



The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 6 Issue 2

Find us on the web at <http://www.araassociation.com> Oct., Nov., & Dec. 2013

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“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.

Our Sweet Reunion Becomes A Sad Farewell (see page nine)



President's Corner

Fall of 2013 is upon us. The TV is telling us how many shopping days until Christmas. Leaves will start turning color, then need raking. It is time to prepare for 2014 and Branson, MO.

Branson, MO.? Never been there? Why go? Got it!

It is another opportunity to meet up with and enjoy the company of fellow former members of our illustrious Aerial Rocket Artillery units. There were never any before and likely never will be again. We are Army history and, as you can see in the ensuing pages, a fading history.

At last year's reunion in Hershey PA, I had the good fortune to reclaim a friendship with a outstanding crew chief who I had not seen or heard about since I left Vietnam. We had flown countless missions together as a team. During the reunion we had a wonderful time recalling, as best we could, our Vietnam experiences. We also met many others who served at different times, different units; but found we had a kinship for all. Our wives and other family members also enjoyed getting to know each other.

These experiences of meeting and greeting others who also served our country is what makes our reunions an experience you do not want to miss.

I will continue inviting everyone I served with to come to this year's reunion. I hope you will also invite friends and family to attend.

So, plan now to get to Branson. Planes, trains and automobiles will get you there. My wife Peggy and I will be driving cross country to Branson and we are looking forward to meeting you there.

Cecil B. Hengeveld
ARA 6

Editor's Note: Not unlike Cecil, I was delighted to reconnect with my lead medic from the plains of Bon Song. Communication by phone and email had been sparse over the past 45 years. Now I was standing face-to-face with a dear comrade-in-arms (or bandages in our case) reliving the fun and fear, foolishness and fair fortune that had been our lives in those days gone by. Another memory has been created.—Doc Talbot

ARA Treasurer 2013 Report

Income:

Membership	\$ 1125.00
General Donations	\$ 50.00
Book & Hat Sales Donation	\$ 175.00
Wine Sales (From Auction)	\$ 150.00
Bank Interest	\$ 3.91
2013 ARA Reunion	\$8039.00
Total Income	\$9542.91

Expenses

Reunion Cost Breakdown (Paid to Date (07/2013))

Bus Cost	\$ 900.00
Gettysburg Tour Tickets	\$ 725.00
Gettysburg Auto Tour	\$ 58.00
Theater/Garden Tour Tickets	\$ 320.00
Mugs and Plaque	\$ 283.70
Lanyards & Badge Holder	\$ 239.00
2013 T Shirt Money to Asa Tabot	\$ 25.50
Chocolate Bars	\$ 404.00
Pizza for Welcome Night	\$ 118.25
Beer, Wine, Liquor, Sodas, Cups,	\$ 430.38
Chips, Chocolates, etc.	
2013 Farewell Dinner	\$2657.00
Total Expense	-\$6160.83

2013 Reunion Summary

Income	\$8039.00
Total Expenses	-\$6160.38
Balance	+\$1878.62

Obligations

None

Misc Items

2012 Taxes submitted and accepted by IRS - May 2013
Bank Balances as of 2 June 2013
Transferred from Ft Rucker Credit Union **\$ 12,294.06** to Northwest Federal Credit Union
Current Balances:
Checking **\$8773.90**
Saving **\$7460.00**

If there are any questions; please feel free to call or send me an email.

Jule Szabo, Treasurer
703-631-4566 (O) 703-808-6237
E-mail sailboatjs1@verizon.net



17TH AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY REUNION Branson, MO June 18 – 22, 2014



Showboat “Branson Belle”

Wallace (Titch) and Mary Alice Titchenell are hosting the 2014 Reunion in Branson and, along with Rodger and Marilyn McAlister, Huey and Kathy O’Dell, and Jesse and Gloria Hobby have performed a ground recon and are now ready to pass on useful information for you to use in making your travel plans.

In addition to this newsletter, information for the reunion may also be found on the Association web site (www.araassociation.com) and will be updated as more information becomes available.

ABOUT BRANSON

Known as the “Live Music Capital of the World,” Branson, MO, is truly a one-of-a-kind family vacation destination – and an incredible value – with more than 50 live performance theaters, three pristine lakes, 12 championship golf courses, an international award-winning theme park, dozens of attractions and museums, an Historic Downtown district, shopping galore, a full range of dining options, and a host of hotels, motels, resorts, RV parks, campgrounds and meeting and conference facilities.

