



# The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 10 Issue 3

Find us on the web at <http://www.araassociation.com> Jan., Feb., & March, 2018  
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 .

**It's Not about Toys and Tinsel!**

**It is About Love, Sacrifice and Redemption.**

**It is About a Savior.**



## *President's Corner*

As I write this the holiday season approaches. (As you read this it is probably receding into history) We are scrambling to finish our holiday shopping and planning our parties with friends and family members. My hope is that everyone will have experienced a warm and joyous time filled with love and peace.

It is important to note that the planning for our reunion at Fort Sill in Lawton, OK is well under way. The dates of the reunion are September 12th to September 16<sup>th</sup> 2018. Our billets will be in the Homewood Suites.

We will have a choice of a King Suite, two bed Queen Suite, or a single. Each room will have a kitchen facility. The hotel provides a breakfast and has a happy hour Monday to Thursday. The Wednesday night dinner and the Saturday night banquet will be held at the Historic Patriot Club which many of us will remember was the Officer Club.

One of the highlights of the reunion will be a Live Fire Power Demonstration on Thursday. All transportation on Fort Sill will be provided by bus.

A special thanks and appreciation of the Association goes to Clovis Jones who is our host for this reunion. He is doing a great job selecting the different venues and interfacing with the various vendors. I know that we will all benefit from his efforts and planning.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that this reunion commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deployment of the 4<sup>th</sup> BN, 77<sup>th</sup> ARTY of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division to Vietnam. We are proud of their service and the bravery and the professionalism demonstrated in carrying out their missions. Well done brothers. I hope everyone will have good health, peace, and love in 2018. I look forward to seeing you at Fort Sill.

Best regards to all,

Dave Borgeson  
President, ARA Association

Classy People Dining at Fort Magruder Photos by Jule & Joan Szabo



Roberta and Dave Cooper



Christine and Millard Garrison



Cindi & Herb Hirst



Bill and Dale Williams



Jim & Marguerite Forman



George Wachs



Rachel and Jim Castillo



Rumor had it Barb Tokar was hiding from the police but then Dick got her to come out in all her radiant beauty.



Joe Pullano



Marilyn and Rodger McAlister



Sheila and George Govignon



Allen Klinker



Dave and Pat Borgeson



Asa and Jean Talbot



Carolyn and Billy Wood



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

**Reunion Registration Form**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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### ATTENTION ALL ARA MEN:

**DO NOT DELETE THIS PUBLICATION UNTIL ALL SPOUSES, SIGNIFICANT  
OTHERS AND COMPANIONS HAVE READ IT.**

**THE INFORMATION IS FOR ALL IN THE FAMILY.**

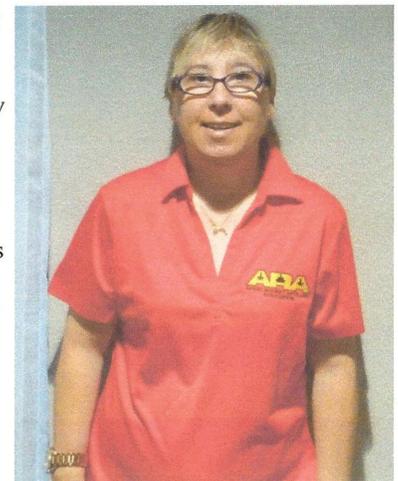
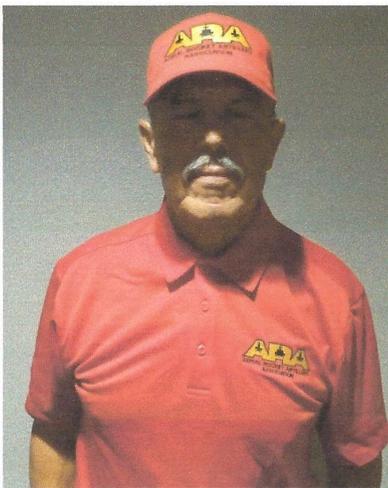
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## WHAT THE WELL DRESSED ARA PERSON SHOULD WEAR

