



The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 15 No. 4

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

April—June, 2023

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

ALEA IACTA EST!

“The die is cast”

St. Louis here we come



President's Corner

Greetings:

I trust you all are enjoying an early Spring. The weather here in North Carolina is exhilarating. As I get older it seems I enjoy the simple things in life. As most of you know I was diagnosed with Cancer just after our last reunion in Washington DC. I've completed six chemotherapy treatments and will start Bone Marrow Transplant next month to combat this disease. My wife and I are confident that these treatments will eradicate the infection and we will be able to enjoy your company for many years to come. I'll keep you posted as to my recovery and plan to see all of you in St Louis next September.

I'll ask again that each of you submit a two page biography of your time in Vietnam with the Aerial Rocket Artillery. Your legacy needs to be recorded for us and your family as a record of your patriotism and service to this wonderful country. I need to explain to you how your efforts as Artillery men affected me.

During the Vietnam conflict, we soldiers were shuffled into units as DEROS and casualty short falls were created. For most of us, it was luck of the draw as to what unit you were assigned upon arrival in Vietnam. For myself, in February 1969, I was initially sent to Cam Ranh Bay anticipating an assignment in the Northern half of the country somewhere in I or II Corps. After in processing as a new WO1 Cobra pilot, I was sent to the southern most Army Airfield in the Delta to fly UH-1B model Gunships. As with most units, it was full of inspiring young men, ready to do their duty in combat operations. I enjoyed the comradery and excitement of the unit but was disappointed with the Vietnamese Army's treatment of their own civilians. Our aviation company supported the ARVN's tactical sweeps throughout IV Corps, but it seemed we conducted more pillage raids through the civilian villages than combat operations against the VC and NVA.

I found out that if I extended my tour of duty that I could request a transfer to another unit in country, so I initiated the paper work and started to explore what assignments would be fulfilling. Even in the Delta, the exploits of the other aviation units were discussed and memorialized so I considered a CAV assignment, or an Attack Helicopter Company, but the theme that struck true to my heart was the admiration of the US Army 1st Cavalry Grunts to a unit known as “Blue Max”! When ever they were in peril, they knew they could call for close support from the Division's Aerial Rocket Artillery. When my extension was approved at the end of December 1969, I departed the Delta and transferred to the 1st Cav Division in III Corps. The Division G-1 wanted me in the 1st/9th Cavalry Squadron, but I managed to talk my way out of that assignment and was eventually posted to Charlie Battery, 2/20 ARA Battalion stationed at Quan Loi, just south of the Cambodian border. It was a fulfilling and satisfying assignment being on call with a two minute scramble ready to support 1st Cav “grunts” in close combat. On the first of May, 1970 the Division deployed into Cambodia to interdict the NVA supply lines and destroy their ammunition supply dumps. There was a lot of flying and close rocket shooting to provide cover for our illustrious Grunts assigned to this mission. My point in this narrative is to let you know it was your efforts and skills that created the battle harden image and history of the Aerial Rocket Artillery. This rectitude is what lured me into becoming a small part of the ARA combat team. It's because of your efforts and notoriety that I became an Aerial Rocket Artillery man. Now it's my turn to salute each one of you and stand proudly with our ARA heritage!

