



DOGMAN



A Brotherhood of All Combat Veteran Dog Handlers

VIETNAM DOG HANDLER ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 26 - NUMBER 4 - DEC 2019

History: Little Joe, Remote Controlled

*By Fred Cobb, USAF, Ret.
Shotz A955 & King 0A07
VDHA Life Member*

One afternoon, while I was scanning through one of my many on-line Facebook groups, I spotted a reply made by John Donahue in response to a question posted by another member. That question was, "where were you stationed during your service time?" John had replied that he was stationed at Carswell AFB, Tx.

I was also assigned to Carswell AFB from September 1964 to March 1966. It was my first duty assignment out of boot camp and naturally I responded immediately to John's post. I wanted to know when he was stationed there and if he might know some of the same people I knew. How did I know this chance meeting would lead to a new friendship and insight into a little known bit of our K-9 history.

John served at Carswell from April 1962 to October 1965. He was assigned to the Sentry Dog (K-9) Section and handled Little Joe, 113F. We didn't know each other, but we mutually knew several handlers. After swapping a few war stories and what we really liked about Carswell, John told me a story about an experiment that is a part of our K-9 history. I'm sure very few of us have any knowledge of it.



Little Joe with handler John Donahue.

In 1963, John and Little Joe were selected to participate in a joint test program being conducted by General Dynamics (GD) Ft. Worth and the United States Air Force (USAF). Security specialists with GD believed that this experiment, if successful, would show that one handler with his radio-controlled sentry dog could protect an area far beyond the capabilities of a standard sentry dog team. John was to demonstrate that Little Joe could perform his sentry patrol duties off leash being controlled by a radio receiver attached to his collar.

Continued on Page 9 . . .

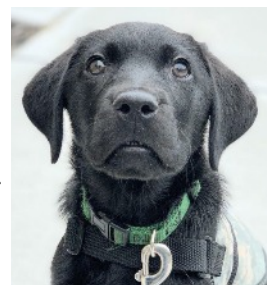
Remembering Vogie

By John Langley, VDHA member

I have never forgotten Vogie A927, the dog I worked with in Vietnam. Vogie was a small, very gentle, female German Shepherd. Vogie was very calm, but at the same time, very alert. Never did she try to sleep. I have to admit there were times when I was not as alert as I should have been.

I think of her every day, wishing we were together again. Recently while scanning the internet, I ran across the website of East Coast Assistance Dogs (ECAD1.Org). Yes, there are many fine groups that train dogs, but this one seemed different for some reason. After reading that they breed and raise their own dogs from puppies, I got really excited. I got the idea that perhaps they would name one of their puppies after my Vogie?

I sent them an email explaining the situation. Within a day they replied that it would be an honor to name one of their puppies after my Vogie. I feel so fortunate to know that not only my Vogie will be remembered, but the new Vogie will be helping a wounded warrior. To me, this is the ultimate remembrance. Although a donation was not requested, I sent one along happily. Finally, my dreams have been answered.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

By John R. Harvey
VDHA President

It is that wonderful time of year. The weather turns a little cooler. The festivities begin to fill our calendars. Some take that long-awaited vacation to visit family and friends. We find comfort in those old holiday movies as we curl up on the couch with a glass of egg nog and brandy that only seems to be available at this time of year. We bounce from one gluttonous experience to the next. We avoid that mechanical devastator called a scale. We convince ourselves that we will take off that ten or twenty pounds right after the holidays. We sing along with the holiday music. We smile at our neighbors.

Time is defined as the indefinite continued progress of existence and events in the past, present and future. For example there was a "time" when I could cut my own toenails and tie my own shoes. In a few hours it will be time to take my medicines.

And it is time to plan for getting together next August with our VDHA family in Washington, DC. Well not exactly Washington. Our reunion site is the Double Tree by Hilton located at 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Virginia. It is going to be a wonderful event. To those of you who have announced your intentions to attend to our esteemed treasurer Bob Palochik, it is much appreciated. To those of you who have not reached out to Bob, please do. We continue to try to plan for bus tours, refreshments, and libations in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Scheduling the reunion six weeks before our usual time is going to put pressure on a number of tasks. We will be seeking nominees for our Medal of Valor awards. We will be conducting our "Reunion Pin" contest. And we have two officer positions that need to be determined. The position of president, treasurer and vice president of units will need to be filled. Please keep a look out on our VDHA website for instructions.

