



The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 8 Issue 4

Find us on the web at <http://www.araassociation.com> April, May & June, 2016
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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.

BECAUSE HE LIVES

—WE LIVE!

**Because we fought our sons
and daughters have hope and
rights and a nation.**

VOTE!

America depends on it!



President's Corner

A special “Get Well”, and “Continue to Improve” goes out to Cecil Hengeveld who had heart bypass surgery in January, to Herb Hirst who fell and broke his hip and had a hip replacement in February, and to Marilyn McAlister who had a knee replacement in February. Remember, YOUTH IS WASTED ON THE YOUNG!!

We lost a good man with the passing of Harold Caldwell in February. Harold came into B Btry, 2nd/20th while I was there in 68-69. He never changed, and always had a smile on his face. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ginny and the Caldwell family during this trying time.

A heartfelt “Thank You” to Dave Borgeson for the fine work he did in acquiring a grant from American Legion Palisades Post 283 in Pacific Palisades, California. These funds are being used for plaques which note the different ARA units, and will be placed at the installations where these units were formed and or served prior to and during the Vietnam war. These plaques will be placed at Fort Benning, Fort Campbell, Fort Bragg, Fort Sill, and Fort Hood. A separate plaque will be installed at the Fort Rucker aviation museum.

If you have not made your reservations with Embassy Suites in Colorado Springs for the 7-11 September reunion, I encourage you to make them soon and to make them directly with the hotel at 1-719-599-9100. The reason for this is because I have found several who made their reservations through Hilton reservations at 1-800-362-2779 have not been included in the hotel listing of ARA personnel who have made their reservations. Again, when making reservations, use the ARAA code to register and to insure you receive the special rate of \$117.00 per night.

Also, if you are planning to go to Pikes Peak on the COG railway, tentatively planned on Friday, 9 September, you need your registration in by 20 May 2016. That is the cutoff date for the COG railway due to early scheduling requirements.

Get that registration in and we will see you in Colorado Springs.

Keep the rotor in the green.

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RENDEZVOUS

COLORADO SPRINGS

19TH ARA REUNION, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO SEPTEMBER 7 – 11, 2016

Reunion Registration Form

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

ARA ASSOCIATION
 c/o Jule Szabo
 5118 Brentwood Farm Drive
 Fairfax, VA 22030

Information	
Name/Membership #	
Wife/Guest name(s)	
Additional Guest(s)	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone Number	Home _____ Cell _____
Email Address	
Any special assistance/ needs required	

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

REGISTRATION/EVENT FEES	Details	Price	# In party	Total
Registration Fee	Per member in party over 18	\$30.00		
Annual Membership Dues	If not already paid for 2016	\$25.00		
Wednesday – Dinner at hotel	Per member in party	\$25.00		
Friday - Cog Railway to Pikes Peak	Per member in party	\$33.00		
Saturday – Final Banquet at hotel	Per member in party	\$25.00		
Total for Reunion	-----	-----	-----	

Please complete and return by August 7, 2016 so that we may finalize all plans and secure set prices for events.
 Please remember that cutoff date for COG Railway is 20 May so register early if you plan to go.

Thanksgiving Mission

Contributed by Johnny Grice

In November 1968 the First Cavalry Division was ordered to relocate from I Corps to the III Corps area. Bravo Battery 2/20th ARA departed LZ Nancy on 10 November 1968. I was with a flight of seven aircraft that consisted of three Hueys (UH-1C) and four Cobras (AH-1G). We made a fuel stop in DaNang at Marble Mountain and as we departed we received automatic weapons fire. After evading the fire (we had no ordinance on board) and regrouping, all aircraft reported okay. Our next refuel stop was at Quy Nhon and it was at this time that we saw two of the Hueys had taken hits. The number two Huey in the flight had one hit in the tail boom and the number three Huey had two hits—one in the left rocket pod and one in the rotor head. We flew a short distance to Lane Army Airfield to get a rotor head replacement and to my surprise the person who met us on our arrival was Tom Cochran. I had just served a year with him in Germany and I was very happy to see him again. Tom had served with ARA in 1965 and 1966. It was Tom who influenced me to ask for an assignment to ARA when I arrived in country. Tom was a maintenance officer at Lane Army Airfield and he got us back in the air and on our way.



