



# The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 6 Issue 4

Find us on the web at <http://www.araassociation.com> April, May, June, 2014

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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.



## There will be “silver” in ‘them thar hills’ at Branson when all the old Straphangers get to the 17th ARA Reunion

**Book flights early - See note on p. 5**



### *President's Corner*

2014 is shaping up to be a very exciting year! Peggy and I are preparing for our 50<sup>th</sup> year high school reunions. Today I spoke with a fellow ARA member who I have not heard from or seen since 1967 when we served together in Vietnam. Unfortunately CW2 Geoff Getchman and his wife cannot attend our reunion in Branson, but we were able to arrange to meet up in Louisville during the VHPA reunion in July. So Peggy and I will travel slowly back to Pennsylvania after our Branson reunion via direct to Louisville. I hope to coordinate with others of the 1967 2/20<sup>th</sup> membership to also meet up with Getchman at VHPA too. None of us should miss any opportunity to reestablish old acquaintances whenever possible. So please contact those you can to attend our reunion, or at least reconnect and reminisce whenever you can.

Peg and I have put many miles on the car this year and are still looking forward to seeing all of you at our reunion in Branson. We have never been to Branson but everyone we have spoken to, who has been there, says it is a wonderful experience.

So prepare yourselves to have a grand time in a grand location. Enjoy the entire experience from traveling to the reunion, your stay and return trip. Each year we enjoy acquiring new friendships as we renew former relationships.

Cecil B. Hengeveld

ARA 6

## CURRENT THOUGHTS FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT and Reunion Host Wallace “Titch” Titchenell

We are less than ninety days from the Assault on LZ Branson and it is shaping up very well at this time. The following members of the Association have indicated that they will be attending either by registering with Jule Szabo, our Treasurer, or having made reservation at the Stone Castle Hotel or another hotel in Branson. In alphabetical order they are: Gary Bishop, Glenn Brown +1, Harold Caldwell +1, David Cooper +1, Alan Doty +4, Johnny Grice +1, Alan Heidbreder +1, Cecil Hengeveld +1, Herbert Hirst +1, Jesse Hobby +1, Calvin Hyatt +1, Rodger McAlister +1, Larry Mobley +1, Huey O’Dell +1, Michael Okeef +1, George Padilla +3, Joseph Pullano +1, Porfino “Tony” Quesada +5, Bill Retterath +1, Mike Russell, Jerry Summers +1, Jule Szabo +1, Asa Talbot +2, Wallace “Titch” Titchenell +3, Chuck Voeltz +2, Bruce Wilder +2, William Williams +1. With our Guest Speaker and his wife that’s 27 members and 41 guests as of April 1.

Now, according to the hotel staff, we have reserved 30 of the 35 rooms that we contracted for. So, if you’re coming to Branson you need to get a room reserved even if you haven’t registered for the reunion. Rooms not booked will be released back to the hotel on/about May 18 and after that you may have to pay the standard rate and take what is available. Also, we have booked 100 seats on the Branson Belle for the Dinner/Show Cruise on Friday night. 40 of those are already taken up by those who have registered with Jule so you need to get registered because those seats will be released back to the cruise line on/about May 18 also. If you register after that you will have to take whatever seats are available.

In the previous newsletter announcing the Reunion we mentioned that we had visited the College of the Ozarks. “Titch” and I have recently learned that the college runs a very unique PATRIOTIC TRAVEL PROGRAM that takes veterans and students back to the battlefields. The purpose of this is to allow the veteran to experience a new level of healing and to allow the student to gain a deep insight in the level of sacrifice and hardships that veterans faced during combat. What makes it “UNIQUE” is that the college pays for transportation, lodging, and meals for the veterans and students. If you have any interest in this please contact “Titch” or me and we will arrange for you to attend the presentation during the reunion.

Additional notes for the ladies and guests – Following the ladies meeting on Saturday morning there will be a tour of the Mount Pleasant Winery, located within walking distance of the Stone Castle, followed by lunch and shopping at the Branson Landing where there are over 100 restaurants, stores, and entertainment including a \$7.5 million water and fire spectacular. Not sure what that is but it should be interesting.