Gentlemen and ladies, this holiday season is a time to be thankful for times we have had. We are thankful for the good times that have brought us joy and the bad times that have made us stronger and more appreciative of what we do have.

The year 2020 marks 50 years since I returned home. This is a time to rejoice in all those events that time has given us. For those of us that have lost friends, family, and loved ones, we will naturally mourn their passing. We miss their presence. Nothing less is

expected. But let us also honor them by celebrating the time we were able to spend together. Remember their smiles, love and gestures of goodwill.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a wonderful happy and healthy New Year in 2020.

Animals in War & Peace Ceremony

The inaugural "Animals in War & Peace" Medal of Bravery Ceremony was held recently and our own VDHA Chaplain Steve Janke spoke at the event.

At the ceremony, Medals of Bravery were issued in the halls of Congress to a New York Fire Department Dog who has worked hundreds of fires and a Marine Corps dog that has worked dozens of missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Somalia without a single marine death.

"Animals in War & Peace Medal of Bravery" were also awarded posthumously to animals who passed while serving in the armed forces of the United States.

The medals were presented by members of Congress. The animals included pigeons that served in World War I and World War II, a horse that served in the Korean War, and dogs that served in World War II, the Vietnam War, and Afghanistan.

The entire ceremony was filmed by Ford Fischer and he graciously gave us permission to link to the film on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?V=SViYbbOGjSs&feature=youtu.be>. Chaplain Janke's introduction and talk starts at about nine minutes into the film.



VDHA Reunion August, 2020 *in our nation's capital*

See all the details and order form in the next four pages.

Washington, DC 2020 VDHA Reunion Agenda



SIGN IN / REGISTRATION 1st Floor, Presidential Hallway

The VDHA Reunion Registration Area will be on the First (1st) Floor, in the Presidential Hallway outside of the William-Harrison Room

OPEN Thursday, August 27th from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
(Closed 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm for lunch)

Friday, August 28th from 8:00 am – 10:30 am

HOSPITALITY ROOM 1ST Floor, Wilson-Harrison Room

Hospitality room will be open:

Thursday, August 27th from 1:00 pm – 11:00 pm
BEER AVAILABLE DURING HOURS OF 4:00 PM TO 9:00 PM ONLY

Friday, August 28th from 9:00 am – 11:00 pm
BEER AVAILABLE DURING HOURS OF 5:00 PM TO 10:00 PM ONLY

Saturday, August 29th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (giving everyone time to get ready for dinner)
BEER AVAILABLE DURING HOURS OF 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM ONLY
will reopen after dinner until 11:00 pm (NO BEER AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME)

BX 1ST Floor, Jackson Room

The VDHA BX will open:
Approximately 9:00 am on
Thursday, August 27th, Friday, August 28th, & Saturday August 29th



We Look Forward to Seeing You There!
Dave & Pat Broeker - VDHA BX Managers

The BX will stay open as long as possible each day with these 4 exceptions:
#1 – Thursday, August 27th & Saturday, August 27th 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm for Lunch

#2 – Friday, August 28th 11:00 am – 5:00 pm to attend the tour

#3 - Select times when minimal BX Merchandise Sales doesn't support keeping the BX open.
(A sign will be posted as to when we plan to reopen the BX)

#4 - Saturday, August 29th 4:00 pm when we will be shutting down the BX to pack up the merchandise, and prepare ourselves for the 6:00 pm Banquet

Please do not delay! Visit the BX as quickly as you can because the longer you wait, the more chance you take that the item you want will be sold out.

