



The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 13 No 2

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

October –December, 2020

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AerialRocketArtilleryAssociation>



“Aerial Rocket Artillery”....when called on by those who were in danger, our units were there laying it on the line.

We were proud of our Aerial Rocket Artillery Team then and still proud of it now.

The Straphanger Gazette is a quarterly publication of the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association. Issues will be published on or about the 1st of January, April, July and October. Members who have e-mail will receive a copy as an pdf attachment

THIS WAS THE YEAR THAT WASN'T



President's Corner

Dear Members, Family Members, Readers and Guests,

First and foremost; I trust that you and your Loved Ones are safe, well, healthy, and protected!!!

Please take exceptional care of yourselves as we navigate the various challenges from SARS COV 2 (the virus) and COVID-19 (the disease), the devastation and fallout from the Western fires and smoke reaching the East Coast, record heat waves in the Southwest, storms and hurricanes affecting the Gulf and East Coasts; and adjusting our lives to stay whole, complete, and in good spirits.

Some suggested nutrients, supplements, and remedies to boost your immune system in sufficient amounts are Vitamin C, Vitamin D3, Zinc, Selenium, Quercetin, NAC (N-Acetyl-L-Cystienine), and Black Elderberry Syrup. Do your own research to see if these will benefit you.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Gloria Hobby will be writing the input of the ARA Ladies section of the Straphanger.

The electronic copy of the directory should be in your inbox by the time you are reading this newsletter. The hard copy mailing is delayed.

Gordon A. Blaker, Director/Curator of the U.S. Army Artillery Museum and the Team have completed the ARA display at the museum. The pre-pandemic plan was to have as many ARA soldiers gather for the unveiling the display as possible. The best offering under the current situation is a photo of the wall display near the Cobra. Photos of the Cobra has been shown in past newsletters.

Jim Mitsche spearheaded the Zoom Conference on July 23, 2020, the 50th Anniversary of the Emergency Rescue of Steve Wood and Ron Knapp. The initial mission was to rescue Special Operations soldiers who were surrounded in Laos. Steve and Ron's Cobra was shot down during the mission. Steve was the PIC who made a spectacular autorotation in Elephant Grass that was taller than the Cobra was high.

The Zoom Conference covered the details of this amazing Emergency Rescue. Present on the Conference were Jim Mitschke, Steve Wood, Ron Knapp, Jack Weaver, Jim Martin, John Carter, John Meyer, Tom Yarborough, Ashley Wells, VHPA Historian - Mike Sloniker, Chief of History and Legacy Branch, United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration - Mark Franklin, and Me. Branch Chief Mark Franklin was an observer of the Conference. We are hopeful that all participants in this mission who have not been interviewed by the Vietnam War Commemoration will be so their stories can be recorded and placed in the Library of Congress.

Mike Sloniker sent a copy of the Biography of Captain Henry Mershon Spengler III an ARA Pilot with F Battery, 79th ARA, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. Captain was an In-Country transfer from A Battery, 4/77th ARA, 101st Airborne Division when it stood down. Also mentioned in the Biography is Chief Warrant Officer Charles C. Windeler, Jr of Savannah, GA who was the Aircraft Commander. Their Cobra was shot down by a shoulder fired SAM 7 missile. Salute to our two ARA Brothers!!!

Now that the ARA exhibit is complete and installed in the Vietnam Section of the Field Artillery Museum; there is another Museum that wants ARA memorabilia - The National Vietnam War Museum, Weatherford, Texas. One of our ARA plaques has been donated to the museum. Call the Museum at 940-325-4003 or visit their website: www.nationalvnwarmuseum.org Remember to send copies of your books, notes, journals, mission briefings, personal accounts of missions; and audio recordings to the Morris Swett Library to be archived to document ARA's history. Send to: **Morris Swett Library, 730 SCHIMMELPFENNIG ROAD, FORT SILL, OK 73503**

Blessings to you and your families. **STAY SAFE, WELL, HEALTHY, AND PROTECTED!!!**

All the Best,

Clovis Jones, Jr.

ARA 6

The Best Laid Plans.....

In light of the seemingly ever-changing situation, it might be well to repeat some of the information previously shared and keep tabs on the upcoming events.

Jerry and Ann Hipp have reset the accommodations with Holiday Inn Express at the exact same prices for almost the same dates. The 23rd ARA Reunion will be held in Savannah, GA August 30 through September 3, 2021—with availability for those who wish it from August 28-September 5, 2021. IF YOU MADE A RESERVATION FOR 2020, YOU MUST CANCEL IT PER PHONE OR ONLINE. You can do that while you make your reservation for 2021. (1-912-231-9000 or 1-888-978-6498).

The Hipps, are working on the other venues which had to be cancelled. They will do all possible to rebuild the great reunion which was planned. So far, it appears we will enjoy all the same venues as originally planned. However, time takes its toll and prices may vary. Therefore, we will not publish a new sign-up sheet until the December issue to allow for any changes. Look for it in December.

NEWS

News from Jule:

The virus halted the work on the U.S. Army Museum, so it will not be ready for us in 2021

The ARA 2022 Virginia Reunion Dates will be 14 Sept - 18 Sept 2022

Breakdown of dates and major events as follows:

14 Sept Welcome

15 Sept Visit Vietnam Memorial and Army Museum; Welcome Dinner

16 Sept Visit Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy Museum

17 Sept Board/Membership meeting and Farewell Dinner

18 Sept Depart for home

I have moved the ARA reunion photos to a new web site called "Flickr" since we could not get people logged in, or with difficulty, on the google web site.