Jim Castillo

ARA 6

Aerial Rocket Artillery Association (ARA) 2023 Reunion Plans

This message is from your hosts, Aerial Rocket Association Board for the 2023 ARA Reunion in September 2023. The LZ has been identified for St Louis 2023. We will be hosting the ARA 2023 reunion at the Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel 900 Westport Plaza St Louis, Missouri 63146 (Phone Number 314-878-1500). The dates of the reunion are September 20th (Wed) to September 24th (Sun). You have a choice of a Two Queen bed room at \$139/night plus 17.988% tax \$25.00 = total rate of \$164.00 (25 Rooms Allocated) or a King Bed room (rate is \$139/night plus \$25.00 tax for total rate of \$164.00/night (5 room allocated). There are total of 30 blocked rooms and rates are good for three days before and after. A special website for our ARA members to confirm their reservations and obtain the specially discounted rate. Please use or copy the following website link: <https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1677193035497&key=GRP>. *If you want to modify the dates of arrival or departure, click "check availability button (Black background)", when the screen appears, click "EDIT"(Near top right of the screen) after new screen appears, then click on the dates, then click on the dates or arrows to modify dates and hit continue and follow screen instructions. Our special Rates code is "ARAARAD.* Guests may also call hotel directly at Reservations Department at (314-878-1500) and reference the group by name "Aerial Rockets Artillery Association" and dates. The last day for guests to confirm a reservation under the event rate will be August 30th, 2023. If you have problems contact Nancy Paterson at 314-212-2137

On the Wednesday, registration/checking will start the day and conclude with a welcome pizza dinner in the hospitality room (\$10 a person) at the hotel starting at 6:30 pm. On Thursday and Friday you are on your own for activities with some suggested, outlined activities below. On Saturday morning, we will hold business meetings between 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon. The afternoon is free time. The Farewell Banquet will be at the Hotel at 6:30 PM. (\$57 a person) . This will be a fun filled week in St Louis, Missouri.

The St Louis Lambert International Airport is 12 minutes away from the hotel. The hotel runs a shuttle on the half hour, to and from hotel; contact hotel if you wish to use their shuttle to come or go, or to get to the Metro.

It has always been a feature of the ARA reunions to have tours, trips, and entertainments as a part of the presentation. These elements have always been well received and appreciated – although often expensive and requiring commercial transportation. This year, our host, the Board, has studied several factors and determined what might be a more suitable approach to renewing old friendships, enjoying a select site and avoiding undue expenses.

Factors:

The prime purpose of reunion is to see friends and relive experiences from the days of our youth. Perhaps we are getting forgetful and retell the same war stories, but everyone seems to enjoy them and the camaraderie is priceless. The war lasted long enough that each of us lived and labored in what seems a different time zone (and some were given second and third[?] opportunities? One remembers our brothers, Jim Cornfoot and Jim Giles who saw the inevitable and wanted to make one more reunion with friends while they could.

We are an aging population, often with disabilities or limitations which impacts on our ability to take part in certain activities. Fortunately, most of us are still able to get around and enjoy life, but it is getting harder for all of us. Time is a relentless foe of all humanity, and we, of the unique unit that we were represent, are slowly running out of the vigor of our youth and years allotted to us (especially those who were a little older then) when life seemed an endless adventure. Reunions are not road races. They are times for fellowship and reflection.

There are some who want to see "new frontiers" and crave adventure, for whom venues are necessary, and we owe it to them to make them available. It has always been a concern of the Board that the cost of the reunion may be a deterrent to some of our friends. One of the major costs has always been bus transportation, and in the light of our current inflation, is even more so. With the shrinkage in our population comes the concurrent shrinkage in participants and these reunions require minimums or result in penalties for falling short. Lately, we have had difficulty maintaining our minimums and filling our room quotas. Diminishing cost may serve to increase participation.

For the above factors, it is the Board's recommendation that we schedule a hotel as affordable as possible in a major city, a welcome buffet and farewell dinner, and opportunities for self-guided or small group gatherings for everything in between.

The Sheraton Plaza Tower/ Lakeside Chalet is large complex, fully equipped, housing many venues and restaurants, providing all one needs for a relaxed and enjoyable time.

Indoor/outdoor pool, sauna, exercise room and complimentary access to the Westport Fitness Center, in-house restaurant, lounge, and business center – all on the property.

