



DOGMAN

A Brotherhood of All Combat Veteran Dog Handlers



VIETNAM DOG HANDLER ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 28 - NUMBER 4 - DECEMBER 2021

Time to Sign Up for the Reunion

By Ernie Ayala
VDHA Vice President

I can't wait for April, 2022. We have our reunion scheduled after Easter, April 18-20. After being robbed of our 2020 Reunion and also robbed of ever seeing many of our brothers lost to the ravages of COVID-19, it will be a pleasure trip to reunite again. So let's all start preparing for that trip to San Antonio, where the sun will be shining, there will be laughter in the streets, and the smells of carnitas, beans and tortillas will permeate the air helping us forget the bad times.

I was put in charge of our trip to Lackland AFB and I can tell you there have been many changes there since we last attended in our 2006 Reunion. The base has added a dog breeding program that takes care of the problem of having to recruit dogs from the public. They are born here then adopted by local families until they are old enough to start their training explosive detection, search and rescue, or scout and patrol.

Our Secretary, Vernon Anderson, served many years in the 60's as a training instructor here but even he has to admit the changes are endless since Lackland



started training dogs here in 1958 for all the services.

The trip will also visit the SPS Museum which will take us through history of the Air Force Security Police program and the use of the Military Working Dogs in use. Outside the museum are several dog memorials dedicated to the dogs used during the Vietnam War. These make for the perfect photo opportunity as

Continued on Page 2.

BX Opens Under New Management; New Order Form

By Dave Broeker and Mike Hurder

Mike Hurder and I are pleased to announce that the new VDHA BX is now Open effective 11/14/21!

This was a very complicated and difficult move of all the BX supplies and equipment it takes to operate the BX properly. Everything mentioned had to be physically packed and relocated from Pekin, Illinois to Livermore, California. Then it all had to be received, unpacked, sorted and inventoried by our new BX Manager, Mike Hurder. That alone was a feat in itself! Preparation included building a new "BX Room" in his garage and create shelving for everything as well as a workspace to prepare the orders. Mike has made sure

the area would be heated in the winter, cooled in the summer and would continue to be mold free.

Continued on Page 11.



Dave Broeker



Mike Hurder

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By John R. Harvey
VDHA President

My wife and I did something a little different this Thanksgiving. I have always said that sometimes family is where you find it. That is why I believe so strongly in the ties that bind coming out of our reunions.

Anyway, we decided to spend Thanksgiving with 1,600 of our close friends. Well maybe not all that close. But after the first several cocktails, they all seemed like long lost cousins, brothers and sisters. We did a nine-day Celebrity Cruise on the Equinox from November 19th thru the 28th.

To be honest our kids were not all that happy with our decision. But after a fully committed pledge to be at their houses for Christmas they

begrudgingly wished us bon-voyage. The ports of call were Aruba, Curacao and Jamaica. For some reason they did not feel the same the last time I was there on the USS Guam in 1967.

In preparation for our trip, my wife and I both received our first two COVID shots and our booster. We had to provide evidence of not only our shots, but also a negative COVID test no earlier than 48 hours prior to setting sail. So far so good.

With the availability of the vaccine, we once again reached out to enjoy the wonderful freedoms we have as Americans.

This is not the first time we witnessed radical changes in our lives. Most of us spent a year or

more in Vietnam. We left the world as 18-year-old kids only to return a year later as hardened men. But we have survived and thrived in the greatest country in the world; a country that still needs to be cherished and protected.

As you go about celebrating the holidays with family and friends give a prayer of thanks for all of those who have gone before and made it possible.

In this newsletter, you will find many notices of our reunion in San Antonio. I am told that the weather should be fantastic that time of year. The board encourages everyone to seriously consider making the trip. As the saying goes we are not getting any younger.

Time to Sign Up for the San Antonio Reunion

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well as a place to meditate about our time there. It will also be a good place to remember many of our dogs and buddies that did not return and those who have gone recently.

The day ends with a delicious lunch from the Lackland Officers Cafeteria where we will dine at our own dining room.

The trip will be a four-hour tour. To sign up for the tour, we need all people to give us their name, date of birth, and state drivers license number. If you have a military ID card, the same requirement applies.

