



DOGMAN

A Brotherhood of All Combat Veteran Dog Handlers



VIETNAM DOG HANDLER ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 27 - NUMBER 3 - SEPTEMBER 2020

Ernest "Ernie" Hamilton Childers 1947-2020



Kelly, Ernie and Bill on Veteran's day 2009



Ernie and pup at JBSA Airshow



Ernie and Duke



Ernie, VSPA

By Bill Cummings

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ernest (Ernie) Childers, Jr. on August 19, 2020. There are no words that can express the grief that the Childers family is experiencing. Cathy, his wife, and the family have asked that this information be passed along to all of his friends. As you might imagine, this list is extensive.

Ernie never met a stranger as he walked through life. If you had the opportunity to meet him and experienced his smile and zest for life you would never forget him. Ernie was a father, a husband, and a friend that was always there to help others; many, many times putting others ahead of himself. This is the man that we all knew and loved.

His accomplishments were countless. Please view his obituary at www.biggersfh.com. Details of the services and other information can be found on the site.

Ernie excelled and served in leadership positions with the Vietnam Dog Handler Association, Vietnam Security Police Association, Thailand Dog Handler Group, Old Dawgs & Pups, and was a founding father of his beloved Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial Committee (NWDHMC). In 2011, he received the distinguished Warriors Medal of Valor from the VSPA.

He assisted in providing military dog historical artifacts to the U.S. Air Force Museum, the Security Forces Museum, and the Enlisted Heritage Museum and Gunter Annex at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. He would provide assistance to any other organization that needed information of the dogs of Vietnam and Thailand. These were his passions and he was tireless in spreading the heritage of military dogs worldwide.

The Childers family has asked that in lieu of flowers a donation can be made in his name to: Military Working Dog Team Support Association, 3501 MacCorkle Ave. SE #326, Charleston, WV 25304-1419, or electronically to www.MWD TSA.org/donations. Questions can be emailed to info@mwdtsa.org.

The family has also requested that if anyone would like to share the experiences they had with Ernie, they should be emailed to cathychilders@live.com. His family would love to hear from anyone who loved and spent time with Ernie.

My friend, you served your country proudly, you were our friend, a leader and just a wonderful man. Rest peacefully and give Duke our love. You will forever be in our hearts.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By John R. Harvey
VDHA President

It is with a heavy heart that your board of directors sends notice of yet another of our fallen heroes. Ernie Childers, a long-term member of your board of directors, was a devoted patriot. His veteran memberships and contributions were many. He was a long-time member of the Vietnam Security Police Association and the Thailand Dog Handlers. He was our own Vice President of the Thailand Units. His efforts will forever be appreciated. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family.

The VDHA has been blessed by the continued support and devotion of our webmaster Dave Broeker. Dave has graciously stepped up and volunteered to fill the position of Vice President Thailand Units. Michael Hurder has volunteered to assume the position of assistant webmaster and assistant BX manager.

There have been some great improvements to our computer systems and there are more to come. We now have the capability of doing mass emails sorted by state, regional area and unit information. We are now able to deliver our *Dogman* newsletter by email to all of our active members.

Please remember to keep your email address and phone number up to date on the website or to one of the officers. That is the only way we can keep you informed. All of this being said, there are still some major systems items which need to be attended to.

The board authorized \$3,000 to be spent for website improvements during our last board of directors conference call in August. The website was last fully revamped in 2007. In computer life that is like 97 years ago. In dog lives it is around 91 years. Dave has done a wonderful job keeping it wired together but there are repairs that need to be done. The cost of doing a complete overhaul / replacement would be between \$30,000 and \$35,000.

Without corporate support or a wealthy individual benefactor, our organization simply could not afford it. If anyone has a serious idea of how to get this done the board would be very happy to hear it.

This past weekend was supposed to be our reunion in Washington. Unfortunately, because of the virus, we had to postpone it. That said, I would encourage everyone to pick up their phone and reach out to your dog handler buddies today or this week. Such a call could save a life or bring comfort and meaning to someone who feels lost or rejected. We never know if this may be our last chance.

This year's reunion was supposed to bring about the elections of Vice President and Secretary. The board discussed various options such as providing mail-in

ballots in *Dogman*, or doing an electronic ballot. In the end, your board decided to extend the terms of those positions for a year. Ernie Ayala will continue as our Executive Vice President, and Vernon Anderson will continue as our Secretary. Both of these individuals have served you with diligence honor and dignity. God bless them both.