Surrounding are 10 restaurants and entertainment establishments – Backstreet Jazz and Blues, Drunken Fish (Sushi), Jovick Subs (Deli), Funny Bone Comedy Club, Fuzzy's Tacos, Kobe Japanese Grill, McDonalds, Hats N Things Clothes), Starbucks, Panera, Trainwreck Saloon (old cowboy style), Westport Social Club, and Westport Playhouse. Breakfast and lunch are served in the hotel restaurant at \$25 per person. www.westportstl.com

Casino - Hollywood Casino (866-758-2591)

Shopping St. Louis Premium Outlets (314-399-8163 www.premiumoutlets.com
West County Center 314-288-2020 www.shopwestcountycenter.com

ATTRACTIONS FOR THE ADVENTUROUS

The Gateway Arch/Riverboat Cruises (314-982-1545) are probably the premier sights in the area. A memorial to the westward expansion of the USA, located in Gateway National Park on the Mississippi River, it offers a stunning view of St. Louis. The offerings include the Arch, with a tour of a museum (dealing with the history of the area and the westward expansion) and a tram ride to the observation deck. Lunch can be obtained from the Arch café or on a one hour cruise on a Mississippi paddle-wheeler. Parking can be gotten on the levee, if the river is not flooding, but is more certain at Busch Stadium for a fee. **PARKING MAY BE PROBLEMATIC ON DAYS WHEN THE CARDINALS ARE PLAYING AT HOME. [September 19-21, 2023]. Accessible by Metro Link 8th & Pine station (about one hour)**

NOTE: The tram is the only way to the top, the cars are 5ft X5 ft, at about 2/3 to the way up passengers must exit and climb 96 steps to the observation platform. Wheelchairs and scooters are PROHIBITED, and the time to look and take pictures is about 15 minutes before having to return to the tram for the return trip. Use of any other stairs is prohibited save for emergency or maintenance.

Tram tickets and free museum -start at \$15 and tram ride lasts 45-60 minutes.

Documentary movie about the history of the Arch - \$7 and lasts 35 minutes.

One hour cruise - \$24 (A two-hour dinner cruise is also available in the evening on select Fridays and Saturdays).

All tickets are \$3 off for National Park passholders (must show pass). Some tickets have a senior discount.

A combination ticket for all three attractions is \$41 and is best purchased online. www.gatewayarch.com

BUSCH STADIUM AND THE CARDINALS (314-345-9600) www.stlouis.cardinals.mlb.stl/ballpark/

Tours of the stadium are available and there is Stadium Village which is shop and restaurant venue next door. The stadium is easily accessed from our hotel by taking the hotel shuttle to the airport (every half hour) and taking the metro (about one hour) to downtown St. Louis (Stadium station). A metro map is enclosed. Prices for everything go up when the Cardinals are in town. Tickets can be obtained online.

ANHEUSER BUSCH BREWERY TOURS (314-577-2626) www.budweisertours.com Several tours of 2 hours or less are available to be pre-scheduled. These can be costly. Parking may be a problem, but the brewery is accessible by Metro-Link. (Civic Center station).

FOREST PARK, (314-3677275), www.stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/parks/forestpark, site of the 1904 World's Fair, the

ST LOUIS HISTORICAL MUSEUM, THE JEWEL BOX, a magnificent greenhouse,

ST LOUIS ART MUSEUM (314-721-0072) www.slam.org - A free museum of 30,000 pieces.

The world famous **ST. LOUIS ZOO (314-781-0900)** stlzoo.org - always free, free parking with some paid attractions

THE ST LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER/OMNIMAX/PLANETARIUM (314-289-4400)

www.slsc.org - all accessible on the Metro Link Red (MLR) at the Forest Park-Debaliviere station (about 52 minutes)

SOLDIER'S MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM www.mohistory.org/memorial Features an exhibit "Vietnam: At War and At Home" 1315 Chestnut St. Wed. -Sun 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.- about one hour. Civic Center station on MLR

SIX FLAGS ST. LOUIS www.sixflags.com/stlouis Located 33 mil from STL on I 44. Hours - 11a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission \$29.99 (online) WITHOUT PARKING. \$49.99 for multiple visits and parking.