We arrived at Phouc Vinh on 11 November after an enjoyable RON at Lane Army Airfield. On 13 November we began receiving rocket and mortar attacks. For the remainder of the month we received eight rocket and mortar attacks compared to a total of three during the previous three months in I Corps and one of those was a 105 howitzer round (friendly fire?) from an ARVN unit. I was beginning to think at this time that things may be a little more exciting at our new location. I had been in country approximately three months by this time and while at LZ Jane and LZ Nancy things were pretty routine—but, as a FNG at that time, things did not seem boring! We mostly flew mortar patrol and a few missions.

If you fix it—you must fly it! Tom Cochran about to test fly Johnny's new rotor head.

Charley Battery was stationed at Quan Loi and it seemed to me that most of the action in our new AO (area of operation) was in their area. We were sending sections up to Quan Loi to reinforce them on an almost daily basis. They were very welcoming and I enjoyed my visits with them—and their beer! On 27 November while at Quan Loi we received a briefing that a NVA Regimental Headquarters was located to the west of Quan Loi and we were to fly a smoke mission (CS gas). Larry Mobley and I were to fly our UH-1C Hueys with XM-3 pods mounted in the cargo compartments loaded with CS canisters. If I recall correctly, 229th Cobras (Smiling Tigers) would be flying gun cover on us and Charley Battery (Blue Max) would have four Cobras at altitude with full loads (76 rockets) of nails (Flechettes). Larry was the lead aircraft and I flew fairly close on his wing at tree top level and max speed—all of 90 knots! As we flew through the target area the crew chiefs on the inboard sides of our aircraft were releasing the CS canisters while gunners on the outboard side were firing their M-60 machine guns. Once we passed through the target area we did a quick cyclic climb, a 180 degree turn and joined up again to fly back through the area again. We were now positioned with the full XM-3 pods on the inboard side of our flight and the crew chiefs on the outboard side with the empty XM-3 pods were firing their M-60s. As we flew through the target area the two Cobras providing gun cover were firing rockets to our sides and a little ahead of us. It was very noisy and somewhat (very?) frightening to see all the explosions and to be receiving as much enemy fire as we were. I could see bad guys running around on the ground, shooting at us and also on platforms in the trees with what looked like 30 caliber machine guns. We were receiving lots of .30 caliber and AK-47 fire. I estimated 20-25 bad guys firing at us that I could see and I know there had to be more. I had no hits, but Larry had two hits in the tail boom—no significant damage. Once we cleared the area the four Blue Max Cobras started saturating the area with nails. Everyone made it back safe though maybe a little shook up—at least I was. I was a new Aircraft Commander and this was my first mission to actually see bad guys shooting at me. I was very relieved to have the mission over and now I could enjoy Thanksgiving the following day!

Not So! The next day, Thanksgiving Day, Larry Mobley (Mr. Cool, calm, and collected!) approaches me and says—Hey buddy, we got to fly that mission again! Now he had just taken two hits the previous day and does not seem to be worried about this at all. I'm also thinking they may be firing at him but I'm very close and behind so the rounds that miss him will probably hit me! I know he is a prior Marine, as I am, so there is no way in hell I'm going to let him know this is worrying me—no, it's scaring the hell out of me! My heart sank! I knew the bad guys were not going to be happy seeing us return, but, just maybe it will not be as bad this time since surely the bad guys had gotten thinned out the previous day. I regret to say I can't remember who flew co-pilot with me the previous day, but on this day I do remember. I had a relatively new FNG flying with me—Raymond (Ray) Godbee! I didn't know much about him other than he looked like he should still be in high school—he was small in frame and couldn't be much over 15 years of age! My first thought was—Why me Lord?

Larry said we were going to fly the mission the same as we did the previous day. En-route to the target area at approximately 2,000 feet Ray was admiring the beautiful country and all the bomb craters full of water and glistening in the sunlight. My mind was racing about what we were heading into while he was on a sightseeing tour! I finally had to ask him to be quiet (that's not really the way I said it!) and listen to the briefing we were receiving and try to understand the danger we were flying into. Prior to our arrival at the target area I asked Ray to put his gas mask on and I told him I would not be wearing a mask so should I get gassed he may have to take the controls—but, I knew I was not going to give the controls to this FNG!

