



The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 14 No. 1

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

July-September, 2021

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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 attachment

ON TO SAVANNAH- Whoo Whoo



President's Corner

Dear Members, Family Members, Readers and Guests,

We finally get to meet in Savannah The challenges of the pandemic caused by COVID-19 infections have impacted us like no other events in most of our lives. I am HAPPY that we here in the U. S. are getting back to some sense of normalcy after the loss of lives, restrictions, disruptions, and economic turmoil.

I am looking forward to our 23rd Annual Reunion and I encourage all who can attend to do so. Our hosts, Ann and Jerry Hipp, get to welcome you and intrigue you with the uniqueness of Savannah.

As of this publication we are 60 days away from gathering in Savannah. I encourage each of you to reach out to everyone you know who served in any capacity in an ARA unit to attend this Reunion. We all are advanced in our years and should take advantage of every opportunity to reminisce, share stories, and fellowship with those with whom we served during a critical time in our lives and our nation's history.

You should receive a mailing with the ARA Directory that Billy Wood designed and assembled by mid-July. Also included in this mailing of 286 pages is a schedule of events for our Reunion, a registration form, and letter from me encouraging them to attend and reach out to everyone who served in these special Aviation Artillery units to join us in Savannah.

If you reach out to a fellow ARA'er who has information about our time in Vietnam or preparation for deployment to Vietnam in the form of notes, books, journals, mission briefings, personal accounts of missions, audio recordings, or videos, ask them send copies to the Morris Swett Library to be archived to document the history of Aerial Rocket Artillery.

Send to: **Morris Swett Library, 730 SCHIMMELPFENNIG ROAD, FORT SILL, OK 73503**

I look forward to seeing you in Savannah August 30th through September 2nd.

For each person attending the Reunion; please email the requested information below to Herb Hirst promptly or at least before August 15th:

We have received information from Hunter security folks related to entry to Hunter AAF. I am compiling the lists we have to provide for each event at the base. Please send me the following information:

Last Name (I have this for your spouse but need the last name for any guests or companions)

First Name (It must be the same as on any ID that would be used for entry to the base. I have most but want to be sure I have the legal name).

Middle Initial

Date of Birth

Last 4 of your SSN (Please do not send me the entire SSN)

I would appreciate getting the information as soon as possible. I would also request that you pass this info on to any others who are planning to attend.

Thank you all for your cooperation

Herb Hirst, Treasurer Aerial Rocket Artillery Association
hirst@q.com 503-647-4600 home 503-314-3710 cell"

Blessings to you, your families, and Loved Ones.

SAVE TRAVELS AND PLEASE STAY WELL, HEALTHY, AND PROTECTED!!!

All the Best,

Clovis Jones, Jr.

ARA 6

FINAL BRIEFING FOR SAVANNAH MISSION

Our ill-fated 2020 Reunion has been salvaged by the ingenuity of many drug companies and plans set in motion by an administration gone past. We are approaching a high enough rate of vaccinations to achieve “herd” immunity and many of the restrictions have been lifted. In other words, it appears that Savannah August 30 to September 3, 2021 is a go.

Gerry and Ann Hipp have done a great job at pulling things back together. There have been some changes and it is critical that some information be repeated to assure good and accurate registration. The dates have been adjusted to avoid the high hotel rates inherent in the weekend.

We will set up station at the Holiday Inn Express, Savannah Historic District, 199 East Bay Street (intersection of Bay and Abercorn) which is virtually the center north of old Savannah. Rooms will be \$119 Sunday 8/30 through Thursday 9/3 (as opposed to \$155 on Friday 8/29 and \$195 on the following weekend 9/4 & 9/5). Savannah is worth a few extra dollars to see at leisure. The rates DO NOT include 13% taxes and a \$6 City Occupancy fee. Parking is available at two nearby city garages at about \$10/night and valet parking only at the hotel for a reduced rate of \$25. Breakfast is included and a hospitality room on the lower level has already been contracted by Herb Hirst, as well as the site of the Farewell Banquet 9/3 (“Vic’s on the River” – across the street from the hotel).

We lost the venue at Mrs. Wilkes Boarding House but have secured the Hunter Army Airfield Club (just inside of Montgomery Road gate to HAAF) for our Welcome Banquet at 6:30 on Monday, August 30.

MENU:

Low Country Boil Buffet (all items are cooked and served separately)

Steamed Jumbo Shrimp—16-20 ct):

Smoked Hillshire Sausage:

Fresh Corn on the Cob:

Parsley New Potatoes:

Savannah Red Rice:

Baked Chicken with Rosemary:

Cole Slaw:

Homemade Rolls and butter: Peach Cobbler and Ice Cream

Sweet and Unsweet Tea, water

CASH BAR.

Tuesday, August 31— Savannah Trolley Tour: From the hotel is at a discounted rate and includes a 90 minute highlight tour of 20 special locations and an “On/Off pass good for all day. One regular tour stops at our hotel.

Wednesday, September 1— Visit the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade featuring the AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter Squadron. 90 minute visit and lunch at the Army Dining Hall.

Thursday, September 2 Farewell Banquet at “Vic’s on the River” – across the street from the hotel—easy walk or shuttle.

MENU:

DUET Plated Dinner (includes coffee, tea & buttermilk biscuits)

Pan Seared Top Sirloin

Parmesan and Lemon Redfish (Guests receive both options)

Mixed Green salad (tomatoes, cucumbers and croutons w/Balsamic vinaigrette)

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Asparagus

Snip top Carrots

Peach Cheesecake/ Key Lime Pie (Guests receive both options)

CASH BAR.