HISTORIC AIRCRAFT RESTORATION MUSEUM (314-434-3368) www.historicaircraftrestorationmuseum.org (314-434-3368) CREVE AIRPORT IN MARYLAND HEIGHTS. Vintage aircraft from the local area, housed in four hangers. Guided tours by appointment only Tues. - Sunday open 10a.m. to 4 p.m.

PLUS

Army Aviation Heritage Foundation and Flying Museum - Gateway Chapter www.armyav-gateway-gateway.org (Phone (636) 362-4839) 3127 Creve Coeure Mill Road Saint Louis MO, 63146 Helicopters, rides, history Vietnam to date via restorations. Sponsorship supported

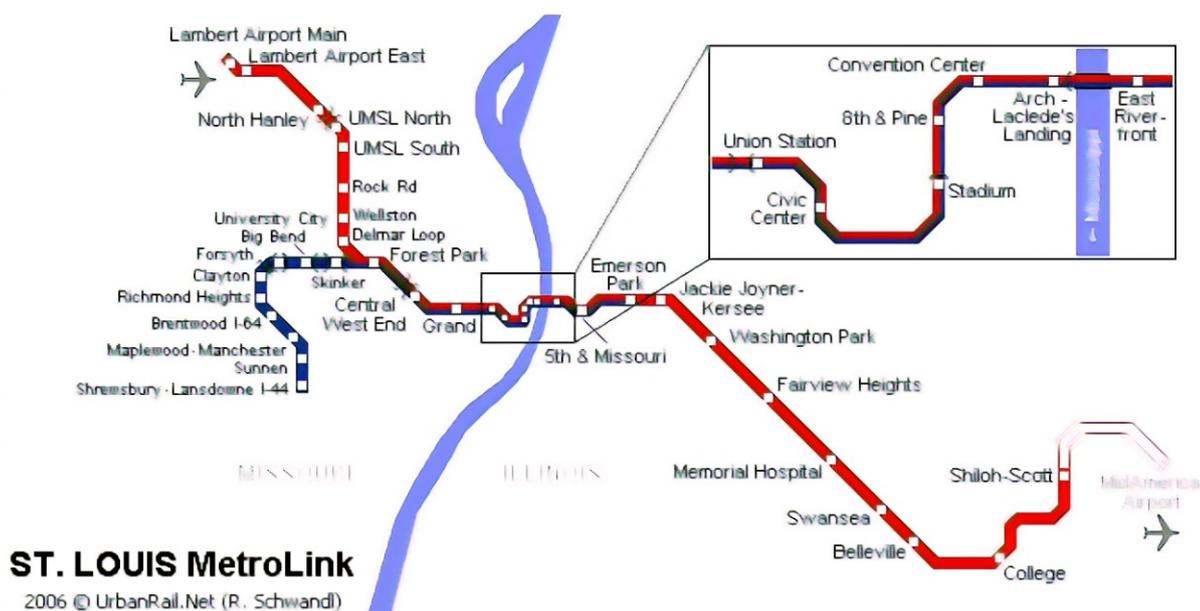
BOEING'S JAMES S. MCDONNELL PROLOGUE ROOM <https://www.boeing.com/company/tours/prologue-room.page> (314-232-6896) An air and space history guided tour of groups of 10 or more adults with free admission, parking camera use and is wheelchair accessible. Tour takes one hour and people can linger afterward. Located south of airport on Airport Rd
No public transportation available.

UNION STATION- THE WHEEL AND THE AQUARIUM www.stlouisunionstation.com

Two hundred ft. Ferris wheel (four revolutions in 15 minutes), 15 minute aquarium tour, carousel, rope course, mini golf course, and mirror maze and more. Wheel, aquarium and three more = \$50 per person

CITY MUSEUM (314)231-2489 www.citymuseum.org An off-beat museum and fun place , designed mostly for children. An active activity.

Metro Link map



There is a Metro station a three-minute walk from the hotel. Fare is \$2.50 per one-way ride.

TIP: There are two FREE apps for your phone which may be helpful.