We flew through the same area and I did not see as many bad guys firing at us this time. I estimated 8 or 9 firing at us and some were on the tree platforms firing at us. About half way through the area I saw six tracers (I'm OCD so I have a bad habit of counting things and please note that every fifth round is a tracer!) going across my nose and under the tail boom of Larry's aircraft. I remember closing my eyes because I thought I was going to have a cockpit full of rounds. Fortunately, it was a short burst from a .30 caliber. At this same time I hear the Cobra

the city and approached his command bunker, a Blue Max fire team from Battery F, 79th AFA reported on station, and called that they were prepared to engage. COL Miller did not think helicopters would have any effect on the tanks and told them the anti-aircraft fire was so bad that if they rolled in they would not roll out.

CW2 Barry McIntyre had the F/79th commander, MAJ Larry McKay in his front seat. A comment about McKay that says a lot for his character is that although he regularly flew the extremely hazardous missions to An Loc, he usually occupied the copilot's position with his aircraft commanders. That was not because of lack of experience on his part. He already wore the star of a senior aviator on his wings. McKay responded to the senior US advisor that his team was armed with HEAT rounds.

Expecting heavy ground to air fire but receiving almost none, Blue Max rolled in with 17 pound HE warheads in the inboard pods and old HEAT warheads outboard.

That day at An Loc, almost at the feet of the senior officer who was at the very center of the most violent battle of that war; the ultimate infantryman to whom every senior army officer would listen with respect, McKay and his pilots dramatically demonstrated that army helicopters could indeed kill tanks in a hostile anti-aircraft environment.

COL Miller's observations and accounting of the incident were riveting and his debriefing of the battle were instrumental in contributing to the future of the attack helicopter and army aviation. The summation delivered in his distinctive voice, is marvelous to hear: "The Cobras were the instrument of our salvation."

This remarkable endorsement from an infantryman's infantryman already selected to command a brigade of the 101st Airborne Division and noted for his heroism and leadership in one of the most visible and significant battles of the war, could well justify the declaration that "Colonel Miller was an instrument of the attack helicopters salvation."

Within days of the tactically and politically significant tank engagement, a newly developed and far more effective anti-tank warhead was delivered to the attack helicopters fighting near An Loc. Arriving in country on 15 April with a manufacture date of that very month, the High Explosive Dual Purpose (HEDP) warhead was introduced and combat tested. The rear portion of a 17 pound warhead was fitted with a shaped charge cone like the Light Anti-Tank Weapon (LAW), a streamlined nose cone, and a piezo-electric fuse. The warhead casing allowed for far more explosive than the LAW, to produce the same lethal bursting radius as a normal 10 pound warhead.

By actual experience that month, the warhead was found to be able to penetrate a T-54 series tank from all directions as promised. On soft targets it gave the same anti-personnel effects as a normal 10 pound warhead, and was the perfect compromise to engage armor, vehicles, equipment and personnel.

The new rounds were accompanied by a field grade officer on temporary duty from CONUS, whose duties included ensuring that the rockets were made available to the correct units, briefing the pilots on the warhead's capabilities, and learning the results.

I briefly met that officer at Lai Khe in April of 1972, and in preparing this history I was surprised to be contacted by Father Jerome R. Daly, of Saint John's Catholic Church in McLean, VA. That's quite a change of pace for a man whose call sign with the 235th in Vietnam was Devil Six.

When Father Daly was MAJ Daly, he wrote an article for Armor Magazine's July/August 1972 edition, which spelled his name Daley. Jim McKnight, formerly a scout with B/1/9th and H Troop, 16th Cavalry, and later with the SS-11 Team, deployed to the Spring Offensive, sent me that article along with others.

Jerry mentions that the HEAT round was past its shelf life and displayed a high dud rate, so his team at Picatinney Arsenal, was developing a new warhead with the armor penetration of the LAW, and the anti-personnel and soft target capability of the 10 pound HE warhead.

When it was apparent that armor was a threat in the new offensive, the team produced 1,000 of these new warheads in a four day period, and Daly accompanied them to combat. Arriving in Vietnam on 15 April, he determined that An Loc was where they were needed most, and he accompanied their delivery to Lai Khe.

Daly flew combat missions with F/79th, and his article describes in detail the engagement of tanks on 13 April, prior to his arrival. His assessment of the anti-aircraft threat, even before confirmation of the SA-7, was interesting.

"The anti-aircraft fire around An Loc was continual and impressive. Having been at Lam Song (sic) 719 last year, I can say that the fire was a high, and a bit higher around An Loc, as it was around some of the fire bases established by ARVN in Laos."