Below are the most recent offerings for reunion attire. These are high quality soft shirts with fully embroidered lettering (not print on). Tony Quesada also models the new FULLY EMBROIDERED cap. We are exploring a similar cap with a shorter bill to compliment the beautiful ladies shirt which is modeled by lovely Bentlieth Borgeson. It would be a real sight to have all the attendees at Ft. Sill in matching outfits. The cost is not in concrete yet but it is rumored that the \$20 cap and \$30 shirt may go for \$40-45 depending on demand. The sizes

shown are large for the ladies' and medium for the men's but all sizes will be available. Your opinion is sought after by Jesse Hobby and this publication

This article is being re-published because it is important that any universal decisions be weighed in on by the membership. Due to the problems with weather in Williamsburg, there was not a quorum to allow for the Board to meet, and many important elements were not decided (these articles of clothing and their wear [not for uniformity as much as solidarity], future sites for reunions beyond 2018, our goal of improving our relationship with our 4/77th comrades (Billy Woods summed it up best, "It is not a matter of 1st Cav or 101st; we are all ARA".) The Ft Sill reunion is highly critical for many reasons (Board elections, future plans, etc. PLEASE help us with your opinions on these shirts and hats.



*Editor's Note: Following are the reports of our Treasurer, Herb Hurst, on the finances of the Williamsburg Reunion and the state of the ARA Treasury. I recommend you take a moment and appreciate the fantastic job he has done in salvaging what might well have been a total "aircraft loss". There are many hours and gallons of sweat in this task. You might send him an email (address on page 4) and tell him how much you appreciate his guarding of the purse.*

### EXPENSES

|                       | COST                                 | REFUND            | TOTAL             |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Embassy Suites        | \$2,711.55                           | \$0.00            | \$2,711.55        |
| Speakers Room         | \$268.18                             | \$0.00            | \$268.18          |
| Colonial Connections  | \$2,724.00 (Bus Tour)                | \$615.00          | \$2,109.00        |
| Ft. Magruder          | \$4,146.72                           | \$793.41          | \$3,353.31        |
| Jesse Hobby           | \$625.53 (Hats, mugs, plaques, etc.) | \$0.00            | \$625.53          |
| Ft Eustis Exchange    | \$241.49 (Beer, wine, etc.)          | \$0.00            | \$241.49          |
| Walmart               | \$44.60                              | \$0.00            | \$44.60           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$10,762.07</b>                   | <b>\$1,408.41</b> | <b>\$9,353.66</b> |

### INCOME

Registration = \$2,250.00  
 Wed. Dinner = \$2,415.96  
 Bus Tour = \$3,087.00  
 Banquet = \$3,431.00  
 Monies Collected = \$11,183.96  
 Auction of Book = \$210.00  
 Hats = \$180.00  
 Shirts = \$40.00  
 Donations = \$40.00 \$470.00  
**TOTAL INCOME \$11,653.96**

### REFUNDS TO NON-ATTENDEES

Wed. Dinner = \$656.46  
 Bus tour = \$833.00  
 Banquet = \$893.00  
**Total Refunds = \$2,382.46**

Expenses + Refunds \$11,736.12                      Income \$11,653.96

**Final reunion total -\$82.16**

**That is truly good stewardship**

\*\*\*\*\*



"Male, 38, still living with his parents. They asked us to keep him overnight, so they could change the locks."



"Each capsule contains your medication, plus a treatment for each of its side effects."

# Aerial Rocket Artillery Association

## Profit & Loss

### All Transactions

Cash basis

Nov 27, 2017

#### Ordinary income/Expense

##### Income

|   |          |  |                         |
|---|----------|--|-------------------------|
| 13000 ■ Direct Public Support                 |          |  |                         |
| 13300 * Individ, Business Contributions       | 540.50   |  |                         |
| <b>Total 13000 ■ Direct Public Support</b>    |          |  | <b>540.50</b>           |
| 47000 ■ Revenue from Member Dues              |          |  |                         |
| 47100 ■ Annual Membership Dues                | 575.00   |  |                         |
| 47200 ■ Lifetime Member Dues                  | 750.00   |  |                         |
| <b>Total 47000 ■ Revenue from Member Dues</b> |          |  | <b>1,325.00</b>         |
| 48000 • Other Types of Income                 |          |  |                         |
| 48100 ■ Miscellaneous Revenue                 | 430.00   |  |                         |
| 48200 • Interest on Savings Account           | 4.79     |  |                         |
| <b>Total 48000 ■ Other Types of Income</b>    |          |  | <b>434.79</b>           |
| 49000 - Reunion Income                        |          |  |                         |
| 49100 ■ Registration Fee                      | 2,190.00 |  |                         |
| 49200 ■ Dinner #1                             | 1,721.46 |  |                         |
| 49300 • Banquet Dinner                        | 2,491.00 |  |                         |
| 49700 ■ Tour #1                               | 2,820.00 |  |                         |
| 49000 ■ Reunion Income - Other                | 793.41   |  |                         |
| <b>Total 49000 ■ Reunion Income</b>           |          |  | <b><u>10,015.87</u></b> |