We are hoping we will be able to schedule our next reunion for October 2021. Your board has a telephone conference every 4-6 weeks in order to discuss the progress of the virus and explore suggestions. As of now, we have not identified where the next reunion will be held. I know that this past spring was a difficult time for all of us. But I would ask that you give some thought to potential nominees for the Warriors Medal of Valor, and nominees for any board positions.

Also, let me make a shout out to our *Dogman* editor, Steve Lemish. His patience, planning and expertise are all amazing.

Our BX of the Future

By Dave Broeker

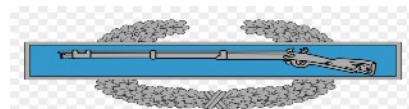
After many years of everyone ordering VDHA BX merchandise the hard way, plans are now in the making to "invent a better mousetrap." Assistant BX Manager Mike Hurder and I have agreed to put in the hours it takes to create "Our BX of the Future" and pull all of this together.

We are already "testing" one software that will allow us to turn our retail BX into an online BX and keep serving our customers without missing a beat.

We envision more space to show off our items that we sell, and allow purchase of our products in a much more updated and customer-friendly way. Gone will be the tiny print on our already-overloaded and outdated BX order forms.

Say "Hello" to our new, larger photo displays and descriptions of each item. Only purchased items will be listed on your invoice. We will have unlimited room to display more items, as well as new specialty items that are in the making.

Mike and I invite you to follow our progress as we create "Our BX of the Future."



Memory of a Scout Dog Wounded in Action

By Steve Lemish

This is the fourth and last installment of the story of Duke 96M0, how he was wounded and how he was cared for by a varied group of individuals from different outfits within the Army and Air Force. Duke took shrapnel from a mortar round and he and I were being Medivac'd via jungle penetrator. He was on my lap as the cable began to swing about half way up through the trees.

The noise from the Huey got louder and louder as they reeled us up toward them. The cable started to swing back and forth. The helicopter above was getting pushed by the increasing wind. This was not good. We started swinging more on the cable evidenced by the way the trees were coming toward and going away from me. I held Duke tight on my lap. He was breathing. He wasn't trying to get off my lap. I wondered what he thought about being lifted so far off the ground. He wasn't freaking out at all.

As we got higher off the ground, we could see more of the jungle below. I looked for enemy soldiers (like they would be standing out in the open) and realized we were way more visible to them. They liked to take potshots at helicopters. Now, I felt a little more grateful for the closeness of the trees providing some cover and even the swinging, which at least made me a moving target.

Finally, the swinging stopped and we emerged above the jungle canopy just under the Medivac. A few more yards and they pulled us into the chopper. It was good to be off that cable. The medics onboard were asking if they could help. They checked the bandages and saw they were all still secure. We flew for about 20 minutes and landed at what I thought was a M.A.S.H. unit in Phu Bai.

As soon as we landed, they ran to the chopper, got Duke on a stretcher and took him inside. Everyone was so professional. They checked Duke's bandages and put on a couple fresh ones. They let me stay with him at all times. They even had women nurses (round eyes) which I had not seen in about five months. I swear I could see Duke winking at one of the nurses. He was also a perfect patient. He allowed everyone to work on him without any fuss. He knew they were caring for him. Other staff came over to pet him and he ate up all the attention.

He was still critically wounded, however, and should have been in some pain. They did not tell me what were in the shots they gave him, but there must

have been some pain medication because he seemed quite comfortable for someone in his condition.

We were not at the unit more than 20-30 minutes when we were rushed to an Air Force C-130 for transport to an airbase near Saigon. We were the only ones on the plane except for the crew. They kept checking on us and before too long we were landing. Duke was enjoying the attention of the crew also; smiling at them as they came over to pet and comfort him. It was a smooth flight and there were a minimum of bumps and jerks during both takeoff and landing.

An ambulance was waiting at the airbase and it took us to the veterinary facility where Duke would spend the next 5-6 hours in surgery. One of the guys told me I could wait there but it would be about 12 hours before he would be awake. He also asked me if I had ever been to Saigon. I hadn't. He arranged for a jeep to take me downtown. He gave me a number and said I could keep calling to check on Duke.

They dropped me at what I now believe to be MacV Headquarters. It was a strange place with waxed floors, polished boots and lots of brass. I had come directly from the field and still had Duke's blood on my uniform. I was not happy. I did manage to get out of there with a shower and a clean uniform (and without a court martial). I ended up at the bars of Saigon where there were some quality adventures. (A longer and more sorted tale.)