While mentioning the problem of gathering data on engagements and kills, Daly reported that Cobras equipped with only the 2.75 inch rocket system destroyed ten T-54's, three PT-76's, and damaged six T-54's for the period 30 Mar through 11 May.

Though covering only a portion of the battle, his report is unlikely to have brought joy to most armor officers, or to the men wearing blue suits and planning their version of close air support for the future.

There is more on this action and it will be continued in the next edition of our newsletter.

Also, if anyone can locate the referenced edition of Armor Magazine July/ August 1972 it appears that there is another article waiting to be published and read in our newsletter.

Jesse L. Hobby
Armed Falcon 29F1

MEMORIES OF C BATTERY 2/20TH ARA—1969-70



From Gene Wilson

LEFT TO RIGHT - JAMES 'SMITTY' SMITH - PILOT; FRED CLEMONS - MAINT PLT CMDR - DECEASED/CANCER; GEORGE ALEXANDER - SECTION CMDR; JIM 'BUGS' MORAN - PILOT - DECEASED/CANCER; GARY 'DAD' WHITE - PILOT; PAUL GARRITY - PILOT; RAY MULCAHY - FLT PLT CMDR; BILL 'WILLIE' WILLIAMS - PILOT; MARURICE 'MAC' COOKSON - PILOT; JESUS 'BUSTA' BUSTAMONTE - FLT PLT CMDR; DAVE NEWMAN - SECTION CMDR; RON BARTOLUCCI - FLT PLT CMDR; JIM CASTILLO (ON WING) - PILOT; MARC TOLLIVER - PILOT; BOB JAMES - PILOT; AL 'PETE' PETERS - DS MAINT PLT CMDR; DOWN IN FRONT - LEFT - TONY HUDSON - OPNS OFFICER; RIGHT - GENE WILSON - BTRY CMDR.

THE PHOTO WAS TAKEN BY WILEY MCCRARY - BTRY XO - DECEASED/CANCER

The picture was taken around May 27th as Gene moved up to Battalion HQ at Phouc Vinh as the XO and was a birthday and departure present. Taken at dusk by the Div. PIO it has made several publications. At thirty + Gene was definitely the old man—but they promoted him to WO1 anyway.

Gene became Battery Cmdr as of October 1969 and took R&R to Hawaii with Ellie—returning less than 48 hours before Operation Shoemaker jumped off Quan Loi into Cambodia on “The Nixon IncurSION” on May 1st, 1970. “On April 30th the battery had been augmented with six AH-1G’s from A Battery, and six from B Battery—allowing six ARA Cobras on each lift until there was additional tube artillery on the ground to share the battle. ‘R&R’ quickly became ‘Refuel and Rearm’ with everyone ‘humping’ on turn arounds. Steve Lowe also came up from Phouc Vinh and helped us run 24 hour operations. There was also an “R&R” site up at Loc Ninh which we manned with an RTO during daylight hours to assist with the heavy traffic. Quon Loi was always a busy place but there were many exciting happenings—especially during the first 30 days of this 60 day incurSION”.

There are three things that should put you on high alert:

1. A Lieutenant that says "In All My Experience"

2. A Captain that says "I've Got A Plan"

3. A Warrant that says "Watch This Shit"



Amazing Story - Truth Always Trumps Fiction

"Moe Berg (March 2, 1902 – May 29, 1972), was an American catcher and coach in Major League Baseball who later served as a spy for the Office of Strategic Services during World War II.

When baseball greats Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig went on tour in baseball-crazy Japan in 1934, some fans wondered why a third-string catcher named Moe Berg was included. Although he played with five major-league teams from 1923 to 1939, he was a very mediocre ball player. But Moe was regarded as the brainiest ballplayer of all time. In fact Casey Stengel once said: "That is the strangest man ever to play baseball." When all the baseball stars went to Japan, Moe Berg went with them and many people wondered why he went with "the team".

The answer was simple: Moe Berg was a United States spy, working undercover with the CIA. Moe spoke 15 languages - including Japanese. And he had two loves: baseball and spying. In Tokyo, garbed in a kimono, Berg took flowers to the daughter of an American diplomat being treated in St. Luke's Hospital - the tallest building in the Japanese capital. He never delivered the flowers. The ball-player ascended to the hospital roof and filmed key features: the harbor, military installations, railway yards, etc. Eight years later, Lt Col. Jimmy Doolittle studied Berg's films in planning his spectacular raid on Tokyo.