House wines by the bottle available

In order to stock the Hospitality Suite at minimal cost to the Association it has been suggested that each attendee who is driving bring a bottle/case of his/her favorite liquid libation. Those who are flying and wish to contribute can contact Jerry and place an order and reimburse him upon arrival. Jerry can make pick-up at Class VI on Hunter for most stuff. Better choices of wines are available from local retailers. Any and all contributions will be appreciated. :gthipp@aol.com) OR just call at (912-598-8785) to discuss your wishes/leave a message.

The current registration form is valid (page 3). Registrations have to reach Herb Hirst by (NLT) August 15 in order to be included in the two Hunter AAF visits. We will be transported by bus both times which is why we are asking for the additional information. We need this regardless of whether they are retired military.

If rooms not reserved yet, act promptly or run the risk of not being with the group. There are only so many rooms (45 to be exact) saved for us in the bloc. Non-registrants MAY have to be sent to the sister hotel (23 steps away).



ARA - SAVANNAH - REUNION

23rd ARA REUNION, SAVANNAH, GA, AUGUST 30, - SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

Reunion Registration Form

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

ARA ASSOCIATION

c/o Herbert L. Hirst

P.O. Box 220

North Plains, OR 97133-0220

Information	
Name/Membership #	
Wife/Guest name(s)	
Additional Guest(s)	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone Number	
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	\$40.00		
Annual Membership Dues (N/A for Life Member)	If not already paid for 2020	\$25.00		
Monday – Dinner & Bus	Per member in party	\$36.00		
Tuesday - Historic District Trolley Tour	Per member in party	\$28.00		
Wednesday – Lunch & Bus to Hunter AAF	Per member in party	\$25.00		
Thursday – Farewell Banquet	Per member in party	\$45.50		
Total for Reunion				

Please complete and return by July 31, 2021 so that we may finalize all plans and secure set prices for events. Registration forms will be numbered upon receipt in order to secure seats on bus.

Please send confirmation of attendance e-mail to host for head counts. E-mail address for host is ithipp@aol.com: Telephone # 912-598-8785

True or False: Where Does Carbon Dioxide Come From?

Contributed by Larry Mobley & Written By Ian Rutherford Plimer

Plimer is an Australian geologist, professor emeritus of earth sciences at the University of Melbourne, professor of mining geology at the University of Adelaide, and the director of multiple mineral exploration and mining companies. He has published 130 scientific papers, six books and edited the Encyclopedia of Geology.

Okay, here's the bombshell. The volcanic eruption in Iceland. Since its first spewing of volcanic ash has, in just FOUR DAYS, NEGATED EVERY SINGLE EFFORT you have made in the past five years to control CO2 emissions on our planet - all of you.

Of course, you know about this evil carbon dioxide that we are trying to suppress - its that vital chemical compound that every plant requires to live and grow, and to synthesize into oxygen for us humans and all animal life.

I know.... it's very disheartening to realize that all of the carbon emission savings you have accomplished while suffering the inconvenience and expense of driving Prius hybrids, buying fabric grocery bags, sitting up till midnight to finish your kids "The Green Revolution" science project, throwing out all of your non-green cleaning supplies, using only two squares of toilet paper, putting a brick in your toilet tank reservoir, selling your SUV and speedboat, vacationing at home instead of abroad, nearly getting hit every day on your bicycle, replacing all of your 50 cent light bulbs with \$10.00 light bulbs.... well, all of those things you have done have all gone down the tubes in just four days.

The volcanic ash emitted into the Earth's atmosphere in just four days - yes, FOUR DAYS - by that volcano in Iceland has totally erased every single effort you have made to reduce the evil beast, carbon. And there are around 200 active volcanoes on the planet spewing out this crud at any one time - EVERY DAY.

I don't really want to rain on your parade too much, but I should mention that when the volcano Mt. Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines in 1991, it spewed out more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the entire human race had emitted in all its years on earth.

* YES, THE GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN USED TO WORK FOR GEORGE SOROS

“YES, CALIF GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM IS NANCY PELOSI'S NEPHEW.

* YES, ADAM SHIFF'S SISTER IS MARRIED TO GEORGE SOROS' SON.

* YES, JOHN KERRY'S DAUGHTER IS MARRIED TO A MULLAH'S SON IN IRAN.

* YES, HILLARY'S DAUGHTER CHELSEA IS MARRIED TO GEORGE SOROS' NEPHEW.

* YES, ABC NEWS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER IAN CAMERON IS MARRIED TO SUSAN RICE, OBAMA'S FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER.

* YES, CBS PRESIDENT DAVID RHODES IS THE BROTHER OF BEN RHODES, OBAMA'S DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS.

* YES, ABC NEWS CORRESPONDENT CLAIRE SHIPMAN IS MARRIED TO JAY CARNEY, FORMER OBAMA WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY.

* YES, ABC NEWS AND UNIVISION REPORTER MATTHEW JAFFE IS MARRIED TO KATIE HOGAN, OBAMA'S FORMER DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY.

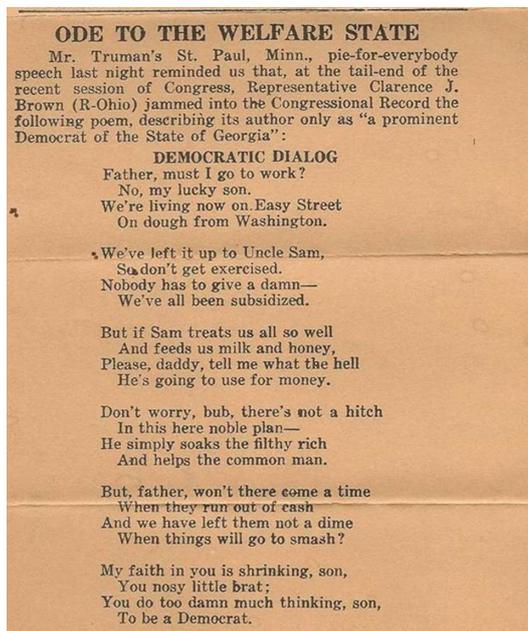
* YES, ABC PRESIDENT BEN SHERWOOD IS THE BROTHER OF ELIZABETH SHERWOOD, OBAMA'S FORMER SPECIAL ADVISER.