##### Total Income

**12,316.16**

##### Gross Profit

**12,316.16**

##### Expense

|  |               |  |                         |
|--|---------------|--|-------------------------|
| 65000 ■ Operations                           |               |  |                         |
| 65020 ■ Postage, Mailing Service             | <u>81.47</u>  |  |                         |
| <b>Total 65000 ■ Operations</b>              |               |  | <b>81.47</b>            |
| 65100 ■ Other Types of Expenses              |               |  |                         |
| 65160 ■ Other Costs                          | <u>105.04</u> |  |                         |
| <b>Total 65100 ■ Other Types of Expenses</b> |               |  | <b>105.04</b>           |
| 65200 ■ Reunion Expenses                     |               |  |                         |
| 65220 ■ Banquet Dinner                       | 4,146.72      |  |                         |
| 65270 ■ Tour #1                              | 2,724.00      |  |                         |
| 65200 ■ Reunion Expenses - Other             | 3,796.54      |  |                         |
| <b>Total 65200 ■ Reunion Expenses</b>        |               |  | <b>10,667.26</b>        |
| 70000 * Awards and Grants                    |               |  |                         |
| 70100 ■ Cash Awards and Grants               | 2,250.00      |  |                         |
| <b>Total 70000 ■ Awards and Grants</b>       |               |  | <b>2250.00</b>          |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                         |               |  | <b><u>13,103.77</u></b> |

Net Ordinary Income

-787.61

Net Income

-787.61

Actual on hand funds.

\$11,303.60 in checking account

\$14,355.34 in savings account.

## THE GRIFFIN REVISTED

*Since the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association will hold it's annual reunion at Fort Sill, OK to commemorate the deployment of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 77<sup>th</sup> Artillery (ARA) 50 years ago I thought it would be a good idea to re-acquaint our members with the "GRIFFIN", a symbol of Airborne and Aerial Artillery dating back to World War II. If anyone can add to this page of our history please forward it to me.*

*Jesse L. Hobby*

*Armed Falcon 29 Fox 1*

### A PAGE FROM OUR HISTORY



The "Griffin" was the longest serving symbol of the Aerial Rocket Artillery but, how many know where he came actually came from. He is a legendary creature having the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion. The eagle is considered the "King of the Air" and the lion is the "King of the Beasts."

The "Griffin" is also depicted on the Coat of Arms of the 377<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment. The eagle alludes to the organization having served with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne (Screaming Eagles) Division during World War II and the lion to England, where it underwent training and from whence it "took off" for its air assault drops on Normandy and the Netherlands. The trident refers to "Operation Neptune" which launched the invasion of Normandy, symbolized by the fleur-de-lis, an emblem of France, impaled on the tines, and alludes to the Normandy air drop. The arrowhead and orange flames (orange is the Netherlands' national color) refers to the air drop on the Netherlands. The red and blue shield, suggested by the coat of arms of Bastogne, refers to the gallant defense of Bastogne, and has been "surrounded by" a border in allusion to the town being surrounded by the enemy and is white to simulate snow, the action having taken place during winter. The green mound refers to the Rhineland Campaign and Southern Germany. The red shield underneath the coat of arms is scarlet for artillery and the floating parachute with the cannon attached is symbolic of the airborne functions of the organization.

And now, fast forward to 1963 – the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Division is activated at Fort Benning, Georgia to formulate, develop, and put into practice the concept of airmobility. In February of that year "C" Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Artillery is activated and designated as an Aerial Rocket Artillery Battery (Provisional). It is short lived and is quickly followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 377<sup>th</sup> Artillery (ARA), 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault division and the "Griffin," now detached from the coat of arms and depicted as the symbol of the Aerial Rocket Artillery, appears on aircraft and pocket patches. He carries a modified trident and his red and blue shield is now red and gold.



