



Volume 14 No. 4

The Straphanger Gazette



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

April—June., 2022

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

If Winter Comes, Can Spring Be Far Behind? and September Brings the Reunion!



President's Corner

Dear Members, Family Members, Readers and Guests,

First and foremost; I trust that you and your Loved Ones are well, safe, healthy, and protected!!! It is with deep sadness that I acknowledge the passing of two of our Life Members: Bruce Wilder and Ed Miller.

Our Chaplain, Board of Directors Member, and ARA contributor to the 1st Cavalry's Saber Newspaper, Bruce Wilder, died September 15, 2021. Information regarding Bruce's passing was in our last newsletter. In short, Bruce deployed to Vietnam from Fort Benning with A Battery, 2/20th in 1965 as a Captain. He was a Section Leader in the 2nd Platoon. Bruce retired with the rank of Colonel, and later joined the ARA Association as a Life Member, February 5, 2001. His quiet, stately demeanor, wisdom, and personification of his faith will be sorely missed.

My Friend, Fellow 4/77th ARA Veteran, and one of our Keynote Speakers at our 2018 Reunion, Edward "Ed" J. Miller died March 9, 2022 at 1116. Ed was a replacement pilot to C/2/20th serving 1966-1967; was the activation Commander of Charlie Battery 4/77th Fort Bragg, NC in 1968; served as Charlie Battery Commander 1969-1970; and had served in the 4/77th as an enlisted man at Fort Sill. He is enshrined in the ARA section of the Field Artillery Museum, Fort Sill, OK. displaying Vietnam. Ed was a tremendously effective leader, caring friend, and effective mentor.

The funeral for Ed is a graveside service at the Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church, County Road 421, Elba, AL 36323 at 1100, April 30, 2022. Initially planned as a private family gathering; however, Patsy is extending an invitation for all who served with Ed to attend.

We all must travel this path of transition from this life to the next. Let us all assemble in Fairfax, VA, September 14 - 18, 2022 to fellowship, remember those who are no longer with us, and to celebrate LIFE and our accomplishments.

Jule has done a spectacular job of organizing our 23rd Reunion. So please book your hotel reservations by August 17, 2022 by using the information below:

[See page three for instructions on booking your rooms.](#)

Our stories, history, and experiences are important so that future generations will know the kinds of contributions the ARA made to Army Aviation; and the joys, losses, sorrows, challenges, and celebrations that seasoned us.

Please send copies of your books, notes, journals, mission briefings, personal accounts of missions, audio recordings, and film of your ARA experiences 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, your families, and Loved Ones. **STAY SAFE, WELL, HEALTHY, AND PROTECTED!!!**

All the Best,

Clovis Jones, Jr.

ARA 6

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye:

After more than two years of cowering in quarantine, hiding behind masks of all descriptions, avoiding friends and relatives, and, worst of all, two cancelled reunions, it appears that the sunshine of better days has returned. The plans for our gathering in the Washington, DC area and trip to the new U.S. Army Museum are moving right along. Being an association of ex-military, we expect glitches, SNAFUS's and the usual assortment of confusion. However, as always, we rise above those and get the job done. Jule and Joan Szabo have taken the lead in securing the LZ and the Battle Plan, and now we, the confused, uninformed, but loyal masses need to be sure that we have made our reservations for this great event.

For Hotel reservation; Please use this special website for your guests to obtain reservations and obtain the specially discounted rate. Disregard all previous notices (they did not work). If in doubt, contact the hotel and check on your status

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?>

Copy into your server

Guests may also call the Reservations Department at 1-888-236-2427 and reference the **group by name (Aerial Rocket Artillery Association - Need to use specific name) and date (14 Sept, 2022)**

For additional Day before and after call the hotel directly at (703-352-2525).

The last day for guests to confirm a reservation under the event rate will be August 17th, 2022.