* YES, CNN PRESIDENT VIRGINIA MOSELEY IS MARRIED TO TOM NIDES, FORMER HILLARY CLINTON'S DEPUTY SECRETARY.

THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL A "STACKED DECK". IF YOU HAD A HUNCH THE NEWS SYSTEM WAS SOMEWHAT RIGGED AND YOU COULDN'T PUT YOUR FINGER ON IT, THIS MIGHT HELP YOU SOLVE THE PUZZLE.

Open your eyes! Educate yourself!

Jerry Barnes



From New York Daily News, November, 1949



Déjà Vu—Again, Already

Many of us are being besieged with mail seeking contributions to the erecting, or improvement, of museums and memorials; some to former presidents but mostly to the memory of those who fought and died so that we could build such monuments. Is this simply a ploy to raise money while the pain of the pandemic is fresh in our minds and we are more responsive? Or is it that, at last the nation is coming to the realization that we have forgotten those who bought our freedom and paid a price we never had to pay.

We were among those who were mocked, derided and sometimes spit upon because we answered a call we did not want to hear and did a job we could have lived without. Tragically, we are not alone. In perhaps less drastic ways this has been repeated far too often. Furthermore, those who would reshape history to be more palatable or pleasing to their sensibilities have caused our children and grandchildren to have no concept of where we were or what we did, or why! Seventy-two percent of today's schoolchildren can't even tell you who was fighting who in WW II.

There are none left from "The War to End All Wars" and a dwindling few from WW II and Korea - and we are not getting any younger. I doubt any of us want a statue, museum, memorial as much as we want to be remembered as those who put it on the line for a country we loved, regardless of whether we agreed with her.

To frame this matter in time, below is a poem written 130 years ago by a man who knew the common soldier well and had the courage to speak up for him.

TOMMY ADKINS By Rudyard Kipling

I went into a public-'ouse to get a pint o' beer,
The publican 'e up an' sez, "We serve no red-coats here."
The girls be'ind the bar they laughed an' giggled fit to die,
I outs into the street again an' to myself sez I:
O it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, go away";
But it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins", when the band begins to play,
The band begins to play, my boys, the band begins to play,
O it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins", when the band begins to play.

I went into a theatre as sober as could be,
They gave a drunk civilian room, but 'adn't none for me;
They sent me to the gallery or round the music-'alls,
But when it comes to fightin', Lord! they'll shove me in the stalls!
For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, wait outside";
But it's "Special train for Atkins" when the trooper's on the tide,
The troopship's on the tide, my boys, the troopship's on the tide,
O it's "Special train for Atkins" when the trooper's on the tide.

Yes, makin' mock o' uniforms that guard you while you sleep
Is cheaper than them uniforms, an' they're starvation cheap;
An' hustlin' drunken soldiers when they're goin' large a bit
Is five times better business than paradin' in full kit.
Then it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, 'ow's yer
soul?"

But it's "Thin red line of 'eroes" when the drums begin to roll,
The drums begin to roll, my boys, the drums begin to roll,
O it's "Thin red line of 'eroes" when the drums begin to roll.

We aren't no thin red 'eroes, nor we aren't no blackguards too,
But single men in barracks, most remarkable like you;
An' if sometimes our conduct isn't all your fancy paints,
Why, single men in barracks don't grow into plaster saints;
While it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, fall be'ind",
But it's "Please to walk in front, sir", when there's trouble in the
wind,
There's trouble in the wind, my boys, there's trouble in the wind,
O it's "Please to walk in front, sir", when there's trouble in the wind.

You talk o' better food for us, an' schools, an' fires, an' all:
We'll wait for extry rations if you treat us rational.
Don't mess about the cook-room slops, but prove it to our face
The Widow's Uniform is not the soldier-man's disgrace.
For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Chuck him out, the
brute!"
But it's "Saviour of 'is country" when the guns begin to shoot;
An' it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' anything you please;
An' Tommy ain't a bloomin' fool -- you bet that Tommy sees!

Efforts are being made to create memories of people like Harry Truman, "Ike" Eisenhower and even Herbert Hoover. This is as it should be. But more importantly than those who have automatic libraries and such, is the emphasis on remembering WW II, D-Day, The Battle in the Pacific, The Frozen Chosen, Tet, the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan. Remember also the "Redtail Airmen" of Tuskegee and the WASP's and all the countless women, WAC's, WAVES, SPARS and the gals who built the equipment which won WWII. This article will center of the WASP's.

As the storm clouds rolled over Europe and the smoke erupted from Pearl Harbor, men, women and children answered the country's call to engage the enemy as best they could. The men marched, sailed and flew into combat. The women laid aside their baking sheets and took up rivet guns and wrenches to roll planes, cannons and ships off the assembly lines which appeared all across the nation. Children salvaged tin foil, toothpaste tubes, newspapers, old tires, and anything which the war effort required. In the larger cities they wore a plastic "dog tag" around their neck in case of bombings. Food, shoes, gas and most of life's necessities were rationed and doled out according to coupons, tiny plastic chips and careful allocation.

So successful were these efforts that a need arose for a means to ferry the new planes from the factories to the bases where they would be flown overseas for combat. The thinking at that time was that it was inefficient to use able-bodied men who

could be flying them in combat. After all, women were incapable of mastering anything technical or scientific but necessity is the mother of invention. Thus was born the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs). The driving force was pioneer aviatrix Jacqueline Cochran who wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt suggesting the idea. The combining of the existent Womens' Flying Training Detachment and the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron. The first classes were trained in Houston but then went to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, TX.