Located in America’s heartland, Branson is less than a day’s drive from more than half of the country’s population, and with low cost flights to the new Branson Airport, as well as Springfield-Branson National Airport, it’s never been easier to get your family or group to Branson. For more information go to www.explorebranson.com and request your visitors guide.

WHERE WE WILL BE STAYING

Headquarters for the 2014 Reunion will be the **Stone Castle Hotel and Conference Center located at 3050 Green Mountain Drive in Branson, MO.**

The hotel is conveniently located in the heart of Branson's theater and attraction district, minutes from award-winning golf and mini golf courses, water parks, theaters, restaurants, and other unique family-fun experiences.

Phone numbers for the hotel are (417) 335-4700 and (800) 677-6906. When calling to make reservations, inform them that you are attending the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association Reunion to get the contracted rate. On-line reservation is not available.

We have reserved thirty-five (35) Jacuzzi Theme Suites at \$84.00 per night + tax (\$93.74 total). Prior to calling, go to the hotel web site (www.branstonstonecastle.com), click on rooms and accommodations and select a suite from a variety of themes, including **Asian, Circus, The Fifties, Honeymoon, Outback, Tahitian Nights, etc.** And, for the golfers there is one called the **19th Hole**. Some of these are balcony rooms (click on amenities and property info) for listing. These rooms range in size from approximately 340 – 480 square feet. If you desire something other than the Jacuzzi Suites you may request a standard room (one king or two queen beds) at \$69.00 per night + tax (\$77.00 total). The standard rooms are approximately 270 square feet. Family suites are also available at \$99.00 + tax per night (\$110.48 total). These have one bedroom with king bed and one with two queen beds. Each has a private bath.

As with other reunions the rate is good for three days before and after if you wish to arrive early or stay later.

Although we have only reserved 35 rooms the hotel will make additional reservations as long as they have availability, so you need to make reservations early to be assured of accommodations. Reservations made after May 18, 2014 will be prevailing rate and availability may be limited.

The hotel will also provide a Hospitality Suite/Meeting Room for the ARA TOC and a separate meeting room for the Ladies Meeting on Saturday morning. We may bring in snacks, drinks, alcoholic beverages (BYOB) of choice.

There is a complimentary full hot breakfast buffet each morning.

Parking and Wi-Fi access is also complementary.

For those who are coming in RV's – The recommended parks are the Branson KOA & Convention Center (www.bransonkoa.com) or Oak Grove Campground (www.oakgrovervpark.com). These two are in close proximity to the Stone Castle.

WHAT WE WILL BE DOING

Branson is all about entertainment and you can do as much or as little as you want. We have therefore scheduled only two main events – the Showboat “Branson Belle” and the Farewell Banquet. You can make your own schedule or, if you like you can just hang out with friends and catch up on what's been happening in the last year.

DAY 1 – Wednesday, June 18

Check in, get briefed, meet old friends, make new ones. We have planned a Beer and Pizza Party in the Hospitality Suite to continue the meet and greet opportunity. You may also get in an evening show if you would like.

Day 2 – Thursday, June 19

Today begins with breakfast at the hotel or on your own.

As previously stated Branson is all about entertainment. You can do a tour of the town and surrounding area in an updated DUKW, an amphibious 2 ½ truck that dates back to WW2. This tour includes driving into Table Rock Lake and cruising around like a boat (www.bransonducks.com). Another attraction of the area is the College of the Ozarks (www.cofo.edu), a fully-accredited four year liberal arts college for students who are academically capable but financially unable to enter public or private institutions. Here students work their way through by participating in a work program (15 hours per week + two 40 hour weeks each year) to pay part of their tuition. With scholarships and grants these students graduate debt free with a strong work ethic. You may also take in shows starting in the afternoon and continuing into the late evening. Show schedules are available at the hotel and on the website (www.explorebranson.com). Discounted tickets can be arranged through the hotel. More information about shows and other activities will be forthcoming in the next issue of the newsletter.

You can close out the day with friends in the hospitality suite.

Day 3 – Friday, June 20

Begin with breakfast at the hotel or on your own.

You may then use the previous day’s suggestions or make up a schedule of your own.