GOOVIT gives complete surface transportation information for any place in the world which has it.

WAZE is GPS type app which is an excellent travel guide for long distance travel.

We look forward to seeing everyone and sharing time together and those great Army stories. Please make sure you get your hotel room reserved as early as possible and your registration submitted. Please feel free to contact any of the ARA board members if there are questions. Contact Jule Szabo if there are hotel reservation problems.

THIS INFORMATION IS VITAL FOR YOUR HAVING A FUN-FILLED REUNION. PLEASE PRINT IT OUT AND SAVE IT WITH YOUR HOTEL CONFIRMATION. RECOGNIZING THAT SOME CANNOT DRIVE, THE HOSTS (THE BOARD) ARE ASKING THAT ALL WHO CAN WILL DRIVE THEIR POV. THIS WILL MAXIMIZE OUR FLEXIBILITY FOR GETTING PEOPLE TO ATTRACTIONS OF THEIR CHOICE.



ARA - ST LOUIS- REUNION

24TH ARA REUNION, ST LOUIS, MO, SEPTEMBER 20-24, 2023

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	

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 2023	\$25.00		
WEDNESDAY – Welcome Pizza Buffet	Per member in party	\$10.00		
SATURDAY – Farewell Banquet	Per member in party	\$57.00		
Total for Reunion				

Please complete and return by JULY 31, 2023 so that we may finalize all plans and secure set prices for events.

RUSS WARRINER RECOGNIZED FOR ONGOING SERVICE TO VETERANS



(L-R) Daria D’Ariezo, member of Russ’s Grange local and one of the certificate presenters, Joy Moore, local Grange president and MC, Dan Nye, veteran Service Officer and old hometown friend of Russ, “the Man of the Hour” our own Russ Warriner, Tom Pease, local VFW Post Commander and schoolmate of Russ’s who also was with the 1st Cav at Camp Evans in 67-68 (unknown to Russ or this reporter), and Lindsay Sabadosa from the State Grange, primary certificate presenter and featured speaker.

COINS LEFT ON GRAVESTONE

According to Coin Update, regarding the tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of fallen service members in the United States traces back to the time of the Vietnam War. The reason that coins were placed on headstones instead of paying respect directly to the surviving family members at the time was to avoid the awkwardness of discussing the politically charged nature of the conflict in Vietnam. Each denomination means:

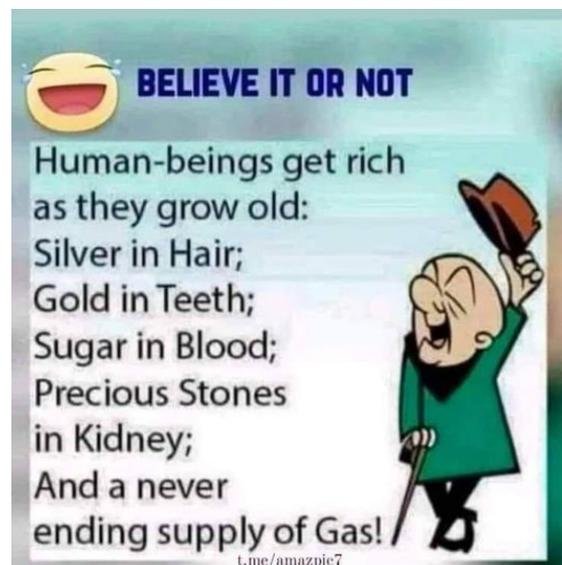
- Cent: The simplest means of expressing respect to the fallen, a “penny” lets the service member’s family know that someone visited their grave in the spirit of honoring their sacrifice.
- Nickel: A nickel placed on the headstone of a fallen service member indicates that you trained at boot camp or endured basic training with the individual.
- Dime: Leaving a dime on the service member’s headstone means that you served with the fallen individual to some degree.
- Quarter: One of the most significant coins to be left on a service member’s headstone, a quarter means that you were present when the person was killed in action.
- Challenge coin: If a challenge coin is found on the headstone of a fallen service member, it is seen as the highest form of respect paid by a comrade-in-arms.