More than 25,000 women volunteered, 1879 were selected and 1,074 graduated. Before the program was terminated in 1944 these ladies, flew 25 different types of planes, towed targets for ground and aerial gunnery and flew disabled, captured and questionable aircraft with bolts and rivets flying from them because men were too valuable to risk. Of the near 1100 WASPs thirty-eight gave their lives for their country. The remains of one have never been recovered. When one was lost classmates chipped to pay to have them transported home for burial as they were considered by the government to be civilians. When the program was abruptly ended in 1944, 60 million miles later, they got the "Thanks of a Grateful Nation". Their records were classified, and sealed, they received no veterans benefits, were disrespected, ignored and forgotten. Groups like the American Legion denied them membership. Less than 30 of the original 1100 are still alive.

Finally, in 1974 Congress gave them the status of veterans and in 2010 they were awarded a special Congressional Gold Medal.



Dorothy Olsen stands atop a P-38, one of the planes she ferried during World War II as a Women's Airforce Service Pilot. She felt the P-38 was a plane an old woman could fly and preferred the P-51 which "you had stay on top of". She died in August of 2019 at the age of 103. (Courtesy photo)



Women Airforce Service Pilots, left to right, Frances Green, Margaret Kirchner, Ann Waldner and Blanche Osborn at Lockbourne Army Air Field, Ohio, 1944. These women pilots were some of the first to ferry B-17 "Flying Fortress" bombers. Theirs was "Pistol Packing Mama" and they carried parachutes that were not fitted for them. If used, they might blow right off them.

A Tale of Friendship and Fidelity

Elizabeth MacKethan Magid entered the September, 1943 class of the Women Airforce Service Pilots at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, TX. There she became very close to another WASP named Marie Michelle Robinson. There, in the perilous days of training and war they exchanged a promise—if anything happened to either of them, the other would go to be with the bereaved mother at the funeral. As youth will neither thought they would have to fulfill such a grim pact.

After graduation Elizabeth was sent to Cochrane Field, GA. There she flew overhauled basic and advanced trainers, risking her life to make sure it checked out—conventional wisdom holding that it the Army couldn't risk an able-bodied man's life testing a suspect plane. She remembers ferrying one with another WASP : "We were flying side-by-side, and nuts and bolts were literally popping off and flying by. All we did was hold our thumbs up and say, 'We're still here!' As long as she was giving me that sign, I knew we were ok."

Meanwhile, Marie had been stationed at Victorville Air Force Base in California flying twin-engine bombers. In October, 1944 , while piloting a B-5 with two male crewmembers, Marie's plane stalled, went into a flat spin and crashed, killing all aboard. Marie was only 20 years old. Elizabeth was devastated but as she continued to fly her missions she dreamed her friend was there with her amongst the cumulus clouds she flew through. While awaiting transportation to the Memorial Service she wrote *Celestial Flight* which has become required reading when a WASP makes her "final flight". It is also read at the annual Homecoming Memorial in Sweetwater after tolling the bell 38 times for those who paid it all during WW II. Elizabeth arrived at the funeral, fulfilling her promise to her dead friend, and gave the poem to Marie's mother. Marie gave her life for her country and was sent home in a simple box with the transportation paid by her family. She was not given a flag to drape her coffin and no military honors.

CELESTIAL FLIGHT

**She is not dead -
But only flying higher,
Higher than she's flown before,
And earthly limitations
Will hinder her no more.**

**There is no service ceiling,
Or any fuel range,
And there is no anoxia,
Or need for engine change.
Thank God that now her flight can be
To heights her eyes had scanned,
Where she can race with comets,
And buzz the rainbow's span.**

**For she is universal
Like courage, love and hope,
And all free, sweet emotions
Of vast and godly scope.**

**And understand a pilot's Fate
Is not the thing she fears,
But rather sadness left behind,
Your heartbreak and your tears**

**So all you loved ones, dry your eyes,
Yes, it is wrong that you should grieve,
For she would love your courage more,
And she would want you to believe**

**She is not dead.
You should have known
That she is only flying higher,
Higher than she's ever flown.**



Elizabeth MacKethan Magid, Veteran, Hero, and author of "Celestial Flight," which she penned for her friend who died for her country.



Marie Michell Robinson, who gave her life for her country at the tender age of 20.



Fifinella (Fifi)

The logo of the WASPs—created and copyrighted by Walt Disney

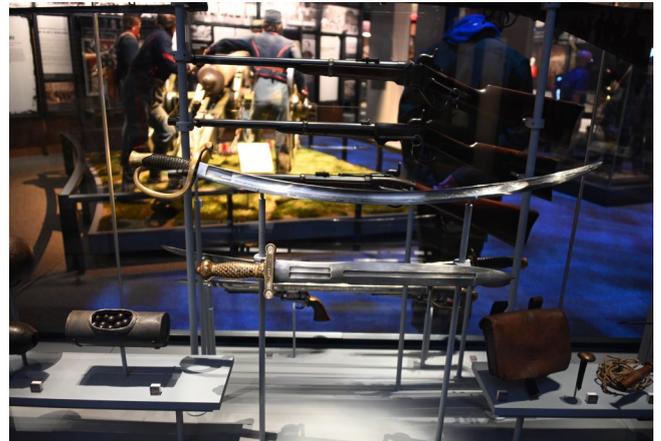


Some of the artifacts found at Marie Mitchell Robinson's B-25 crash site

IN THE JOY OF SAVANNAH, LET'S NOT FORGET THE EXPECTATIONS OF FORT BELVOIR AND THE U.S. ARMY MUSEUM IN 2022



The big five Army weapons used in Desert Storm Operations; Abrams tank, AH-64 Apache attack helicopter, UH-80 Blackhawk helicopter, M23 Bradley fighting vehicle and the Patriot Air Defense system.



