Dozens of restaurants are within walking distance.

Reservation phone numbers, attendee codes and other information will be forthcoming expeditiously when it becomes available.

RECREATION:

We are arranging for a guided trolley tour of the entire Old Historic District for those interested on Tuesday, mid-morning 9-1. The goal is to maximize the time and opportunities for sightseeing as you desire. Tuesday and Wednesday dinners are the attendee’s choice and the final official meal is right across the street.

Savannah is a great place to visit and wander about. River cruises are available (lunch and/or dinner buffets included) with the dock within easy walking distance. Also, the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum with tours and food available (near Savannah Airport), several historic forts of earlier wars and Tybee Island National Seashore with lighthouse and beach, etc. There is a big nightlife, many great restaurants and Ghost tours are a part of the scene.

Plans for a visit to Hunter Army Airfield (in Savannah) with tour and dining hall lunch are being developed. It is home to the Combat Aviation Brigade of the US Army Third Infantry Division (currently deployed to the Middle East but with a rear detachment in place). They have an Apache Attack Helicopter Battalion (as close as anything in the modern Army to what we were), the 160th Special Operation AVIATION regiment (SOAR) and a battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

. More in future editions.

Important announcement: You are sending great copy and messages to me but using either reply or the GoDaddy address. I rarely look at that and am missing your messages. Please send anything to me at asartalbot@gmail.com. I check that.



ARA - SAVANNAH - REUNION

23rd ARA REUNION, SAVANNAH, GA, AUGUST 30, - SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

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	
Email Address	
Any special assistance/ needs 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	\$40.00		
Annual Membership Dues (N/A for Life Member)	If not already paid for 2020	\$25.00		
Monday – Dinner & Bus	Per member in party	\$36.00		
Tuesday - Historic District Trolley Tour	Per member in party	\$28.00		
Wednesday – Lunch & Bus to Hunter AAF	Per member in party	\$25.00		
Thursday – Farewell Banquet	Per member in party	\$45.50		
Total for Reunion				

Please complete and return by July 31, 2021 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 ithipp@aol.com: Telephone # 912-598-8785

Third in series of:
MURPHY'S LAW OF FLIGHT

OR

**Signs That You Are About To Have A Really Bad Day
(Or "clues" for the clueless Flight Crew)**

Which appeared in the last issue of the "Straphanger."

IN THE PZ

On very short final you note that the PZ guides are kneeling rather than standing.

The troops hurrying to load on your bird are walking backwards.

They are firing full automatic and throwing loud things.

Once loaded they continue firing and throwing loud things.

There is enthusiastic pounding on your seat back and loud yelling of "GO, GO, GO!"

Judging from the hot brass being sprayed down your neck, the crew-chief and gunner are firing non-stop.

You make an important crew firing adjustment command shifting the hot brass to the co-pilot.

The co-pilot remarks on the "Funny green-colored" tracers.

There seems to be more colored lights on the cockpit display than usual.

Attention to this set of details is more difficult to maintain due to the low RPM audio's incessant noise.

The co-pilot opines that the Master Caution Light could be related to the hammer like banging on the transmission compartment.

The windshield suddenly becomes difficult to see out of.

You note a warm feeling on your pants legs; however, the pleasure of the moment is spoiled by an annoying odor.

That non-stop high-pitched panicky hysterical screaming on the intercom that has been interfering with your thinking is giving you a sore throat.

The Crew-Chief and Gunner are vying for your attention over trivialities such as the Gunner's machine gun (signed for on the property book by you) has spontaneously dismounted and fallen into the LZ carrying the ammo box, his C-Rat Beenie-Weenie lunch can and his lucky chicken's foot with it!

The Gunner notes that the grass fire set by the white hot barrel is moving under the helicopter towards the hydraulic leak.

The Crew-Chief adds to the general lack of cheer by announcing that his own gun, down to its last 50 rounds has gone into run-away gun mode.

Meanwhile the Gunner is throwing (mostly stolen) maintenance tools and a large unauthorized rock that you have a suspicion that you are signed for somehow.

There seems to be more and more troops crowding into the PZ than the pick-up number indicated in the briefing.

Most of the onrushing enthusiastically gesticulating PZ crowd seem to be wearing uniforms that you cannot recall seeing in the post clothing sales store.