Help the planners and get your application and money in to Jesse. (Next page)





ARA – REUNION – FAIRFAX VIRGINIA

23rd ARA REUNION, SEPTEMBER 14 – 18, 2022

Reunion Registration Form

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

ARA ASSOCIATION
c/o Jesse L. Hobby
145 Oakdale Road. SE
Cairo, GA 39828-3803

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	

Please get your registrations in by August 15, 2022 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.

REGISTRATION/ EVENT FEES	Details	Price	# In party	Total
Registration Fee	Per member in party over 18	\$45.00		
Annual Membership Dues	If not already paid for 2022	\$25.00		
Wednesday – Welcome Dinner	Per member in party	47.00		
Thursday – Vietnam Memorial & U.S. Army Museum Tour	Per member in party – (includes bus & lunch)	35.00		
Friday – Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy Center Tour	Per member in party (includes bus & lunch)	30.00		
Saturday – Final Banquet	Per member in party	60.00		
Total for Reunion	-----			

Who is the most badass person in history that no one knows about? Here is one for you ladies

She was one of the very few women who actively fought in WW1 and she fought for the entire war becoming the most decorated, and badass woman in military history.

I am talking about this fine lady right here:



Milunka Savić

Milunka Savić (Милунка Савић) was born on June 28, 1888, (though some say that she was actually born in 1892) to a lower-middle-class family in the village of Koprivnica.

Not much is known about her family but what we do know is that she had a brother, Milun Savić, under whose name she joined the Serbian army.

She then went on to fight in the “Iron regiment” during the two Balkan wars and was even promoted to corporal during that time. It was only when she was wounded in the second war during the battle of Bregalnica, was it discovered that she was actually a woman.

Now back then, women could only work in the army’s medical staff and not perform combat duty so when it was discovered that she was actually a woman, her command held a brief consultation with the intention to give her the boot but surprisingly, in the end, decided to let her keep her position.

Just a year later, Serbia found itself being invaded by almost half a million Austro-Hungarians who were coming in hot, again and again, and again.

It was during the third invasion, in November and the December of 1914, during the battle of Kolubara that Milunka truly distinguished herself.

She repeatedly crossed no man's land, alone, and threw grenades into the Austrian trenches and at one point, stormed an enemy fortification, engaging in hand-to-hand combat and taking 20 soldiers as prisoners, before returning to her line.



Milunka Savic (circled in red) helping escort prisoners after the battle.

For her valor during the battle, she was awarded the Star of Karadjordje with swords- the highest honor that the kingdom of Serbia had to offer.



French troops during the battle of Cerna, November 13th, 1916.

Two years later, during the battle of Cerna against the Bulgarians, she single-handedly managed to clear out a concrete-reinforced bunker on top of a hill that was occupied by the enemy and took 23 prisoners, which earned her the second star of Karadjordje.

After the battle, the Serbian army was forced to retreat all the way to the Albanian coast and Milunka was injured no less than 7 more times during the fighting retreat.

The Serbian army was then evacuated by the French and British navies and Milunka’s unit became a Serbian brigade in the French army.

She then went on to fight in Tunisia and then in Salonika front where she fought till 1918, becoming an NCO in the process.

Now, here’s a story from that period of her service: A French officer refused to believe that a woman could be such a capable soldier. So, he set up a bottle of 1880 Cognac at 40 meters and told her that if she could hit it, then she could have the other 19 bottles in the case all to herself.

She hit it on the first shot and then proceeded to help herself to the rest of the bottles.

By the end of the war, she had won the French Legion of Honor (twice), the Russian order of the Holy George for courage, the British Medal of the order of St. Michael, and was the only woman from the First World War to win France’s highest honor, the Croix de Guerre with gold palm.



The French (1914–1918) Croix de Guerre with gold palm.



Star of Karadjordje with swords



After seven years of continuous service, Savić moved back to Serbia to continue a relatively normal life, at least for a while. She got a job as a postal worker, married, had a child, divorced and adopted several more children.

When World War II began, she did not rejoin the army but instead started a small hospital to treat the wounded. The Germans arrested her (whether for operating the hospital or for refusing to attend a banquet with German officers, is unclear). She was sent to a concentration camp, where she lived for ten months. She was to be executed, but an officer recognized her and, confirming she was the famous Serbian he had heard about, ordered her release.