The planned activity of the day will be the **Dinner Cruise aboard the Showboat “Branson**

Belle” (www.showboatbransonbelle.com) which will begin at 8:00 pm. For those participating in this event it will be necessary to depart the hotel at/about 6:45 pm to get to the departure area and get aboard. A social hour (5:30 – 6:30 pm) is planned with light snacks to see us through till dinner. The show aboard the “Branson Belle” is an outstanding event. A professional troupe presents music ranging from popular and country/ western to Broadway and patriotic. The highlights are an illusionist and a vocalist who also plays the piano and violin. We will return to the hotel at/about 10:30 pm.

The Hospitality Suite will remain open for those remaining at the hotel.

Day 4 - Saturday, June 21

Begin with breakfast at the hotel or on your own.

The Board of Directors will meet at 8:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. is set aside for the Association Business Meeting in the hotel conference room. Please note that this is an election year for the BOD.

The Ladies activity for the day will begin at 9:00 am.

Afternoon is free time for all.

The final activity for the day will be the Farewell Dinner at the hotel.

There will be a social hour in the Hospitality Suite from 6:00 – 7:00 pm.

Dinner will be in the Hotel Dining Area from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

DINNER MENU

Garden Salad

Combination Plate of Roast of Sirloin and Chicken Chardonnay

Roasted Red Potatoes

Steamed Vegetables

Dinner Rolls

Chocolate Cake

Tea/Coffee/Water

Socialize in Hospitality Suite from 8:30 pm until ?

Day 5 – Sunday, June 22

Final breakfast and departure from the Branson area.



THOUGHTS FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

First I want to add to what "Titch" has put together for Reunion 2014. We all travelled to Branson together and met up with Huey and Kathy O'Dell and Rodger and Marilyn McAlister. "Titch," Huey, and I took care of administrative details with the Hotel Management, Chamber of Commerce, and College of the Ozarks while Rodger and Marilyn checked out the RV parks and Mary Alice, Kathy, and Gloria met with the catering staff of the hotel to decide on the dinner menu. After these meetings we loaded up in the van and got the lay of the land. Basically, we had a mini-reunion.

Now, as "Titch" has stated, Branson is all about entertainment but there is a misconception that Branson is primarily "Country and Western." There is such a wide variety of entertainment that anyone can find what interests them. There are country/western theaters and shows and those that feature popular and classical themes. There are illusionists and comedy of all types.

To truly know what is available at Branson you need to go to the web site (www.explorebranson.com) and check it out. You may also call the Chamber of Commerce (1-877 Branson) and request your own Branson Vacation Guide. The 2014 edition should be available in early January.

While we were there we took the "DUKW Tour." It's hard to imagine that a 2 1/2 ton truck will float but these do. We also did the "Branson Belle," which will be a highlight for anyone. We did the late cruise, departing at 8:00 pm, had dinner and were entertained for about two hours, returning at 10:30 pm. Other shows that we have previously seen and would recommend are the "3 Redneck Tenors," the Shanghai Circus (Acrobats of China), Legends in Concert (Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theater). Would also recommend a tour of the College of the Ozarks where students work their way through college, most often in their chosen major. Areas of interest there are the greenhouses, a water powered mill, and a fruitcake and jelly kitchen which produces over 30,000 fruitcakes a year. You may also purchase a wide variety of student made products and can schedule lunch there (with advance reservation). This event is a self guided tour.

When we arrived on Tuesday, September 10, we discovered that we were not the only advance party at the hotel. The reception committee for the 589th Engineer Battalion was also there. When they found that we were from 2/20th ARA we were greeted like long lost brothers and invited to their reunion. The 589th served in the Phuc Vin area and were very familiar with places like LZ Evans and Jane. These were the guys who drove the Rome Plows in jungle clearing and built the roads and airfields that we drove on and flew from. They recalled how our guys had flown cover for their operations and convoys. They even had pictures of ARA Cobras in revetments that they had built. It was a memorable experience meeting those who had both supported us and been supported by us.

So, I encourage all who have attended reunions in the past to do so again next year and invite fellow ARA Association to come along. If anyone needs a phone number please contact me.

Out for now.