You decide that the situation here is not as briefed and that you should take your departure, preferably away from the sparkly lights. (Your plan is to count this routine extraction as a "CA" based on the extraordinary amount of new maintenance items needing write up in the book.

The trip home is shortened by plotting how to blame the hand-receipt losses on the co-pilot.

Final installment to follow next quarter.

MORE ADVICE FROM YOUR FRIENDLY FLIGHT SURGEON

The COVID-19 vaccine has finally been released for distribution. Alas, nothing is ever uncomplicated. Here are some thoughts on this hopefully protective item.

There are two vaccines currently available. BOTH require two shots, 24 days apart for Pfizer's and 28 days apart for BioNTech's.

There are other vaccines coming available soon, which will make treatment more readily available. The Pfizer version is being released in Britain and other parts of Europe with, so far, good results (95% effective). Neither vaccine has had the rigorous testing usually required by our FDA. A history of severe reactions has caused the vaccine to be avoided for people with that history.

The current prioritization is for "first responders" to get it first. As yet no decision has been made on who will be next. Virginia is talking about treating the school teachers in January. Logic would dictate it should be nursing home patients and their caregivers, followed by the military. A case could be made for our age group but it is estimated that the general population will not see it until about April, 2021.

In the meantime, the VA has a limited amount of the vaccine and will provide it to first providers and long term resident veterans. It is currently being distributed to 128 centers. When more is available it will be made available according to CDC guidelines to those who request it. Information is available at [1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411) (800-698-2411). Choose option #8. Further information is available at www.va.gov/covid-19-vaccine/ A non-binding sign-up is found at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/stay-informed>.

In the latest blast of confused governmental (HHS) thinking, they are withholding distribution of 55% of the available supply of vaccine (5% in case of emergencies or SNAFU's and 50% to be sure there are enough for the follow up shot in 21-23 days. Listen Washington, the current spike in cases is due to the travelling during Thanksgiving (3,406 people died on December 17) and the spike which will surely come in January will be even worse. Instead of giving 40 million immunizations, only 18 million will be given. We are talking thousands of lives potentially lost. A bullet delivered at the height of the battle is worth more than a bullet delivered a month after the battle has died down. Today almost 52,000 nursing home residents a week are getting COVID-19 and 21% of them will die. Getting the vaccine to them a month earlier could save more than 40,000 lives.

1. Both vaccines are effective enough to give immunity beyond 21-23 days.
2. There will be 50 million doses produced in January that could go to booster shots, and 60 million in February.
3. By the end of January the pandemic will begin to decline rapidly.
4. Why will we let Americans die unnecessarily?

Also in the meantime, Influenza (Flu) is not nearly as deadly as COVID-19 but does claim approximately 67,000 lives annually. While not 100% specific, the vaccine is a safe bet. Shots are available for veterans at regional centers and CBOC's. They are available for spouses at many pharmacies and are almost always covered by insurance (including Medicare).

COVER YOUR BUTT—GET YOUR FLU SHOT NOW!

BEWARE THE PARTISAN ROT ON THE INTERNET

Anyone can say anything about everything and many people will believe it and forward it on. Our electoral system is dictated by our Constitution and the majority of people do not understand either subject.

Currently there is a slew of statements being made concerning how the Republicans will salvage the Trump campaign by using procedures of the Electoral College procedure to prevail over Biden. Our Founding Fathers who developed this system would not have allowed for such chicanery. Furthermore, our judicial system (although they would like to remain a safe distance from all this post election diatribe) would follow reason and condemn it.

On the other hand, here is a quote from a Czech writer which repeats a bitter, and oft proclaimed truth which clearly defines the real problem.

"The danger to America is not Joseph Biden, but a citizenry capable of entrusting a man like him with the Presidency. It will be far easier to limit and undo the follies of a Biden presidency than to restore the necessary common sense and good judgment to a depraved electorate willing to have such a man for their president. The problem is much deeper and far more serious than Mr. Biden, who is a mere symptom of what ails America. Blaming the prince of fools should not blind anyone to the vast confederacy of fools that made him their prince. The Republic can survive a Biden, who is, after all, merely a fool. It is less likely to survive a multitude of fools, such as those who made him their president."