His father disapproved of his baseball career and never once watched his son play. In Barringer High School, Moe learned Latin, Greek and French. Moe read at least 10 newspapers every day.

He graduated magna cum laude from Princeton - having added Spanish, Italian, German and Sanskrit to his linguistic quiver. During further studies at the Sorbonne, in Paris, and Columbia Law School, he picked up Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Arabic, Portuguese and Hungarian - 15 languages in all, plus some regional dialects. While playing baseball for Princeton University, Moe Berg would describe plays in Latin or Sanskrit.

During World War II, Moe was parachuted into Yugoslavia to assess the value to the war effort of the two groups of partisans there. He reported back that Marshall Tito's forces were widely supported by the people and Winston Churchill ordered all-out support for the Yugoslav underground fighter, rather than Mihajlovic's Serbians.

The parachute jump at age 41 undoubtedly was a challenge. But there was more to come in that same year.

Berg penetrated German-held Norway, met with members of the underground and located a secret heavy-water plant - part of the Nazis' effort to build an atomic bomb. His information guided the Royal Air Force in a bombing raid to destroy that plant.

There still remained the question of how far had the Nazis progressed in the race to build the first Atomic bomb. If the Nazis were successful, they would win the war. Berg (under the code name "Remus") was sent to Switzerland to hear leading German physicist Werner Heisenberg, a Nobel Laureate, lecture and determine if the Nazis were close to building an A-bomb. Moe managed to slip past the SS guards at the auditorium, posing as a Swiss graduate student.

The spy carried in his pocket a pistol and a cyanide pill. If the German indicated the Nazis were close to building a weapon, Berg was to shoot him - and then swallow the cyanide pill. Moe, sitting in the front row, determined that the Germans were nowhere near their goal, so he complimented Heisenberg on his speech and walked him back to his hotel.

Moe Berg's report was distributed to Britain's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and key figures in the team developing the Atomic Bomb. Roosevelt responded: "Give my regards to the catcher." Most of Germany's leading physicists had been Jewish and had fled the Nazis mainly to Britain and the United States.

After the war, Moe Berg was awarded the Medal of Freedom - America's highest honor for a civilian in wartime. But Berg refused to accept it, because he couldn't tell people about his exploits.

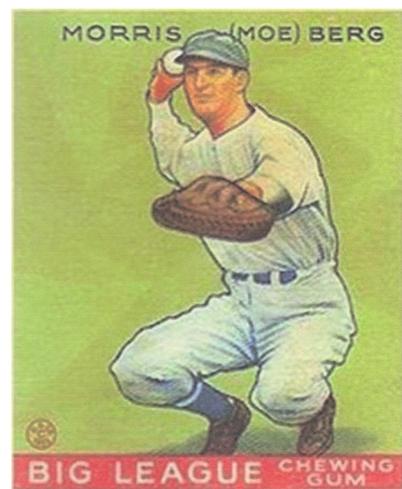
After his death, his sister accepted the Medal. It now hangs in the Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown.



Werner Heisenberg - he blocked the Nazis from acquiring an atomic bomb.



Presidential Medal of Freedom: the highest award given to civilians during wartime.



Moe Berg's baseball card is the only card on display at the CIA Headquarters in Washington, DC.

*This was shared with us by Dave Borgeson via one of his American Legion buddies and by way of Rodger McAlister—
what a network* 1

Dear Fellow Vietnam Veterans:

When Judy and I were at the Wall in Washington a few weeks ago I talked with one of the guides – a Vietnam Veteran himself and he told me about the “in Memory” program. I copied the following from www.vvmf.org which you should pass along to any current veterans or surviving family members (if applicable) and others you may know.

I was told the “in Memory” ceremony each Memorial Day is well-attended and very moving for those family members in attendance. I was not aware of this program – maybe you have heard of it.

VVMF's *In Memory* program honors Vietnam veterans whose lives were cut short as a result of their service in Vietnam, but are not eligible for inscription on The Wall under Department of Defense guidelines. *In Memory* is a way that all Vietnam veterans can be honored on the National Mall.

The plaque that honors these veterans was dedicated as a part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 2004. It reads: *In Memory of the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service. We honor and remember their sacrifice.*

In Memory began in 1999 and has since honored more than 2,500 veterans.