Jesse Hobby
ARA 6X


BATTERY "A"
2D BATTALION (AIRMOBILE) 20TH ARTILLERY
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
APO San Francisco 96340

AVDAAR-CA For the day: 25 Nov 69

SUBJECT: MESS*/Btry A, 2/20th Arty

<u>BREAKFAST</u> Fresh Oranges Chilled Orange Juice Ass. Dry Cereal Hot French Toast Hot Maple Sirup Grilled Bacon Eggs to Order Toast Butter Jam or Jelly Hot Coffee Fresh Milk Creamed Beef Grilled Sausage	<u>DINNER</u> Beef Vegetable Stew Buttered Beets Sliced Cucumber Onion Salad Marinated Green Beans Bread Butter Apple Turnovers Iced Beverage Base Fresh Milk	<u>SUPPER</u> Baked Ham Mustard Mashed Potatoes Brown Gravy Buttered Carrots and Peas Mixed Vegetable Salad Salad Dressing Ass. Relish Tray Bread Butter Spice Cake W/ Mocha Butter Icing Iced Tea W/ Lemon Hot Coffee Fresh Milk
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* Subject to change without notice.


ADOLF W. R. DEYESSIORF
SFC, USA
Mess Steward

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM FORTY -FOUR YEARS AGO

Menu for A/2/20 ARA 1st CavDiv for 25 Nov 69.
Submitted by ARA Association member Martin Greenbaum who served in "A" Battery from Sep of 69 - May 70 and HHB from May 70 - Sep 70. Although he was an Aircraft Armament Repairman the 1SG made him the Company Clerk when he found out he could type. He did get in flight time as a crewmember for which he was awarded the Air Medal.

Recon Branson 2014 - contributed by Col. Rodger

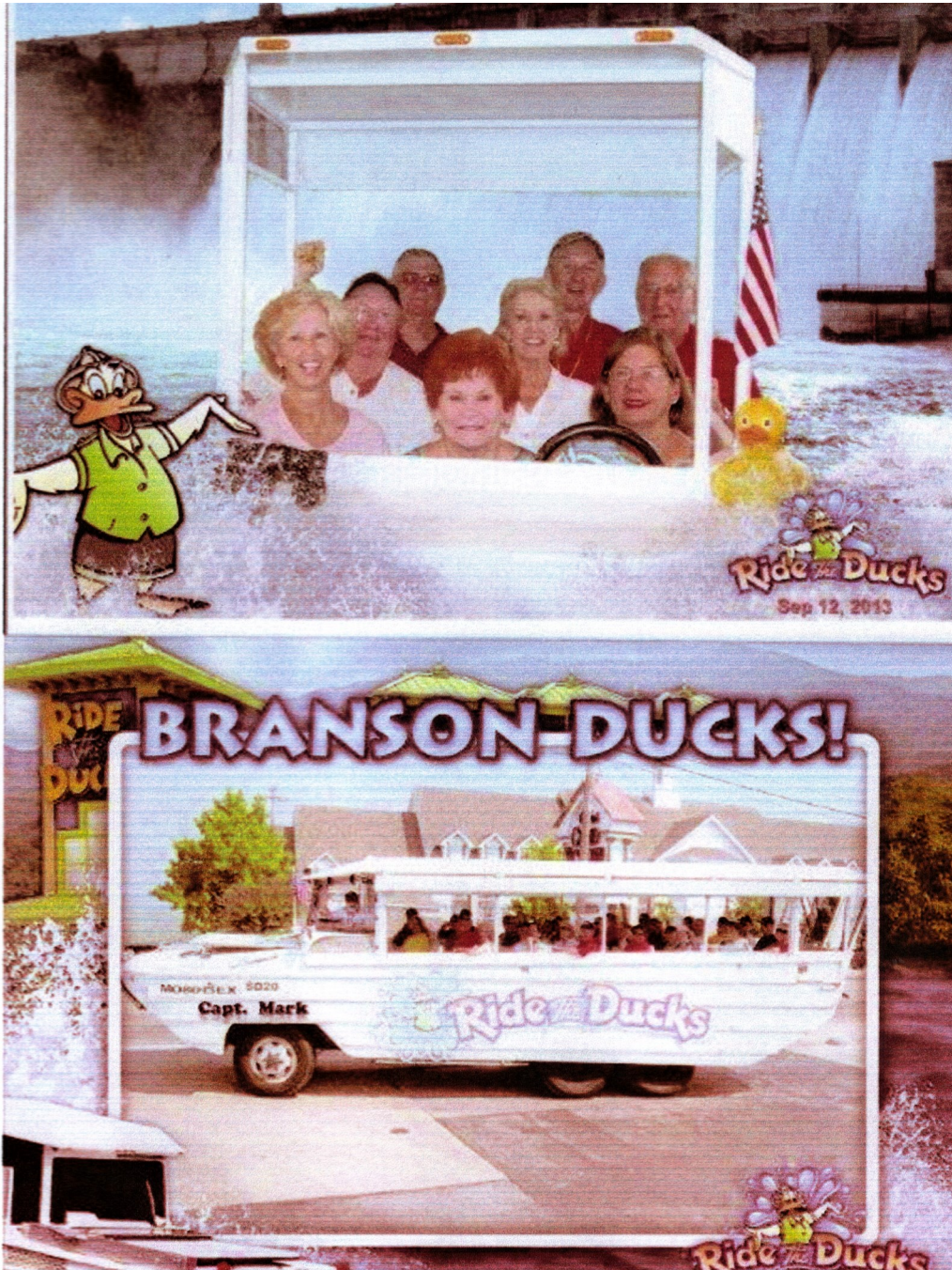
Those who attended the great reunion in Hershey this summer know that we picked Branson, Mo for next year and " Titch " and Mary Alice agreed to be our chairpersons / hosts. As any good Cav trooper would do Titch scheduled a recon and asked for volunteers . Jesse and Gloria Hobby as well as Rodger and Marilyn McAlister and Huey O'Dell and Katy stepped up and planned the infiltration for Sept 10-13. We can only hope that you all have as much fun as we did planning it.