Final Flight:

Capt. Charles Cline

Charles Cline departed this life on November 19, 2020 in Security, CO. Charles flew Cobras with A Btry, 2/20th ARA 1968 – 1969, arriving in country as a 1st Lt. and leaving as a Captain. His brother, who cared for him in his declining years said that even though he had trouble sometimes remembering things, he could always tell you how to turn and bank an aircraft. He constantly fretted about the men he left behind and prayed for all.

A final irony was that his palliative team was led by a doctor from Vietnam. His brother was exposed to Covid-19 the day before his death and not allowed to enter the nursing home. Upon hearing this, Dr. Phan came on her day off and sat with Charles throughout the afternoon, holding his hand until he passed.

Charles had found God in his life, and now God has found Charles

The formal obituary cannot be located.

SP/4 Jerry W. Boerm



Jerry Wayne Boerm, 75, passed away Monday, October 26, 2020 in Castroville, Texas. He was born December 26, 1944 in Cuero, Texas to the late Oscar Frederick and Selma Haak Boerm.

Jerry married Faye Franke Boerm on June 5, 1966 in Yorktown, Texas

Jerry Honorably served in the U.S. Army C Battery, 20/20th ARA, 1967-68 in Vietnam.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his son, David Boerm. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Faye Franke Boerm; children, Ray Boerm and Mary Quinn (Donald); grandchildren, William Iglesias, Angela Iglesias, and Matthew Iglesias; sister, Connie Waskow (Jimmy); Numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Interment was at Weesatche Cemetery with military honors.

(Photo courtesy of
Claude Gomez)



Chaplain's Corner

“Communication”

Communication to a relationship is like oxygen to life, without it... it dies.

How has your communication with others been during these days of COVID-19? Witnessed any misunderstandings? Have you experienced a little squabble now and then while locked in quarantine? If so, most were probably over petty matters, while a few may have been full blown.

Let's talk about it! Would you believe one survey revealed that 50 percent of wives say their husband is uncommunicative. An additional study reported that 86% of divorces were fueled by deficient communication. One could say these were more than squabbles! How would you describe your flair-ups?

Gary Chapman, marriage enrichment speaker and author noted, “Any couple can have good communication. It's not a matter of one's personality, it's basically an act of the will. Communication is something we choose to do or not do.” Effective communication is even more difficult during conflict. In walks COVID-19! Chapman noted when a couple is in conflict the average spouse listens 17 seconds before interrupting their mate. Want to time your next episode?

Even though I am leaning more towards marriage communication it can apply in any type of relationship - professional, family or friend. During our current challenge of COVID-19 we can all use a little encouragement to communicate better. In the coming months strive to foster communication that edifies your relationships instead of tearing them down. Remember, your words can be like bricks – they can either build a place of security and protection or be thrown with intentions to hurt. Are you a mason or an MLB hurler?

I leave you with a great Proverb that is a guide to great communication.

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Proverbs15:1)

Peace,

Bruce Wilder

Chaplain



THE REAL PROBLEM ISN'T WHO SPENDS 4 TO 8 YEARS HERE...



...THE REAL PROBLEMS ARE THOSE WHO SPEND 30 OR 40 YEARS HERE!

WHITE IRISH SLAVES WERE TREATED WORSE THAN ANY OTHER RACE IN THE US.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HEARD AN IRISHMAN BITCHING HOW THE WORLD OWES THEM A LIVING?

A black and white photograph of a large group of young boys, likely Irish-American soldiers, standing in rows. They are wearing military uniforms, including caps and jackets, and some have their arms around each other's shoulders.

You Won't...

Non-Political Humor

In Catholic schools, students are taught that lying is a sin. Instructors are also advised that using a bit of imagination is OK to express the truth differently, without lying.

This is a perfect example of this teaching: Getting a Hairdryer Through Customs.....

Of course child. What can I do for you?'

I bought my mother an expensive hair dryer for her birthday. It is unopened but well over the customs limits and I'm afraid they'll confiscate it. Is there any way you could carry it through customs for me? Could you possibly hide it under your robes for me?'

'I would love to help you my dear but, I must warn you, I will not tell a lie.'

'With your honest face, Father, I'm sure that no one will question you.'

When they got to customs, she let the priest go first.

The official asked, 'Father, do you have anything to declare?'

'From the top of my head down to my waist I have nothing to declare.'

The official thought this answer a little strange, so he asked, And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor?'

'I have a marvelous instrument that has been designed for use on women, but which, to date, remains unused.'

Roaring with laughter, the official said, 'Go ahead, Father.