Unfortunately, after World War II, she was not looked upon favorably by the Yugoslavian rulers. She became relatively impoverished, working as a cleaning lady at a bank.

Although her story is so reminiscent of that of many women who served their countries (WASPS, WAVES, WAC's, etc) who were forgotten and received no benefits, (although France would have given her a pension if she had moved there), this one had a better ending.

Milunka Savić, date

unknown, presumed after her seven continuous years of war.

In 1945, she was given a state pension, and continued to live in her house in Belgrade's Voždovac neighborhood. By the late 1950s her daughter was hospitalized, and she was living in a crumbling house in Voždovac with her three adopted children: Milka, a forgotten child from the railway station in Stalac; Radmila-Višnja; and Zorka, a fatherless girl from Dalmatia.

Later, in 1958, when she attended the jubilee celebrations she was wearing her military medals, and people remembered and other military officers spoke with her and heard of her courageous actions. News spread and at last she gained recognition.

In 1972, public pressure and a newspaper article highlighting her difficult housing and financial situation led to her being given a small apartment by the Belgrade City Assembly.

She died in 1973, at the age of 85, after a stroke, and was buried with military honors, but today she is remembered as a national hero and there are statues to her in many places.



A statue of Milunka Savić in [Indija](#)

Those who have lived in or been stationed in the far north are most likely familiar with the expression “Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.” Did you ever wonder where this expression came from? This explains it!

CANNON BALLS

It was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon on old warships. But how to prevent them from rolling about on the deck was the problem.

The storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with sixteen on the bottom, nine in the next layer, four in the next, and one on top. Thus, a supply of thirty cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem: how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling out from under the others, especially in rough seas. The solution was a metal plate with sixteen round indentations, called for reasons unknown, a “Monkey.”

But if the plate was made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it.

The solution to the rusting problem was to make the plate of brass, hence, “Brass Monkeys.”

Few landlubbers realized that brass contracts much more and faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally “cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.”

And now, you now know that this was more than just a rude expression.

Submitted by:

Jesse Hobby

Armed Falcon 29Fox1



Chaplain's Corner

Editors Note: Until such time that a person of greater stature is designated, I will try to carry on the memory of Bruce Wilder.

“A World Gone Mad—again”

Here, in the beautiful Valley of Virginia, the days are varying between sunshine and temperatures in the sixties and seventies, and blustery winds and the “teens”. Confusion reigns as the bushes and trees struggle to put forth green leaves and buds. Bravely, the daffodils and jonquils burst forth with their vibrant gaiety, daring “old Man Winter” to stop the progression of Spring. Of course, we “Valleyites” say, “If you don’t like the weather, wait 15 minutes and it will change.” Sooner or later, those cold and relentless winds will give way to more balmy breezes and temperatures. It is almost time for Easter.

The minor inconveniences of this transitional period are small compared to the horrors being borne by the people of the Ukraine. Millions have sent their loved ones into exile to protect them from the rain of destruction being unleashed by a petty tyrant who longs to see the return of an extinct empire and an advancement of his personal power, at an enormous cost in innocent lives and property. How sad that we have lived to see this pattern rejuvenated and repeated. In the early 20th century, that same lust erupted, on equally flimsy pretexts, into a international conflagration into which, we grudgingly entered only because the maniacs brought it to our doorstep. This was, of course, WWI—“The War to End All Wars” since war had become so global and deadly, and it did not happen. Other maniacs, with territorial ambitions and overinflated egos, threatened our homeland and slaughtered our sons and daughters, while attacking innocent nations and peoples; even their own. Four and a half years of fighting and deprivation later, the maniacs were again silenced. Thanks be to God that, other than the initial attack on Pearl Harbor, the death and destruction did not reach our shores. That however, cannot be said of Europe and the Far East. As Gen. Douglas MacArthur quipped, “Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword, never experienced automatic weapons.”