Contributed by Russ Warriner

In February Rus Warriner was recognized with the National Grange Patriot’s Award, by The Grange, of which he is a member, for his long-standing efforts to assist and aid veterans in their struggles with disability, benefits, and governmental red tape. In spite of his own personal losses (his wife Terri), and long-tern PTSD, Russ had persevered in organizing events for veterans and veteran organization, to include memory trips to Washington, DC and local displays to keep the veteran and his plight before the public.

He is an active officer in the Grange, VFW, and has written two books about his time in Vietnam and its aftermath.

Russ was the Founder and long-time President of the ARA.





Chaplain's Corner

Greater Love

It has been said that the friends we fought with against a common enemy are the closest we shall ever have. In my experience , this has proven true. The proximity of death and danger weld people into brothers for all time.

Literature and history are replete with examples of self-sacrifice for friends. Such as the legend of Damon and Pythias, two young philosophy students of the School of Pythagoras, famed for its ideal of friendship, in the Fifth Century BCE, who fell out with Dionysius I, the tyrannical king of Sicily. One of the youths, Pythias, was cast into prison and condemned to die. He asked that he be allowed to visit his family and say his farewells. Fearing he would disappear forever, the king refused. His companion, Damon, offered to take his place in prison and, should Pythias not return at the appointed time, would die in his place. The offer was accepted and the exchange took place. As the day for execution approached the condemned youth did not appear. At the last moment, Pythias returns having been delayed by a pirate attack in which he was thrown overboard and had to swim to shore and make his way back as quickly as possible. Dionysius is so impressed with this loyalty that he frees them both. Charles Dickens wrote, in "A Tale of Two Cities" of nobility of Sydney Carton, who voluntarily goes to the guillotine in place of Charles Darnay because he is a better man than he, even though Darnay's death would open Carton's way to the woman he loves.. There are a multitude of similar stories that have come out of the many wars that have been fought.

The Holy Scriptures are not without examples of this "philia" (brotherly love). Jonathan remained David's best friend even though he knew David would become king in his place, aiding him and preserving him in defiance of his father, King Saul. The ultimate example is Jesus Christ who left His throne of glory in Heaven, for the sole purpose of bringing the Gospel to earth and redeeming mankind as the only possible sacrifice for all the sins which He had never committed. The emphasis of His teaching was the love of God for man and the need for man to love man. It all is summed up in John 3:16-17, "**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him'**", and His words in John 15:13-14, "**Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends , if you do whatsoever I command you...."**

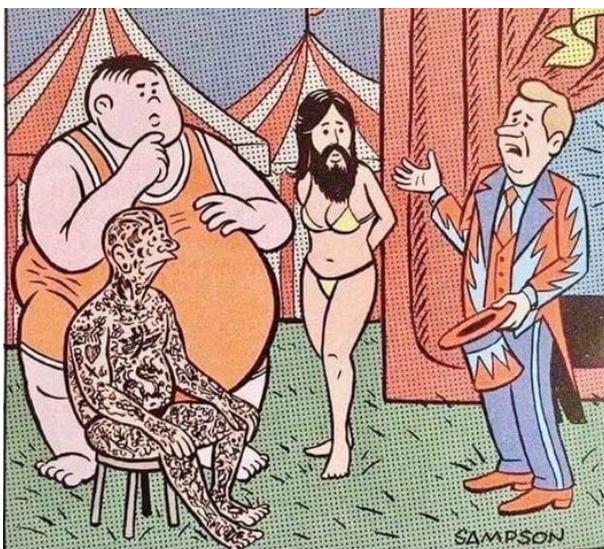
We have been reunited at our reunion in Charleston with one ex-marine who owes his life to some of our brave crews who flew into "hot" LZ's in "inappropriate 'birds' to rescue wounded when others would not take the risk to do so and SOP's forbade it. *Because it was the right thing to do.* I had the honor of knowing two personally –then Captains Rodger McAlister and Ronald Funderburk,

