



The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 17 No. 2

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

Oct, Nov, December, 2024

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

WE CALMED THE WIND AND WAVES FOR A GREAT REUNION



President's Corner

The Mariner of the Seas cruise was a great success and a good time for all who attended. The cruise kicked off on September 7 from Galveston, TX port for five days and nights along the Mexican Gulf coast. Our initial meeting was in the Library to inform everyone of the proposed schedule of activities. A meeting with the ship's captain to discuss his visit to our upcoming meeting on day two revealed he had served in the artillery during his service in his country's military. What a great connection to our group.

We visited the ports of Puerto Costa Maya and Couzumel, Mexico on Days 3 and 4, and sailed all day on Days 2 and 5. Some of our stalwart adventures went ashore on excursions to swim with the dolphins, visit Mayan ruins, shop at stores, or simply stayed aboard to enjoy the numerous bars, the casino, various food purveyors, lounge around the pool/hot tub, soaking up sun, or partaking in the almost endless activities and events on board which included a circus on ice program as well as group and individual musical shows, or just enjoyed the views and the cruise at sea. Each night we enjoyed dinner as a group at reserved tables with terrific food, drinks, and service, reminiscing about times in the Army or what is happening in our lives today. Sometimes we would gather in a specific bar as a group. Photos of all these activities are in this issue, and will be in subsequent issues and are posted on the ARA Facebook page.

Our general meeting was held on the second day with all the men and women, commencing with the ship's captain talking about his career and how he rose to be a ship's captain. He also talked about his collection of American cars (he is of Dutch origin) and how he restored them. He gave details of the ship, answered questions about the cruises and some of the challenges he has to deal with onboard.

Our meeting held discussion of the future of the Aerial Rocket Association (ARA) and how long we should continue to try to maintain our programs. It was unanimous among those present that we should keep the Association going and readdress the topic in two years at that ARA Board meeting. It was also discussed what should be done with any residual funds should the Association cease to exist. Leading candidates for receipt of monies were the Vietnam Memorial, the American 369 Huey Museum, along with the National Army Museum and various Veteran organizations dedicated to helping veterans.

Elections were held to elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Editor and WEB site Master/Database Manager, all for two year terms. The results were as follows: President—Jule Szabo, Vice President—James Fleming, Secretary—Rodger McAlister, Treasurer and Website/Database Manager—Jesse Hobby and Editor and Chaplain—Asa Talbot.

Optimistically, we explored ideas for the next two years reunion locations. Rodger McAlister proposed we gather in 2025 at the American 369 Huey Museum in Peru, Indiana. This was approved by those present for August 7-11, 2025, and Rodger and Marilyn will be hosts. There was discussion and consensus that 2026 be another cruise commencing on the east coast with ports of call along that coast; possibly from Miami, Fort Lauderdale Or Cape Canaveral and northward. River trips, Great Lakes and the west coast were also options. I am recruiting Asa, Cecil and Jim Fleming to lead out on this venture and further information will follow in the Straphanger and at next years reunion.

The Treasurer's report may be found in this issue of the Straphanger (medical issues prevented Jesse to make the cruise and give his report at the meeting) and all ARA members may review it. *A reminder for all who must to submit your annual dues to Jesse, our Treasurer.*

Recently, my American Legion Post presented an upcoming campaign that is being initiated nationally because the suicide rate among veterans is at 33%. It is called, "Be the One". We need to keep an eye open for any of our brothers who may show signs of depression, discouragement or chronic sadness among the veterans you know as you might save a life. Here is a link for further information: <https://www.legion.org/betheone/resources>.

The spouses of our members who have passed away are always welcome at our reunions. If you have remained in contact with them, call and invite them. There are no "fifth wheels" in our group.

See you at the 2025 (26th) ARA reunion, and keep in touch with each other.

Cheers: Jule

ARA President

Testimonials from those who were there:

This cruise was Good
The food was great
The company the best
Our group meetings and evening meals
we're very close in terms of friendship and bonding
Lower the gangway I'd go again !

Rodger McAlister



Exploring the Mayan ruins



Activity on the busy promenades

It was great to see the people on the cruise. Several people were unable to come due to health issues, and we wish them quick recoveries. We enjoyed each other's company at dinner, and when we ran into each other at the pool. Fortunately, we were able to avoid the hurricane, even though the last day the sea was bumpy.