Now, how many of you know that Afghanistan has a National Military Academy and that it is modeled after the United States Military Academy at West Point and that it opened in 2005. The person responsible for it, COL James Wilhite, will be our guest speaker at the Farewell Banquet on Saturday, June 21 and will share a story that started as an impossible dream but ended as a dream of a lifetime mission. In his own words – “Everything was right with the world for [then] Dr. James Wilhite, a Professor of Education at Northeastern State University in Talequah, OK, when all of a sudden his world got turned upside down.” Called to active duty with the Army, Dr. Wilhite became COL Wilhite and embarked on a mission that seemed impossible to accomplish. He was tasked with building a university in Afghanistan with no money and no full time staff and a ten (10) month time frame. With drive and determination and many answered prayers, COL Wilhite’s mission was successful. Having completed his mission he authored “*We Answered the Call: Building the Crown Jewell of Afghanistan*” describing the grit and determination that he and a group of West Point Faculty demonstrated that eventually became one of the most documented and successful missions of Operation Enduring Freedom. Copies of his book will be available after his presentation.

See you in Branson!

Out for now  
Jesse Hobby  
ARA 6X



**This makes you stop and think. Read slowly.**

## **“THE BACK NINE”**

### **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 my 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. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But here it is.....the back nine of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first hole and the back nine was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. 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, I see the great change...Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and thought we'd never become. Each day 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 of my own free will...I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do the things that I wish I had done but never did! But, at least I know, that though I'm on the back nine, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's over. A new adventure will begin! 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, if you're not on the back nine yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off to long! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the back nine or not.

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. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. 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.” LIVE HAPPY IN 2014!

**LASTLY, CONSIDER THIS:** Your kids are becoming you...but your grandchildren are perfect! Going out is good...Coming home is better! You forget names...But it's OK because some people forgot the even knew you!!! You realize you're never going to be really good at anything like golf. The things you used to care to do, you aren't as interested in anymore, but you really do care that you aren't as interested. You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV on than in a bed. It's called “pre-sleep.” You miss the days when everything worked with just an “ON” and “OFF” switch. You tend to use more 4 letter words... “what?” ...”when?” ??? You notice that everything they sell in stores is “sleeveless”?!?! What used to be freckles are now liver spots. Everybody whispers. You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet....2 of which you will never wear.

But “OLD” is good in some things: Old Songs, Old Movies, and best of all, “OLD FRIENDS!!”

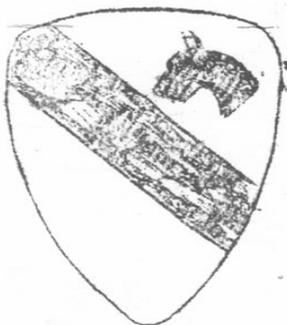
So, stay well “Old Friends!” Send this on to other “Old Friends” and let them laugh in “Agreement!!!” It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells the kind of life you have lived.

All of these things have happened and I have few regrets. We are the age that we really appreciate life and thank God for our lives. May you have wonderful winter days for a long time yet.

**TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU HAVE EVER BEEN AND THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE, SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.**

Contributed by Jerry “Short Round” Brooks A/2/20 66-67

**In light of the preceding article this is an appropriate memory.**



## STRAPHANGER GAZETTE

Vol. III  
Monday Nov 22, 1965



THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS (12-19 NOV)

### THE SCORE BOARD; 2/20<sup>TH</sup> VERSUS 'CHARLIE'

Period 12 Nov 19 Nov 1965

EST	EST	MATERIAL
KIA	WIA	DAMAGED/DESTROYED
A-2	3	
B-28	43	
C-132	263	

### TOTAL TO DATE

A-144	172
B-124	76
C-312	282

### 3D BRIGADE, 21ST ARTY & C-20TH ZAP' CHARLIE'

The 3d Brigade began its offensive operations in the area Southwest of Pleiku with two battalions. Activity was intense for the Brigade from the very beginning, as they ran headlong into the V.C. 'Charlie' wasted no time in welding the Brigade and its supporting units to the Pleiku area. They commenced a mortar attack on our position which continued until the ARA of Charlie Battery spit clusters of venom at them as reported in the last issue.

As the Brigade moved west towards the Cambodian border, V.C. resistance stiffened but was overwhelmed by the combined efforts of our Sky Troopers.