We must seize the opportunities we have to maintain our friendships and stay in touch with those who served with us. Time, infirmity, disease and the scars of the conflict have already taken a toll among our group. Our reunions are our critical opportunities. **SEE YOU IN ST. LOUIS (we will lake our own fair)**

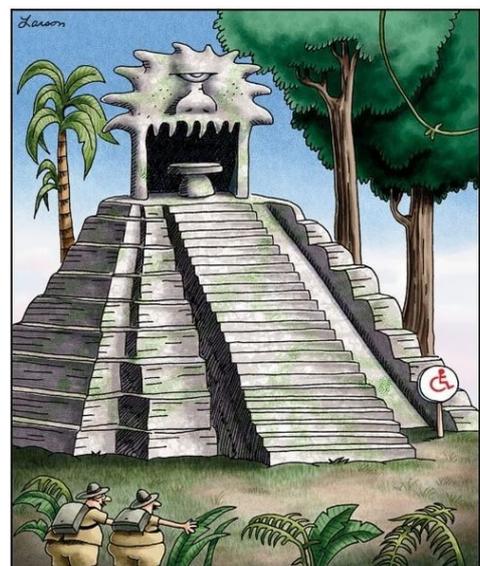
Live in Peace,

Asa (Doc) Talbot

Chaplain



"I'M SORRY I HAVE TO LET YOU ALL GO, BUT YOU'RE JUST NOT FREAKS ANYMORE."



August 11, 1959: In the heart of the Bolivian jungle, archaeologists stumble upon an ancient and heretofore unknown sacrificial altar.

Ladies of the Association

SOME GOOD ADVICE TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN AND ANYONE YOU THINK MIGHT NEED IT!

EVERYONE CAN'T BE IN YOUR FRONT ROW

Life is a theater so invite your audiences carefully. Not everyone is holy enough and healthy enough to have a FRONT ROW seat in our lives. There are some people in your life that need to be loved from a distance. It's amazing what you can accomplish when you let go, or at least minimize your time with draining, negative incompatible, not-going-anywhere relationship, friendships, fellowships and family!

Everyone can't be in your FRONT ROW.

Observe the relationships around you. Pay attention to: Which ones lift and which ones lean? Which ones encourage and which ones discourage? Which ones are on a path of growth uphill and which ones are just going downhill?

When you leave certain people, do you feel better or worse? Which ones always have drama or really don't understand, know and appreciate you and the gift that lies within you?

Everyone can't be on your FRONT ROW.

The more you seek God and the things of God, the more you seek quality, the more you seek not just the hand of God but the face of God, the more you seek things honorable, the more you seek growth, peace of mind, love and truth around you, the easier it will become for you to decide who gets to sit in the FRONT ROW and who should be move to the balcony of your life.

Everyone can't be in your FRONT ROW.

You can't change the people around you, but you can change the people you are around! Ask God for wisdom and discernment and choose wisely the people who sit in the FRONT ROW of your life.

Remember that FRONT ROW seats are for special and deserving people and those who sit in your FRONT ROW should be chosen carefully.

Everyone can't be in your FRONT ROW.

Author: Unknown

Contributed by Gloria Hobby

A NOBLE CAUSE

My short story is not so bold
but is one that must be told
about those who flew
thru the danger zone
in a hostile land so far from home

Silver wings above the best
pinned with pride upon their chest's
those who heard the daunting plea
of freedom's call from across the sea

I have seen our soldiers die
brave ones, young ones from the sky
men who served our country thru
times of strife when praise was due

When it is time to say goodbye
and our lives have run its course
think of valor in the sky,
of noble causes, not remorse.

Ray W. Hatfield

Bill and Marla decided that the only way to pull off a Sunday afternoon quickie with their 10-year-old son in the apartment was to send him out on the balcony and order him to report on all the neighborhood activities.

The boy began his commentary as his parents put their plan into operation.