It has been great to have cooler weather on the east coast. We have had a hot dry summer and it shows in the lawns and the trees. We may not have much in the way of Fall colors as the leaves have been turning brown and dropping off. Our neighbors have been decorating for Halloween, but we will get to that by the end of Sept. or early Oct. The kids next door like our lights in the front yard. I am hoping we continue to have trick-or-treating along a short portion of our road. The distances are shorter for the kids to walk and we get to see and talk to our neighbors.

Wishing everyone a great fall!!

Joan Szabo



...and they still like each other!



Beware the mad driver

We are the group who chooses to stay aboard the ship and enjoy the fellowship and the amenities without braving the hills, curves and jungles of the shore. While the sea was a little choppy on Day 2 and more so on Day 5 it was always enjoyable. Some of the evening shows had to be cancelled due to turbulence but on the nice days we were able to enjoy our balcony. The cabin and dining room service were excellent and we were impressed with the kindnesses the staff and the other passengers extended to the old and shaky in juggling meal trays.

Asa and Jean Talbot



Our dining room table with Jerry Sommers, our wait staff and the Senior Citizens

ARA 2025 Reunion Initial Plans

The ARA 2025 Reunion will be held at the 369 American Huey Museum (Web Page: (www.americanhuey369.com) during their “Getting of Veterans and Patriots 2025” event. The reunion will be from 7 -10 August 2025 in Peru, Indiana. The hotel that will be our home base is the Best Western Circus City Inn, 2642 S Business 31, Peru, Indiana 46970, Toll Free Central Reservations (US & Canada Only) [1\(800\) 780-7234](tel:18007807234) , Hotel direct—[\(765\) 473-8800](tel:7654738800) , bestwestern.com.>bestwestern>peru . The hotel is directly across the street from the Huey Museum. Will also plan on touring the Grissom Air Museum during our time there.

A summary of the organization: American Huey 369 Organization is formed for the specific purpose of preserving Huey Aircraft 369 (serial# 70-16369) and Huey Aircraft 803/Warrior 11 (serial# 63-08803) to flying museum aircraft that with its members will educate all generations to the history of the American made Huey in Vietnam and its last 50+ years in the U.S. Military. While accomplishing this mission, our organization will pay tribute to ALL Veterans, especially Vietnam Veterans and their families and will NEVER FORGET those Veterans who gave the ULTIMATE SACRIFICE to their country. We are a 501c3 not for profit organization. All proceeds go towards restoration of both aircraft, maintaining both aircraft and in the near future, building a museum for the public to learn more about these great Icons of the Vietnam War.

Additional details will be in the next Straphanger newsletter. Our host for this reunion is Roger McAlister.



The Best Western Circus City Inn—Peru, IN



Artist's conception of the now existent 369 American Huey Museum in Peru, IN

AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION Financial Report – Year to date Checking account (7600147388)

01/01/24 - Beginning balance \$7,938.52
01/04/24 – Recurring CC payment to Godday.com (domain) \$70.32
01/19/24 – CC payment to UPS (apparel shipment to Balton) \$33.43
01/31/24 – Ending balance \$7,834.77
02/01/24 – Beginning balance \$7,834.77
02/22/24 - Recurring CC payment to Godday.com (SSL Cert) \$99.99
02/23/24 – Deposit of two membership renewals (Hobby/LaBarre) \$50.00
02/29/24 - Ending balance \$7,784.78
03/01/24 - Beginning balance \$7,784.78
03/04/24 - Recurring CC payment to Godday.com. (Website Builder) \$203.88
03/31/24 - Ending balance \$7,580.90
04/01/24 - Beginning balance \$7,580.90
04/22/24 - Deposit of one membership renewal (Bijold) \$25.00
04/30/24 - Ending balance \$7,605.90
05/01/24 - Beginning balance \$7,605.90 No deposits/Credits/Withdrawals/Debits
05/31/24 - Ending balance \$7,605.90
06/01/24 - Beginning balance \$7,605.90 No deposits/Credits/Withdrawals/Debits
06/30/24 - Ending balance \$7,605.90
07/01/24 - Beginning balance \$7,605.90 No deposits/Credits/Withdrawals/Debits
07/31/24 - Ending balance \$7,605.90
08/01/24 - Beginning balance \$7,605.90 No deposits/Credits/Withdrawals/Debits
08/31/24 - Ending balance \$7,605.90
09/30/24 Beginning balance \$7,605.90 No deposits/Credits/Withdrawals/Debits
09/30/24 - Ending balance \$7,605.90
Money Account balance on 08/31/24 was \$17,401.64.