The 3d Brigade with its supporting 21st artillery and Battery C of the 20th Artillery have clobbered what is believed to be the largest total of VC yet. Reports place the total V.C. dead far in excess, 1,000 by actual body count. The Artillery and Aerial Artillery have been given credit for a large portion of V.C. casualties.

The superb actions of the 3d Brigade and its supporting units have been recognized and praised by General Westmoreland and the Army Chief of Staff, General Johnson.

### 2D BRIGADE, 77TH ARTILLERY AND B BATTERY, 2/20TH ARTILLERY "BUCKS" VC CHOW LINE

The 2d Brigade launched a, short duration operation south of Highway 19 in the vicinity of Ben Khe, to flush out some V.C. and regain some rice they had stolen. The Brigade was supported by the 77th Artillery & a platoon from our B Battery. The operation lasted two days and one night. 16,000 pounds of rice was recovered and that is a lot of "Chop" for "Charlie" to lose. Later in the week the 2d Brigade dispatched one Battalion to the Pleiku area to assist the 3d in their operation.

### 1ST BRIGADE "CATCHES ITS BREATH"

The 1st Brigade remained in the base camp area getting well deserved rest & preparing and planning new operations. Our A Battery and a portion of B Battery assumed the duties of Hot Platoon. B Battery responded to two on call missions and two GAP missions. A Battery spent the nights in the sky firing H&I fires, keeping "Charlie" awake and at bay in the local areas. Even Headquarters Battery got into the act again on the H&I missions by providing the illumination ship on several nights.

### ARA RECEIVES PLAUDITS FROM COMMANDERS

The Battalion Commander, Lt Colonel Mahone, received personal congratulations from the Division Commander, General Kinnard, and the Divarty Commander, Colonel Becker for the outstanding accomplishments of the Rocket Artillery in recent actions. Thank you Commanders! We know we are good, but it's nice to hear it from other sources.

### SERGEANT GIBSON & SERGEANT SHIPLEY RECEIVE AWARDS

SFC Gibson of B-20th was awarded the Soldiers medal and SSG Shipley of B-20th was awarded the Presidential Service Badge at a joint Battalion ceremony. Formal presentation was made by the Divarty Commander, Colonel Becker.

### GENERAL KINNARD PRESENTS SAVINGS AWARD

At a Division ceremony the 2/20th Artillery received the Minute Man Flag and each individual Battery received a Savings Bond Certificate from the Division Commander, General Kinnard. The awards were made possible by the fine effort made by many individuals in the purchase of U.S. Savings Bonds.

If you don't have one now, see your 1st Sgt and find out how! Lets put off our big spending until we return to the "Land of the Big PX"!

ROTOR WASH FROM "TUBELESS RUBE"

It is rumored that due to an incident last week, "War Eagle" can be detected flying overhead only with the aid of a radar-scope.

War Eagle is a WO-1 in the Btry that was out playing around at 50 feet just burning up aircraft time and fuel. Not on a mission. He received fire and the A/C was hit. Has Down for over a week in support maintenance to repair the damage.

Is A Battery starting a Nudist Colony? Or did some one just steal the 1st Sgt's towel?

Regardless of the obstacles involved some mighty fine structures have been built in the A Battery area. The "Gold" Medallion" home of Falcon Row appears to be the one constructed by Captain "Pussy" Goodspeed's Flying Circus. A big help was Lt Mimb's carpentry and know how.

A Btry platoon just finished a hook

A fine dogface was promoted to Lance Corporal this week. Keep up the good work Corporal Shortround, you may be selected for COS.

Dog part of A Btry 1st Sgt.

Well, Well who is in "A" Battery's well? Last time I looked, Sgt Annis was halfway to the States and still digging. I know they are not looking for water because they keep pumping it out.

Another page from "A" Btry. This well is about 50' deep now

Many eager table tennis players were observed conducting a spirited elimination contest to qualify for a crack at that "Old Master" SMAJ Young.

Doctor Dale is doing a bang up business these days and most of his patients are A Battery personnel with mashed thumbs and skinned knuckles. These housing development programs do cause casualties.