Various weapons from the Civil War: swords, rifles, guns, ammo bags and cannon ammo.



The battlefield of WWI, the soldiers, their uniforms and weapons

If you don't know you were in the wrong outfit.



A Sherman tank from WW II. The tank was placed and the building built around it.



Model 1892 US Magazine Rifle 30 cal, used in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Also displayed are medals from the Spanish-American War and Cuba/Puerto Rico occupation and various equipment.



1st Cav cup and insignia



Troops in WW II loading on to a Landing Craft Assault Boat from a ship stationed offshore



A jeep in Korea mounted with a 50 Cal machine gun.
In the background hovers a Huey helicopter.



MASH 4077th in Korea? This and the H-13 helicopter changed the face of combat medicine and dropped the death rate of battle casualties below 10%.



The walkie-talkie of WW II allowed commanders to communicate with their troops and control the battle. Also seen are field rations, moels of tanks and vehicles, and the faithful Gerry can.



How the well dressed fighter pilot went "off into the wild blue yonder".



The Vietnam Airmobile operations area

A very well written piece of information worth **READING** and **SHARING** with **OTHERS**, Conservatives, Republicans, Independents and Democrats. It also is a great rebuttal to the Critical RACE Theory which all should read. In early January 2021, Bob Lonsberry, a Rochester talk radio personality on WHAM 1180 AM, said this in response to Biden's "Income inequality speech":

TIME IS THE ULTIMATE SUPERVISOR

Two Americas

contributed by Larry Mobley

The Democrats are right, there are two Americas.

The America that works, and the America that doesn't.

The America that contributes, and the America that doesn't.

It's not the haves and the have nots, it's the dos and the don'ts.

Some people do their duty as Americans, obey the law, support themselves, contribute to society, and others don't.

That's the divide in America. It's not about income inequality, it's about civic irresponsibility.

It's about a political party that preaches hatred, greed and victimization in order to win elective office.

It's about a political party that loves power more than it loves its country. That's not invective, that's truth, and it's about time someone said it.

The politics of envy was on proud display a couple weeks ago when President Biden pledged the rest of his term to fighting "income inequality." He noted that some people make more than other people, that some people have higher incomes than others, and he says that's not just.

That is the rationale of thievery. The other guy has it, you want it, Biden will take it for you. Vote Democrat.

That is the philosophy that produced Detroit. It is the electoral philosophy that is destroying America.

It conceals a fundamental deviation from American values and common sense because it ends up not benefiting the people who support it, but a betrayal.

The Democrats have not empowered their followers; they have enslaved them in a culture of dependence and entitlement, of victim-hood and anger instead of ability and hope.

The president's premise – that you reduce income inequality by debasing the successful – seeks to deny the successful the consequences of their choices and spare the unsuccessful the consequences of their choices. Because, by and large, income variations in society is a result of different choices leading to different consequences. Those who choose wisely and responsibly have a far greater likelihood of success, while those who choose foolishly and irresponsibly have a far greater likelihood of failure. Success and failure usually manifest themselves in personal and family income.

You choose to drop out of high school or to skip college – and you are apt to have a different outcome than someone who gets a diploma and pushes on with purposeful education and/or employment.

You have your children out of wedlock and life is apt to take one course; you have them within a marriage and life is apt to take another course.

Most often in life our destination is determined by the course we take.

My doctor, for example, makes far more than I do. There is significant income inequality between us. Our lives have had an inequality of outcome, but, our lives also have had an equality of effort. While my doctor went to college and then devoted his young adulthood to medical school and residency, I chose another avenue.

He made a choice, I made a choice, and our choices led us to different outcomes. His outcome pays a lot better than mine. Does that mean he cheated and Joe Biden needs to take away his wealth? No, it means we are both free men in a free society where free choices lead to different outcomes.

It is not inequality Joe Biden intends to take away, it is freedom. The freedom to succeed and the freedom to fail. There is no true option for success if there is no true option for failure. The pursuit of happiness means a whole lot less when you face the punitive hand of government if your pursuit brings you more happiness than the other guy. Even if the other guy sat on his arse and did nothing. Even if the other guy made a lifetime's worth of asinine and shortsighted decisions.

President Biden and the Democrats preach equality of outcome as a right, while completely ignoring inequality of effort. The simple Law of the Harvest – as ye sow, so shall ye reap – is sometimes applied as, "The harder you work, the more you get." Biden would turn that upside down. Those who achieve are to be punished as enemies of society and those who fail are to be rewarded as wards of society.

Entitlement will replace effort as the key to upward mobility in American society if President Biden Barack gets his way. He seeks a lowest common denominator society in which the government besieges the successful and productive to foster equality through mediocrity. He and his party speak of two Americas, and their grip on power is based on using the votes of one to sap the productivity of the other. **America is not divided by the differences in our outcomes, it is divided by the differences in our efforts. It is a false philosophy to say one man's success comes about unavoidably as the result of another man's victimization.**

What Biden offered was not a solution, but a separatism. He fomented division and strife, pitted one set of Americans against another for his own political benefit. That's what socialists offer. Marxist class warfare wrapped up with a bow.