•Go to the Flickr web page, "**Sign in**" center white box title "Choose an account"; click on "Use another Account" (https://identity.flickr.com/account_picker)

•Enter login, click next Login: arareunionphotos@gmail.com

Enter Password, then click "sign in" ([click off remember email address if do not want it to remember](#)) –

Password: **Rocket2020#S**

•A page will appear, go to **top** and **click on the word "You"** and then scroll down to "**Photostream**" That will take you to the photos for 2019 ARA reunion.

•For More photos: Scroll down to the bottom, then click on the numbers for additional pictures

To log out: go the top of the page, far right symbols, click and scroll down to logout

From the Quartermaster:

If you wish to order patches, hats, etc use the form in this issue or the one from Volume 12 No.4.

Prices and things have changed.



ARA Wall Display at Field Artillery Museum comprised of photos from Vietnam, ARA patches, plaque with brief ARA History, and a tactical map donated by Jack Taber.

A note from Bert Toepel:

“As you may know, The Army Historical Association is in the final stages of building The National Museum of the United States Army on the grounds of Ft. Belvoir. It was due to open in June; however, this has been delayed. I have been contributing to this project for several years and, as a result, receive periodic updates. Just recently, the newsletter included a suggestion that Army units can purchase unit plaques to display along an entry path to the entrance to the museum. My first thought was that The 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery should have one displayed!

I’m attaching the back cover of the latest newsletter that describes a plaque that costs \$5,000. What do you think of the idea? What might others think? Mildred and I have \$500 ready and available as a first contribution if others support the idea. I’m sure we have the talent to design the plaque. I have a number of histories of the battalion from its first activation (1916) and a most recent copy could be obtained from the Department of the Army.”

Editor’s Note: I personally think it is a great idea. It is imperative that we take steps to preserve the memory of what may have been the finest fighting force in the history of the Army, and the shortest lived. Even with private donations, such an expenditure would require Board and membership approval. I will join Bert and Mil in supporting this idea and suggest we begin rolling out our talent to design something worthy of the ARA.

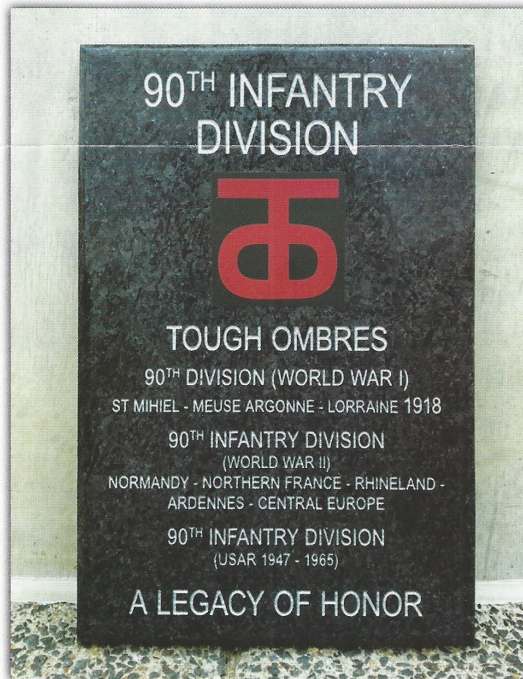
HONOR YOUR ARMY UNIT TODAY!

Do you want to ensure YOUR Army unit is honored at the National Museum of the United States Army? Consider working with your fellow Soldiers to purchase a Unit Tribute plaque! Plaques are available to honor individual units of any size and period of time. They are 12” x 18” in size, made of polished Mesabi black granite, and can be purchased for \$5,000. Unit Tribute plaques will line the *Path of Remembrance* leading up to the National Army Museum.

The veterans who served at Phu Lam—the largest strategic communications base during the Vietnam War—banded together to sponsor a plaque. Josef Rokus, who led the campaign to raise funds for their tribute noted, “The support was overwhelmingly positive, as were the general comments about the Museum. Many thought this was the perfect way to commemorate the work we did in Vietnam.

Take this time now to contact your fellow veterans to purchase a Unit Tribute plaque today!

For more information visit armyhistory.org/unit-tributes/.



THE ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

www.armyhistory.org 1-800-506-2872

PRESIDENT
LTG Roger Schultz (USA-Ret.)

**ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF
MUSEUM OPERATIONS & MARKETING**
Jamie Hubans

CONTENT SPECIALIST
Emily C. R. George

CREATIVE AND BRAND MANAGER
Randy Yasenchak

FROM TWO GREAT FRIENDS, CONTRIBUTORS AND FELLOW ARA MEN;

Russ Warriner and Larry Mobley

To understand a Military Veteran, you must know:

We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.

We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.

We found new friends and new family.

We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed.

We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.

We didn't get enough sleep.

We smoked and drank too much.

We picked up both good and bad habits

We worked hard and played harder.

We didn't earn a great wage.

We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.

We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.

Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.

Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.

Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.

We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.

We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.

We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.

We have dealt with victory and tragedy.

We have celebrated and mourned.

We lost a few along the way.

When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.

We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.

We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.

We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.

We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.

It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.

People see a Veteran and they thank them for their service.

When we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not.

Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times.

Share your stories.

But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a Veteran.

I'm a VETERAN! I WOULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN AND AGAIN!