Next please!'

Ladies of the Association

I was asked by our President, Clovis Jones, and by our esteemed editor, Asa Talbot (who is always looking for input) to periodically submit articles for our newsletter. This article, which appeared in the September/October issue of the VHPA Aviator is quite humorous and appears to offer a perfectly acceptable explanation of why our significant others are what they are today.

Guys – This article appeared in the September/October issue of the VHPA Aviator. Please let your significant other read this article. It provides justification for your actions at home and especially your actions at reunions.

IDENTIFYING THE DOMESTICATED

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOT

As a self-educated naturalist, I feel it important to direct attention toward a diminishing species of humankind known as the Vietnam helicopter pilot whose irreversible status as an endangered species will soon be extinct. Already, the vestiges of the genus rotorhead unruulares are becoming increasingly rare not only within the indigenous pilot population but among the population in general. Before they disappear entirely, I shall endeavor to acquaint the casual observer with the principal characteristics of this unusual breed of person so the observer may recognize a specimen should it be encountered in the wild, which is its natural state.

First, it is important for an observer to discern the differences between the domesticated and the feral Vietnam helicopter pilot. The feral Vietnam helicopter pilot is easily recognized because it has entirely resisted any attempts to polish its nature; whereas the domesticated Vietnam helicopter pilot, which is an adaptation of the species and far more common today, is more difficult to recognize because it has been almost completely tamed, its natural characteristics substantially regressed as a result of its acculturation with polite society. In extreme cases, the most domesticated Vietnam helicopter pilot can hardly be distinguished from a normal person at all.

So much for the generalities; now for the specifics. Like feral Vietnam helicopter pilots, the domesticated Vietnam helicopter pilot has such a natural deficiency of humbleness that he considers himself smarter, faster, stronger, wittier, luckier, and by the standards of unkempt ruggedness, more handsome than other men, pilots or otherwise, and compared to pilots specifically, believes he possesses the superior hand-eye coordination of a tentacled octopus and reflexes of a caffeinated cheetah; yet unlike the feral Vietnam helicopter pilot, the domesticated version of the species allows those other men to have their own, mistaken opinion.

Although, individual specimens of domesticated Vietnam helicopter pilots may not be easily identified when camouflaged among ordinary persons, they can be readily distinguished when they aggregate with members of their own species, most often at an annual migratory gathering called a “reunion” but in many ways bearing a close resemblance to a mountain man “rendezvous.” On such occasions, their true nature emerges and in those circumstances, they exhibit the characteristics of that nature through their boisterously jovial exchange of insults with their fellow pack mates, their assertions of incredible feats of bravado, and sometimes when recalling events of their collective experience, inspire one another with expressions of remarkably creative profanity. In contrast, when separated from members of its species, the domesticated Vietnam helicopter pilot is only moderately rude, exhibits the thinnest veneer of vanity, and expresses itself with such a boringly mild degree of profanity that even a convention of cloistered nuns would take little notice. However, be warned; even a lone domesticated Vietnam helicopter pilot, when provoked, can out brag, out cuss, and out flatulate any other two-legged creatures currently in existence; therefore, ordinary persons should not attempt to compete in those areas with a member of this species when its true nature has been aroused.

If you yourself happen to be a domesticated Vietnam helicopter pilot who has forgotten your natural identity, it is important for you to be reminded of these characteristics, because they have made you what you are. Furthermore, if you do not recognize these characteristics about yourself, I submit that you are in denial, and until you accept who you are—that is, your true nature as a Vietnam helicopter pilot—you will experience an unfulfilled life of aggravation. But once you accept who you are, then your aggravation will be fulfilled.