The formation was called to attention. The General took his position. The Band played appropriate music. The Captain came forward and saluted smartly. The General presented the Captain with the award and shook his hand. The award fluttered to the ground. The captain spoke briefly with the General. The General reached down and picked up the award. Tell use, Headquarters Battery Commander, what ever did you say to the General in order to persuade him to pick up and hand you your award?

This was really funny. 2 citations were handed Flynn and he dropped one without knowing it. Ben Kinnard picked it up and handed it to Flynn.

The Gazette is published Weekly. Human interest items, humorous happenings or any event of interest concerning the 2/20th are desired by the Editor. Just jot it dam on a scrap of paper and deliver to the Battalion SMAJ.

**IMPORTANT HEADS UP** -Start booking your flights early for Branson. Southwest Airlines will cease flights into Branson on June 6, 2014. That leaves Frontier (www.flyfrontier.com) and requires a connection through Denver. (Air Train is a subsidiary of Frontier but has limited routes)

Hopefully the highways will be open!

The Editor

# ATTENTION

## There will be a special shirt available for the reunion!



Arrangements have been made to offer a specially designed shirt for the Branson reunion. This is a quality, collared shirt which will be suitable to be worn anywhere –dining, golf, casualwear or even to work.

The shirt can be almost any color of the wearer's choice and will bear the patch shown. Each shirt will have only this patch. The techniques will be silk screen and the colors will be vibrant

The red ARA logo is on all shirts and there will be a line of type below the patch which says "Branson, MO 2014" in a color appropriate to shirt color .

Cost will be approx. \$16.50 for small through x-large.

XXX approx. \$18.00, XXXX approx. \$20.00, 5X approx. \$24.00. Very tall people may be limited in the colors they can choose. This is a function of shirt availability. The more shirts ordered, the better the price can be. Each shirt must be ordered and paid for by 15 May 2014. The funds must be in the Editor's hands before a shirt is ordered. There will be no extras available at the Reunion, so order ahead of time. Time is now critical and this may be your last chance.

This would be a great shirt for wives, children and grandchildren to wear and show the family colors. Because of the nature of shirt manufacture the more shirts of similar patch the less expensive. Color is not a problem. Shirts will be delivered at the reunion. Pre-delivery will incur mailing charges.

A chart of available colors is below. Any questions should be directed to Asa ASAP. (See page 11)

**SEND MONEY AND ORDER TO ASA! JULE WILL ONLY HAVE TO FORWARD THEM AND WASTE TIME!**



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### ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Size: (Circle) Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large XXX Large XXXX Large XXXXX Large

Color(s) and quantity \_\_\_\_\_



## **I'll Give You \$20, If.....**

A newly retired helicopter pilot was walking down the street, on his way to a retired helicopter pilots breakfast, when he was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby- looking homeless man who asked him for a couple of dollars for a meal.

The retired helicopter pilot took out his wallet, extracted a twenty dollar bill and asked the guy, "If I give you this money will you buy some beer with it instead of food?"

"No, I had to stop drinking many years ago when I was a helicopter pilot." The homeless man replied.

"You were once a helicopter pilot?"

"Yes," the homeless man replied. "I flew for 12 years, until I was fired for drinking on duty and I lost my retirement after wrecking a helicopter on the same day."

"Will you use this \$20 to buy donuts and coffee instead of buying nutritious food?" "No, I don't waste time with sugary food," the homeless man said. "I need to spend all my time trying to stay alive and eat as well as I can."

"Will you spend this \$20 on greens fees at a golf course instead of good food?" "Are you nuts?" replied the homeless man. "I haven't played golf in 20 years since I was fired from my company."

"Will you spend the money on a woman over in the red light Tenderloin District instead of buying good food?" "What disease would I get for a lousy twenty bucks. I hate hookers?" exclaimed the homeless man.

"Well," said the retired helicopter pilot, "I'm not going to give you the money now. Instead I'm going to take you to a terrific helicopter pilot's breakfast around the corner and get you to tell the retired helicopter pilots your story, and then you get the money."

The homeless man was astounded. "Won't these fellows be furious with you for doing that? I know I'm dirty and I probably smell pretty disgusting, man."

The retired helicopter pilot replied, "That's okay. It's important for them all to see what a helicopter pilot looks like after he's given up beer, donuts, golf and sex."