A SALUTE TO JANE FONDA



BHam ReArm Pad Nov. 1970

Final Flight:

Henry Mershon Spengler III, Captain, United States Army



The son of a career Army officer, he was born on October 26, 1946 and graduated from West Point in June 1968. He was killed-in-action on April 5, 1972 while serving with the 101st Airborne Division in the Republic of Vietnam. His body was not recovered and identified until 1989 and he was then buried in Section 3 of Arlington National Cemetery beside the gravesite of his father, [Henry Mershon Spengler II](#), who had been killed in the crash of a military aircraft in Germany. Another officer, [Henry C. Spengler](#), who was killed in action in World War I, is buried nearby and research continues regarding him.

August 24, 1989: Seventeen years after Army Captain Henry Mershon Spengler III of Alexandria was killed in action in South Vietnam, his remains are coming home. Of the 21 bodies of US servicemen expatriated by Vietnam on April 29, 1989 Captain Spengler's are among only five positively identified by the Military Central Identification Laboratory in Honolulu. The others are undergoing analysis to determine identification. Captain Spengler, who was 26 years old when he was killed, was buried Monday next to his father in Arlington National Cemetery.

"We're not angry at the Army. It's (Vietnam) a difficult country to deal with," Betty Spengler, widow of Brigadier General Henry M. Spengler, said of the 17-year delay in receiving her son's remains. Yesterday, the flag-draped coffins of Captain Spengler, Chief Warrant Officer Charles C. Windeler Jr. of Savannah, Ga., and Sergeant First Class Edward D. Reilly Jr. of Philadelphia arrived under military escort at Travis Air Force Base near San Francisco. The caskets were carried past an honor guard.

The short ceremony was made more poignant because Captain Spengler and Chief Warrant Officer Windeler died side by side on April 5, 1972. Captain Spengler was piloting a Cobra helicopter over An Loc, South Vietnam, when crews of nearby helicopters reported smoke coming from the engine exhaust. He and Chief Warrant Officer Windeler began to look for an open field for an emergency landing. Due to the altitude of the aircraft, they flew beyond the field. After they turned to make a proper approach, the helicopter made a 360-degree spin, recovered to a landing position, but then struck the ground hitting the right front skid. Flames spread from the engine compartment to the rear of the aircraft upon impact. Neither man could escape the aircraft. The airborne helicopters attempted to recover the bodies but were turned away by enemy anti-aircraft fire. Captain Spengler - a member of Troop F, 79th Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division - would have finished his second and last year of duty in Vietnam four months after he was shot down.

"He was very enthusiastic about everything, but especially handball," said Mrs. Spengler, whose son graduated from his father's alma mater, West Point, in 1968. "There's a special award given in his name for handball players at West Point. He just loved life. He was a very warm, friendly person who liked to joke and just have a good time."

Captain Spengler's widow, Bette Meuleners, has remarried. Tomorrow, her husband, Lieutenant Colonel Michael S. Meuleners, a 1970 West Point graduate stationed at Ft Ord, California, escorted Captain Spengler's casket from Travis Air Force Base to Washington, D. C.

Captain Spengler's children, Henry IV and Melissa, and Mrs. Meuleners happened to be visiting Mrs. Spengler when the Pentagon telephoned last Friday with the bittersweet news that Captain Spengler's remains had been found and identified.

"It does raise a lot of grief, but it does take away the waiting time to get the remains and have the final internment," said Mrs. Spengler. Captain Spengler will take his place beside his father in Section 3, 2505-1, at Arlington National Cemetery at 10 a.m. Monday.

Although Mrs. Spengler initially decided to have only immediate family members at the funeral, she said those who have asked to be present include West Point friends of both her husband and her son, friends of the family and members of her church.

Captain Henry M. Spengler III's mother originally thought her son would be buried at ANC with only the immediate family present. But Betty Spengler changed her mind after more than 100 friends, including a dozen or so officers who graduated from West Point with her son in 1968, contacted her about attending.

Captain Spengler's remains, held by the Vietnamese government for 17 years after he was killed in action at age 26, were buried with full military honors.

The Remains of twenty-one American soldiers were repatriated by Vietnam on April 29. Captain Spengler's, along with those of five others, have been positively identified by the Military Central Identification Laboratory in Honolulu.

In the interim years, Captain Spengler was remembered by his family in a special way. The words "In Memoriam" appear above the officer's name on a black granite tombstone he shares with his father, Brigadier General Henry M. Spengler. They were etched there in 1972. Yesterday, a platoon of soldiers, Pershing's Own Band and officers bearing the colors marched behind a horse-drawn caisson bearing Captain Spengler's flag-draped coffin to a grassy knoll atop Arlington National Cemetery.

"With great pride, Henry followed in his father's footsteps, first at West Point and then in the Army," said James Locker in a graveside eulogy of his classmate at both Frances C. Hammond High School in Alexandria and West Point. Locker described his childhood friend as one who "loved to hear a good story or to tell one." He reminded those present of Captain Spengler's passion for handball. A special award is given to West Point's best handball player in his name. After the eulogies, the Lord's Prayer was recited by the mourners. Members of Captain Spengler's family on hand included Mrs. Spengler; the Captain's children, Melissa and Henry M. Spengler IV; and his widow, Bette Meuleners, whose husband, Lieutenant Colonel Michael S. Meuleners, escorted the coffin from California to Virginia.

The ceremony was punctuated by a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps. Tears flowed down the cheeks of Mrs. Spengler and her 2 teen-age grandchildren as each was presented with a folded American flag. The ceremony ended with the three Spenglers and Mrs. Meuleners each placing a long-stemmed American Beauty rose on Captain Spengler's coffin.