Fast forward again to June/ July 1965 and the 3/377 is deactivated and is re-flagged as 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Artillery (ARA), 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and deploys to the Republic of Vietnam in August. The "Griffin" now has a lightning bolt to represent artillery and a 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Patch in place of the red and gold shield. He will serve with the 2/20<sup>th</sup> until mid-1968 when the unit adopts the "Blue Max" as its symbol.

At about this time the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 77<sup>th</sup> Artillery (ARA), 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division is activated and "C" Battery adopts the "Griffin" as their symbol, giving him a 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Patch. He will continue to serve with "C" Battery until the 101<sup>st</sup> departs RVN. It is not known if he continued to serve until deactivation of 4/77<sup>th</sup> sometime in early 1977.



It is interesting to note that the "Griffin" made a full circle, having served with the 377<sup>th</sup> Artillery, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in World War II, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 377<sup>th</sup> Artillery (ARA), 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Division and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Artillery (ARA), 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division before returning to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division to serve with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 77<sup>th</sup> Artillery (ARA).

# Ladies of the Association

Hello Ladies of the ARA!

Unbelievable that the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and 2017 is nearing the end ! As age rears its ugly head we seem to notice that the years do go by much more quickly. The last quarter always keeps us all busy – with the World Series, College Football and preparing for our two biggest holidays—Thanksgiving and Christmas/Chanukah which are happy family events and bring so much joy to our homes. Unfortunately, due to the dreadful California fires both in the North and South many will be without their homes as well as those who were devastated by the hurricanes.

One of the fires came within 5 miles from us and the smoke and air quality made it unbearable not to mention the clean up of the soot afterwards. The warm weather continues here in the Los Angeles area and we are hoping for a cooler (not white) Christmas. Lawton Oklahoma seems to be solidified for the next reunion and the men have been busy planning with multiple calls and discussions. I hope it will be as much fun as Williamsburg!

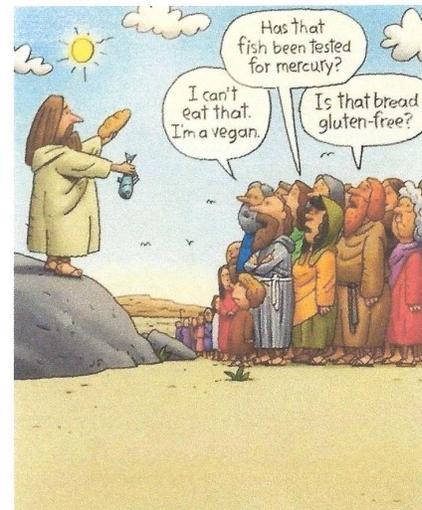
I do not have much to report but I do hope this finds you all well and in good health. I sure wish you would send me some news---  
[pborg12@yahoo.com](mailto:pborg12@yahoo.com)

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah and may we all pray for more peace and love in the world!!

Pat

Email addresses for the Ladies.

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## Chaplain's Corner

### “Beware, Keep Alert!”

*Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place...But about that day or hour no one knows.... Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come” Read Matthew 24:36-42*

Here we are at the first of December 2017, at the start of a new church year, as acknowledged by the liturgical churches who observe the church calendar year. That season is called Advent. As defined, advent means “arrival” or “coming.” In Western Christianity, Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24. This year the first Sunday of Advent was December 3, 2017, and goes through December 24, 2017, which is also the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas Eve).

Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming ,or birth, of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Celebrating Advent typically involves a season of prayer, fasting, and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope and joy! Many Christians celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for Christ’s first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy spirit, and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming , at the end of time.

My instructions at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, PA, were to give Advent the full preparation for the second coming of Christ and start the Christmas Carols during the Christmas Season. I found that difficult to do with all the commercialization of Christmas in the Malls and Shopping Centers and the playing of Christmas Carols right after Thanksgiving. I found a way of dealing with the three aspect of Christ in our lives and being able to be true to my theological stance: Spend time celebrating in anticipation of the Birth of Christ, be open to Christ coming into our mundane lives fresh and anew every day, and prepare for Christ’s second coming. Bottom line: Be prepared to receive Christ in the here and now!

Peace,

Bruce Wilder,  
Chaplain



## Did you know?



Line dancing was started by women waiting to use the bathroom.



Okay, Ralph .... let me 'splain it you again. You're big, I'm little; BUT!!! you're dog, I'm cat .... that makes me the boss. Got it ??