I kept checking on Duke as sobriety permitted. After a couple days, they said I would have to report back to my unit. Duke would be staying there at least three weeks. Thankfully, I came back and got him (with another trip to Saigon). While he was recuperating I got to work with Lobo. He looked like he was part wolf and, unlike Duke, was a very predictable dog-fighter. He had only one eye by the time I got him. Duke got rehab and eventually we both got transferred to the 48th IPSP in Da Nang for the rest of my tour as the 101st stood down.

I wish now I had thought to write this story then, rather than almost 50 years later. I could have written down some of the names of the people who saved Duke's life. I could have thanked them during the years to come. About four years ago, I became one of the few lucky dog handlers who found out their dog made it back to the States. I am so thankful to have known and worked with my friend Duke. He saved my life and many others numerous times while we were together. I think of him often and will never forget him.

K-9 Corps Memorial in Nebraska Remembers WWII Dogs

By Steve Lemish

Antelope Park in Lincoln, NB contains a K-9 Corps memorial dedicated to the memory of America's unsung heroes. The driving force behind the memorial was Gordon Greene who also raised money for the Korean War Memorial in the same park. Greene joined the Marine Corps when he was 19. He served in Japan and later in Korea. He wasn't a dog handler, but he had a very special relationship to the K-9 Corps during WWII. When he was ten years old, he volunteered his dog Buster for duty in the U.S. Army.

Buster was a German Shepherd. At the time he was donated, Greene's two older brothers were already serving overseas. In his book, *A Star for Buster*, Greene wrote of his mom's sacrifice in sending two of her boys to the war. He explained that donating Buster to the war effort would be his sacrifice.

Buster was trained at Fort Robinson in Nebraska where he was assigned a handler. The handler was supposed to write to Gordon and let him know how Buster was doing. However, the only news he got about Buster was a telegram which was delivered to the 10-year-old informing him that Buster was killed in action on May 30, 1944.

While Buster was in the Army, Greene spent time visiting schools to tell the story of his dog. He also later gave talks about Buster while he was a professor of curriculum at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. After he wrote his book about Buster, he started to raise funds for the K-9 Corps memorial. It is said it was the first K-9 Corps memorial in the nation.

The funds for the memorial stone were donated by individuals. Lots of donors were connected in some way with the K-9 Corps but many were just people that liked dogs or were interested in their role in the military. It consists of a black stone monument and rows of bricks in front of it engraved with the names of dogs who served in the military, most in WWII.

Mr. Greene passed away at the age of 64. His wife Marynelle provided the information to us for this article. She was also active in raising funds for the memorials so close to the heart of her husband.

Thanks, Marynelle.



Operation Apache Snow (1969)



By Gunnar Hicks

I took this photo while working with the 557 CTT out of Camp Eagle. I was a scout dog handler (Princess 1M20) with the 47th IPSD. The operation was Apache Snow. It was designed to prevent the People's Army Vietnam units in the A Shau Valley from mounting attacks on the coastal provinces outside Hue. I worked with this team to May 1, 1969, just before Hamburger Hill.

The scout dog took point and worked until they crossed a hot area, and then the tracker dog (Tarka) and team took over.

I don't remember the names of all the members of the Team, but 3 of the members pictured were killed shortly after the picture was taken. The three who were killed were Alexander King on 1-20-69 (top row left), Virgil Roberts on 1-22-69 (bottom row right) and Lawrence Smith on 3/22/69 (top row, 4th from left).

All members of the tracker team were unbelievably brave and true American heroes. Interestingly, Bernard "Pat" Patterson was a member of the team and was an outstanding warrior.

(Please let Gunnar know if you can identify any more of the team members. Also, if you have contact information for Rick Hong, he would appreciate it. His email is GunarHicks@gmail.com.)

TRACKER REPORT



By John Dupla

This year's tracker reunion was held in June in Greenville, SC and was hosted by Tom and Marge Dodd. FYI, Tom and I trained at the same time (June-Aug, 1967) at the British Jungle Warfare School (BJWS) in Malaysia. We trained on different teams and then went on to serve with different tracker teams in Vietnam. We reunited for the first time last year at the 2019 Rapid City, SD reunion.

I did not attend this year's reunion, mainly due to the restrictions involving COVID issues. Apparently, this affected many other trackers as reflected by the reports I received. The head count was down, however, many die-hard trackers did make it.