50/50 RAFFLE

**THIS YEAR WE WILL BE HAVING A 50/50 RAFFLE
DRAWING** Saturday, August 29th right before dinner

Please see Bob or Debbie Palochik for tickets

***** TICKETS ARE \$1.00/ea. or 6/\$5.00 *****

**(IF YOU ARE NOT ATTENDING DINNER
YOU MAY STILL PARTICIPATE IN RAFFLE
JUST BE PRESENT FOR THE DRAWING)**

OFFICER'S MEETING

Friday August 28th, 9:00 am

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

(Active Members Only)

Saturday, August 29th 9:00 am
1st Floor, Washington Room

**4 HOUR DC GUIDED BUS TOUR**

Friday, August 28th
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm



12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Tour will include: Arlington Cemetery, Pentagon, Washington Monument,
Viet Nam Wall will be the last stop where we will lay a wreath.

(BUS BOARDING 11:30 AM SHARP – BEHIND LINCOLN BALLROOM OUTSIDE NORTH TOWER)

Dinner Buffet
1st Floor – Washington Room

Saturday, August 28th
7:00 pm – Serve Yourself Buffet
(Cash bar starting at 6:00 pm)



Dinner Buffet features: Pasta Salad, Fresh Fruit, Steamed Seasonal Vegetables, Roasted Potato Planks, Grilled Chicken, Pan Roasted Cod Fillet, Cheesecake, Carrot Cake, Rolls, Butter, Coffee, Iced Tea & Water

******* PLEASE NOTE *******

HOTEL RESERVATIONS **DO NOT** INCLUDE BREAKFAST
THERE IS NO SENIOR DISCOUNT IN THE HOTEL RESTAURANTS

HOTEL REGULATIONS STIPULATE THAT ALCOHOLIC BEVERGES **MUST BE**
DISPENSED BY A HOTEL ATTENDANT IN HOSPITALITY ROOM FOR A
MAXIMUM OF 5 HOURS EACH DAY

HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
300 ARMY NAVY DRIVE, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL:

1-800-222-8733

YOU **MUST** ask for **Vietnam Dog Handler Association** group rate

BASIC INFORMATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

HOTEL – DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
Blocked Room(s): Standard Guest Room / 2 Double Beds - \$124/night includes tax
(DOES NOT INCLUDE BREAKFAST)

Complimentary Shuttle Service: 6am-11pm daily from Reagan National Airport
(every 15 mins. and the Pentagon City Metro Station (every 30 mins.)

Copy and paste following link to view information about the hotel <http://alturl.com/r6iwb>



WASHINGTON, DC

2020 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Thursday, Aug. 27th – Saturday, Aug. 29th, 2020

DATE	EVENT	COST	QTY	TOTAL
	Reunion Registration Fee (Per Person attending)	\$30 pp		\$
FRI - 8/28	Bus Tour 4 hrs.: Fri., Aug. 28 th – 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm NOTE: Seating limited, once count reached, reservations will be cut off	\$30 pp		\$
SAT - 8/29	Banquet Buffet Dinner : (6:00 pm Cash Bar / 7:00 pm Dinner)	\$69 pp		\$
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE			\$

Date Received: _____ 20____ Check/MO# _____ Amount Recd.: \$ _____

To be completed by VDHA Treasurer

Name (As you want it on badge):

VDHA Member Number:

UNIT:

Spouse Name (If attending):

Guest(s) (if attending):

Street Address:

City

State

Zip

Phone Numbers (Primary / Cell):

EMAIL ADDRESS (Required for Confirmation)

Emergency Contact # During Reunion

Name

Number

NOTE: Only ACTIVE VDHA members will have access to General Membership Meeting. You will be notified if your membership is NOT active when your registration form is received

To Register and Pay, please complete the auto-fill form, then print it and mail it along with your check/money order, payable to VDHA, to:

VDHA, c/o Bob Palochik, Treasurer, 8203 Parting Clouds Ct., Las Vegas NV 89117-7614

SORRY, PAYPAL payments will NOT be accepted for Registration

Registration Forms & Payment are due **NO LATER THAN JULY 31, 2020**

Cancellations (with refund) will be accepted up to and including JULY 31, 2020

If you need to add, cancel, or modify your registration, or have any questions,

E-mail Bob Palochik at bobpalochik@vdha.us OR CALL him at 702.255.6265

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON INDIVIDUAL RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE BY CALLING

1-800-222-8733

YOU MUST ask for Vietnam Dog Handler Association group rate

WILL YOU BE STAYING AT THE DOUBLETREE BY HILTON WHERE THE REUNION WILL BE HELD?