Upon our return to the hotel, you will have plenty of time to freshen up (take a nap) and get ready to turn the town red.

There will still be remnants of the Fiesta to party up. The 2022 Fiesta San Antonio runs from March 31 through April 10, starting up again April 20.

So if you stay a day or two longer you can continue to experience it. It's been going since 1891 when it was just one day to now that it's an 11 day celebration to honor the heroes of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto, while raising funds for local charities. It is celebrated with fireworks, parades, food booths, 5K walks and runs, carnivals and colorful costumes

throughout the city.

Our stay at the La Quinta Wyndam Hotel on the Riverwalk is a great stay and discount for us. Book your reservation now before all our rooms are booked at 1-800-753-3757. Be sure to tell them you are with VDHA or use the code on the form on page 4. We are at the center of all the fun and the celebration. Also sign up for the reunion now and reserve a spot on the bus to Lackland AFB.



There's a special party going on in San Antonio called Fiesta, and you are invited.

Seeking VDHA Warrior's Medal of Valor Nominees

By John Harvey, VDHA President

VDHA members are asked once again to nominate active members for the prestigious Warrior's Medal of Valor. They will be awarded to two members at the VDHA Reunion in April of 2022 in San Antonio, TX. There are many of our members who deserve to be recognized with this very special honor for the achievements they may have accomplished in the past or are currently pursuing in their lives.

The medal recognizes VDHA members' exceptional efforts to make a difference in their communities, organizations, or for past military actions for which they have not been given due credit. Please take this opportunity to nominate someone deserving. There is no higher honor than to be recognized by a fellow veteran.

The award was originally created by Native American Marshall Tall Eagle Serna of Woodburn, OR. Marshall Tall Eagle is a Vietnam veteran who served for 14 years in the Army and Air Force. He designed the medal in 2002. Soon after, it was approved as the official medal for presentation for all tribes desiring to use the medal to pay tribute to, and honor all veterans and current military personnel regardless of their cultural background.

In 2011, John Homa presented the idea to then President Fred Door and members attending the Orlando Reunion, please see www.vdha.us/content38615.html on the VDHA web site for a complete background. Through discussions with Marshall Tall Eagle's family and purchases of the medals, the VDHA has been assured of the family's permission to award the medal to its members as appropriate.

The first two VDHA WMV awards were presented in 2013 to Dave Broecker and Johnny Mayo. With more detailed program content and a resolution made by the VDHA Board the next set of medals were presented at the 2016 Reunion's awards banquet to Russell Walters, Al Dodds, and a third to Frank Gavaldon. You can see their nomination text in the December 2016 issue of Dogman on page 5 ([Dogman.issue](#)). Nominees for 2018 were Vernon Anderson, Karl Goss and Perry Money.

VDHA nomination criteria:

Nominees should be current members of the VDHA and meet at least one or more of the following:

1. The Warrior's Medal is awarded for valor, for an action or actions taken by him in Vietnam or Thailand that were never recognized by the military, or

2. Outstanding service to the VDHA, or
3. Outstanding and consistent or ongoing service to or for deployed troops or veterans, or
4. Outstanding and consistent or ongoing service to or for Military Working Dogs past or present.

The Nomination Review Committee members are:

* VDHA President John Harvey — Marine Scout Dogs, Vietnam

* Johnny Mayo — Army, 39th Infantry Platoon, Scout Dogs (Bien Hoa), Vietnam

* John Homa — Air Force, 388 SPS K-9 Korat & 635 SPS K-9 U-Tapao Sentry Dogs, Thailand

* Tim Hennessey — Navy, Sentry Dogs, Vietnam

* Janet Mathews — Daughter of USAF Master Sgt. Alvin W. "Sarge" Matthews.

Nominations should be received by the committee no later than February 1, 2022 to be evaluated in time for the Reunion. There will be up to a maximum of two VDHA recipients each Reunion year unless the committee finds and approves by majority vote an exceptional circumstance for a third medal.