Captain Spengler was a member of F Battery, 79th Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division. His awards include the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal (12th award), Army Commendation Medal, Ranger Tab, Parachute Badge and Army Aviation Badge. Captain Spengler would have finished his first year of duty in Vietnam four months after he was shot down on Apr 5, 1972.

Captain Henry Mershon Spengler III: "Hank" was Killed in action on 5 April 1972 near Loc Ninh in Binh Long Province. Originally assigned to A/4/77 at Phu Bai, Hank was reassigned to 4/79 ARA/1st Cavalry Division when his former unit was rotated to Fort Campbell in January 1972. The official records lists him as an "air loss", "A3-type casualty" (died while missing as a result of hostile action). The following brief tribute of Hank was written by an anonymous friend & A/4/77 comrade:

"Hank Spengler was a roommate of mine and it was his professionalism and guidance that helped me to be a good Artillery Officer and Battery Commander. He wrote me several pages of guidance on what to do as a commander; since I was a new artillery officer at the time. Hank had been in country for less than six months when he requested to be moved south so he could get a "full tour" on his record (he could have taken a drop and gone home early). I heard that his aircraft was the first to be shot down by a shoulder fired SAM 7. When I first met Hank I liked him from the start. He told me how his family did not want him to go into aviation because his father (Army Brigadier General) was killed in a helicopter crash in Germany in 1961. He was determined to fly and was commissioned as an Engineer. Not too many of those in the pilot arena! He was a good pilot with a lot of common sense. I left A Battery before he did and was devastated when I read about him in the Army Times"

Other Personnel in Incident: Charles E. Windeler (remains returned)

SYNOPSIS:

On April 5, 1972, Captain Henry M. Spengler, pilot, and Warrant Officer Charles E. Windeler, aircraft commander, were flying as lead aircraft in an AH1G helicopter (tail #67-15594) against an enemy force in the vicinity of Loc Ninh in Vinh Long Province, South Vietnam.

As the helicopter was pulling off its second gun run, it was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire. The helicopter began to descend with flames billowing from the exhaust area, and at about 300 feet above the ground, it appeared that the tail boom began to bend and wobble, causing the aircraft to spin to the left.

The gunship crashed, burst into flames, and exploded. Several members of the flight saw the helicopter during the descent and crash, but saw no one escape from the aircraft.

An aerial search was made by numerous aircraft, but no survivors were seen. No ground search was attempted due to hostile fire. An electronic search failed to locate any survivors.

Witnesses believed that Spengler and Windeler were killed in the crash of their helicopter. Because no bodies were found, they were listed with honor among the missing, prisoner, and unaccounted for from the Vietnam war.

For seventeen years, the Vietnamese denied knowledge of Spengler and Windeler, although the crash of the aircraft was in enemy-held territory, and it has always been thought that the Vietnamese knew what happened to the two men. Then, in late August, 1989, the U.S. announced that the Vietnamese had discovered and returned remains for both Spengler and Windeler.

Now, at least their families no longer wonder if they are among the hundreds said to be still alive in captivity. They know their men are dead. However, they may never know for sure how - or when - they died



REST IN PEACE OUR BROTHERS. YOU GAVE THE LAST FULL
MEASURE OF DEVOTION AND WE SALUTE YOU



Chaplain's Corner

Wouldn't you like to have the answer to that often asked question now that we are in the midst of the Covid19 pandemic? What do we know about the end time? Let us turn to the Gospel of Mark 13: 24-27. This chapter is often called The Little Apocalypse, based on its similarity to the Great Apocalypse of the Revelation of John.

Apocalyptic literature usually reflects a strong dualism—good against evil. It presents dramatic visions full of symbols—numbers, colors, and animals—codes that must be explained or interpreted. It sees time, not as cyclic (as the Greeks thought of time), but as a linear movement toward God's final judgment. It regards present troubles as mere birth pangs that will lead to the final consummation of God's reign. It holds out hope for the faithful who are suffering now, but who will receive a Godly reward in the end.

Does anyone on earth have any idea when that will happen? Jesus deals with the “when” question by saying, “But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Jesus tells us to watch, keep alert, and pray; for you don't know when the time is.”

He deals with the “signs” question by telling of false messiahs and false prophets, wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes and famines, persecution, betrayal by family members, “the abomination of desolation,” the darkening of the sun and moon, and the falling of the stars.

At the time of the writing of this Gospel, Christians were experiencing persecution. Jerusalem had been destroyed. This chapter presents Jesus' promise that time is moving toward the coming of the Son of Man, who will gather all the people together and make all things right.

The church today is divided between Christians who await expectantly the return of the Son of Man and Christians who ignore this aspect of Jesus' teaching altogether. We are often embarrassed by bumper stickers that warn that a car will be driverless in the event of the Rapture and by cartoon images of wacko men (they always seem to be men) carrying signs that proclaim, “REPENT!”

Nevertheless, we need to take Jesus' words in Mark 13 as seriously as we take Jesus' words elsewhere. The promise is that God has prepared something wonderful beyond our world and time. Is that more difficult to believe than the resurrection? Shouldn't we believe that God will redeem the world?

Shouldn't we be happy at the prospect of Christ coming again to set our world right once again?