☐

YES

☐

NO

Help for Memorial

By Stony Burk

While sorting through some photos for Veterans Day to post on Facebook I came across a photo of the War Dog Memorial that I took a few years ago which then led me on my continued search for another photo. The search led me to your VDHA page and the Barrington site.

In 2015, while I was still living and working in New Hampshire, I was being treated at the Boston VA Hospital for prostate cancer and driving back and forth each day for treatment. During that time, I struck up a conversation with another patient in the waiting room and found out he was a Vietnam dog handler. It was my understanding he was one of the first to take dogs to Vietnam.

As our conversations continued over those days, I found out he was from the nearby town of Somersworth, adjacent to Rochester where I resided. Although he and his wife had long ago moved to Kensington on Prince Edward Island, Canada, his son and family still lived in Somersworth. His name was Scott Maclin.

During our conversations I mentioned that I visited the War Dog Memorial in the nearby town of Barrington. He told me he had worked with the American Legion to put the memorial together and that a Stephen Roy had donated the granite memorial. I told him Stephen and his wife Donna were longtime friends of mine and I had hiked with Stephen as well as worked with him on several projects around the area. He is the owner of Stephen Roy Monument Company in Rochester.



War Dog Memorial, Barrington, NH.

Scott completed his treatments before I did and he and his wife, Cheryl, left to visit his son before heading back to P.E.I. It was a bit later when I stopped by the



Old and new sign to War Dog Memorial.

memorial again, when I noticed the entrance sign was in poor shape and deteriorating. I contacted Scott and asked if he was okay with me providing a replacement sign and got his blessing. I also contacted the Barrington Fire Department, Cemetery Commission and American Legion with a proposal and sketch. It took awhile, but I got the approvals and was able to replace the sign.

As mentioned, Stephen Roy, provided the monument so the sculptor that is listed on your page as "Unknown" can now be updated. There is a local artist that volunteered to repaint the statue when needed, however I don't have her name. I'm sure the American Legion of Fire Chief would know if you needed that info.

If you know where I could find a copy of the 8.5" x 11" black-and-white photo of the War Dog at the Wall with the 'Where's My Name?' tag line, I would certainly appreciate it. The one that was there deteriorated in the weather and I would like to replace it with a permanent weatherproof image. I'm retired now and have moved back to East Texas but will have the guys at the sign shop in NH where I worked install it.

Thank you for your time and thank you and your dogs for your service.

Editor's Note: The VDHA website has been changed to credit Stephen Roy as the sculptor of the memorial. Below is the photo Stony would like to add with the tag line: "Where is my name?"



Memory of a Scout Dog Wounded in Action

By Steve Lemish

47th & 48th Scout Dog Platoons

This is the first 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.

My fatigues were covered in blood. It was red and sticky. There was a huge dog on my lap. The things on the ground beneath Duke and I kept getting smaller. There were lots of soldiers down there from the 101st Airborne Division, and they were on edge. They didn't like all the noise coming from above as they alertly looked around with their weapons. Once in awhile they would look up. They saw another soldier riding on a cable being taken up into the tops of the trees. I looked down at them and wondered what they would hit next. It wasn't my platoon, but I knew a few of them.

Being lifted upward slowly through the trees, I couldn't help but recall the words and warnings of the instructors at AIT (Advanced Infantry Training) where we learned the ins and outs of being extracted from the jungle by a Medivac helicopter. I remember thinking this is not the preferred method of transport, even for a wounded soldier.

Because of the jungle trees, Medivacs could not land to get injured soldiers and, depending on the injury, the soldier could not wait to be carried to a clearing where the Medivac could land and take him to the hospital.