The food was good, the hotel very gracious, the attractions and shows are world class and the company the best of all. So.....

ARA and FHF

What's that all about - it's members from our wonderful ARA membership, getting together for FHF (Friends Having Fun)! Our trip was to Branson, MO and we drove in from Utah, Georgia and Kentucky. Our 3-4 day get together gave us time to catch up, eat out, sightsee and laugh a lot! We encourage you all to get together in between our annual reunions. We're SURE we are not the only ones when we say "STOP and SEE us" if you are traveling through our town (Louisville). Make this an overnight stay!

THE MAGIC OF DIGITALIZATION PRESENTS "THE POSSIBILITIES"



FINAL FLIGHT

Funeral Mass for **LTC (Retired) Paul R. Riley, Jr.**, 78, Lawton was celebrated at 11:30 AM Friday at Holy Family Catholic Church with Rev. Philip Seeton, pastor officiating. Paul died Sunday, July 28, 2013 in Lawton, OK

Paul was born July 27, 1935 in Troy, NY to Paul R. Riley Sr. and Mary Keenan Riley. He attended school in Troy and graduated from Catholic Central High School in 1952. He attended Siena College in Loudonville, NY and graduated in June 1958 with a degree in Economics. While at Siena, he was a member of ROTC and was the Cadet Brigade Colonel and Head of the Corps of Cadets his final semester. He received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army in Field Artillery in June 1958.

He attended flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama and became a Army Aviator first in fixed wing aircraft and later as a helicopter pilot flying Huey and Cobra gunships. He served two tours in Vietnam. During his first tour in 1965-66, he was a member of C 2/20 First Cavalry Division's Aerial Rocket Artillery and fought in the battle of the Ia Drang over Landing Zone X-ray.



LTC (Retired) Paul R. Riley

His awards included the Distinguished Flying Cross, Master Aviation Badge, Bronze Star medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Air Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Gold Star, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal with seven Stars and Meritorious Service Medal, and Presidential Unit Citation.

Paul married Beverly M. Deso on September 1, 1956 in Troy, NY and they had two children Maureen and Kevin. Beverly and the children traveled all over the country with Paul until his retirement at Fort Sill in July 1978 after twenty years of service.

Paul received his MBA from the University of Oklahoma in 1974. He also was a CPA. Following his military retirement, he went to work for Halliburton in Duncan, OK in 1978 as an accountant. At the time of his retirement from Halliburton in 1993, he was an accounting manager in the reports section.

Paul was preceded in death by his wife Beverly in 2012, his parents, Paul and Mary Riley and his in-laws Ernest and Margaret Deso all of Troy, NY.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law Maureen and Kevin Curran of Lawton, OK and his son Kevin of Dallas, TX. He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law Robert K and Eileen Riley of East Greenbush, NY, and nephew Robert Riley and niece Courtney Goyer.

Burial with full military honors was at Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin under the direction of Becker-Rabon Funeral Home.



BG Steven L. Melancon

General Steven L. Melancon, B/2/20th (67-68) beloved husband and father, passed away peacefully at home on Aug 2, 2013. His modest manner & generous spirit hallmarked a life unselfishly dedicated to family, community and country. He was a decorated pilot, accomplished attorney, skilled craftsman, master storyteller, expert genealogist and was more technologically savvy than those half his age.