Each nomination must contain the name of the nominee, dates of service in Vietnam or Thailand, and unit(s) name and number. It must contain the name of the VDHA member making the nomination and contact information. It must identify for which one or more of the nomination criteria listed (numbers 1 through 5) the VDHA member is being nominated. The nomination text itself should have as much written information as possible (not just "so and so is a great person, I know him well"), describing the event(s) or circumstances or activity, past or present, for which the VDHA member is being nominated.

The nomination should contain the "Who, What, Why, Where, When, and How" to the best of the nominator's knowledge. Those VDHA members wishing to nominate a fellow member for the Upcoming Reunion in San Antonio, TX, should send a nomination to VDHA President John Harvey at jrhcpa@hhcpas.com or John Homa at jmhomak9@gmail.com by February 1 of this reunion year 2022. If you do not have e-mail, please send a nomination by letter to John Harvey, 3000 Holiday Drive, Unit 1101, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316.

SEE YOU IN SAN ANTONIO

Welcome to San Antonio, TX 2022 VDHA Reunion Agenda!



Registration

The VDHA Reunion Registration will be OPEN in the **BOWIE ROOM – 1ST FLOOR**
at 8:00 am on BOTH Monday, April 18th & Tuesday, April 19th

Registration will be open from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday April 18th
(closed for lunch 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm)

8 am - 9:30 am on Tuesday, April 19th

(closing at 9:30 am to attend tour)

Hotel Information

The reunion is scheduled from Monday, April 18th to Wednesday, April, 20th, 2022
La Quinta by Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk,
303 Blum, San Antonio, TX Hotel Phone # 1-210-222-9181



Reservations can now be made by calling the La Quinta Hotel reservation at **1-800-753-3757**

You **MUST** provide the following information to receive the group rate

(Limited number of blocked group room rates - you may want to make reservations ASAP)

GROUP CODE: CG866V – PROPERTY # 53402 – VIETNAM DOG HANDLER ASSOCIATION

Room-rate \$115/night + Tx (Total \$136/per night) DOES include breakfast
Each guest is required to provide a credit card guarantee to make a reservation(s)

If you choose to arrive early or stay after the reunion ends,
the room rate will be available for three days prior and three days after,
based on availability. Hotel check-in is 4:00 p.m.

Please Note: The hotel reservation cut-off date is April 2, 2022
reservations requested after April 2nd will be on a space available basis only

BE ADVISED - There are no airport shuttles to hotels in San Antonio

It is about a 20-minute trip from the airport.

Ubers and taxis are available.

Uber approx. \$16-\$36 one way depending on vehicle chosen.

Taxi approx. \$20-\$55 one way depending on vehicle chosen.

HOTEL PARKING IS GROUP DISCOUNTED RATE OF \$18 PLUS TX. FOR HOTEL GUESTS

HOSPITALITY ROOM – BOWIE ROOM - FIRST FLOOR

Hospitality room will be open starting Monday, April 18th from 8:00 am – 11:00 pm
Tuesday, April 19th from 8:00 am – 11:00 pm
Wednesday, April 20th from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm (giving everyone time to get ready for dinner)

VDHA BX – CROCKETT WEST ROOM - FIRST FLOOR

MIKE HURDER, MANAGER

VDHA BX will be open at 8:00 am - Monday, April 18th - Tuesday, April 19th 8:00 am
and Wednesday, April 20th approximately 10:00 am (after General Membership Meeting)
BX will close nightly at 6:00 pm and, if sales warrant, after dinner meal

The BX will stay open with **these exceptions**:

#1 - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm for Lunch on Monday, April 18th and Wednesday, April 20th

#2 - 9:30 am - 4:00 pm on Tuesday, April 19th to attend the Lackland tour

(BX will re-open as soon as possible after the tour)

#3 - Select times when minimal BX Merchandise Sales doesn't support keeping the BX open
(In this event, a sign will be posted as to when the BX will re-open)

#4 - 3:00 pm on Wednesday, April 20th when BX will be shutting down to pack up merchandise for
transporting back home and preparing 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

Wednesday, April 20th during the open cash bar
6:30 pm – 6:55 pm before dinner is served.