"There's a car being towed from the parking lot," he said.

"An ambulance just drove by."

A few moments passed.

"Looks like the Andersons have company," he called out.

"Matt's riding a new bike and the Coopers are having sex."

Mom and dad shot up in bed.

"How do you know that?" the startled father asked.

"Their kid is standing out on the balcony too," his son replied.

A History of MWDs

A K9 in military service, or a Military Working Dog (MWD) has been defined as “a canine that has been trained to protect humans in dangerous situations.”

Dogs, unlike humans, cannot be bribed, corrupted or bought. MWDs are true to their masters and their service, until they take their last breaths.

“With the creation of the United States K9 Corps on March 13, 1942, dogs were officially adopted in the U.S. military ranks during WWII.”

Dogs in military service date back to the seventh century B.C., but it wasn't until World War II that dogs were widely used, mostly as message carriers. These dogs were in such high demand that American families were donating their dogs into service. The Army's Dogs for Defense program trained 10,000 of the donated dogs. It's been reported that approximately 1,000 dogs were killed in action.

Once trained these MWDs were deployed in action. Not only used by the Army, the Navy used these dogs to guard our shipyards, the USCG used the K9s to patrol our shorelines here at home, and the Marine Corps used these dogs to help recapture islands in the Pacific.

It's always been a dangerous job. During the Vietnam War, around 5,000 K9s were pressed into service along with 10,000 dog handlers. The dogs did such a good job that a bounty of up to \$20,000 were placed on their heads. “It was also reported that 232 MWDs and 295 dog handlers were killed in action.”

Unfortunately, these specially trained dogs were treated as “equipment”, and were either left behind on foreign soil or euthanized after their usefulness after the wars played out. That is no longer the case! Thanks to

Representative Roscoe Bartlet, who introduced a bill (Robby's Law) on September 27, 2000, that changed the fate of MWDs. Robby was a MWD who was refused adoption by his handler and subsequently euthanized. “President Bill Clinton signed the bill into law in November of 2000.” Robby's Law required allowing all MWDs to be adopted after their service was complete.

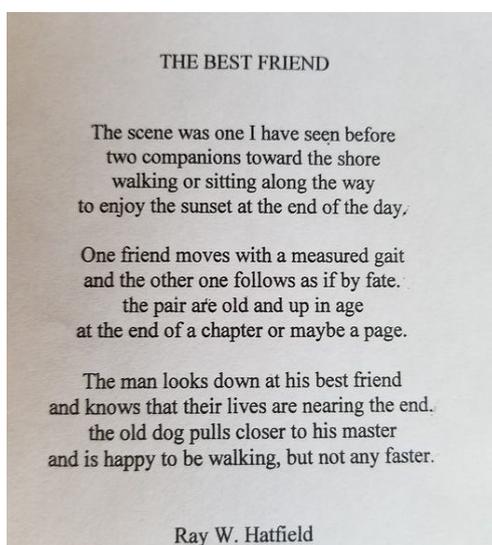
On June 1, 2015, the Military Dog Retirement Bill, a bill sponsored by Representative Walter Jones, Senator Richard Blumenthal, and the U. S. War Dog Association was introduced that ensured the MWD could no longer be deemed “equipment.” It was passed by both the Senate and House and was signed into law by President Barack Obama. Not only that, but the law stipulates that the Department of Defense must arrange for and then pay for transportation of the trained military dogs back to the United States upon their retirement from service when they are working overseas.

Approximately 3,000 MWDs are at work and serve in a variety of capacities and operate with multiple agencies, including the military, border patrol, U.S Customs, federal law enforcement, and police K9 units.

We all saw them in Vietnam and maybe in some other places. Now we know a little bit more about them.

Shamelessly copied from a local paper by:

Jesse Hobby
Armed Falcon 29F1



All who identify, raise your hand.

An “old retired war dog” Still doing great.
Ray Hatfield— B Btry 2/20th ARA , 1969

Email addresses for the ladies

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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