War now became even more all-engulfing and deadly with the dawn of nuclear energy but there were new maniacs, once allies, and we went from “hot” to “cold” war. Détente became survival with the possibility of total annihilation of in mushroom-shaped cloud. Gen. Eisenhower wisely said, “Avoid war, if at all possible, but if you must fight, fight to win”. It seems we did not learn that. Korea was imminently winnable (we were 25 times China’s military capability), we were “conned” into setting up a puppet government in Vietnam because we did not like the politics of one side. (Makes you think of ourselves and the British king 250 years ago). Terrorists attacked our nation, not a nation and lastly, we entered a conflict no one could win in a land we did not need or want, and in all these, we did not win.

Like the miserable weather, we are at a transitional point. Our country is horribly fractured to the point where elections are decided by about 4% of the people. We have developed an attitude of humanistic superiority, a lack of concern for one another, a disdain for principles and lawfulness, a rejection of “Higher Power” and allowed our democratic republic to slip into total disarray. As Lincoln quoted the Bible, “A house divided against itself, cannot stand.” The self-centered attitude of our youth in not desiring children has placed us in a birth rate which cannot sustain our civilization.

Just as ancient Israel prostituted itself with false idols (and suffered for it) so must be the fate of all we love UNLESS, as God told Solomon, we reject the false science and psychobabble of this new age, and turn back to Him who created it all (and can one day destroy it and start anew), our land will fester away.

Yes, spring will come, life will bloom again. Easter shows us that out of apparent tragedy can come victory through salvation, and that love is, indeed, the greatest virtue. We need to have faith and a hope that we can work our way back to what we once were, before we cease to be anything at all.

A Blessed Easter to you and remember, He first loved you and gave Himself for you.

Asa “Doc” Talbot
Red Baron 16

Ladies of the Association

One of my nieces asked me if I had any tips for warding off pesky men using old pick-up lines. I recalled seeing this list in one of the local (and comical) newsletters that my husband brings home occasionally, so I thought I would share it with you and you can share with your nieces and granddaughters.

WAYS TO TURN DOWN UNWANTED MEN!!!

He: Can I buy you a drink?

Reply: I'd rather have the money.

He: I'm a photographer and I've been looking for a face like yours.

Reply: I'm a plastic surgeon and I've been looking for a face like yours.

He: Didn't we date once? Or was it twice?

Reply: Must have been once. I never make the same mistake twice.

He: How did you get to be so beautiful?

Reply: I must have been given your share.

He: Will you go out with me this weekend?

Reply: Sorry, I'm having a headache this weekend.

He: Your face must turn a few heads.

Reply: Yours must turn a few stomachs.

He: Go on, don't be shy, ask me out.

Reply: Okay, get out.

He: I think I could make you very happy.

Reply: Why? Are you leaving?

He: What would you say if I asked you to marry me?

Reply: Nothing. I can't talk and laugh at the same time.

He: Can I have your name?

Reply: Why? Don't you already have one?

He: Shall we go to a movie?

Reply: I've already seen it.

He: Where have you been all my life?

Reply: Hiding, and until now I was very successful.

He: Haven't I seen you some place before?

Reply: Yes, and that's why I don't go there anymore.

He: Is this seat empty?

Reply: Yes, and this one will be if you sit down.

He: So, what do you do for a living?

Reply: I'm a female impersonator.

He: Hey baby, what's your sign?

Reply: Do not enter.

He: Your body is like a temple.

Reply: Sorry, there are no services today.

He: If I could see you naked, I'd die happy.

Reply: If I saw you naked, I'd probably die laughing.