Bill and Julia Welch (Major USA, retired) made it from California. Chuck Steward (SGM, USA, retired) drove from El Paso, TX. Frank and Sue Merritt, PA, Bob Konarski, WV, and Don Campbell from WI also appeared. Patrick Ryan from Houston, who always makes an effort to attend, also made it.

Patrick is a former tracker from South Africa that has joined our American tracker brothers. Patrick brought me, my "squeaky" cheese provided by Don Campbell. We don't get that here in Texas and it's become a tradition that Don shares his state's delicacy with me.

It was decided that next year's reunion would be in Lexington, KY. Dates and all details will have to be determined at a later time, for obvious reasons.

I was recently contacted by Dave Broeker concerning a request about a tracker wanting to join the VDHA. There was a question about his eligibility due to a couple of miscommunications. The unit he provided did not match what we have listed on our website. This is in part caused by a problem that Dave and I have tried to address in the past. Therefore I have to try and clarify the issue.

To begin with, trackers were originally organized under Provisional Orders from MACV. Under those orders and concept, the trackers were assigned "Team" designations until a total of fourteen teams were trained and assigned to all infantry divisions and brigades operating in Vietnam. When all infantry units had their assigned tracker teams, then all the tracker teams were designated Infantry Platoons, Combat Tracker (IPCT). FYI the scout dogs were designated as Infantry Platoons, Scout Dog (IPSD).

Because no tracker team was part of any infantry unit's Battle Order, or duty roster, they had to be

assigned a host unit to provide logistics, including housing, meals, mail, and AO's. Most all tracker teams adopted their host infantry units patch as their own. To help organize the VDHA web site in the past, I told Dave to use the host infantry unit as the tracker's home data base. In reality, depending on when a tracker served and who with, he could have a variety of unit designations that would confuse information on an application, or even other trackers.

In this case, the application was valid and the miscommunication was identified. As the unit director for the trackers, I still find information about them to this day. Hopefully we all can still have new learning experiences. Keep going forward, stay healthy, and SEEK ON.



DOGMAN

DOGMAN is published quarterly by the Vietnam Dog Handler Association, Inc. Members and their families are encouraged to submit articles, letters, photos, etc.

Letters and stories are subject to editing. Email all submissions to Dogman@VDHA.us or mail to Steve Lemish, Dogman Editor, 152 W. Park Avenue, Suite 150, El Cajon, CA 92020 (include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want them returned).

VDHA is a nonprofit corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(19). Contributions are tax deductible. IRS tax ID number #33-0690480.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Ernie Ayala

2020, I Hate You!

Through the annals of time, 2020 will prove to be the worst year in U.S. History. The Corona virus hit our shores and attacked like no other enemy has ever hit us before.

Over 182,000 deaths and over five million cases of COVID-19 has affected every person in the country. Not only did the COVID virus kill people, it also had an affect on those persons who suffer from cancer. I lost my brother to cancer in March, then last month my stepson, Ernie, died from the COVID-19 virus.

Several dog handlers also lost their lives to either COVID or cancer. Last week I lost a brother 212th MP handler, Miguel Bustamante. I met Miguel on my way out of Vietnam as he was in his first month of his tour in Long Binh. I visited him at his home and my wife and I spent the night at his Stockdale, TX residence before the San Antonio Reunion in 2011. He

and his wife, Angelica were gracious hosts and wonderful reunion organizers. We returned to San Antonio again in 2017.

The VDHA also took a big hit as my fellow board member Ernie Childers passed away in Hurst, TX. He served us as the Thailand Dogs Vice President. Our condolences go out to his widow Cathy and children Cristy, Ernest Jr. III, and his grandpuppies Ace & King.

We also lost having our 2020 Reunion in Washington DC. The board is still working on a replacement. It is impossible to imagine a future until this pandemic is over and we can go back to our lives eating in restaurants, going to ball games, visiting family and friends and receiving guests in our own homes. And, yes, having reunions.

Let's pray for normalcy once again and for the recovery of all those who COVID-19 hit. In the last issue of Dogman, there was an article by Jerry Carlson to help you

plan for the last roundup. I ordered the booklet, The Next 48 Hours by Laurie Long. It contains everything you need to do to get your business affairs in order before you die. Buy it. I recommend it. It is well worth the ten bucks to set your mind at ease.

You know, the VDHA is a 501(c)(19) charitable organization. As our days whittle down, it would be nice to leave a little something to the VDHA in your will.