Two Americas, coming closer each day to proving the truth to Lincoln's maxim that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

Final Flight:



David "Chalk" Courchane who served with B Batt. 2/20th (ARA)

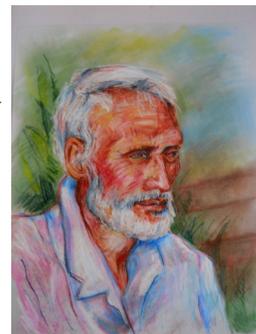
1st Cav Div (Airmobile) 1966-68 passed away May 24th, 2021. Best known as "Uncle Chalk", he was a proud member of the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe and a talented artist in his own right. He was born July 20, 1946, the youngest child of Viola Ashley Courchane and Louis Courchane. He spent his early years with his mother in Wenatchee until her death, at which time he

was still a teen. Soon after, he went to live with his sister, Sassy, and brother-in-law, O.A. Jones. That started his close to 50-year career as a cement mason. Soon after his mother's death, he lost his brother, Dale, in Vietnam. This was the most tragic thing to happen to Chalk in his life. His brother, only being a year older, was Chalk's idol and hero. This was hard on him for the rest of his life. Some of his best times as a young man fresh out of the Army after serving two tours with the 1st Cav in Vietnam, was spending his winters with his friends on the reservation and bartending for his sister, Darlene, and brother-in-law, Bob Matt, at the Silver Dollar Bar, in Saint Ignatius, MT.

His love and knowledge for history and genealogy brought him worldwide recognition, especially in his tribal and northwest heritage. His love for his friends and especially, his pets, was enormous, but even at that, his love for his wife, Pam, nieces, and nephews, outweighed everything else in his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, all eight of his siblings, and survived by his wife, Pam, and son, Dusty, several nieces; nephews; and cousins.

He was laid to rest at 12 noon with Military Honors at the Veterans Section of the Wenatchee City Cemetery.



A self-portrait?

As some of you may know, Gary Adams, our comrade of A/B Batt. '66-67, has been fighting a courageous and uncomplaining battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehring's Disease). This is a terrible, unrelenting and progressive disease which has no cure and is invariably fatal. It would be good if we who knew him, and those who might not, could send him a note of encouragement, friendship and a sincere promise for prayer for his last days. As you can see from the photo, he is doing remarkably well with a cane. Rodger has flown out there to be with his old friend.

The last address we know of is 5150 E. Comish Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401.
adamsinidaho@gmail.com (208) 522-3755



Soldiers and Friends
Gary and Rodger McAlister at
Jackson Hole, ID



Chaplain's Corner

"GRACE AFTER THE RAIN STORM"

I love to hear the rain. I envision God watering the earth and life continuing to be nourished as we see the growth of flowers, plants, and trees. Maybe you've heard the 1557 phrase of the English poet and farmer, Thomas Tusser, "Sweet April showers do bring May flowers." Sometimes the rain provides a reminder of God's grace. For others, rain may be equated with the 1971 Carpenters singing, "Rainy Days and Mondays always get me down." No matter how you view rain, we can all agree rain happens. It's part of life.

While a student at Davidson College in 1956, our on-campus married-student housing flooded and ruined all the flooring and had us living in other housing for several weeks. We even had shoes floating out of the bedroom into the hallway! In sharing this with my Bible professor, he reminded me of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you." (Isaiah 43:2). I felt overwhelmed while seeing and experiencing the damage the flood had caused. It was then I was reminded of a scripture reading from 2 Corinthians 12:9, "And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

There is Grace after the rain storm. I believe we can all find joy before, during, and after the storms of life. Jesus promised to always be with us. Jesus knows what it is to suffer. His death on the cross has provided the hope we have in life eternal. So whether it is rain and hail or snow and sleet, Jesus life, death, and resurrection gives us the assurance that we may find happiness and peace through the celebration we share.

Peace and health,

Chaplain Bruce Wilder



Ladies of the Association

FOR THE LADIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Once again, at the request of our President and Esteemed Editor, I am supplying some home town humor for all. So, guys, be sure to pass this on to your spouse.

Our local newspaper regularly carries a column by Len Robbins and having followed his input for a number of years I am convinced that he is writing about actual life experiences because you just can't keep making this stuff up.

Also, this goes along with the joke that the last Board of Directors "will meet in a telephone booth for their final meeting before dissolving the Association."

The folly of trying to explain phone booths

I love answering questions about the olden days.

"Dad, in the olden days was everything in black and white, or just the TV?"

"No, everything was in color including the TV?"

"In what grade were you in when you got your first computer?"

"17th."

"Huh?"

Then this one which seemed to shock my oldest son when he asked a while back.

"Dad, when did you get your first cell phone?"

"My first cell phone? Hmm." I wondered aloud. "I think I got my first cell phone a little over 20 years ago. Maybe 25. It was in the late 90s."

"What? Why didn't your parents buy you a cell phone when you were in high school, in college, what did you do? Were you in trouble and they punished you by taking away your cell phone?"

At this point, his astonishment ran down to his fingers and he began texting something to someone about his father growing up in a cave.

"Well, we didn't have cell phones when I was a teenager, and I don't remember anyone having one when I was in college," I explained. "I didn't get my first cell phone until I was out of college, maybe in my late 20s or early 30s."

"How, what, how, what, did you do when you needed to call someone?"

"I went to a regular land line phone and called them."

"What's a land line phone? Are you making this stuff up again?"

His cynicism is justified. I have at some point told my children that I fought in the Spanish-American War, invented Pringles, was Samuel L. Jackson's room-mate in college, and was a member of the cast of the blockbuster motion picture "E.T." playing "E.T." They later found out that I was fibbing on almost all accounts.

"No, a land-line is a phone that you have in your house that plugs into a wall. You know, like the phone we have now and never use."

"So, how did you call people from your car if you didn't have a cell phone?"

"You didn't," I replied.

"What? You mean, you didn't take your phone with you in your car?"

"No, I mean I didn't have a portable phone. No one did. You had a phone at your house and that was it. Or you used a pay phone," I explained.

"A pay phone? You mean, you had a cell phone, but it's one where you pay for your minutes up front?"

He didn't get it.

"No, a pay phone is a land-line phone that's in a booth." I retorted.