Tickets can be purchased at registration area during operating hours
and any time throughout reunion by seeing
Bob or Debbie Palochik or the appointed ticket sales person(s)

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

**Raffle will be conducted by first pulling 5 tickets
From those 5 tickets, 2 tickets will be pulled
The winner will be pulled from the final 2 tickets**

Officer's Meeting

Monday, April 18, 2022 – 3:30 pm

General Membership Meeting
Active Members Only

Bowie Room – 1st floor (hospitality room)
Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 9:00-10:00 am

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE TOUR *

Tuesday, April 19, 2022
Four-hour tour - 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR LACKLAND TOUR - NO EXCEPTIONS

100-PERSON CAPACITY - REGISTRATION ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS

The Lackland Public Affairs Department requires a completed information form be submitted with your registration to participate in the tour. MEMBERS / SPOUSE / GUEST(S) INCLUDED
THIS COMPLETED FORM, ALONG WITH YOUR REGISTRATION (INCLUDING PAYMENT),
MUST BE RECEIVED BY

MARCH 15, 2022

Registration(s) **for tour** received after **March 15, 2022**, will not be accepted – no exceptions

NO REQUEST TO GO ON THE TOUR WILL BE ACCEPTED

AFTER MARCH 15, 2022, OR AT THE REUNION

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE TOUR *

Tuesday, April 19, 2022
9:00 am – 2:00 pm



Eligible participants are to meet at the front entrance of the hotel between
8:15 am and 8:45 am Tuesday, April 19th

Bus(es) will leave the hotel at 9:00 am and return to hotel between 2:30 pm and 3:00 pm

You will be able to purchase lunch on the base

MASKS ARE REQUIRED

La Quinta Dinner Buffet
Fiesta Ball Room - First Floor

Wednesday, April 20th 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Open cash bar 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm



ITALIAN SPLENDER

Sliced Tomatoes & Mozzarella Salad & Black Pepper Vinaigrette
Caesar Salad with garlic croutons
Sicilian Vegetable Minestrone
Breast of Chicken Napolitano, bacon, tomato, mushroom, artichoke stew
Baked Fish al Limón with a lemon, parsley, basil, and garlic butter
Italian Zucchini Casserole with tomato, onions, and peppers
Three Cheese Tortellini smothered with creamy alfredo
Warm Rolls and Butter
Amaretto Cheesecake
Regular/Decaf Coffee and Iced Tea

HOTEL COVID INFORMATION

(at the writing of this information, October. 2022)

The hotel does not have any mandates in place. Mask/vaccination requirements are completely up to the group. Our staff members are wearing masks, but there is no mandate for guests. The city currently does not have any overall mandates in place and businesses are allowed to operate at 100% capacity. Masks are required in city buildings, at the airport and on transportation services (city busses).

VDHA COVID INFORMATION

The VDHA has no requirement for masks or proof of vaccination(s).

HOWEVER, it is encouraged and recommended that you get your COVID-19 vaccination(s).

PLEASE BRING MASKS WITH YOU AS THEY ARE REQUIRED ON THE TOUR

AND MAY BE REQUIRED ELSEWHERE DURING THE REUNION

THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAILY



SAN ANTONIO, TX
2022 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM
 Monday, April 18th – Wednesday, April 20th, 2022

DATE	EVENT	COST	QTY	TOTAL
	Reunion Registration Fee (Per Person attending)	\$55 pp		\$
TUES-4/19	Bus Tour 4 hrs.: Lackland AF Base - includes transportation *	\$30 pp		\$
WED- 4/20	Banquet Buffet Dinner: (6:00 pm Cash Bar / 7:00 pm Dinner)	\$60 pp		\$
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE			\$

*SEE PAGE 2 FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION *TOUR 100-person capacity. Reservations on first come first served basis.