Peace,
Bruce Wilder
Chaplain

Ladies of the Association

I was asked by our President, Clovis Jones, and by our esteemed editor, Asa Talbot (who is always looking for input) to periodically submit articles for our newsletter, and since the next issue is for October, November, and December, I thought that something about **FOOTBALL** (or the lack of it) might be amusing. The following article from Southern Living may be the harbinger of what to expect this year.

Fantasy Football By Rick Bragg

One day this summer, I watched a single lonely member of a marching band high-step through an empty parking lot in my Alabama home town, practicing for a season in doubt. Hope never dies in football country.

It has been a summer of unease. But even with so much to worry about, so many serious things, I caught myself wondering what the South would be like without football as we know it.

I knew it was selfish to worry about a game when the whole world has been rearranged, but in my lifetime, there's never been a fall without football and all that it implies. On Friday nights, there's always a caravan of yellow buses rumbling through the Alabama dusk, from Heflin to Jacksonville. And, on Saturdays, in stadiums that hold more folks than a midsize city, there's a roar that I can't imagine an autumn without it.

For months I listened to a whole region in denial, heard people fret and guess and bounce from one hopeful headline to another and try to offer up their own solutions to the unthinkable. "What if we all wore spacesuits?" they pondered. They prayed for a cure – and a National Championship. They prayed for mankind and for a kickoff time for Alabama versus USC. But even as I am writing this, we still don't know. Magazine deadlines sometimes force us to project ahead and as the summer settles over us, there is still no answer.

So, I imagined the worst, picturing a bleak world. A forlorn Ed Orgeron stomped down a deserted sideline in Baton Rouge. "Go Tiguhs!" he growled. It echoed through empty seats. "One team, one heartbeat" drifted down from the nosebleed section, where a lone fan wept into a daiquiri.

In Tuscaloosa, Nick Saban wandered through the city, searching for a sportswriter to glare at. "That's a stupid question" he said, his eyes drilling into the young man before him. "But sir" sputtered back the young man, "all I asked was if you wanted fries with that."

Actual tumbleweeds blew through College Station. The Texas A&M boosters paid Jimbo Fisher another million every time one rolled by. In Auburn, a cabal of uneasy fans called for Gus Maizahn's head, then, when the wind shifted, gave him a Ferrari. In Oxford, Lane Kiffin diagrammed a new post pattern with a tick on a hot rock. In Gainesville, Dan Mullen organized his shoes in The Swamp. In Athens, UGA scratched himself. ESPN *College GameDay* picked the flea in an upset.

I searched for optimism. I watched *The Paul Finebaum Show*, listening to insiders and regular people, all of them united in their uncertainty and hope. I dozed off, still hoping.

"And when we return from the commercial, Paul will show us how to whip up a quick and easy Bundt cake.."

But it was just a terrible dream.

And so, ladies, if your husband is a diehard football fan, please be patient, tolerant, and supportive. **This is something we've never experienced!**

Gloria Hobby

Email addresses for the ladies

Baird, Marlene - flytiger@cablone.net; Borgeson, Pat - pborgeson@lalique.com or pborg12@yahoo.com; Brown, Linda -- lindawbrown@juno.com; Cooper, Roberta - rangerover53@yahoo.com; Dauley, Donna - dnurdgd@comcast.net; Doty, Maureen - DotyMaureen@yahoo.com; Fleming, Gloria - gwhz@hotmail.com; Giles, Rose - r.c.giles41@gmail.com; Gomez., Milly - chcogomez@aol.com; Grice, Kathy - Kalgrice@gmail.com; Hengeveld, Peggy - awings72@verizon.net; Hirst, Cindy -- hirst@q.com; Hobby, Gloria - gloriahobby@yahoo.com; Jones, Diane—dianethomas40@yahoo.com; - Klinker, Kay - kayklinker@gmail.com; Mahoney, Melba - skyqueen1@sw.rr.com; McAlister, Marilyn - 5starmcalister@att.net; O'Dell, Kathy - i_am_kathy@hotmail.com; O'Keefe, Maryetta ---maryetta4@cox.net; Padilla, Mary Jane - mary_jane_padilla@hotmail.com; Pullano, Arlene - joseph.pullano@att.net; Quesada, Isabel—isamubra@hotmail.com or saprisa44@hotmail.com; Retterath, Carol - rranch@westriv.com; Roberson, Linda - so_shinede@aol.com; Sanchez, Susie - sksdesigns1@verizon.net; Szabo, Joan -- sailboatjs1@verizon.net; Talbot, Jean -- asartalbot@gmail.com; Toepel, Mildred - mbtoepel@msn.com; Tokar, Barbara - BarbTokar@SBC.Golbal.net; Voeltz, Jean - cav2_20th@hotmail.com; Wilder, Patti - pattenmom05@yahoo.com; Williams, Dale - barbierule@aol.com; Wilson, Ellie - geneandellie@comcast.net

Cultural Suicide Is Painless

The story of all Dark Ages is that when civilizations finally prefer suicide, they do it easily, and the remnants flock to the countryside to preserve what they can—allowing the cities go on with their ritual self-destruction.

By [Victor Davis Hanson](#) (One of America's premiere historians). Our thanks to Larry Mobley for sharing.

August 30, 2020

In February, New York was the world's most dynamic metropolis. By August, the city was more like the ruins of Ephesus. It is not all that hard to blow up a culture. You can do it in a summer if you haven't much worry about others.

When you loot and burn a Target in an hour, it takes months to realize there are no more neighborhood Target-stocked groceries, toilet paper, and Advil to buy this winter.