Gloria Hobby

Falconess 6X

Email addresses for the ladies

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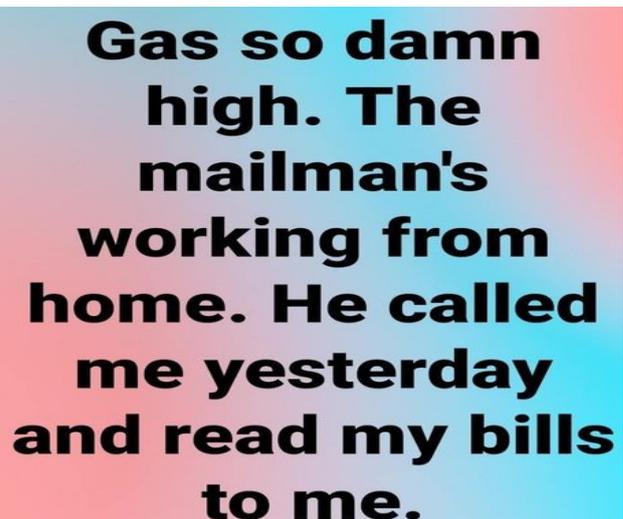
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"We are all a little broken. But last time I checked, broken crayons still color the same."
-Trent Sheldon



Finally, a Museum to Honor the Workhorse of Vietnam.

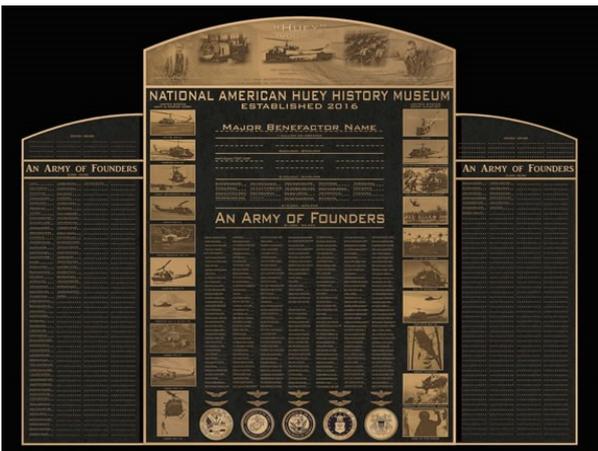


Rodger McAlister and Dave Borgeson have brought our attention to a new and exciting means to preserve the history of the ARA and to stir the recollection of those fine men who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms riding in those flammable, thin-skinned, slow-moving, death-dealing coffins we called Hueys.

“American Huey 369” is a 5013c organization which has begun construction of a museum that will be solely for preserving the history of the Huey, which we knew and loved so well, and the actions of Vietnam Veterans for posterity. It is located at Grissom AFB in Peru, IN, and they have 3 flying birds: a 1-D , 1-H , 1-C gunship. They are planning to add a flying cobra. Maybe, some day, they can acquire an ARA bird, or configure one.

They have already raised 2.4 million dollars of a 4 million dollar budget, begun construction of a building and are looking to extend their capability with solicited funds and the sale of memorial bricks. Bricks are \$100, \$250, and \$500. A Founder is \$1,000 and gets 10 bricks. This is right up our alley and the ARA should be a Founder which gets our name on a bronze plaque at the front entrance.

More can be learned at their website—<http://www.americanhuey369.com/> It contains loads of pictures, history of acquisitions and repairs and reconstructions.



The Honor Donation Plaque set for the front door.



Proposed Museum buildings. Blueprints available on website

Prospective

Lesley Stahl did a story on gender roles in Kabul, Afghanistan several years before our involvement in the Afghan conflict. She noted that women customarily walked five paces behind their husbands. She recently returned to Kabul and observed that women still walk behind their husbands.

Ms. Stahl approached one of the Afghani women and asked, "Why do you now seem happy with an old custom that you once tried so desperately to change."

Despite the overthrow of the oppressive Taliban regime, the women now seem to, and are happy to, maintain the old customs.

The woman looked Ms. Stahl straight in the eyes, and without hesitation said, "Land mines."

Hooray! Our loan was approved.

We close on a full tank of gas next week.



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 Jesse Hobby

145 Oakdale Rd.

Cairo, GA 39828

"Note from the Quartermaster - Apparel orders are taking longer to fill due to the supply chain crisis. Please be patient."



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 Jesse Hobby

For Office Use Only

145 Oakdale Rd.

Cairo, GA 39828

Check # _____

Check Date _____

Amount _____

Date Rcvd _____

Web address – www.araassociation.com