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 (member):			
	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 all required pages, and mail all of them, along with your check/money order, payable to VDHA, to:
 VDHA, c/o Bob Palochik, Treasurer, 10125 Skye Saddle Ave., Las Vegas NV 89166-6546
SORRY, PAYPAL payments will NOT be accepted for Registration
- Registration Form(s) & Payment(s) are due **ABSOLUTLY NO LATER THAN APRIL 12, 2022**
EXCEPTION – IF ATTENDING TOUR, FORMS/PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2022
- Cancellations (with refund) will be accepted up to and including APRIL 12, 2022
- If you need to add, cancel, or modify your registration, or have any questions,

LA QUINTA BY WYNDAM SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK INDIVIDUAL RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE BY CALLING

1-800-753-3757

YOU MUST reference GROUP CODE CG866V and PROPERTY # 53402
VIETNAM DOG HANDLER ASSOCIATION
 to receive the group rate

WILL YOU BE STAYING AT THE LA QUINTA HOTEL WHERE THE REUNION WILL BE HELD?

☐

YES, if yes how many nights? _____

NO

☐

This is a requirement of the
Public Affairs Department
Lackland Air Force Base



ENTRANCE ONTO MILITARY
BASES REQUIRE REAL
DRIVERS LICENSE ID

*** ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR LACKLAND TOUR
NO EXCEPTIONS - WILL BE ENFORCED**

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE INCLUDED
WITH ALL REGISTRATIION FORMS IF YOU PLAN TO GO ON THE TOUR
MEMBERS / SPOUSE / GUEST(S) INCLUDED

THIS COMPLETED INFORMATION, ALONG WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM
(INCLUDING PAYMENT), MUST BE RECEIVED BY

MARCH 15, 2022

NOTE: March 15th is the cut-off date for registrations including **tour registration(s)**
Registration(s) **NOT ATTENDING TOUR** will be accepted through April 12, 2022)

**** NO REQUEST TO GO ON THE TOUR WILL BE ACCEPTED
AFTER MARCH 15, 2022, OR AT THE REUNION****

(PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY)

FULL LEGAL NAME: _____
NO NICK NAMES OR ABBREVIATIONS

DOB: _____ CURRENT DL#: _____ STATE ISSUED _____
(MM/DD/YYYY) **MILITARY BASES REQUIRE REAL ID DRIVER LICENSE**

IF HOLDING MILITARY ISSUED ID, YOU MUST PROVIDE THE NUMBER _____
MASKS ARE REQUIRED ON MILITARY BASES

DIRECT QUOTE FROM DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE
Anyone with warrants or warrants, even parking tickets, NEED NOT ATTEND
You will be detained at the gate for the proper authorities

(PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY)

FULL LEGAL NAME: _____
NO NICK NAMES OR ABBREVIATIONS

DOB: _____ CURRENT DL#: _____ STATE ISSUED _____
(MM/DD/YYYY) **MILITARY BASES REQUIRE REAL ID DRIVER LICENSE**

IF HOLDING MILITARY ISSUED ID, YOU MUST PROVIDE THE NUMBER _____

MASKS ARE REQUIRED ON MILITARY BASES



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NO NICK NAMES OR ABBREVIATIONS

DOB: _____ CURRENT DL#: _____ STATE ISSUED _____
(MM/DD/YYYY) **MILITARY BASES REQUIRE REAL ID DRIVER LICENSES**

IF HOLDING MILITARY ISSUED ID, YOU MUST PROVIDE THE NUMBER _____

(PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY)

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(PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY)

FULL LEGAL NAME: _____
NO NICK NAMES OR ABBREVIATIONS

DOB: _____ CURRENT DL#: _____ STATE ISSUED _____
(MM/DD/YYYY) **MILITARY BASES REQUIRE REAL ID DRIVER LICENSES**

IF HOLDING MILITARY ISSUED ID, YOU MUST PROVIDE THE NUMBER _____

MASKS ARE REQUIRED ON MILITARY BASES

2022 Reunion Pin Contest Entries Needed

By Craig Lord

You can compete in designing a pin for this year's VDHA Reunion in San Antonio. The VDHA has formed a Reunion Pin Design Committee consisting of four member judges: Craig Lord (Chairman, non-voting), Norm Ream (voting), Bill Cummings (voting), and Lynn Mastin (voting).

An entry does not need to be a "professionally" completed design for consideration. If a somewhat primitive concept is uniquely different and is selected as the winner, we have made arrangements for a professional firm to convert it into a finished design.