You can in a night assault the police, spit at them, hope to infect them with the coronavirus, and even burn them alive. But when you call 911 in a few weeks after *your car is vandalized, your wallet is stolen, and your spouse is violent, and no one comes, only then do you sense that you earlier were voting for a pre-civilized wilderness.*

You can burn down a Burger King in half an hour. But it will take years to find anyone at Burger King, Inc., who would ever be dumb enough to rebuild atop the charred ruins—to prepare for the next round of arson in 2021 or 2023.

Today's looter carrying off sneakers and smartphones in 10 years will be tomorrow's urban activist, understandably but in vain demanding stores return to a charred no man's land, to do their fair share, and to help restore the downtown, neighborhood, inner-city, or the "community."

Old Liberal Ideas Are Being Destroyed

We are living in the most racially polarized climate since the 1960s.

America's past, present, and future are in the process of being recalibrated entirely through the lens of one's skin color.

Columbus is reduced to nothing more than another racist white Italian sailor of a half-millennium past. Grant might as well have fought *for slavery in the mind of today's campus ignoramus. Apparently, the Antifa thug thinks he could just as easily have written the Gettysburg Address or sculpted a statue of Frederick Douglass.*

The old liberal ideas of assimilation, integration, and intermarriage are being destroyed by the Left under the specious doctrines of cultural appropriation, or "*acting white*" or "*how we look is who we are.*"

A new fuzzy Jim Crow returns with racially segregated campus safe spaces and theme houses or the race-based reeducation and training sessions in the workplace—all predicated to stop racism! Somehow selecting strangers on the basis of their race to bully in a restaurant, or targeting old anonymous men and women to beat up in the street by their race, or singling out suburbanites by their race for racial taunts and profanity is redefined as reparatory justice or overdue payback—on the assumption that no one would dare say that the arson, looting, and rhetoric are descending into ever more hate-filled nihilism.

Our collective future of nationalized tribalism will become what always results when citizens identify by superficial appearance or shared religion. Just go to Lebanon, the Balkans, or Iraq to see what is in store first hand.

Tribalism Rising

To survive, all groups will self-identify, at first quietly, but eventually unapologetically. Some will form alliances of self-preservation, others will war with each other. Tribal gangs, as they already do now in our streets of fire and looting, will assume they are exempt from consequences; and so will their antitheses of vigilantes who band together to guard their stores in the absence of a defunded police.

Liberal elite whites themselves are now uneasy, since the abstract doctrines they so nihilistically advocated, from defunding the police to [recalibrating looting](#) as "redistribution," are now becoming reified and closer to home. They see that when BLM protestors jam a restaurant to demand fealty or lecture on "white privilege" or march into a suburb to wake up the commuter to apprise him of his immorality, the racialists will not qualify their agendas with "except for woke whites".

When tribalism is distilled to its innate and terrifying essence, there are never exemptions for individuals: you are reduced to what you appear superficially as to strangers. The white felon is no different than the white Harvard president, the black shop-lifter is the same as the black physicist. We are all condensed to a sort of collective nothingness, or rather a racial "allness."

The Self-Immolation of Pro Sports

Professional sports, once an integral part of American life, appears to be nearly in ruins. Professional baseball, basketball, and football might have survived the virus, the lockdown, and the recession—and then maybe they might not have. After all, millions of the bored more quickly than expected got acculturated to the idea of soon not listening to a boring rant from LeBron James or the sad confessionals of Drew Brees.

But what the NBA and NFL, and perhaps MLB *won't survive is cultural suicide as players fragment into causes. The NBA existed on the premise that billionaires were willing to pay multimillionaires to lose billions as a prestige lark—as a franchise became a sort of a huge, showy Louis Vuitton bag. But even billionaires have limits. Snobbery and appearing cool do not always trump losing the equivalent of a Ferrari every hour or a Gulfstream each week.*

The NBA, we are told, is a woke industry.

But it's also the strangest, most non-diverse, right-wing, money-obsessed woke institution in America. More than three-quarters of the multimillionaire players are African-American. Over 90 percent of the billionaire team owners are white.

Yet the entire industry — players, coaches, owners, staff — lecture Americans *ad nauseam* about their supposed sins. *The monotonous sermons have become transparent medieval redemptions—given the mortal sin that the NBA sold its very soul to a racist, genocidal, and totalitarian China—to recover billions abroad for the billions lost in viewership and attendance at home.* Non-diverse multimillionaires, working for even less diverse billionaires, finger-pointing at middle-class Americans on the evils of privilege, in the pay of the Chinese Communist Party, is not a way to win back fans.

Institutional Crack-Ups

Universities are in for hard times. The federal government eventually will get out of the \$1.5 trillion student loan subsidy business, and force spendthrift colleges to accept their own self-created moral hazards.

Charging \$30,000-\$40,000 for tuition over Zoom is a bad business model in a recession. And the alphabet soups after the names of professors and deans will not make a bit of difference.

Thousands of college-educated protesters and rioters are not especially good advertisements for the building of lifelong character on woke university campuses. Once undergraduate institutions decided to make students socially conscious rather than educated, and once their graduates seem to be neither, then who really finds their mentors essential?

Our major cities, emerging from lockdown, and on the edge of nightly violence, remind us of what Procopius, the Byzantine historian, saw of Rome in AD 538, once the cultural and political megalopolis of the world: a mostly deserted shell of weeds, deserted streets, collapsed stone, choked fountains, and fortified villas where lawlessness reigned and feuding tribes were what was left of a government that once had enshrined habeas corpus.