"What's a booth?"

"A phone booth is a glass-enclosed cubicle that had a phone in it, and you put a quarter in it if you had to make a phone call," I said. "They had a pay phone booth on about every corner."

I might as well have been explaining this in Cantonese.

"Wait, let me figure this out," he said. "How did you make a phone call if you wanted to ask someone a question or tell them something? Did you just text them?"

I laughed out loud.

"Text? No, there was no such thing as texting," I said with a chortle. "If you wanted to talk to somebody, you waited until you got home or to a pay phone and then you called them. Or, if it was an emergency and you were on the road you would stop and use one of the aforementioned phone booths, and you would put some money in the phone and you would call them. Do you understand?"

"I think so," he replied, pausing to try to fathom the ways of ancient civilizations.

"Well, I guess, when you were young, you just had to wait if you wanted to talk to someone. You couldn't just talk to them whenever you liked," he reasoned.

"Precisely," I agreed.

"If you wanted to tell someone something," he added, "you would have to find one of those land phones, or find a computer and e-mail them."

"Uh huh," I replied, giving up.

Gloria Hobby
Falconess 6X

THE FIRST HELICOPTER WAR

Many Helicopter Pilots who served in the Vietnam War assumed that we fought in the “First Helicopter War” and that we developed the tactics that were used then and continue to be used today. It would appear that we are/were wrong.

The French Army, which in 1954 had been defeated by the Viet Minh insurgents in Indochina, was able to successfully defeat the Algerian nationalist rebels on the battlefield. Their success between 1954 and 1962 was due in large part to the superior logistical system of the French Army and the use of the helicopter to enhance French operational mobility. French counter-mobility measures, particularly the construction of heavily defended interdiction zones on the eastern and western border of Algeria, proved highly effective against the rebels. Such methods essentially cut off the rebel forces from their bases and from sources of supply outside Algeria, and consequently strangled and destroyed the rebel forces within Algeria. Nevertheless, France lost the war at the conference table.

The 1950's, '60's, and '70's were the era of the “limited war” and the “low-intensity conflict.” Every hot spot in Middle East, Africa, Asia or South America was suddenly part of the Cold War. This particular outlook colored every aspect of the late 20th-century strategy and tactics and gave rise to a new understanding of the purpose, design, and use of aircraft and helicopters in combat. France has been the major contributor to these developments, mostly by creating new tactics.

Helicopters were first used extensively during the Korean War (1950-1953) but typically in medical evacuation missions and cargo delivery roles. In Indochina (1946-1954) most of the helicopters used by the French Army for casualty evacuation were Hiller H-23, Westland WS-51, and Sikorsky H-19. The technology of the time did not allow for much more. But by the time war broke out in French North Africa (1954-1962), relatively large, powerful helicopters were available in quantity. Piasecki H-21 “flying banana” and French built Sikorski H-34 helicopters rapidly displaced fixed-wing for the transport of paras, legionnaires, and commando teams. France made aggressive use of helicopters in Algeria, both as troop transports, developing the new concept of tactical assault landings, and as gunships. The helicopter was fast, so guerillas had less chance to fade away into the hills after an attack. They were immune to ambushes and roadblocks that constantly frustrated road convoys. Even large infantry operations were mounted by heliborne troops.

Bell 47s (H-13s) or Alouette IIs performed reconnaissance and command-and-control duties, while H-19s, H-21s or H-34s transported the troops. Armed helicopters that provided some (helped by planes) or all of the fire support for the operations were usually H-34s called “Pirate” in the Army or “Mammoth” in the Navy. The Navy also used H-21s called “Couleuvre”. The Alouette II and III were also used but mainly to fire AS10 and AS11 air-ground missiles.

In 1954/1955, French Commanders placed infantry machine gunners on the litters of their Bell 47 (H-13s) casualty evacuation helicopters. These ad hoc gunships could outflank guerillas dug in on otherwise inaccessible ridges. But they were clearly not ideal. In 1955/1956, the French Air Force experimented with armed H-19s, then being superseded in the transport role by the more capable H-21s and H-34s. The H-19 was given a 20mm cannon, rocket launchers fixed to fire ahead, and two .50 machine guns, and a 7.5-mm light machine gun firing from the cabin windows. While more lightly armed H-19s were used in action (a 20mm cannon, two .50 machine guns) they were still too light and low-powered for the gunship role. Some H-21s were armed with batteries of forward firing rockets and machine guns and some even had racks for fragmentation bombloads. Most received a door mounted 20-mm gun and two .50 machine guns. The H-34s proved the best gunships. Standard armament comprised a 20mm cannon (the German MG151), firing from the cabin door, two .50 machineguns firing from the cabin windows to port, and sometimes batteries of 37mm or 68mm rockets. Reloadable quadruple mountings for 73mm bazookas and additional fixed, forward-firing guns were also tried. The real totally dedicated gunships arrived only years later in Vietnam with the Huey Cobra but the US also used UH-1 Huey and CH-46/CH-47 helicopters in that role before the arrival of the Cobra.

During the Algerian War, the Nord AS.10 and AS.11 wire-guided antitank missiles were first used against guerillas who had holed up in heavily fortified mountain caves. Alouette IIs and IIIs could carry four missiles each, the latter often operating in mixed formations with gun-armed Alouette IIIs, which could carry a 20mm MG151 cannon on a mounting in the port cabin door.