Jesse L. Hobby
Treasurer

This is a continuation of the memories of Jerry Bijold of his time with the ARA in RVN.

Battle of Khe Sanh April 1968

I was a US Army 1st Lieutenant platoon leader in Battery B, 2/20th Artillery Battalion (Aerial Rocket Artillery) with the 1st Cav Div and supported Khe Sanh with Operation Pegasus in Mar-Apr 1968. My platoon consisted of 4 UH-1B helicopters with 24 tube 2.75 inch rocket pods on each side and a door gunner with an M60 machine gun. We rotated to Ca Lu, a base camp about 15 miles east of Khe Sanh along highway 9. Our missions were to provide fire support to ground units in enemy contact, support helicopter insertions and extractions and fly overhead cover for various other combat operations.

On 8 Apr Army units linked up with Marines at Khe Sanh. "Operation Pegasus" was terminated 15 Apr. The 1st Cav Div after action report estimated 1,259 North Vietnam Army KIA (which seems high) and captured 1 NVA POW (that did not include the NVA POW my platoon captured). The 2 Bde, 1st Cav Div which our ARA Battery supported remained under operational control of the 1st Marine Div until May. My platoon participated in a wide variety of fire missions around the Khe Sanh area. Five of these are detailed below.

1. Fire mission from USAF Forward Air Controller for a wounded lone Marine near the bottom of Hill 881 South. I was the 2nd ARA section of 2 helicopters sent for support. The 1st ARA section extracted him under intense enemy fire despite our very close suppressive rocket and machine gun fire. They successfully brought him back to Khe Sanh alive. The Khe Sanh Marine Regimental Commander thanked us and recommended medals for the effort. The 1st section leader received a Silver Star and I got one of my Distinguished Flying Crosses for this action.

2. Fire mission from an Army 105mm artillery battery on the southeast side of the Khe Sanh plateau that they were under fire from a tank to the west. When we came over the eastern escarpment of the Khe Sanh plateau I saw the tank (probably a PT-76) and we started lobbing rockets at it from a great distance. It then hid near the abandoned Lang Vei Special Forces camp south of highway 9. I never found the tank to put additional rocket fire or call in an air strike. On the same mission we had an NVA soldier surrender in a large bomb crater between the artillery battery and the tank. We turned the POW over to a 1st Cav infantry unit at Ca Lu.

3. Fire mission that Khe Sanh was under rocket attack. Using my limited experience in an Hones John rocket battery I tried to determine where I would set up an enemy rocket battery. The ideal place seemed to be a small hilly area south of the Co Roc Mountain ridge line just over the Laos border. I made one sweeping westward pass about 2 kilometers into Laos and confirmed their location by flying to the north near Co Roc so as to not raise their suspicion. I then called for an air strike. The fire support center called back stating no air strikes were available from the USAF, Marines or the Navy. They could divert a B52 that was 10 minutes out if I could confirm the target and do the bomb damage assessment since no USAF FAC's or any other aircraft were in the area. I confirmed the target and that I would conduct the BDA. The B52 caused about 15 secondary explosions and obliterated the NVA rocket battery. Khe Sanh did not have any more rocket attacks after this mission.

4. Fire Mission from a Marine infantry company under enemy fire south of highway 9 about 5 miles west of Ca Lu. Four Marine M48 tanks were also on highway 9 to the north in that same area. My copilot spotted an enemy location including an RPG between the infantry company and the tanks. The company commander could not confirm all his friendly locations so he would not give us permission to engage the enemy. I offered to mark the enemy location with smoke which he did not want to do. The RPG then fired and hit the 2nd tank. That tank crew evacuated and one Marine appeared to be wounded. The other 3 tanks turned their main guns to where the enemy RPG had originated but they did not shoot. I was very frustrated that we could not engage the enemy or warn the tanks, but I did not want to accidentally kill friendlies.