Born in Clinton, LA to Lona A. & Louis A. Melancon, he spent formative years in Bogue Chitto, MS. In 1963, a chance encounter at the local cinema in Brookhaven, MS introduced him to the love of his life, Veda Janice "Jan" Nevels.

His various military assignments include two tours in Vietnam. The Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster & Air Medal with "V" for Valor are among his numerous national awards. From the State of MS he received the Magnolia Medal & the War Medal. He is a 1995 inductee to the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. He received a B.A. from the University of NE and a J.D. from Ole Miss. From 1979-1988, Gen. Melancon practiced law in Brookhaven, held a

seat in the MS House of Representatives and was instrumental in revamping the state's Justice of the Peace court system. He considered passing a bill on mandatory school attendance one of his greatest accomplishments. In 1983, he founded the Wesley Mission which fed and taught at risk youth. Prior to retirement from the National Guard in 1996, he served as the Dir. for Operations for the U.S. Selective Service System. In 2001, he became the MS State Director for the Selective Service System. He most recently served as a county Veteran's Service Officer. He was a Sunday school teacher and lay leader of First United Methodist Church of Brookhaven. He was a Past President of the Lincoln County Bar Assn, a member of the MS Army National Guard Assn., the Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assn, The Aerial Rocket Artillery Assn., and the State Bar. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jan Melancon, daughter Jena C. Melancon, son Louis P. (Heather) Melancon, grandchildren Simon L. Vlahovic, Marcus S. Vlahovic, Eloise A. E. Melancon, L. Theodore Melancon, niece Stevie L. Nevels, & half-siblings Daniel Beavers & Ann Young.

The memorial service was Tues, Aug 6th, Brookhaven FUMC at 10 am



Charleston and the Aerial Rocket Artillery lost one of her truly fine gentlemen on Thursday, August 8, 2013, when Lawrence Edward McKay, Jr. went to be with his Heavenly Father.

The relatives and friends of Lawrence McKay, Jr. attended his Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, August 12, 2013 in Christ Our King Catholic Church, 1149 Russell Drive at 10:00 am. Prayers of Final Commendation and Farewell followed in Mount Pleasant Memorial Gardens with military honors.

Larry was born in Charleston, South Carolina on August 26, 1936, son of Beatrice Stroman McKay and the late Lawrence Edward McKay, Sr.

LTC Larry McKay

He grew up playing on the Moultrie playground, was one of Mr. Matty Matthews Golden Glove Champions and graduated from Bishop England High School. At the Citadel, he was elected President of the Class of 1958 and received the prestigious Willson Ring. After graduating from The Citadel, McKay dedicated his efforts to proudly serving his county, country, community, and family as a citizen-soldier, the hallmark of every Citadel graduate. He earned a Masters Degree from Duke University en route to a teaching assignment in the Department of Social Sciences, USMA, West Point. He spent twenty years on active duty including tours in Vietnam as Aviation Officer, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and later as Commanding Officer, F. Battery, 79th Aerial Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. His "Blue Max" Cobra attack helicopter unit was selected as the Army Aviation Association of America unit of the year for tank kills at the Battle of An Loc, Easter, 1972. At the Battle of An Loc, Larry McKay and his co-pilot, Barry McIntyre, became the first helicopter pilots in history to destroy an enemy tank.

McKay's military decorations include the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the **Bronze Star**. McKay returned home to Charleston in 1978 to become the Headmaster at East Cooper School. He served as a Vice President and Officer at the Seabrook Island Company and at Wild Dunes Associates. He was the founding President of the Wild Dunes Telecommunications Company, the first shared-tenant telephone company in South Carolina. He currently served on the Boards of three businesses, and is a founding partner in Horizon Capital Group, LLC.

General James Alexander Grimsley, Jr. selected McKay to be the Director of Student Activities at The Citadel where he taught as an Adjunct Professor in the Business Department. Back at The Citadel, his multiple duties included: producing The Citadel Sesquicentennial Tattoo, volunteer fundraiser for The Citadel Band, Pipes and Drums trip to participate in the Edinburgh Tattoo, faculty advisor for cadet trip to former Soviet Union Naval Academy at Sevastopol, Crimea during the transition of naval forces to Russia and Ukraine, and faculty advisor for a Business School cadet trip to Wall Street and corporate America in 2005.