At training, they said not to swing on the cable. They said if the cable swings too much, it was dangerous to the Medivac chopper. They were trained to cut the cable and drop the soldier to the ground rather than risk all the men in the chopper. I remember thinking, how can I keep this cable from swinging? Who the hell would swing on it anyway, especially an injured soldier?

About half way up the tallest trees the swinging began. "It was normal," I thought; wind, movement of the helicopter, etc., but it did concern me. I wondered how much swinging was... well, too much.

Looking down at the bloody, patched-up dog on my lap, I was sure they never covered this in training, at least not at Fort Polk. They said something though...about not touching the cable. Something about... Hell, who could remember?. Anyway, holding tight to the cold metal jungle penetrator and the very large dog on my lap, there was enough to do. Wanting

to look up, I wondered how far we had to go to get into the Huey in the sky, the one making all the noise. I was thinking...how the f*ck did I ever get into this position, and why was it so goddamn loud?

(Hazy out take, like they do in the movies: From a noisy, blustery, windy scene of rising higher through the jungle trees, I tell the reader how I got here, and why there is a huge dog on my lap, one I am holding onto very tightly.)

It started with the unmistakable realization upon entering AIT at Fort Polk, Louisiana; there was no place to go, except Vietnam, and as a grunt. Fort Polk was the training center for infantry grunts; it was hot and it was sticky. A grunt is an infantryman who spends most of his time in the field, in the bush, like camping. Unlike camping, however, there were no showers, big tents, campfires or chicks, and people tend to kill or injure you. There was lots of hiking, in my case, generally through the jungles on trails near Hue and Da Nang in northern part of Vietnam. It was nasty and dirty and hot, except during monsoon season, when it was ridiculously wet. Anyway, it was not my first, second or third choice to go there as a grunt.

From time to time during AIT, groups would come to try to recruit infantry trainees into their various programs. There was Officers Candidate School (OCS), and one for non-commissioned officers, among others. People in AIT were good candidates for recruitment to other programs, given their prospects for being a grunt in Vietnam.

Anyway, some tracker team people came trying to recruit people to be tracker dog handlers. It was 1970. The peace talks were ongoing. People hoped the war would be over soon, hopefully, in my case, before receiving orders to go there. The politicians at the time were still talking about the shape of the negotiating table. So, it didn't look good. The tracker dog school was 12 weeks. More time in the states to give those "negotiators" time to get it done.

While I would still end up in Nam upon completion of the program, it would not be as a regular grunt. The missions would be much shorter than those of grunts, so that was good. But they would probably be more...dangerous too... that was bad. Balancing it out, I decided to give it a go. Long story a little less short, I was sent to the tracker dog school at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

... Continued to Page 12.

History: Little Joe Remotely Controlled

. . . Continued from Page 1.

The trials ran for three months and were conducted between 0300-0400 on the graveyard shifts. All radio equipment was provided by the GD Security Department and before any test started, GD Security had to be notified.

Although the experiment of using a radio to control a sentry dog was deemed successful, it was not adopted by GD or the USAF. However, John and Little Joe were able to leave their mark on our Sentry Dog history.

John Donahue is a Vietnam Veteran and although fifty-four years has past since last being with his Sentry Dog, Little Joe is just as much a part of John's life today as he was back then.

I thank John for permitting me to tell his and Little Joe's story and for giving permission to use the photos he provided.



cial speaker at the meeting.

Security at GD/FW Sparks Idea to Control Guard Dogs Remotely by Radio Commands

The Air Force's heralded K-9 Corps may some day soon be "mechanized."

In a recent experiment at Carswell AFB's Sentry Dog Section, one of the "combat"-trained German Shepherds responded to commands given through a transistorized radio attached to his collar.

The idea belongs to GD/Fort Worth's industrial security department, which is working with the Air Force and local law enforcement bodies in the experiment.

The highly trained dogs now perform sentry duty at the end of a six-foot leash carried by their trainer, the only person from whom they will take commands.