Copied from the VHPA Aviator.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: And let that be a lesson to you. Live joyously, laugh long and hard and make every minute count!*



## **Chaplain's Corner**

### **"Memories," or should we call them "Flashbacks?"**

Your Board of Directors has started the preliminary planning for the 2015 Reunion, to be held at Fort Benning/Columbus, GA to help celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "First Team's" departure from the States for Vietnam. Several of us were with the first units of ARA during the days of C Battery/2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion/42<sup>nd</sup> Artillery and 3rd Battalion/377<sup>th</sup> Artillery/11th Air Assault Division from 1963 to 1965 and the change of colors in 1965 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion/20<sup>th</sup> Artillery/First Cavalry Division. Jesse Hobby can recite names and dates from the formation of the original Battery of ARA with Major Lew Henderson and the growth to the Battalion with names of those who remained with us new for training and deployment with First Cav Div.

During the Vietnam Era the 2/20<sup>th</sup> supported the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div through 1971, and F Battery/79<sup>th</sup> Artillery provided support from 1971 through 1972, and 1974. The 4th Battalion/77th Artillery supported the 101st Airborne Division from 1968 through 1972. F Battery/77<sup>th</sup> Artillery then provided support to the 145 CAB in 1972. Since the Vietnam Era we have expanded Associate Membership to those who have served or are serving in C Company/1<sup>st</sup> Attack Helicopter Battalion/82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, C Company/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Attack Helicopter Battalion/3<sup>rd</sup> Aviation Regiment/3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, C Company/ 1<sup>st</sup> Attack Helicopter/1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment/10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, B Company/3<sup>rd</sup> Aviation Regiment/101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, and other personnel and units who have or have had close association with the Aerial Rocket Artillery units including E Battery/82<sup>nd</sup> Artillery/1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div, Air Traffic Controllers, and Surviving Family Members of those who served with Vietnam Era ARA Units.

On April 9 -10, 2014, Jesse and Gloria Hobby, along with Patti and myself, spent time with Ashley Woitena, VP for Sales for the City of Columbus, Georgia Convention and Visitors Bureau, to evaluate potential accommodations, tours, and sites/museums for the reunion. Based on this preliminary visit and orientation I can safely say you are in for an educational and rewarding experience!

Why have I chosen to use this as a lead-in for the Chaplain's Corner? Glad you asked! On the tour of the new National Infantry Museum the four of us were led along "The Last Hundred Yards" walk. I came upon the actions depicted for the "Battle of Ia Drang" and "LZ X-Ray." I was stopped in my tracks as I watched a video of combat footage from Vietnam with radio transmissions, and viewed the UH-1 simulating an insertion into the Landing Zone. At first, I was interested in how the actions were depicted from a tactical and technical aspect. In a flash, when I heard the sound of the rotor blades of the Huey, I was transported back to November 14, 1965. That was when I flew UH-1B tail number 024 to Plieku, Plei Me, and the Chu Pong Mountain area to support the 1st/7<sup>th</sup> Cav. Fifty years of memories, some hidden by choice, some selected for open discussion, were overwhelming! Without realizing the full impact, I reached for Patti, as she put her arm around me, for some sense of comfort and peace. We stood in silence for a few minutes reliving the moment as it has impacted us individually and collectively.

Thank God, that we can find peace and solace in moments such as these. There are those who have difficulty processing those events and that peace is absent from our lives. Let us all be aware of these conditions and be there for each other as we work to treat these events as safe "memories" and not have to fear "flashbacks!"

*And Jesus said, "My peace I give to you!"*

Peace and health,

Bruce Wilder  
Chaplain



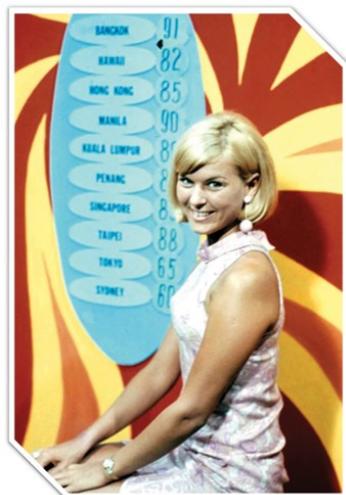
# BOBBIE

## The Weather Girl

Vietnam veterans who were in country during 1967-69 will recall Bobbie Keith, AFVN TV's weather girl.