No city gets a pass from history, not Athens, not Rome, not Alexandria—not Detroit, Baltimore, or Chicago.

After all, there is no rule that just because Bill Gates and Amazon headquartered in Seattle that its mayor, city council, and state governor will not abandon its signature downtown. What once made Portland great can be undone in a few weeks.

Wall Street may run the world, but it certainly does not run the New York City government. Electronic capital really does still have human legs and when the proverbial suited investor thinks he will be infected, short of toilet paper, or assaulted on the street, he leaves, taking his laptop with him. Bill de Blasio is left to govern, like a horned and bearded Visigoth, over an increasing shell of former grandeur.

To venture into San Francisco is to return in a time machine to 1855, a boomtown based on silicon chips, not gold dust, but one likewise lawless, fetid, and safe only for those with private security guards. To the casual visitor, it appears a lunatic place now recalibrated for the homeless, the looter, the assaulter—and the very rich. Crimes like public defecation and drug use, or shattering the windows of a parked car window to steal its contents are not crimes unless the targets are the well-connected. The story of all Dark Ages is that when civilizations finally prefer suicide, they do it easily, and the remnants flock to the countryside to preserve what they can—allowing the cities to go on with their ritual self-destruction.

So it has begun to seem this endless summer.

Second in series of: MURPHY'S LAW OF FLIGHT

OR

Signs That You Are About To Have A Really Bad Day

(Or “clues” for the clueless Flight Crew)

Which appeared in the last issue of the “Straphanger.”

OVER THE PZ:

You have to turn the receiver up to full volume to hear the whispered radio call that the “PZ is COLD.”

The reassuring PZ radio transmissions are distorted by inexplicable background popping noises and screaming.

There are two or more C & C birds and both are above 5,000 feet and rapidly climbing and everyone has turned off the C & C frequency.

There are twice as many gunships as usual.

TAC AIR is stacked more than three high.

The FAC has been shot down.

DIVARTY has a “Shot Out” on an “FPL” adjustment (whatever those are) and you overhear a garbled ground adjustment request for “(garble) forget the FPL, ... (garble)... right on top of us... (garble)... yes, right now you moron... (garble)... I had better...(garble)... or when I get back...(more garble).”

The airborne C & C bird is rapidly climbing through 6,500 feet pursued by both green and red tracers headed for 10,000 feet where the ground commander can write up his own Silver Star in peace.

The ground commander and airborne commander interrupt their other concerns to curse each other; you copy several colorful infantry and genealogy lingo phrases on your knee pad to ask the First Sergeant about so you can use them later when talking to the grunts.

The gunships and TAC AIR all simultaneously call “Bingo Fuel, RTB in 5.

An Air Cavalry Troop operating several miles away is studiously ignoring the Romeo-Foxtrot Extraction, the usual over-achievers in that unit appear to have turned off “Guard.”

There are multiple large burning objects in the PZ, referred to by the C & C bird as \$360,000 Smoke Grenades.

On final you still can't see anyone in the PZ.

Rest of mission to follow quarterly.

Shamelessly copied from another aviation publication by:

Jesse Hobby

Armed Falcon 29 Fox 1

Loving advice from “Your Friendly Flight Surgeon”.

PROTECT & RESPECT

#IWEARAMASKFOR

Evidence-based research has shown that masks work! Here's what the experts say about wearing masks:

1

YOU MAY BE CONTAGIOUS BEFORE YOU EVEN KNOW YOU ARE INFECTED!

People may be contagious before ever developing symptoms or knowing they are infected. Masks help by keeping droplets from potentially infected individuals from being spread to others. ([BMJ](#)).



2

SINCE MASK MANDATES BEGAN IN OTHER STATES, THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN DAILY COVID-19 GROWTH RATES.

"Estimates suggest that these mandates have resulted in avoiding more than 200,000 COVID-19 cases." ([HealthAffairs](#)).



3

WEARING A MASK PROPERLY REDUCES THE RISK OF DIRECTLY TOUCHING YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE, LOWERING YOUR RISK OF CONTRACTING CORONAVIRUS

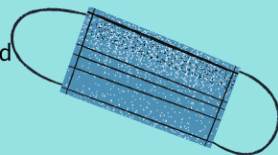
"Wearing facial masks will reduce the risk of directly touching the mouth and nose – the most critical parts on the face." ([NIH](#)).



4

MASKS DO NOT PRESENT POTENTIAL HEALTH OR SAFETY ISSUES SUCH AS CARBON DIOXIDE TOXICITY, INCREASED HEART RATE, OR CHANGE IN BREATHING RATE.

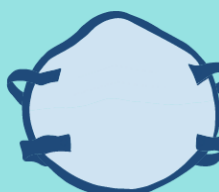
A study found that face masks do not appear to create any health or safety issues at a simulated altitude of 5,000 feet. ([Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University](#)).



5

DEEP BREATHING CAN HELP LOWER STRESS FROM WEARING A MASK.

This classic and simple method has been used to reduce stress and overcome tension in the past. It has been extensively certified in physiology and psychology. ([International Journal of Engineering Research and Technology](#)).



As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I'm sure of.... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.



Looking for a winner among 24 Democrats running for president is like trying to find a Tootsie Roll in a septic tank!