5. On 30 Apr we received a fire mission that a Marine unit was under enemy fire from Hill 1015 about 5 miles north of Khe Sanh. We engaged the enemy with our first rocket run just south and about 300 feet below the crest. As we were turning left while regaining altitude for the next rocket run we heard "pom pom" fire from a valley between two mountains just north of highway 9. My wing ship saw their location and immediately engaged and destroyed the dual anti-aircraft gun. The last two enemy rounds entered the left side of my cockpit with one round hitting my pedal that put shrapnel in the front of my lower legs. The second round glanced off my chest protector placing a small piece of shrapnel in my right ear lobe and the remainder damaging the overhead console. My lower pant legs were torn but there was little bleeding where shrapnel pieces had entered my legs. My copilot had a small amount of blood on his left eye and his right eye was squinting and watering. I figured I could continue flying better without full use of my legs than he could with limited vision. I made a successful running landing at Ca Lu and was met by two medics in a jeep with a litter on the runway. The doctor in a tent provided my initial medical care, called for a medevac and I was in surgery at Quang Tri by that afternoon. I then started the healing and medevac process to the US.

Our ARA battery rotated platoons to Ca Lu throughout Apr. The other 2 platoons also had their share of enemy actions. The NVA were so frustrated by our ARA helicopters they made a radio transmission to do everything to shoot down and capture the crew from a "UH-1 with the footlockers on the side" (our rectangle rocket pods). They took it to heart as we often returned to Ca Lu with many bullet holes in our helicopters. One time we had bullet holes in the engine's combustion chamber so they almost got their wish to capture us.

Being in war has interesting dynamics. Some detail and analyze their experiences and gain satisfaction from that. Many try to completely forget about what amounts to some of life's most terrible experiences. Others like me try to minimize the adverse impacts while retaining some of the memories.

It has taken me from 1968 to 2022 to decide to document vignettes of my more vivid war memories. Khe Sanh is definitely one of them.

Jerry Bijold

Nov 2023

Victory Cocktails

How Military Cocktails Won Over the World

This is the last section of the article which appeared in the July/August/September edition of the Straphanger.

British ship's global journeys provided both the ingredients and circumstances needed to invent mixed drinks. The sea change for British imbibing came when West Indies rum met East Indian rituals. The relationship between the military and mixed drinks "really started with the English East India Company," said Wondrich.

"The India Company wasn't military, but it was definitely paramilitary. They had guns, troops; they weren't officially the British government, but they might as well have been," he said. "When they were introduced to what was being done in India with spirits (like arrack) and fruits, that was really the Big Bang for mixed drinks mixed with booze. Before that, the best thing you could do with booze – and you find this in the old distilling tracts – was just mix it back in with the stuff that it was distilled from to fortify it and hide the taste. But the East India Company, when they ran out of beer and wine at sea, found something else to do ... ending up with punch ... and that really kicked into gear with the colonization of the Caribbean and rum. "Found something else to do" is pretty much the perfect summation of cocktails and conflicts. Many combat quaffs come about because of the doldrums, or for modifications to hide a rank taste, or to fulfil a medicinal purpose. By the mid – 1800's, British colonizers in India found themselves falling to malaria. It was known the bark of the cinchona tree – and its active ingredient, quinine – could fight the disease. The thing was, quinine powder is excessively bitter. And what has been shown to be the most common origin of a military-grade cocktail? Taking a thing of questionable flavor and mixing it with a potent potable. While soldiers were only allowed the drink ration issued – still most likely, rum or a locally produced spirit – it was an officer's prerogative to procure what they wanted as a taste of home and a show of status. Gin, while cheap and plentiful at home, was more rare and expensive in the field – class warfare in a glass. So officer's brought coveted, quality spirits to India.

The introduction by Erasmus Bond of the first flavored, aerated quinine liquid simplified the process of mixing sugar, water, and powder, and the world was given the perfect fever – and thirst killer for balmy embarkments; the Gin and Tonic, served with a twist of healing lime. Lime juice preserved with sugar and then mixed with gin – no tonic – would birth another favorite drink of the upper ranks: the Gimlet. The British in India brought back with them the concept of the punch bowl, which would hold a mix of British, French, and domestic style hooch. The Americans carry on this tradition.