Credit for this article goes to Ira McComic, VHPA Life Member

Gloria Hobby

Email addresses for the ladies

Baird, Marlene - flytiger@cablone.net; Borgeson, Pat - pborgeson@lalique.com or pborg12@yahoo.com; Brown, Linda -- lindawbrown@juno.com; Cooper, Roberta - rangerover53@yahoo.com; Dauley, Donna - dnurdgd@comcast.net; Doty, Maureen - DotyMaureen@yahoo.com; Fleming, Gloria - gwhz@hotmail.com; Giles, Rose - r.c.giles41@gmail.com; Gomez., Milly - chcogomez@aol.com; Grice, Kathy- Kalgrice@gmail.com; Hengeveld, Peggy - awings72@verizon.net; Hirst, Cindy -- hirst@q.com; Hobby, Gloria - gloriahobby@yahoo.com; Jones, Diane—dianethomas40@yahoo.com: - Klinker, Kay - kayklinker@gmail.com; Mahoney, Melba - skyqueen1@sw.rr.com; McAlister, Marilyn - 5starmcalister@att.net; O'Dell, Kathy - i_am_kathy@hotmail.com; O'Keefe, Maryetta ---maryetta4@cox.net; Padilla, Mary Jane - mary_jane_padilla@hotmail.com; Pullano, Arlene - joseph.pullano@att.net; Quesada, Isabel—isamubra@hotmail.com or saprisa44@hotmail.com; Retterath, Carol - rranch@westriv.com; Roberson, Linda - so_shinede@aol.com; Sanchez, Susie - sksdesigns1@verizon.net; Szabo, Joan -- sailboatjs1@verizon.net; Talbot, Jean -- asartalbot@gmail.com; Toepel, Mildred - mbtoepel@msn.com; Tokar, Barbara - BarbTokar@SBC.Golbal.net; Voeltz, Jean - cav2_20th@hotmail.com; Wilder, Patti - pattenmom05@yahoo.com; Williams, Dale - barbierule@aol.com; Wilson, Ellie -



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.

BE ADVISED! ALL DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY:

NOT DISTRIBUTED OVER THE YEAR.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU CONSIDER LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR \$250 WHICH CAN BE PAID IN 5 CONVENIENT PAYMENTS OF \$50.

PAID IN ONE YEAR—NOT OVER FIVE YEARS!!

AN AMERICAN RAILROAD TOWN:

Small towns still have the American spirit we all used to have. “We were overwhelmed,” said Lt. Col. Nick Jaskolski. “I don’t really have words to describe how surprised and moved we all were. I had never even heard of the town before.”

Col. Jaskolski, a veteran of the Iraq war, is commander of the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade of the Arkansas Army National Guard. For three weeks earlier this summer, the 142nd had been conducting an emergency deployment readiness exercise in Wyoming, training and sleeping outdoors, subsisting on field rations. Now it was time for the 700 soldiers to return to their base.

A charter bus company had been hired for the 18-hour drive back to Arkansas. The Army had budgeted for a stop to get snacks. The bus company determined that the soldiers would reach North Platte, in western Nebraska, around the time they would likely be hungry. The company placed a call to the visitors’ bureau: Was there anywhere in town that could handle a succession of 21 buses, and get 700 soldiers in and out for a quick snack?

North Platte said yes. North Platte has always said yes.

During World War II, North Platte was a town of 12,000, geographically isolated in Western Nebraska. Soldiers, sailors and aviators on their way to fight the war rode troop trains across the nation, bound for Europe via the East Coast or the Pacific via the West Coast. The Union Pacific Railroad trains that transported the soldiers always made short stops in North Platte to take on water.

The townspeople made those stops count. Starting in December 1941, they met every train: up to 23 a day, beginning at 5 a.m. and ending after midnight. Those volunteers greeted between 3,000 and 5,000 soldiers a day. They presented them with sandwiches and gifts, played music for them, danced with them, baked birthday cakes for them. Every day of the year, every day of the war, they were there at the depot. They never missed a train, never missed a soldier. They fed six million soldiers by the end of the war.

Those soldiers never forgot the kindness. Most of them, and most of the townspeople who greeted them, are gone now. And now, in 2018, those 21 busloads from the 142nd Field Artillery were on their way, expecting to stop at some fast-food joint.

We couldn’t believe what we saw when we pulled up,” Col. Jaskolski said. As each bus arrived over a two-day period, the soldiers stepped out to be greeted by lines of cheering people holding signs of thanks. They weren’t at a fast-food restaurant: They were at North Platte’s events center, which had been opened and decorated especially for them.

“People just started calling our office when they heard the soldiers were on their way,” said Lisa Burke, the director of the visitors’ bureau. “Hundreds of people, who wanted to help.”

The soldiers entered the events center to the aroma of steaks grilling and the sound of recorded music: current songs by Luke Bryan, Justin Timberlake, Florida Georgia Line; World War II songs by Glenn Miller, the Andrews Sisters, Jimmy Dorsey. They were served steak sandwiches, ham sandwiches, turkey sandwiches, deviled eggs, salads and fruit; local church groups baked pies, brownies and cookies.