An Army brat whose father served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, Keith, 19, held a full-time clerical position with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Saigon's Cholon district when she was invited to interview as AFVN's weather girl. She got the job and the immediate notoriety that went along with it, but because it was without pay, she retained her USAID position.

Billed as the Saigon studio's "bubbling bundle of barometric brilliance," Bobbie was a definite troop morale booster. Troops assigned to base camps with access to television looked forward to her daily, anything-can-happen weather updates. Her TV trademarks were stylish miniskirts, groovy frugs, naughty winks, and that suggestive sign-off: "I wish everyone a pleasant evening weather".



Bobbie did more than report daily weather conditions across South Vietnam, out-of-country R & R sites, and American hometowns. Her broadcasts included lively skits and surprises that provided comic relief in the face of wartime tensions and tragedy. She once rode a motorcycle onto the set, flew around the studio on a broomstick on Halloween, allowed herself to be doused with buckets of water whenever reporting on monsoon rains, and even appeared in a bikini with temperatures stenciled onto her body.

Troops out in the bush may not have seen her broadcasts, but they knew Keith from the pinup pages of their unit newspapers or her hundreds of firebase visits, where she'd charm the war fighters with her winsome smile, personal warmth, and girl-back-home sincerity.

"The experiences I had because of the show were invaluable," Keith noted in a 2009 issue of Vietnam magazine. "I mean, I wasn't paid, but it was worth more than a million dollars, because I got to see the men and the country, from the DMZ to the Delta."



Bobbie was indeed the consummate volunteer. If she wasn't helping in mess facilities and visiting hospital patients in Saigon after her day job at USAID, she was traveling by any mode possible and spending most of her weekends in the field visiting troops at remote fire bases or evacuation hospitals.

Keith left Vietnam in 1969, having earned the respect and appreciation of thousands of Soldiers like 9th Infantry Division veteran Ed Whitmarsh, who remarked, "Bobbie Keith brought as much to the war effort as anyone could. As young soldiers, support was extremely important. We received some from our families, but little from our Country. Nurses helped save our bodies. Bobbie helped save our souls and humanity. Where do girls like her get their courage?"

How many of you who were in Vietnam from 67 – 69 and had access to AFVN remember "Bobbie the Weather Girl?" And, how many of you knew that she flew in a "BLUE MAX" Cobra and was made an honorary member of the 2/20<sup>th</sup> ARA?

Submitted by Wallace "Titch" Titchenell

Now living in Florida, Bobbie Keith continues to support Vietnam veterans and their causes and frequently speaks to young people and patriotic groups such as the Korean war vets, Jewish war vets and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) about the American experience in Vietnam.



With the 1st Cav again, Annual  
Wickham Park, Fla., 2006

Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion,

# Ladies of the Association

Guys, share this with your spouse.

## If 70's Moms Had Blogs

This morning I got up and Jennifer and Kimberly were eating Pop Rocks in front of the TV set watching Captain Kangaroo while Matt was already out in the back yard with a glass of Tang. I sat down and had a cigarette. I really wanted to watch my programs but I didn't want to have to get up and change the channel or mess with the antenna to get it to come in clear, so I let the girls continue until I was done with my cigarette. I made sure to tell them not to drink any Pepsi for a couple of hours so the Pop Rocks wouldn't explode in their stomachs. This happened to some kid on TV, you know.

Then I went into the kitchen and poured them all bowls of Apple Jacks while I had my coffee with sweet n' low and another cigarette. Halfway through my smoke I went and got the baby, changed its Pampers and made it a bottle of formula. Then I put it in the walker so I could vacuum in peace while the other three kids went outside.

About an hour later Matt came back crying that Mrs. Johnson had spanked him because he was throwing rocks at cars.

"Good," I told him. "I hope you learned your lesson. If I hear of you doing that again I'm going to bust your ass too, so you got lucky this time that you only got one whipping."

Then I sent him back outside while I continued to clean.

Little while later, here come the girls saying they're hot because it's 80 degrees and sunny. I gave them some more red Kool-Aid and told them if they were hot to stay in the shade and stop whining about it.