Examples of causes of death that do fit the criteria for inclusion in VVMF's *In Memory* program:

- PTSD related illnesses / events
- Exposure to Agent Orange and similar chemicals
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Heart Attack
- Cholangiocarcinoma

Having a loved one honored in VVMF's *In Memory* program includes:

- Inclusion in the annual *In Memory* Day ceremony held on the National Mall. Family and friends of new honorees are invited to attend the ceremony and say their loved one's name.
- At the ceremony, you will be provided with a “Tribute” – a 9 x 12 framed certificate containing the Honoree's photo and other provided information. Tributes are traditionally left at The Wall at the conclusion of the ceremony.
- Your loved one will be included in the annual *In Memory* yearbook. The yearbook includes the full list and photos of current year's honorees. [Click here](#) to see last year's yearbook.
- Your Honoree will be added to VVMF's virtual *In Memory* Honor Roll. Friends and family will be able to share remembrances on the individual's page. [Click here](#) to see the Honor Roll.
- Family and friends of honorees are invited to attend all future *In Memory* ceremonies.

HOW TO APPLY TO THE IN MEMORY PROGRAM

Fill out an online application or Download the *In Memory* application

If you have a question about the program or are experiencing difficulty with the application, contact VVMF at (202) 393-0090 or via e-mail at inmemory@vvmf.org.

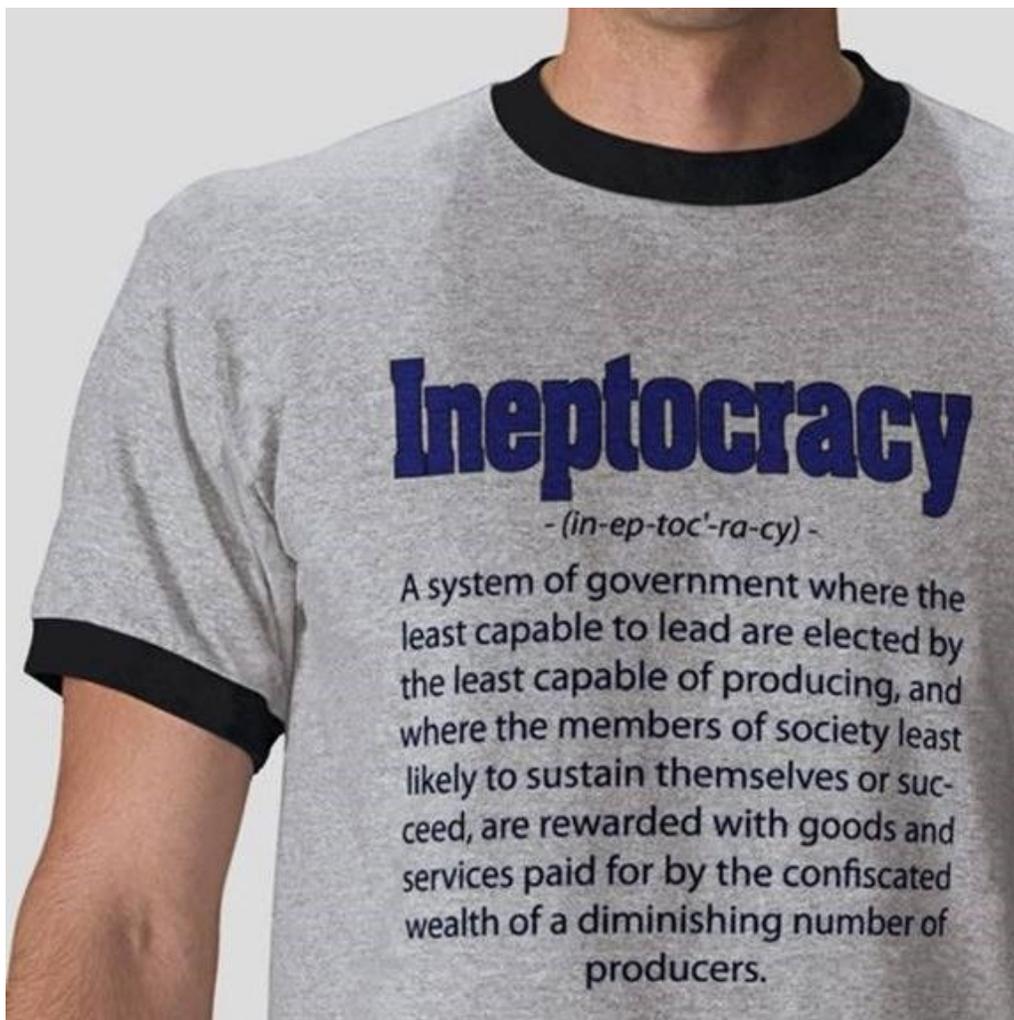
See more at: <http://www.vvmf.org/InMemoryProgram#sthash.aMavmkmr.dpuf>

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Final Flight

Harold Edwin Caldwell, 76, of Manhattan, passed away February 22, 2016 at the Good Shepherd Hospice House in Manhattan. He was retired from the US Army as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 and former owner of Hal's Plumbing in Manhattan.