Past pin designs (pictured right) have incorporated the reunion location and location related art, the year and "VDHA Reunion." For on-line entries via e-mail please use acceptable formats, i.e., JPG, TIFF, PDF, or BMP. Send on-line entries to stripgate@gmail.com. Please put "VDHA Pin Contest" in the subject line so your entry is identified as such.

Make sure you let us know who you are so we are not dependent on your e-mail address only. We will assign a contestant number for voting. For snail mail entries, please send to VDHA Pin Contest, 12054 Woodcastle Cove, Arlington, TN 38002-4123.

Entries will be electronically scanned and sent to the judges. Again, make sure you include your name with your entry.

The deadline for a design to be considered is February 21, 2022. The winning entry will be announced as soon as possible.

The competition is restricted to VDHA members of any type who are in "good standing." We have not yet determined the prizes for the winner. Good Luck to all!



Some previous winning VDHA reunion pins.

BX Opens Under New Management

Continued from Page 1.

You all are invited to test the new website and order form download. Go to <http://www.vdha.us/> and then click on the "Merchandise" tab which will take you to this page: <http://www.vdha.us/merchandise/>. Please make sure you download our newest order form to make sure all is working properly. See the copy of our new order form on the [next page](#).

If any person finds an error, a typo, or just wants to make a suggestion, Mike and I encourage you to please contact him at your earliest convenience!

I am proud to acknowledge all the help and support from Bob and Deb Palochik and John Harvey. We couldn't have done it without you!

Effective immediately your Official New BX Manager is Mike 'Shorty' Hurder, and I respectfully pass that very meaningful title to Mike. I'm sure you will show him all the respect and encouragement you showed me over these past 12 years.

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.

LINE		DESCRIPTION	COLOR / INFO	QTY	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	PRICE	TOTAL
1		Men's T- Shirts	Snow White								\$16.00	
2	Sport Gray									\$16.00		
3	Sand / Tan									\$16.00		
4	True Red									\$16.00		
5	Jet Black									\$16.00		
6		Men's Polo Shirts	Snow White								\$22.00	
7	Sport Gray									\$22.00		
8	Sand / Tan									\$22.00		
9	True Red									\$22.00		
10	Royal Blue									\$22.00		
11		Baseball Style Caps	Jet Black								\$22.00	
12	Dark Gray									\$16.00		
13	True Red									\$16.00		
14	Dark Green									\$16.00		
15	Camouflage									\$16.00		
16		Scrambled Eggs for Caps	Jet Black								\$16.00	
17	Royal Blue									\$16.00		
18	Olive Drab									\$24.00		
19	Jet Black		"Vietnam Veteran" Embroidered on Crown							\$18.00		
20	Jet Black		"Vietnam Dog Handler" Embroidered on Crown							\$7.00		
21		VDHA Logo Sticky-Back Round Decals	1 Pair (Left & Right) [Unattached]								\$10.00	
22			1 Pair (Left & Right) [Ironed on Cap Bill]								\$2.00	
23			3 Inch								\$8.00	
24		VDHA Logo Cloth Patches (Embroidered)	6 Inch								\$12.00	
25			9 Inch								\$4.00	
26			2 Inch								\$5.00	
27			3 Inch								\$12.00	
28		VDHA Challenge Coin - With Clear Case	6 Inch								\$18.00	
29			9 Inch								\$22.00	
30			12 Inch								\$10.00	
31		VDHA Portfolio	Blue 3D - 1 3/4 Inch Diameter								\$15.00	
32		Beaded P-38 Key Ring	Black Leather - Includes Free Pen								\$3.00	
33		In Memory of over 4000 War Dogs	Vietnam Service Ribbon Colors								\$3.00	
34		In Memory of over 4000 War Dogs	Decal - 3" Square Stickyback								\$6.00	
35		VDHA DogMan Newsletter CD	Patch - 4" Square Iron or Sew on								\$10.00	
36		VDHA Logo Pin - Multi-Colored	Over 141 Issues - 03/01/1994 to Present								\$5.00	
37		1 Inch Diameter Round Black Generic "K9" Pin	Lapel / Cap								\$5.00	
38		2015 Nashville Reunion Pin	Lapel / Cap - Polished Silver Metal								\$5.00	
39		2016 Branson Reunion Pin	Lapel / Cap - (1 3/4")								\$5.00	
40		2018 San Diego Reunion Pin	Lapel / Cap - (1 3/4")								\$5.00	
41		2022 San Antonio Reunion Pin	Lapel / Cap - (1 3/4")								\$5.00	
42		D151 Vietnam Campaign Sticky Back Decal	Lapel / Cap - AVAILABLE AFTER REUNION								\$3.00	
43		D74 Vietnam Campaign Sticky Back Decal	5.5" Wide x 1.5" Tall (Small Ribbon)								\$4.00	
44		D90 Vietnam Campaign Sticky Back Decal	9" Wide x 3" Tall (Large Ribbon)								\$4.00	
45		AE-13 Vietnam Campaign Sticky Back Decal	5.5" Wide x 2.75" Tall (Clear Backgrd)								\$5.00	
46		Kneeling GI & Dog Silhouette Sticky Back Decal	4" Wide x 2" Tall (3D Domed Reflective)								\$4.00	
47		VDHA Oval "War Dog Heroes" Sticky Back Decal	5" Wide x 3" Tall (Black on White)								\$5.00	
48		K-9 VDHA "Worded" Sticky Back Decal	5.5" Wide x 4.25" Tall (Red & Black on White)								\$5.00	
49		K9 Out Front Sticky Back Decal	10" Wide x 3" Tall (Black on White)								\$5.00	
50		VDHA Logo Gold Foil Stamp	3" x 3 Square Sticky Back Decal								\$7.00	
51		Brass Metal Clutch-Backs	1.25" Square Stickyback - 1 Bag of 12								\$1.00	
52		Lapel / Cap Pin "Keepers"	Bag of 10								\$2.00	
53			Bag of (Qty 2) Keepers + 1 Allen Wrench								\$10.00	
			Bag of (Qty 10) Keepers + 3 Allen Wrenches									