A popular military example of this adaptable, enduring rite remains the Chatham Artillery Punch, first assembled in the mid – 1800's to commemorate the return of a silk-stocking unit in Savannah, GA., whose roots predate the American Revolution.

As shared by Wondrich, these well-to-do sons got together at the Marshall House, where Alonzo Luce (possibly a militia member; definitely a bartender) one day filled a bucket with rum, brandy, whiskey, brown sugar, and lemon, and then topped it with cranberries and champagne. Regiments still offer ceremonial punches or initiation mixers, such as the champagne and vodka-based Prop Blast of paratroopers, as well as what they call "Grog."

It wasn't just the affluent or the daredevils who congregated around a basin of the hard stuff. In his book *Cups of Valor*, N.E. Beveridge (a pseudonym for veteran Harold L. Peterson) tells of Army intelligence officers who in 1945 came across a Wehrmacht liquor storage cavern. So, what did they do? They selflessly experimented until they determined the perfect ratio of ingredients for a drink using what they found, naming it the B2C2 after its components: Brandy and Benedictine, Cointreau and Champagne.

Plenty of troops during the World Wars, holed up in European cellars full of calvados and vermouth, go a brief taste of the finer things. The French 75, designed for American-French aviators fighting Germany, features champagne spiked with cognac, sometimes gin, sugar and a lemon twist on ice (There's that sweetened citrus theme again.) It was named for the smooth but powerful French 75-mm field gun.

The troops brought with them a taste of home. Would the Rum & Coke have proliferated as widely if warfighters from the Spanish-American War to World War II hadn't brought an influx of Coca-Cola to bases throughout the Caribbean and Europe?

In another example of making do with what you've got and necessity being the mother of invention, the Screwdriver purportedly came about because American officer, engineers, and/or contractors had cheap vodka and orange juice rations and nothing to stir them with but screwdrivers.

One of the best ingredients for a wartime cocktail, however, was camaraderie. According to Wondrich, Gen. George S. Patton of the 2nd Armored Division is said to have shown his pride in his men with something called the Armored Diesel. His steward would present copper goblets machined from oil cans in the division workshops. He would use those to serve what was essentially a Whiskey Sour, that sea-faring-friendly invention of citrus juice-lemon-plus water and sugar, but with an American spirit. The final touch would be a drop of cherry juice (poured from an oil can) to represent the blood of enemies.

This article appeared in the *Military Officer* magazine, July 2021. Written by Tony Ware, who writes about military culture.

Submitted by:

Jesse L. Hobby

Armed Falcon 29 Fox 1

The Courageous Mariners of the Seas



L-R (front) Asa (Doc) Talbot and Jean, Gerald Sommers and his friend Cindy (rear) Our lead waiter, Joan Szabo, George Wachs, Marilyn and Rodger McAlister, Gloria and Jim Fleming, and “The Prez” Jule Szabo.



The Foremans had to leave dinner early and missed the group picture—but they were part of the group.



Not our ship, but a carbon copy.



It was a long hard trip to the boat—but worth it.



Galveston before we sailed. A portent of Helene’s arrival.

Strange creatures often appeared in our midst!!



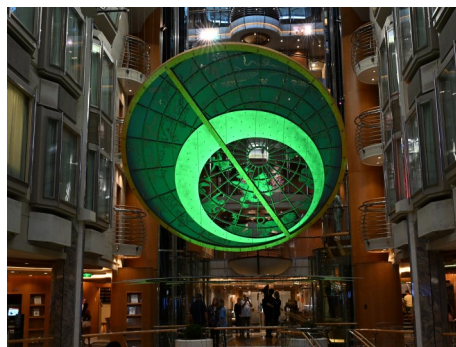
Just hanging around



Jean and Joe Cool share a friendly moment



Piggying the TV remote



The interior of the ship is a small city in itself with promenades, restaurants, shops, casinos, and theatres in a dizzying array.



Our three deck high main dining room. Our reserved tables are on the top deck, right (follow the red arrow).

PEOPLE , PLACES, AND EVENTS THAT MARKED OUR JOURNEY OVER THE SEAS



Jim & Gloria Fleming—all decked out and beautiful.