“It was one soldier’s 21st birthday,” Lisa Burke said. “When I gave him a small cake, he told me it was the first birthday cake he’d ever had in his life.” Not wanting to pry, she didn’t ask him how that could possibly be. “I was able to hold my emotions together,” she said. “Until later.”

When it became time to settle up — the Army, after all, had that money budgeted for snacks — the 142nd Field Artillery was told: Nope. You’re not spending a penny here. This is on us. This is on North Platte.

From The Wall Street Journal by Bob Greene.

Bob Greene’s books include “Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of North Platte



Aussie Marital Humor

The missus isn't talking to me. She said I ruined her birthday. I'm not sure how...I didn't even know it was her birthday! After too many beers, my mate asked if he could crash out on my sofa. I had to explain to him that I'm married now, so that's where I sleep.

The missus said she's leaving me because I invade her privacy too often. At least that's what it says in her diary.

As me and the missus headed to the airport to start a romantic holiday, we talked about what kinky things we'd like to do to each other. She said, "I've always wanted to be handcuffed." So I planted a kilo of cocaine in her suitcase.

Woman to husband: "Let's go out and have some fun tonight!" Husband: "Okay, but if you get home before I do, leave the hall light on."

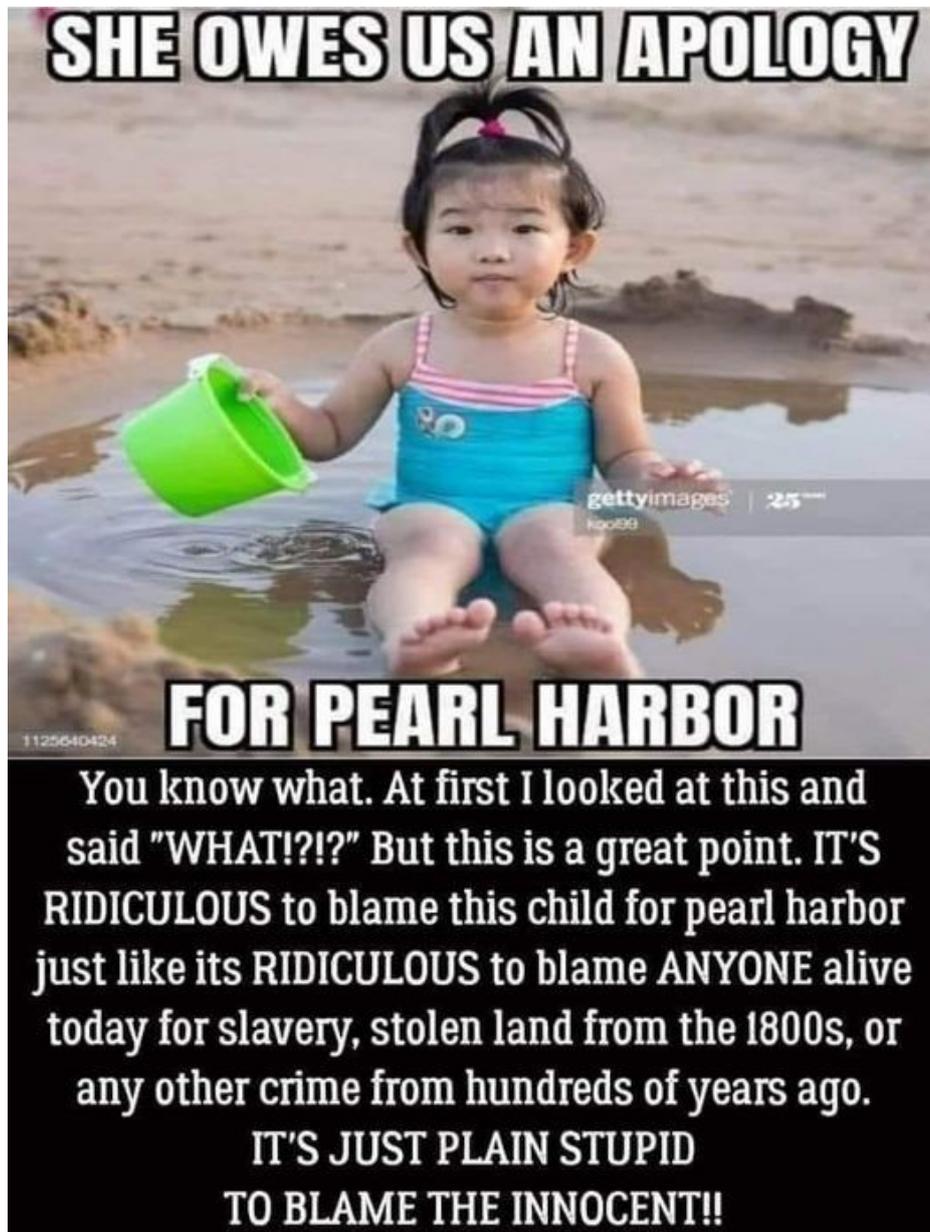
My mate is thinking about asking his ex-missus to re-marry him, but he's worried she'll think he is just after her for his money.