Harold E. Caldwell was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas on January 20, 1940, the son of the late Mildred Lucille (Matthews) and Ras Harold Caldwell. On July 27, 1962 in Big Springs, Texas Hal was united in marriage to Virginia Lee Carpenter. Hal attended and graduated from Manhattan Vo-Tech and Emery-Riddle University in Ft. Rucker, Alabama. He joined and served in the U.S. Marines from 1958-62. Hal joined and retired from the U.S Army as a helicopter pilot after 24 years of service. He served two tours with the 2/20 ARA (Aerial Rocket Artillery) Cobras Blue Max during the Vietnam War., being one of the original ARA unit in 1965 ("The Boat People") During his service he was awarded the National Defense Service Metal, Army Aviator Badge, Vietnam Service Metal with 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Star, just to name a few. After his retirement he owned Hal's Plumbing Manhattan, from 1997-2003. Hal was a member of the VFW Post #1786, Pearce-Keller Post # 17 American Legion all of Manhattan, ARA (Ariel Rocket Artillery), and the Vietnam Army Helicopter Pilot Association.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia, of the home; two daughters, Cindy Kay Bradstreet, of Manhattan; Wendy L. (Perry) Henault, of Tecumseh, KS; two sisters, Patricia Patterson, of Rogers, Ark; June (Robert) Hartman, of Rogers Ark; a brother, James C. (K.T.) Caldwell, of Florida; 5 grandchildren, Jessica Bradstreet & Kevin Kelsey, Jeremie (Derek) Kay Stanley, Christopher J. (Bridget) Bradstreet, Brendan Henault, Trace Henault; 4 Great grand: Tyler Stanley, Alex Bradstreet, Azydelia Bradstreet, and Veronica Stanley. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Ronald J. Caldwell and a sister, Bonnie Sue Betnar.

A memorial service was held at Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home & Cremation, in Manhattan, KS at 9:30 am on Friday, February 26th, with Rev. Paul Allen officiating. Burial will follow at the Kansas Veterans Cemetery following the service with Military Honors being provided by the Ft. Riley Honor Guard.

The family request donations to Angells Care Home Health, 311 Fort Riley Blvd, Manhattan, KS 66502, Via Christi Hospital Cancer Center or the Good Shepherd Hospice House, 3801 Vanesta Dr, Manhattan, KS

Ladies of the Association

.....AND THEN IT IS WINTER

You know... time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on a new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me. But, here it is... my friends are retired and getting gray... they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me, but, like me, their age is beginning to show.

Now I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day. And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory. Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit.

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done... things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly. Don't put things off too long. Life goes by quickly. You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life... so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember... and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past.

"LIFE" IS A GIFT TO YOU. LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY!

Remember, "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver".

Lastly, consider this:

Old is good in some things: Old songs, Old movies, and best of all, Old Friends. Stay well, "OLD FRIEND"

Regina

ARA mistress



Chaplain's

Corner

"Mountain Top Experiences"

Don't you just love driving through the beautiful mountains of our United States? We on the east coast get to enjoy the Appalachians, the Smokey Mountains, the Shenandoah, and the Catskills while the west enjoy the Rockies, Sierra, Shasta, and Rainier, to name a few.

Reaching the top is a great experience! The vistas are breath taking! There are two that I remember vividly: The Clinch Mountain scenic view, near Tazewell, overlooking the TVA Lakes and from the top of Old Baldy at the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM, looking north into Colorado at the Sangre De Cristo Range and south to Sandia Peak in Albuquerque. Both "mountain top experiences" have left an indelible imprint on my mind.