We need the contributions to continue our work. Another way of giving would be to elevate your status from annual dues to Lifetime Membership. It only costs \$250. Our treasury could really use it. We must remain strong to the last man standing. We want to keep doing the work for all the dog handlers now and in our memory. All donations are gladly accepted and appreciated. I wish all of you nothing but great health and hope to see you and greet you at our next reunion, wherever it may be. Stay safe.

Vietnam Dog Handler Association Officers

President:	John R. Harvey	3000 Holiday Dr., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316	860-796-7813
Executive V.P.	Ernie Ayala	13862 Mardi Gras Lane, Riverside, CA 92503	626-862-2667
V.P. Trackers	John Dupla	904 Chetwood Dr., League City, TX 77573	281-332-2163
V.P. Thailand	Dave Broeker	1712 Crescent Dr., Pekin, IL 61554-1637	309-202-5542
V.P. Units	Vacant		
Secretary	Vern Anderson	9343 Jamaica Beach, Galveston TX 77554	409-737-9085
Treasurer	Bob Palochik	8203 W. Parting Clouds, L.V.. NV 89117	702-255-6265
Assoc. Director	Dennis Lewis	PO Box 699, Pikeville, NC 27863-0699	919-242-9620
Sgt. at Arms	Michael Duran	124 Smotherman Ct., Murfreesboro, TN 37129	615-907-9084
Chaplain	Steve Janke	413 First Street., Carlstadt, NJ 07072	201-334-7676
Membership	Randy Kimler	2225 Merriman St., Port Neches, TX 77651	409-722-0889
Webmaster/BX Mgr	Dave Broeker	1712 Crescent Dr., Pekin, IL 61554-1637	309-202-5542
Asst. Webm./BX Mgr	Michael Hurder	986 Coronado Way, Livermore, CA 94550	925-518-0318
Historian:	Vacant		
Dogman Editor:	Steve Lemish	152 W. Park Ave., #150, El Cajon, CA 92020	619-444-5525

DEADLINE

**ARTICLES FOR
THE
DECEMBER
ISSUE MUST
BE SUBMITTED
BY NOVEMBER
23**

Assistance For All VDHA Members

By Bob Palochik

Occasionally, we have members voicing complaints on social media regarding our organization. They tend to be complaints that the VDHA is not properly activating members, wrong information in a member's profile, PayPal payments not going through, calls/emails not being responded to, etc.

In most cases, when we get in touch with the member to resolve their issues, it is human error. They are reaching out to a wrong VDHA email address, sending payments to the wrong VDHA PayPal account, not reaching out to one of the officers to help change/update their profile if needed, thinking they paid dues when they indeed haven't, not reaching out to an officer before voicing their complaints on social media, or not sending the required or requested documentation for dues reductions, etc.

Please gentlemen, if you have a situation that requires attention, reach out to any officer for help or direction before posting complaints.

Here are a few general tips:

PAYPAL PAYMENTS FOR DUES OR MERCH.:

- **DUES** – PayPal payment(s) go to vdhapaypal@vdha.us (you must have a personal PayPal account to use this feature) or mail your check or money order to the treasurer.

- **MERCHANDISE** – PayPal payment(s) go to merchandisepaypal@vdha.us (once again, you must have a personal PayPal account to use this feature) or mail your check or money order to the BX Manager.

- **UPDATING YOUR PROFILE** – go to vdha.us click on LOGIN / enter your member number / enter your password. Once you are logged in, click on "Update Your Personal Information." On this page you can update/add/delete any personal information including changing your password, correcting or changing your email address, home address, phone number, add photos, etc. Once you have updated your profile, you need to scroll down to the bottom of the page and click "Update Account" to save your information.

- **MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION** If you are an active member, you will receive an email, at the email address you have on file in your profile, 30 days and 10 days prior to your membership expiring. These are the only reminders you will receive.

- **CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS** - Please make sure your current/correct email address is updated in your profile. This is the main point of contact we have

for you with regard to getting dues reminders to you, or if we have questions for you, etc.

By all means, if you need help or have a question, go on the website and reach out to any officer by clicking on "About Us." If the officer you get in touch with cannot resolve your issue, they will direct you to the person who can. You can also find a list of officers in every issue of *Dogman*. Please stay safe.

Recycling the News - 25 Years

This article appeared in Dogman 25 years ago. It is interesting to see where we came from and how we have progressed. It also signifies Dogman needs more articles and letters from our members.