Two guys in a health club, one is putting on a pair of women's lace knickers. 1st guy: "Since when do you wear women's underwear?" 2nd guy: "Since the missus found 'em in the glove box."

My missus left me for another bloke. All that lies ahead now is a miserable, pointless life, with suicide seemingly the only way out. And while the poor bugger's going through all that, I'll be down at the pub with my mates every night!

My missus left a note on the fridge: "It's not working. I can't take it anymore, I'm going to live with my mum." I opened the fridge door, the light came on, the beer was cold. What the hell is she on about?"

My missus said I need to be more in touch with my feminine side, so I crashed the car, burnt the dinner and ignored her all day, for no reason.



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FROM THE UNFLAPPABLE AND IRREVERENT LARRY MOBLEY

To my friends who enjoy a glass of wine, and those who don't, and are always seen with a bottle of water in their hand, Ben Franklin said:

"In wine there is wisdom, In beer there is freedom, In water there is bacteria."

In a number of carefully controlled trials, scientists have demonstrated that if we drink 1 liter of water each day, at the end of the year we would have absorbed more than 1 kilo of Escherichia coli, (E.. Coli) - bacteria found in feces. In other words, we are consuming 1 kilo of poop annually.

However: We do NOT run that risk when drinking wine and beer (or rum, whiskey or other liquor) because alcohol has to go through a purification process of boiling, filtering and fermenting.

Remember:

Water = Poop,

Wine = Health

**Therefore, it's better to drink
wine and talk stupid,
than to drink water
and be full of shit.**

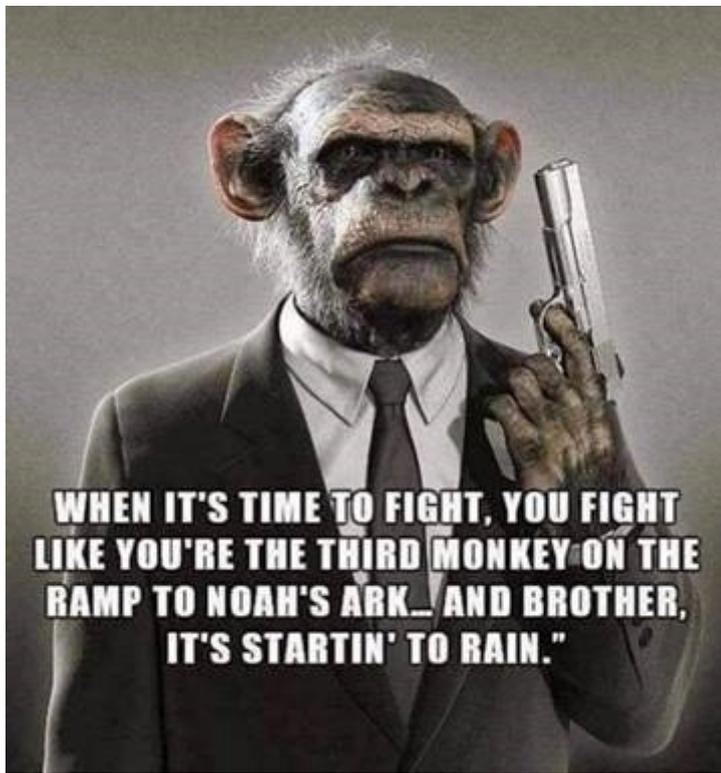
VERIFICATION: BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE DRINK A LOT OF WATER WHILE IN SESSION. THIS EXPLAINS THE RESULTS THEREIN . . .