Brief Comments:

Merchandise

18% Postage

Sub-Total

Adjustment

Total Due

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The Tip of the Spear; a War Dog Story

Editor's Note: This is the third installment of a multi-part story submitted for publication by Vernon Roman. It details his story from college to Vietnam and his dog Skipper (X268).

*By Vernon J. Roman
Scout Dog Handler*

So when I was offered the opportunity to recycle, I told the review board that I just did not have the desire to become an officer and would rather take my chances elsewhere.

At that point in time, the Army was looking for volunteers to learn how to be a dog handler. It meant another 12 weeks of training, and it came with a 30-day leave. It was that, or you could just join the next infantry unit that was shipping out for Nam. As I mentioned earlier, the projected life span of a point man in a fire fight was listed in a milisecond. Not very encouraging.

However, I did like the fact that I would be in control of my own destiny, and if I bought the farm, it would most likely be because I messed up. I may not have rank, but, I would have something just as important: CONTROL! The job description stated that we were to

point out the danger and the unit was then was responsible for addressing that danger. In theory, they go forward; the handler and the dog got to go in the opposite direction. The handler was not expected to fire his weapon. He would have a body guard assigned to him who was responsible for returning fire.

The handler's job was to give his full attention to reading and taking care of the dog. In addition, if a superior officer gave you an order that resulted in harm to the dog, the officer would pay a fine of \$50,000 dollars and have a possible loss of rank. So, bottom line – no one messed with the dog team.

Rank was not an issue nor a concern for us because of our specialty. That was a very big benefit. When in the field, I accepted all the assignments willingly, without question, but after that point, it was the dog team that dictated how we proceeded to move.

I had an extra advantage going into dog school. My family background is filled with hunters. As early as possible, I was trudging through the woods running down rabbits and ring necks with our well-trained dogs. When I left for the

Army, I left behind an extremely well trained hunting dog that was 100% totally trained by me. He was a great hunter.

So I felt very confident that I was going to be able to read a scout dog and pick up all the skills that I would need to survive Vietnam. It was a big gamble, but at least my faith would be, for the most part, in my own hands and that of the dog.