# *Final Flight*

*A number of our ARA Comrades are gone and these were reported in the Nov/Dec issue of the VHPA Aviator. We regret not having more information on some of these brothers.*

**Barrolucci, Ronald A.** USA; RVN' 69-70 C/2/20 ARA & 1/9 CAV/1CAV; DFC; Callsign Blue Max.

Ronald A Barrolucci of Brooklyn, NY, formerly of Ansonia, CT entered eternal rest on August 31, 2012 in his residence. Ron was born in Derby, CT on August 23, 1952. He was employed as a litigation attorney in New York City for many years.

**Greenfield, Ronald B.** USA; Flight Class 68-8/68-10; RVN; 68-69 A/4/77ARA 101 ABN; died August 5, 2017. No other details.

**Heisterman, Robert J.** USA MAJ (Ret); Flight Class 65-7; RVN 65-66 119 AHC; 68-69 4/77 ARA 101 ABN; 69 101 AVN BN 101 ABN.

Bob was born on December 13, 1941 and left this world from San Angelo, TX on June 9, 2017 after a long illness. Bob was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Field Artillery through ROTC in Florida and eventually retired as a Major. Before his illness Bob lived in Port Aransas, TX with his wife, Karen.

During his retirement years, Heisterman sought out and induced many of his former comrades to join the VHPA, especially during the nineties when many of those he had contacted had not heard of the organization.

During his first tour at Camp Holloway, Bob was shot down in a UH-1B gunship, along with future fellow VHPA member Ron Richtsmeir, on July 28, 1966. They went down just before dark in 200 feet of triple canopy jungle near Dak To. All four crew members were injured, and Heisterman was pinned in the wreckage. He was pinned on his side in the left pilot's seat, partly on the jungle floor, with the Huey on its left side on top of him. Richtsmeier and gunner SSG Reed, were the only crew members able to walk. The two lurched into a small, 40-foot clearing in the darkness just as a rescue helicopter swept it with his searchlight, and they were picked up. Unfortunately, a rescue effort for Heisterman and the crew chief could not be mounted until first light.

U.S. infantry soldiers, guided by Rechtsmeier's directions and those of Ken Christersen, their wingman when they went down, rappelled down on ropes from a Chinook and effected rescue of the other two crewmembers. All four eventually recovered from their injuries, although Bob spent about nine months in hospitals.

Robert Heisterman is survived by his wife, Karen.

**Mullen, Warren E.** USA LTC (Ret), RVN 65-66 A/2/20 ARA; No other details.

**Simpson, John F.** USA CW3 (Ret); Flight Class: 70-10; RVN 70 B/25 AVN 25 INF, 71 C/4/77 ARA 101 ABN; BSPH (2), CM; Call Sign: Griffin 21.

John Franklin Simpson passed away quietly at his home in Boca Raton, FL and August 16, 2017. John was born on March 7, 1937 in Newark, NJ.

John served twelve years in the U.S. Navy as an electronics instructor and a P2V (submarine search aircraft) flight crew member. John was a member of the Navy's Operation Deep Freeze (stationed with his brother Jim) in New Zealand and the Antarctic.

John transferred to the Army in 1967 as an electronics and communications specialist. He attended the Special Forces Qualification Course and Army Airborne School. He served as a Green beret with the 46<sup>th</sup> Special Forces in Thailand. That experience resulted in John's first book "Operation Minerva". John requested to go to Helicopter Flight School and in 1970 graduated at the top of his class. He was given his choice of advanced aircraft qualification. His choice was AH-1G Cobra School. Upon graduation from Cobra School, he received orders for RVN. Following Vietnam, John was stationed in Nuremburg, Germany with Air Cav Troop, 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, where he served as a border patrol pilot, AH-1G maintenance Test Pilot, and Company Training Officer. After returning stateside and following retirement, he went to work for Bell Helicopter in Isfahan, Iran as a Cobra Instructor and AH-1G Maintenance Test Pilot. In 1979, he narrowly escaped Iran following the fall of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's regime, his book "Ten Months in Iran".

Following John's second retirement, he worked as a technical writer, publications consultant as well as an engineer. John wrote over 300 technical manuals as well as the books previously mentioned.

He is survived by his second wife and best friend, JoAnn of 37 years.



**AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION**

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

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