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information: **I'm doing it as a public service .**

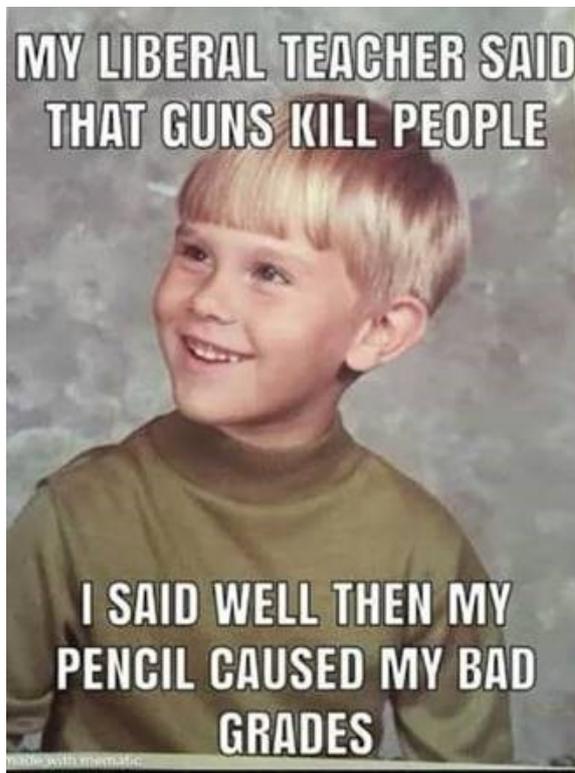
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**"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword never
experienced automatic weapons".**

General Douglas MacArthur

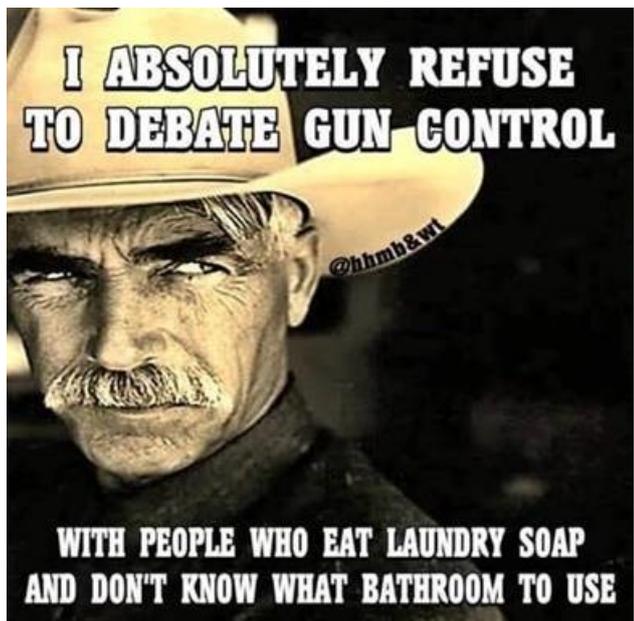


WHEN IT'S TIME TO FIGHT, YOU FIGHT LIKE YOU'RE THE THIRD MONKEY ON THE RAMP TO NOAH'S ARK... AND BROTHER, IT'S STARTIN' TO RAIN."



MY LIBERAL TEACHER SAID THAT GUNS KILL PEOPLE

I SAID WELL THEN MY PENCIL CAUSED MY BAD GRADES



I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO DEBATE GUN CONTROL

WITH PEOPLE WHO EAT LAUNDRY SOAP AND DON'T KNOW WHAT BATHROOM TO USE



GOD FORGIVES

ITALIANS DON'T



The Problem is that he's identifying as a doe this season.



I JUST SAVED A BUNCH OF MONEY ON MY TAXES

BY SWITCHING MY CITIZENSHIP STATUS TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT

AND it comes with free health insurance!



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

Name: _____

Address: _____

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.

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

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

Women's Long or 3/4 Sleeve Button Shirt(s) - _____ X \$25.00 = _____ Size _____
ordered

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

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

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

Please add 7% GA ST and \$14.35 shipping charge to your order:

TOTAL = _____

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



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

C/O Herbert L. Hirst

For Office Use Only

P.O. Box 220

North Plains, OR 97133-0220

Check # _____

Check Date _____

Amount _____

Date Rcvd _____

Web address – www.araassociation.com