The helicopter gunships often provided the most responsive and effective air support for troops in the field. Heavy, fixed-wing aircraft, such as the B-26s and Skyraiders, were centrally controlled and organized, as corps-level Groupments Aeriens Tactiques or GATACs. Their bases were often far from the fighting – three GATACs covered the whole country from central bases in Oran, Algiers, and Constantine. The T-6s, SIPAs, and Fenecs (T-28) were organized into forward air commands and dispersed across the whole country, this more prone to provide near-immediate support demanded by troops in contact with the enemy. Since helicopters were often on the scene, with weapons leftover after the landing zone had been cleared, ground commanders began to call them for general fire support. The results achieved eventually led both the Air Force and ALAT (Aviation Legere de L'Armee de Terre – Army Light Aviation) to regularize this field- expedient. The basic helicopter unit, the Detachment d'Intervention Heliportee (DIH) became, in effect, the organic air force of the airborne infantry task force. This distinction between air-force and army air-service roles would later be adopted in its entirety by the United States. The French developed the aggressive role of the helicopters and used them massively, in organized structures, for assault and attack for the first time. All the light CAS aircraft developed the concept of guerilla warfare.

Interesting to note, that while the French were successful on the battlefield, they ultimately lost at the negotiating table. Sound familiar!

Jesse L. Hobby

Armed Falcon 29 Fox 1

Source:

THE FIRST HELICOTER WAR
Logistics and Airmobility in Algeria
1954 – 1962
Charles R. Shrader



From Scott Rickenbacer

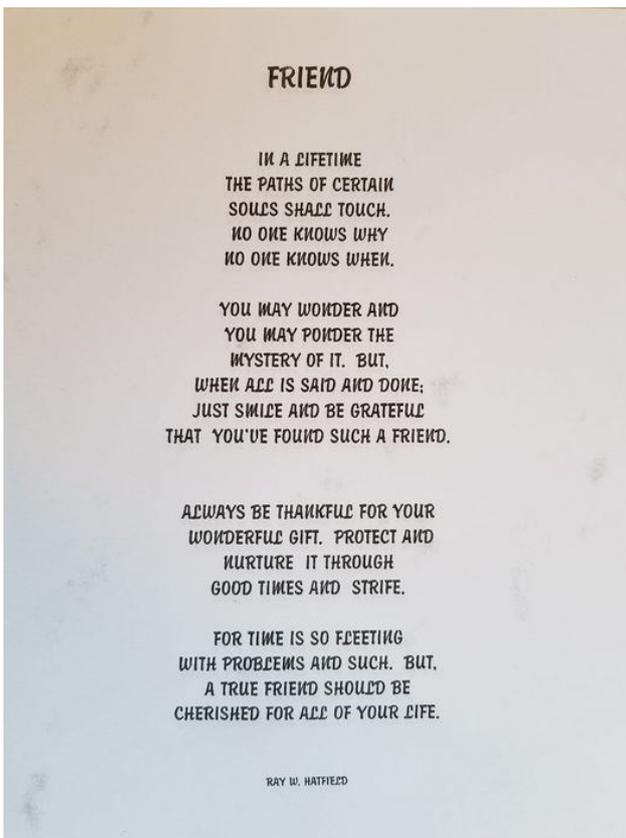


"That's a version I never saw, This hat would to hot for my 1st Cav tour in Vietnam" Jule Szabo

A request from Victoria (Stueber) Chester, daughter of Arnold J. Stueber, a few days ago. She would like to get contact with anyone who served with him in HQ Btry 2/20th from 11/70 - 4/71. He was radio/telephone specialist in the TOC. Nickname was "Butch" or "The Count"
 If anyone can provide information, please contact Victoria Chester by phone or text at 303-898-4442 or email vstueber@icloud.com
 If texting or email lead with "Information - Arnold J. Stueber."

TWELVE COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS

- # 1 - Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice
 - # 2 - In Style are the clothes that still fit.
 - # 3 - You don't need anger management. You need people to stop making you mad.
 - # 4 - Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
 - # 5 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is, I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it. "
 - # 6 -On time is when you get there.
 - # 7 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.
 - # 8 - It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
 - # 9 - Lately, You've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
 - # 10 - Growing old should have taken longer.
 - # 11 - Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
 - # 12 - You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will??
- And one more:
 "One for the road" means going to the bathroom before you leave the house.



Contributed by Ray Hatfield.

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ORDER FORM FOR APPAREL, CAPS, PATCHES, STICK-ONS

Name: _____

Address: _____

CAPS, Men's, come in one size (has adjustable headband) and will have the ARA Logo embroidered on the front and can have your name on the right side and call sign on the left side, if desired. Cost will be \$10.00

Print name as you want it to appear: _____

Print call sign as you want it to appear: _____

CAPS, Women's, come in one size and in two (2) styles – Short brim and low profile or as a Headband (both have adjustable headband) and will have the ARA Logo embroidered on the front and can have your name on the right side, if desired. If you would like to give yourself a call sign such as DRAGON LADY, LADY TORO, GRIFFIN MISTRESS, BLUE MAX MISTRESS, FALCONESS that can be put on the left sign. Cost will be \$10.00

Print name as you want it to appear: _____

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Shirts for men and women are available in sizes Small, Medium, Large, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, and 5XL and will have the ARA Logo embroidered on the left side.

Men's Polo Shirt(s) - _____ X \$20.00 = _____ Size _____
ordered

Women's Polo Shirt(s) - _____ X \$20.00 = _____ Size _____
ordered

Women's Long or 3/4 Sleeve Button Shirt(s) - _____ X \$25.00 = _____ Size _____
ordered

Patches, Cloth - _____ X \$5.00 = _____
Specify Unit

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Specify Unit

Patches, Stickers - _____ X \$1.00 = _____
Specify Unit

Please add 7% GA ST and \$14.35 shipping charge to your order:

TOTAL = _____

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

ARA ASSOCIATION

c/o Herbert L. Hirst

P.O. Box 220

North Plains, OR 97133-0220



AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

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

Name _____ Wife's Name _____

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(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	_____

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Street or PO Box

_____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____

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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 Herbert L. Hirst

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Web address – www.araassociation.com