Life has given us many "mountain top experiences" in our relationships. Sometimes the highs are so great we desire to hold on to them forever! We are no different than the people of Israel. They had Moses on Mt. Sinai who received the Ten Commandments that sealed the covenant between God and Israel, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, his temptation which occurred on a very high mountain, as did his transfiguration, and the Mount of Olives, the site of his entry into Jerusalem and the site of his ascension.

I believe we all want to retain that high! There is something euphoric about it; however, we live in a world of valleys and the everyday experiences that go along with them. We have to deal with the evil of the world and its temptations, heartaches, the hustle and bustle, conflicts, stress, deadlines, meetings, obligations to family, community, and church.

May God empower us to continue to enjoy these "mountain top highs" and deal favorably with the "valley lows." Let us be aware of those who continue to walk this valley with us in our journey and to accept and to be sensitive to their needs.

"Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil"

Peace,

Bruce Wilder,
Chaplain

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Your editor and your newsletter very much appreciate and desire your contributions as all this is OUR history!

However, we DO NOT check the mailbox in GoDaddy (from which size demands we actually publish our newsletter). Your much appreciated and needed contributions will miss missed or delayed unless you send them to:

asatalbot@juno.com

This is where I live, work and hang out.

Doc Talbot, your editor



The National Vietnam War Museum was begun in 1995 by a small committee of Vietnam Helicopter Pilots. They met for many months creating the concept and mission of the museum. They then incorporated, established 501(c)(3) status, created the first board of directors, and raised money one dollar at a time to fund this effort for the last 21 years. Their dedication, hard work, and fundraising efforts have been rewarded by the purchase of 12 acres on U.S. Highway 180 (12685 Mineral Wells Highway, Weatherford, Texas) on which to build the museum, and funds to continue the project. We currently average 30 cars per day 365 days a year visiting our site. We continue to build displays, gardens and memorials. We have a replica of the Camp Holloway Wall built by the 52nd Avn Bn in Pleiku, and a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall that is kept current annually with the wall in Washington DC. We have a Marine Corps AMTRAC, a variety of trucks, a Huey on a 20 ft poke, and other large items on display 24/7 outside. We have a visitor center with a 300 square foot gallery for exhibits open 7 days a week 9:00 – 1:00 staffed entirely by volunteers.

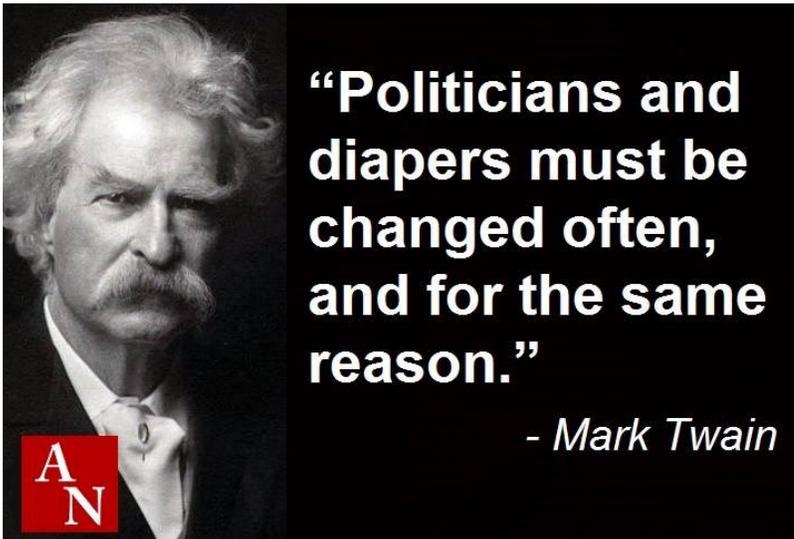
In 2015 we began a building fund to begin saving for our permanent building (artists concept attached). Our budget of \$1 million will produce an 18,000 square foot two story building, three of our planned galleries: Introduction, The Home Front, and The History of Fort Wolters. We have created a Builders Club for people who will donate \$10,000 to help us build. That fund now contains \$180,000 with more pledged. If 82 more people will donate, we will be done. We want to plan a groundbreaking ceremony for 2016 and complete construction in 2017. A \$1,000 donation will make the donor a member of our Founders Association and those funds will be added to the Building Fund. Other smaller donations may We want this museum built in our lifetimes and we need help. Will you help us?





Visit us online at www.NationalVnWarMuseum.org or on site at 12685 Mineral Wells Hwy, Weatherford, TX 76086

PO Box 146, Mineral Wells, TX 76068-0146





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