Revised eligibility rule open for public comment

(Thanks to Jesse Hobby's daughter)

ARLINGTON, VA – Today, (September 17) the Secretary of the Army announced the opening of the 60-day public comment period for the proposed changes to eligibility criteria for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. This is the next step in the federal rule making process required to gather public input to [proposed changes to the cemetery's eligibility criteria](#). The proposed rule will allow new changes to eligibility criteria which will keep the cemetery functioning as an active burial ground well into the future, defined as 150 years.

Executive Director of Army National Military Cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery Karen Durham-Aguilera stated, "Arlington National Cemetery began this process when the Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Secretary of the Army to establish revised eligibility criteria to keep Arlington open well into the future. The Secretary of the Army established imperatives to recognize the individual's sacrifice, service and impact to the nation's security. The proposed eligibility criteria honors commitment to military service and is equitable across branches and eras of service. Additionally, any change should be easily understood, fair and consistent with Arlington National Cemetery's mission."

ANC is also currently developing the Southern Expansion Project, which includes the area nearest the Air Force Memorial and a part of the former grounds of the Navy Annex. This future expansion will add 37 acres of burial space for our nation's veterans. However, expansion alone will not keep Arlington National Cemetery open to new interments well into the future. Without changes to eligibility, even with the new expansion, Arlington National Cemetery will be full for first burials by the mid-2050s.

"We are asking our veterans, families, stakeholders and the public to review our website information, read the Federal Register and engage in this deliberate process. All of us have a voice into the future of Arlington National Cemetery," said Charles "Ray" Alexander Jr., Superintendent. "We will adjudicate all public comments and keep the public up to date throughout the entire process until the final rule is published."

Eventual implementation of revised eligibility will not affect previously scheduled services at Arlington National Cemetery. Additionally, the proposed revisions will not affect veterans' burial benefits or veteran eligibility at the Department of Veterans Affairs' nearly 150 national cemeteries and 116 state veterans' cemeteries.

The Secretary of the Army and Arlington National Cemetery want to ensure transparency and public participation in this process. We are providing the general public with an opportunity to comment on the draft rule that will change the eligibility requirements at our nation's most hallowed grounds.

The public comment period ends on November 16, 2020.

To make an official public comment, please go to the Federal Register notice: [federalregister.gov/d/2020-17801](https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2020-17801).

Proposed Revised Eligibility Criteria

For below-ground interment:

- Killed in action, to include repatriated remains of service members
- Award recipients of the Silver Star and above who also served in combat
- Recipients of the Purple Heart
- Combat-related service deaths while conducting uniquely military activities
- Former prisoners of war
- Presidents and vice presidents of the United States
- Veterans with combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service.

For above-ground inurnment:

- World War II-era veterans, to include legislated active duty designees
- Retirees from the armed forces who are eligible to receive retired pay but are not otherwise eligible for interment
- Veterans who have served a minimum of two years on active duty and who have served in combat
- Veterans without combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service

Eventual implementation of revised eligibility will not affect previously scheduled services at Arlington National Cemetery. Additionally, the proposed revisions will not affect veterans' burial benefits or veteran eligibility at the Department of Veterans Affairs' nearly 150 national cemeteries and 116 state veterans cemeteries.

Arlington National Cemetery will continue to actively engage stakeholders in the important decisions impacting the future of the cemetery



2018-2021 ARA ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Clovis Jones
25555 N. Windy Walk Drive
Skye Top 50
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
480-585-0505 (H)
480 -650-9698 (C)
clovisjones@me.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

David C. Borgeson
760 Ocampo Dr.
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
310-454-5095 (H)
310-773-1295 (C)
dborgeson41@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Castillo
127 Spring Valley Dr
Raeftord, NC 28376
678-296-5189 (C)
bluemax35_2000@yahoo

SECRETARY

Rodger McAlister
2412 Tradition Circle
Louisville KY 40245
502-245-7282 (H)
502-819-2977 (C)
colrodger@att.net

CHAPLAIN

William "Bruce" Wilder
1308 Blue Sky Lane
Kingsport, TN 37664
423-245-6116(H)
423-276-6626 C)
wbwilder@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Herb Hirst
P.O. Box 220
North Plains, OR 97133
503-647-4600(H)
503-314-3710
hirst@q.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Asa R. Talbot
611 4th Street
Elkton, VA 22827
540-298-7546 (H)
540-430-1849 (C)
asartalbot@gmail.com

COMMANDER OF THE

DATA BASE

Jesse Hobby
145 Oakdale Rd.
Cairo, GA 39828
229-328-2281 (H)
229-378-0661 (C)
jesse_hobby@hotmail.com

ATTENTION ALL ARA MEN:

DO NOT DELETE THIS PUBLICATION UNTIL ALL SPOUSES, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS AND COMPANIONS HAVE READ IT. THE INFORMATION IS FOR ALL IN THE FAMILY.

BE ADVISED! ALL DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY:

NOT DISTRIBUTED OVER THE YEAR.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU CONSIDER LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR \$250 WHICH CAN BE PAID IN 5 CONVENIENT PAYMENTS OF \$50.

PAID IN ONE YEAR—NOT OVER FIVE YEARS!!



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: _____

Print call sign as you want it to appear: _____

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

Bumper Stickers - _____ X \$2.00 = _____
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

Membership Application/Renewal Form

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.

Battery/Battalion

Dates of Service

Call Sign

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 Herbert L. Hirst

For Office Use Only

P.O. Box 220

North Plains, OR 97133-0220

Check # _____

Check Date _____

Amount _____

Date Rcvd _____

Web address – www.araassociation.com