The man-dog team can cover the distance normally covered by three or more human sentries at night because of the dog's super-sensitive sense of smell. He can sniff out an intruder at distances of 300 yards and up.

If the dog could be trained to take commands through the collar radio—and Carswell trainers are confident he can—the canine trooper could conceivably cover a several-mile area.

Among those attending a recent demonstration were GD/FW's I. B. Hale, industrial security manager; Phil F. Cummins, development project liaison; Mason Lankford, industrial security investigator.

State Makes Study On Women's Jobs

Mrs. Rebecca H. Sparling, design specialist at General Dynamics/Pomona, has been named to an informal advisory committee for the Department of Education, State of California.

Mrs. Sparling was in Sacramento Feb. 21 for a meeting on technical and semi-professional jobs for women, including engineering aides, electronic technicians, mathematicians and draftsmen.



BUSINESS END—Guard dog at Carswell AFB, key figure in "radio control" project, warns GD/FW's Ernest Garcia to back off with that camera!

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(a). Contributions are tax deductible. IRS tax ID number #33-0690480.

TRACKER REPORT



By John Dupla

The trackers have been asked to participate in two dedications of war dog memorials next year in two different states. One features the Labrador Retriever first used by the trackers and then later added to the current military war dog arsenal. It will be unveiled in Toole, Utah on Memorial Day weekend, 2020. It is titled "SEEK ON."

An FYI, I recently spoke with an Air Force veteran that trained K9's at Lackland AFB, and is currently in business training K9's for civilians. During our conversation concerning MWDs, he stated that as part of his training, he works the dogs in tracking.

Asked what command he gives to start the track, he said "seek-on." This is the command we were taught at British Jungle Warfare School (BJWS) to our tracker dogs. Prior to that, there was no command like that in our military jargon because there were no tracker dogs until we came along. Now the term is given to all MWDs. It is also the motto adopted by the combat trackers of the Vietnam war.

The second war dog memorial will be in Colorado Springs and is planned for June 20, 2020. This one will have both the Labrador Retriever and the German Shepard. The founders, Ruby and Wade Ridpath, explained that these two breeds were selected as the image of what people think of concerning MWDs. Military dog handlers are encouraged to attend and may be asked to participate.

Thinking about these two events and talking to the younger MWD handlers, reminds me how the Vietnam dog handlers are the catalyst of the evolving interest is in MWDs. What the tracker dogs were in Vietnam, have

morphed, not only into current tracker dogs but search and rescue K9s. The scout/sentry/booby trap MWDs are now trained as bomb/explosives/drug dogs and are now considered as a valuable tool in today's military.

In other news, Estel Matt held his yearly get-together at his home in Lake Charles, LA this past Veterans Day weekend. The main group involved the reunion of the 1st Cav's tracker team from Estel's team in Vietnam. I made it over there this year and enjoyed the hospitality with a Cajun flavor (gumbo, boudain sausage, smoked turkey, no crawfish-it was out of season). The only distraction was the LSU and Alabama football game on that put everything on hold.

Three trackers have passed on the last few months. Bob Baker, Reggie Sharp, and Roy Burchfield. Sad to hear of their passing and hope many of us hang around for the tracker reunion next year. It is planned for Greenville, SC in June. All the details are on the tracker website.

The holiday season has begun and wish all veterans, especially my fellow dog handlers, a safe and happy one. Until next time, SEEK ON.



Current VDHA Officers

President:	John R. Harvey	3000 Holiday Dr., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316	860-796-7813
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V.P. Units:	Vacant		
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*The deadline
for new
articles, photos,
letters, etc. is
February 23 for
the March issue.*

War Dog Memorial at March AFB 20th Anniversary

By Ernie Ayala

VDHA Vice President

Gentlemen, pack your bags and get ready to drive, fly, ride or sail to California to help celebrate the war dog memorial's 20th anniversary at March Air Force Base in Riverside, CA.

Also celebrating 20 years is the *War Dog, America's Forgotten Heroes* movie. Both were produced and created by Jeffrey Bennett, former owner and CEO of Nature's Best Dog Food.