McKay's community support includes service on the Trident United Way Board, Junior Achievement Board, Youth Services Charleston Board, Christ Our King Parish Council, Chairman of Golf Committees for the Kidney Foundation, Rice Planters, and The USGA Senior Amateur at Wild Dunes. He was the President of the East Cooper Meals on Wheels Board.

Colonel McKay is survived by his mother, Beatrice S. McKay; his wife of 54 years, Fay Chapman McKay; four children, Lanny McKay and his wife, Lisa Hodgdon, Tricy McKay Cushner and her husband, Michael, (Chappy) McKay and his wife, Sarah Ellis, and Bitsy McKay Moores and her husband, Duane; nine grandchildren, Rylee McKay, Aidan McKay, Cameron Cushner, Wade Cushner, Caroline Cushner, Ellis McKay, Maggie McKay, Trevor Moores and Clayton Moores. He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence Edward McKay and his brother, Fred McKay.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Charleston Catholic School, 888-A King Street, Charleston, SC 29403 or www.charlestoncatholic.com.

“THE DEFENSE OF AN LOC”

A Tribute to Larry McKay and F Battery/79th Artillery

Compiled by Jesse Hobby



There are episodes in the history of warfare which define the turning point and change the way in which wars are fought. On April 13, 1972 the North Vietnamese launched a fierce attack with approximately 40 tanks and supporting troops upon the provincial capital of An Loc, eighty miles north of Saigon. The town was defended by South Vietnamese troops and a small contingent of American advisors, commanded by Col. William Miller, US Army.

The defenders were quickly overwhelmed and the situation described became desperate. A column of Soviet made T-54 tanks had penetrated the defenses to within a few yards of the American Command Bunker. Fortunately, the First Cavalry Division, Battery F, 79th Artillery, otherwise known as the “Blue Max,” was on station. Two AH-1 Cobra Attack Helicopters responded, crewed by CWO Barry McIntyre, Major Larry McKay, 1Lt. Steve Shields, and Cpt. Bill Causey and were armed with the newly developed HEAT 2.75” rockets, which had never been tested in combat.

In a daring and untried maneuver, the Cobras rolled and attacked the enemy T-54’s that had approached to within a few yards of Col. Miller’s command bunker. The first two 2.75’ rockets launched by McIntyre and McKay destroyed the lead tank and halted the attack, and began what can be accurately described as a rout by the Blue Max. With this bold action, McIntyre and McKay became the first helicopter pilots in history to destroy an enemy tank, and demonstrated the lethal capability of the Attack Helicopter that would entirely change the face of war.

In the above painting the three T-54’s threatening Col. Miller’s bunker are seen at the moment of the first pair of rockets impact on the lead tank. The photo below was taken seconds after “Blue Max” 2.75’ rockets impacted, marking the first tank kill ever by a helicopter. Twin smoke columns testify to the accuracy of the McKay/McIntyre attack. The photo was provided by Col. William Miller.





Chaplain's Corner

"Throw out the Lifeline!"

I don't know exactly how the recent rains have affected all your homes and property, but last month here in Kingsport we experienced the worst flood in my lifetime. Downtown Kingsport city streets were under two and three feet of water which stalled cars, flooded businesses, and cancelled many scheduled events of our annual "Funfest." Our back yard was awash with six to eight inches of water running down to the big Beech tree where it stood for a week before the soil could absorb it. Owners in town had to have PODS brought in to hold furniture while they cleaned floors and removed carpets. It has been over two weeks and stores are still closed and the PODS are still visible along the main streets. This flood has changed lives and made for an unpredictable future for hundreds, even thousands.

These floods were the result of nature and what we call an "Act of God." They have a tremendous impact on our lives in a negative way causing emotional and mental pain or anguish, physical pain as a result of the rehab required to return to something normal, and financial pain from the loss of inventory, sales, and the possibility of closing.

These floods are predictable by our weather forecasters and we can make some preparations for their arrival. In some cases the forecast comes too late for effective actions.

The floods of life are different in their approach, but impact in their results much like a natural flood. Many are caught in the floods of life – a mother left with small children struggling to feed, cloth, and shelter her little ones, or a breadwinner told that their services are no longer needed at their place of employment and forced on the streets looking for work, or a loved one told by their physician that they have only days to live, or a homeless person having to sell their body for someone's pleasure in order to obtain the food necessary to sustain their life. They are out in the floods, out in the raging seas of life without a life raft, without a life boat, without much hope, waiting on someone or some program to answer their plea for help.