Jovial George Wachs toasts your good health



Rodger and the ever-youthful Marilyn
McAlister



Doc & Jean Talbot.—undisputed senior citizens



Jerry Sommers & Cindi—her first taste of ARA fun



And, if I am elected.....



The leisure set take the air and the sun.



Everybody needs a souvenir.



About as formal as it got!



It really was all fun and we did have a combined board-business-ladies meeting with the ship's captain opening and telling us a lot interesting things about the ship, Royal Caribbean, and his history and hobbies.

ENTERTAINMENT AND FINALE



Pools, spas, hot tubs, snack bars, booze bars, make for a real attractive entertainment center.



Song and dance teams during shows from various genres.



Nice to see them check out the lifeboats.



Channeling Whitney Houston



Switch from the 18th century ballroom to the US frontier.



Turning a theatre into an ice arena for a Circus on Ice spectacle with spectator participation



It got a little serious on Day 5 but our stalwart Mariners hung in there (or onto) and made it to port.





Chaplain's Corner

“Hope is Essential to Survival”

America is faced with the explainable but unacceptable fact that we are losing 33% of our valiant veterans to suicide. Why are these brave men and women who faced danger and death successfully succumbing to the impulse to give up and take the quick way out? For some, the ravages of time, injury and a sense that all their efforts in their youth were in vain, erodes their will to live. Survival is the most basic of instincts in the human mind and the last to go. However, for one to maintain a desire to survive one must also have a hope for the future. Life is, by nature, a dark tunnel at the end of which one must see a light and believe it is not another train.

Johnny Cash, “The Man in Black,” who enthralled millions with his deep voice and compelling lyrics, lived a life on the edge and filled with regrets. Early in his career he left his wife and four daughters for June Carter (Cash). Although he provided for them, and the breakup was consensual, it was still adultery. Johnny repented his misdeeds, tried to make amends, but as with driving a nail into a fine piece of furniture, pulling out the nail still leaves the hole and the evidence of the misdeed. Johnny suffered from diabetes, the complications of which would eventually claim his life. As the end approached, he recorded his last album, “*America VI—’Ain’t No Grave*”, in which he expresses his faith in the resurrection. Because of his faith, he clung to the hope of something better beyond this earthly veil.

Life is fragile, sometimes seemingly futile, and invariably difficult. Other than “eating your bread by the sweat of your brow” and “bringing forth your children in sorrow” (*Genesis 3: 16, 19*), there are the relational, occupational, financial, physical, political, and personal conflicts which besiege us all our earthly existence. There are many instances of people, of faith or not, who find themselves in concentration camps, POW compounds, hospitals and other unsavory places, and allow the glimmer of sustaining hope to fade and simply turned their faces to the wall and died. There is not a person who has never, if only fleetingly, considered “getting off the wheel” only to be halted by any number of reasons. One of these reasons is that we realize we are only passing through this world for a set time (determined by forces as yet unknown).

This begs the question as to what we lean on to sustain us in the struggle. Some take the Humanist route and depend on their, or other’s strengths to resolve the problems of the day. Others look to divine intervention or the expectation that there is a better life ahead after we “shuffle off this mortal coil”. Perhaps, it should be a combination of all of the above.

There is wisdom in the Apostle Paul’s declaration to the church at Corinth, in 1 Corinthians 15: 19, “If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied”. For all the high sounding reasoning of the Humanist philosophers, the grave is inevitable and there is no light at the end of the tunnel. If the grave is the end of all, why should we struggle to succeed? They are as wrong about this as they are about evolution, the Big Bang, and universal chance.

As for me and my house, We will serve the Lord and “walk the line”.

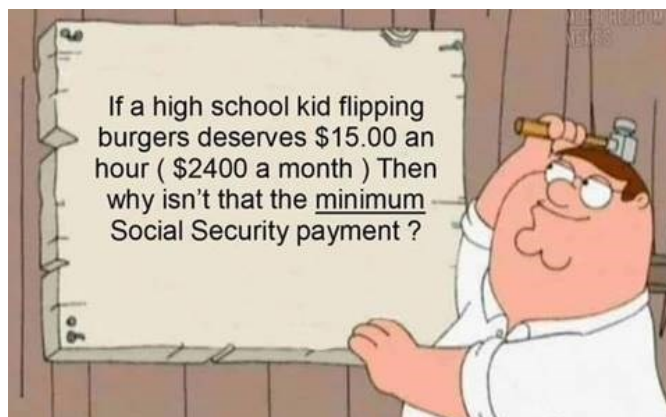
Be richly blessed.