The celebration takes place at March Air Force Field Museum on Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 10:00 am. The host hotel is the Ayers Hotel & Spa in Moreno Valley. You can call them at (951) 571-4141 and ask for the March Air Force rate of \$109 per night. If you've never been to March AFB, fly into Ontario Airport and take a shuttle to Moreno Valley. Call the hotel to see if they have shuttle service.

Among the guests will be Major General Paul Eaton and California Supreme Court Justice Ming Chin. Also attending will be Tim Prokop, who wrote the War Dogs movie and A. Thomas Schomberg, the sculptor of the War Dog Memorial.

There will also be military and police K9 demonstrations along with the traditional bell ringing and placement of the wreaths to the fallen K9s and handlers by the dog handlers present.

All active duty and former dog handlers will be receiving thank you gifts from our sponsors. Several other guests and media are scheduled and we are waiting to confirm the details.

On Thanksgiving Day, I celebrated my 50 year anniversary from completing my military career. I was able to see the Mission lights in Riverside at 8 pm. Over two million lights lit the city to oohs and ahhs of a million or so visitors. There was food, celebrity singers, drinks, souvenirs and crowds of interesting people to watch walking the streets.

When here, you have to take a tour of downtown Riverside and see the old structures and definitely visit the mission, it's the most amazing mission you'll ever see. There are also lots of bars and even a Food Lab which features dozens of food stands in the middle of town. There are a couple of theatres which perform live plays and performances in town. There is so much to do so you don't get bored on your stay with us.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking \$32,847.41

Savings 5,076.50

TOTAL \$37,923.91

As of Nov 4, the following interest in our upcoming D.C. reunion was received:

ROOMS 42

TOURS 73

DINNERS 75

...Memory of a Wounded Scout Dog

Continued from Page 8.

However, I didn't graduate with my classmates at the tracker dog school (long story: death in the family and other personal problems). So I got my orders to go to Vietnam and report to the 101st Airborne Division as a grunt after all.

Upon arrival at 101st Division HQ, I let them know there was some kind of mistake. The Army had a history of making mistakes. Surely, all this training I had as a tracker dog handler should not go to waste. As was said in *Saving Private Ryan*, this was "a serious misallocation of valuable military resources."

Somehow, I was able to convince them and they sent me to the 47th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) located in Phu Bai. It wasn't a tracker team outfit, but I was happy to be assigned there. I was especially happy I wasn't designated as a pure grunt, with all that endless camping. Immediately upon my arrival at the 47th, I learned the first sergeant was recently fragged in his bunk via a Claymore mine set outside his hootch. People in the unit were suspected.

The platoon welcomed me and introduced me to Duke (96M0). Duke was huge, but not fat or very not thick. He looked like a rather large German Shepherd, but with oversized ears and an oversized tail. He was a little, well, funny looking. Although I pictured myself as a seasoned dogface of regular proportions in my mind, more of a John Wayne type, I was of small stature and, according to photographic evidence, had a very young face at time. While I preferred the nickname "Lucky Lemish," "Babysan" was the one that stuck. It started at the Steam & Cream but quickly spread to my unit.

Continued in the next issue.



Scout dog Duke, 96M0 sitting in the rain at the 47th IPSD, 101st Airborne Division.

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BX Christmas Discount

By Dave Broeker
BX Manager

If you are considering buying BX merchandise for yourself or as gifts for Christmas, I would ask that you please consider getting the order to me ASAP! This year is supposed to be the busiest year ever for purchasing items through the Internet, so we need to get those orders to me so we can beat the Christmas rush.

It's too late to create a new BX 'Christmas' order form so through December 20, I will void the 15% shipping costs.

Any item I may not have on hand and is put on backorder, still qualifies for the 15% discount until the order is filled. I apologize that no refunds for over payment will be made, so if you pay for items and forget to subtract the discount, your payment is final.

I look forward to filling your Christmas orders for all our dog handlers and their families and friends.



Vanity plate proudly displayed with honor by Dan Brown, VDHA Lifetime Member