This thought brought to mind an old song my parents taught us when we were first learning to sing. It is an old missionary gospel song written by Edward S. Ufford, born 1888, based on the Gospel text of Matthew 14:39-31.

1. Throw out the lifeline across the dark wave;
There is a brother whom someone should save;
Somebody's brother! Oh, who then will dare
To throw out the lifeline, his peril to share?

Refrain:

Throw out the lifeline! Throw out the lifeline!
Someone is drifting away;
Throw out the lifeline! Throw out the lifeline!
Someone is sinking today.

2. Throw out the lifeline with hand quick and strong:
Why do you tarry, why linger so long?
See! he is sinking; oh, hasten today
And out with the life boat! Away, then, away!

3. Throw out the lifeline to danger-fraught men,
Sinking in anguish where you've never been;
Winds of temptation and billows of woe
Will soon hurl them out where the dark waters flow.
4. Soon will the season of rescue be o'er;
Soon will they drift to eternity's shore;
Haste, then, my brother, no time for delay,
But throw out the lifeline and save them today.
5. This is the lifeline, oh, tempest-tossed men,
Baffled by waves of temptation and sin;
Wild winds of passion, your strength cannot brave,
But Jesus is mighty, and Jesus can save.
6. Jesus is able! To you who are driv'n
Farther and farther from God and from Heav'n,
Helpless and hopeless, o'erwhelmed by the wave,
We throw out the lifeline—'tis, "Jesus can save."
7. This is the lifeline, oh, grasp it today!
See, you are recklessly drifting away;
Voices in warning, shout over the wave,
Oh, grasp the strong lifeline, for Jesus can save.

We can stand on the banks, or the shoreline, or the docks watching this take place and yell to them to come to us. But that is not what they need. We can't be just a lighthouse sending out a beam and hoping they can find their way to us. They need someone to row out into the storm and bring them to a safe haven. We need to man the boats and give them positive relief. May God bless us all in our efforts to reach out to those in the floods of life.

Peace,
Bruce Wilder, Chaplain

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The Psychiatrist and Proctologist

Two best friends graduated from medical school at the same time and decided that, in spite of two different specialties, they would open a practice together to share office space and personnel.

Dr. Smith was the psychiatrist and Dr. Jones was the proctologist; they put up a sign reading: "Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones: Hysterias and Posteriors". The town council was livid and insisted they change it.

So, the docs changed it to read: "Schizoids and Hemorrhoids". This was also not acceptable, so they again changed the sign.

"Catatonics and High Colonics" - No go.

Next, they tried "Manic Depressives and Anal Retentives" - thumbs down again..

Then came "Minds and Behinds" - still no good.

Another attempt resulted in "Lost Souls and Butt Holes" - unacceptable again!

So they tried "Analysis and Anal Cysts" - not a chance.

"Nuts and Butts" - no way.

"Freaks and Cheeks" - still no good.

"Loons and Moons" - forget it.

Almost at their wit's end, the docs finally came up with: "Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones - Specializing in Odds and Ends".

Everyone loved it.

Ladies of the Association

Hello everyone:

Our family continues to grow and we now have three great grand children. I wanted to share the following thoughts in hope that I am not the only one having these experiences. When shopping for baby gifts, I am amazed what I find in the stores that I have never seen before. Decades ago when our children were small, most of the current items had not been designed or created. Young parents today certainly have a vast variety of child rearing devices to choose from. As for me, I do not always recognize their function until I read the fine print that describes how to use them. If nothing else, I hope this gave you a chuckle.

On another note, like many of you, we have travelled to wonderful places during our working life and now during our retired life. Recently we visited the Canadian Provinces, New Brunswick (Bay of Fundy, Hopewell Rocks, etc;), Prince Edward Island (Anne of Green Gables), and Nova Scotia (Peggy's Cove). All have beautiful country sides, the people are friendly, and lots of good food and great golf courses are available. We also drove through New England

With summer 2013 in our rear view mirror, I hope everyone had a pleasant one. Many of us are retired and doing what we want and when we want, but this chapter of life seems busier than ever. One date to put on your busy calendars is next year's ARA reunion in Branson Missouri, June 18-22. Cecil and I are looking forward to seeing all of you next summer. Stay happy and healthy until then.

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AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

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 Jule Szabo
5118 Brentwood Farm Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

For Office Use Only
Check # _____
Check Date _____
Amount _____
Date Rcvd _____

Web address – www.araassociation.com