Asa (Doc) Talbot

Chaplain and Editor

If you don’t pay your Exorcist
You may be repossessed!

**If you do not take an interest in
the affairs of your government,
then you are doomed to live un-
der the rule of fools.
Plato**



Ladies of the Association

“GETTING OLD AIN’T FOR SISSIES.”

Twenty-seven members of the Association (13 couples and 1 single) were supposed to board the “MARINER OF THE SEAS” on September 7th. Thirteen members (6 couples and 1 single) actually boarded. Three members cancelled for personal reasons and four cancelled due to medical problems (including my husband who was admitted to the hospital in Houston on sailing date).

It appears that age and health are taking a toll on the Association and when I sat down to write this article I was reminded of an article written some time ago and thought that it was worth bringing up again.

We’ve all heard the expression “Getting Old Ain’t For Sissies.” Time marches on, but it certainly is a fast tempo. One day you’re starting school and the next day you’re graduating. You head off to college or to work, and the next thing you know, another four years have flown by. Many of us find a partner in life and start a family, and before you know it, your kids are adults. Pretty soon your children will be raising children of their own. It’s a never ending cycle, but isn’t it grand! I’ve been thinking about life and aging a lot lately. We all have dear friends who are facing very challenging health issues. Sometimes you wonder what happened to yesterday when we were all young, strong and carefree.

I cannot recall who I first heard suggest that we should all live like today is our last. I’m all for enjoying each and every moment that I can with loved ones, family, and friends. I really believe that life is like a rollercoaster. There are great highs as well as lows. I never liked rollercoasters but I do enjoy living. It’s sort of depressing however, when there is so much pain, strife and despair around us. You wish that you had a magic wand or that your prayers for all would be answered. Certainly our prayers are heard but they are not always answered as we wish them to be. We have all heard that God has a plan and in that fact we must rely. I just want all those who are suffering or are scared to have comfort and healing. I would like for them to have more good days than bad. Isn’t that the wish for all of us. And while there is sadness and heartache around there also new births and celebrations. There are young lives just beginning and memories being made and experiences being enjoyed. Nothing remains the same. The merry go round keeps spinning, but time marches on.

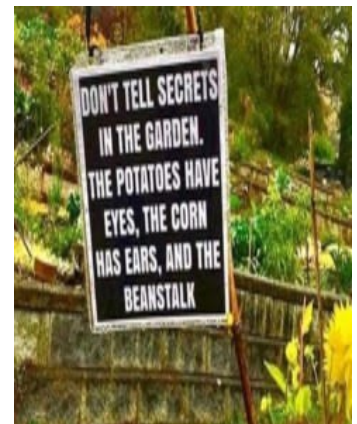
Let’s all rejoice in living and do the best we can every chance we have. Lift up someone who is ill or depressed. Laugh with someone who needs to smile. Call someone who needs to know that someone cares. Write a note to let someone know they are appreciated. Do a favor for someone just because you can. Cook something special to show someone that they are special or to give nourishment to someone without. Write a check to a help agency because there are so many in need. Give a gift to a newborn to celebrate their arrival or to a graduate to honor their achievement.

Live each day like it is your last. We are not guaranteed tomorrow.

Gloria Hobby
Falconess 6X



Little boy sitting on his step eating candy just as fast as he could unwrap it. A man passing by saw what he was doing. He said all that candy is not good for you and will spoil your dinner. The little boy said I don't know about that but my grandpa lived to be a 102. The man said wow you mean by eating candy. The little boy said no, by minding his own business.



Be grateful that no matter how much chocolate you eat, your earrings will still fit.

Email addresses for the ladies

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Herb Hirst—Asst Treasurer

The next person that asks for
pineapple juice, cranberry juice,
lemonade and a slice of orange in the
same glass is going to get a punch.

Someone has glued my pack of cards together. I
don't know how to deal with it.



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. _____

Battery/Battalion

Dates of Service

Call Sign

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 _____