. . . In an effort to . . . make sure each of you get a chance to provide the board with your feelings, here are some of the issues we need to resolve in November. How do you feel about the following?

- **Life Memberships:** There is a suggestion to make Life Membership available. Do you favor the idea, and how much should we charge for such a membership?

- **Dog Memorial:** Should the VDHA get involved with the National Dog Memorial campaign?

- **Annual Dues:** Some have suggested that \$20 per year is too much and that we should reduce our annual dues to \$10 per year. Your thoughts?

- **Formal Association vs. Informal:** Some have also expressed the desire to be a less formal organization. The question is whether it is necessary to be a non-profit association, or an informal "society."

- **Name Change:** A few others have suggested we change the name of the VDHA to the Military Dog Handler Association, and to allow all current and veterans handlers to be members. At one time, about two years ago, this proposal was voted down.

Please let us know what you think...

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking: \$36,616.75

Savings: 5,079.23

Total: \$41,695.98

A VDHA Story of Gratitude

By Mike Hurder

When I first came to the VDHA in 2002, I was hoping to gain some clarity if not confirmation. My last days in-country were a blur. Three good head knocks and I did not know from nothing. By 2002, I was a mess and was doubting the few memories I did have about my time in Nam. Not only was I unsure of my unit, but I had doubts that I was really there despite having a DD-214 that listed my arrival and departure dates.

I had some vague notions about a 34th Patrol Dog Platoon but could find no mention of such a unit anywhere in Nam. I gave up on that part of the dilemma, but I had a hand receipt for: Item # 1) 8820-160-1653, Dog Scout, Prince Serial # 16X5, quantity 1, that I signed in Feb '72. Witnessed by the S2/3, USAI, BH – R.S Tice (I think).

So, I started investigating war dogs. The first listing for my Internet search was the Vietnam Dog Handler Association and I applied to become a member. They had an "Associate Membership," so I figured I could at least qualify for that. Ernie Ayala checked my bona fides, and since we had nothing else to go on, he initially attached me to his unit, the 212th MPs. I knew I wasn't an MP for sure, but I wanted in, so I gratefully accepted his decision.

I struggled with this though, and turned my head inside-out trying to remember anything at all about my time there. I saw a movie that had a scene of a plane making a rough landing in a war zone. I suddenly "flashed" to my own landing on Tan Son Nhut airfield in January '72.

The intercom had just informed us about what to do in case of mortar or rocket attack. The guy sitting next to me and I stared at each other in shock. That buddy was Donnie Lassiter. That memory was the first of many that would finally start coming to me in other "flashes," dreams and eventually under hypnosis.

You know the story about Perry sorting me out and putting me in touch with Donnie. You know my wife prodded me into attending the San Diego reunion in 2018, and how that furthered my recovery and my memories. That experience was the single most influential happening since the birth of my last child.

I met platoon mate Joe Robinson at the reunion. He and his wife Terry have been like long-lost family since then. Joe and I are in constant contact now, as I am with Donnie and another tremendous handler friend, George Cartter who lives near me with his wife Marlene. I am forever in your debt, brothers and sisters, and will never forget what you have given me back

Vietnam Dog Handler Assoc.
c/o Randy Kimler
2225 Merriman St.
Port Neches, TX 77651-4302

PRSRT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 309
Pekin, IL
61554

Webmaster & BX Manager Assistant

By Dave Broeker

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the VDHA Board of Directors has unanimously voted to approve Mike Hurder, VDHA Lifetime Member #2113, as the VDHA Assistant Website Manager and Assistant BX Manager.



Mike "Shorty" Hurder

Michael and I met only two years ago at the 2018 VDHA Reunion in San Diego, California. I had made a formal request to our members, that I needed assistance with the Website and BX. Michael stepped up to the plate and expressed an honest interest in helping me out any way he could. We have talked several times since then and he and I both agreed on almost every idea we've discussed about our website and BX. I liked many of his ideas better than my own!

Even though these two new positions haven't ever existed before, I'm sure both of them will prove to be highly appreciated assets to our organization!

I can attest that every one of Michael's ideas and passions display his enthusiasm with unexcelled eagerness. The VDHA highly appreciates his every effort and we are excited to be the recipient of any assistance he can afford us.

Thank you to the VDHA Officers for your help to approve volunteers like Michael, who try to improve and maintain our VDHA BX and Website for many years to come.