That gave me the idea to lay out, so I covered myself in baby oil and positioned my plastic chaise lounge right in direct sunlight. I put the baby in the playpen with some blocks while I cracked open a can of Tab and listened to some Neil Sedaka and Captain and Tennille on my portable radio. Don't worry; I put a bonnet on the baby since she doesn't have hair yet.

Matt had been down at the lake fishing with all the other four year olds and he came back yelling that he had a fishhook caught in his lip so I had to get the pliers and cut it out for him. I gave him some ice, told him to stop crying and sent him back to the lake to fish some more.

Around noon the kids all came back from wherever they were and I made them fried baloney sandwiches on Wonder Bread with some Tasty-Kakes for dessert. After that we had to go grocery shopping so I put the three older ones in the back of the station wagon and set the baby on the front seat and off we went.

I decided I needed another cigarette when we were in the car, so I lit one up and I've discovered that if you only crack the window instead of rolling it down that the smoke ventilates much better, so I have no idea why the kids were coughing and fussing for me to roll the window all the way down. They were just being dramatic, I swear. Naturally I didn't listen to them.

Bill's going to be so mad at me. I spent an entire \$27.00 at the grocery store this week. Prices are so high these days. It's just ridiculous. I don't know how the A&P is going to stay in business. I bet Gerald Ford has something to do with this. Or the Russians.

I sent the kids back outside again. This time I made the girls take the baby with them, which is fine because they were just going into the woods to play. Gave me some time to watch "The Edge of Night" in peace.

I'm planning a big night out with Bill this weekend. I thought maybe we'd go have fondue, drink some Harvey Wallbangers and go to a disco. I called the eleven year old down the street and told her we'd pay her three whole dollars to babysit all night and not to worry if the baby woke up and cried. I told her if you

ignore it, the baby will eventually stop crying and go back to sleep, so just turn the record player up louder or something and that if the other three want to stay up late and watch television, it's okay but make them go to bed after Carol Burnett goes off and if they want some Jiffy Pop, that's fine to. They know how to make it themselves.

Hilda called while I was making dinner (cube steaks and crinkle fries) and we got to talking about playing cards and then she said she liked "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" better than "The Godfather II" and I had to agree with her. I told her they ought to make a TV show "After Alice." She said it would never work. I told her I had to get off the phone because I needed to mix up my Brandy Alexander and the phone cord didn't reach all the way to the liquor cabinet.

Fed the kids and Bill dinner. Then Bill went off to Bob's for poker night and the girls all came over here to play Gin Rummy with me. We had some Chex Mix and Linda brought over her famous pineapple upside down cake, which we had with Sanka. We all talked about what we were going to do for the bicentennial and then Debbie started going on and on about how she likes this Jimmy Carter guy from Georgia for President and she and Doris got into an argument because Doris is a Republican. The kids tried to peek out of their rooms, where I'd put them for the evening, but I yelled at them and told them it was grown-up time and to keep playing Candyland Lincoln Logs until they fell asleep. I asked Debbie what she thought I ought to redo the kitchen in – harvest gold or avocado green and she said she thought rust or Colonial blue would be even prettier. Good lord. Too many choices.

After the girls left I had to clean up the kitchen. Thank God for Corelle Ware because I keep dropping coffee cups in the sink. This stuff just will not break. I tell you! It's a miracle. I mixed up another pitcher of Tang for breakfast, went and filed my nails into long, pointy ovals, then painted them a new shade called "Shimmering Ecrú." When they dried I put on a polyester negligee, touched up my blue eye shadow and sprayed my hair. Then I added a spritz of Charlie. I feel like celebrating our anniversary a little early! I have an IUD after all. I'm not really worried about hemorrhaging or getting an infection from it. It's just a bunch of hype like that whole thalidomide scare. I knew lots of women ten years ago who took that and only one of their kids was born with a weird hand. She's not really crippled from it though. The kids in school tease her but middle schoolers are like that and it will build character.

Anyway, I think I'll have a cigarette and read some of "Waiting for Mr. Goodbar." Maybe I'll put on a Streisand record until Bill gets home.

Good night!

Ladies, does this bring back memories of another time and perhaps other places?

Gloria Hobby

*Editor's Note: SCARY!!*

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Retired Rank (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Service Number \_\_\_\_\_

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