All I needed to do was identify and avoid all the potential dangers that you encounter when leading a patrol and then I just might make it home.

I signed up for dog school and went directly from OCS over to the dog school that very same day. I immediately fell in love with the place. From a spit and polish zone to a dirty barracks where I was greeted by a small puppy walking down the middle of the floor that promptly piddled in his own excitement.

WHAT A CHANGE...no more starch anything; we were fluff dry for our clothes. I have no idea who cleaned our barracks, what little they were cleaned. We did not. I liked being considered "contaminated."

Continued on page 15.

Vietnam Dog Handler Association Officers

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FEB. 23

Invitation: Ft. Benning Memorial Rededication

By Mike "Shorty" Hurder

This was another of the endless training exercises for Lady and I. We were guarding a crossing on the Chattahoochee River, the border between Alabama and Georgia. The op-force was going to try to penetrate our position. Our job was to warn the friendlies to oppose that crossing before it's too late.

My comrades are back in a hollow 50 meters away, gathered around the chow line, waiting for the semi-warm "hot" breakfast to be served. Rifles were stacked in an orderly fashion; red muzzle guards pointing to the sky. My weapon was loaded for bear with blanks and slung over my right shoulder. Lady was my real weapon. She could sniff out a bad guy from 200 meters away with a decent breeze. That draft was with us this day.

As I waited for Santi and Rebel to relieve us, Lady stops her prowling at the end of the long leash and throws her head into the scent cone. "Gotcha." After a minute of fumbling with the handset on my PRC-25, I make the call. "Rover one to base. Rover one to base. Calamity. I say again, Calamity." Breakfast is deserted as the platoon gears up for an ambush. Our job done, Lady and I head for camp and a well-deserved break.

Who doesn't remember those days at the beginning of our K9 sojourn, learning what these amazing animals could do for us? We marveled at the capacity of their sensory organs.

Fort Benning, Georgia was where it all started for many of us who served during that time. Scout Dog Handler School was, for me, a blessing in disguise. After washing out of Airborne due to spraining both ankles on my first tower jump, I pondered my future while recovering in a medical holding company. My choices (no choice at all) were infantry in Germany, Infantry in Korea, or Infantry in Vietnam, emphasizing Vietnam. I was screwed.

The day before I was to muster out Vietnam, dandy-looking, highly decorated soldiers came into my room pitching a bail-out option. "How'd you like to spend four more months on beautiful Fort Benning learning the ropes of being a K-9 handler at Scout Dog Handler School, troop?"

Four more months, I thought. Tricky Dick was saying we'd be out of Nam in six months. I'd get at least a month of leave before my next posting. They aren't going to send me to Nam for a month, are they? Calculations over, I jumped on the opportunity and began my K-9 life the very next morning. Of course, I ended up in Nam anyway.

Agenda for Fort Benning Memorial Rededication



May 13, 3:00 PM – 11:00 PM 2022 Arrival and registration at hotel. Hospitality room open.

May 14, 10:30 AM 2022 Rededication at War Dog Memorial Fort Benning, GA— Participation by dog handlers, led by Albert Johnson & Speaker Chris Willingham

May 14, Noon—1:30 PM 2022 Dog Demonstration following. Location to be determined. The museum will be open for touring until approximately 5 PM.

May 14, 6:00 PM 2022 Banquet, auction, events at the National Infantry Museum. Tickets will be available soon. The hospitality room will be open after the banquet, until approximately 11 PM.

May 15, Morning departures. 2022 Hospitality room open. Bon voyage.

**Want more info? Email: info@mwdhm.org
Text/call: 865-507-8903**

With assistance from the War Dog Memorial Fund, the Vietnam Dog Handler Association met its goal of creating a memorial to honor War Dog Teams on October 8, 2000, on Sacrifice Field at Fort Benning. Most dog teams that served in Korea and Vietnam trained at Fort Benning, and the monument was built to honor teams that served in all wars. There are several parts, and a sight to behold.

At 10:30 am on May 14, 2022, that memorial will be rededicated. I've already booked my hotel, flight, and rental car. I can't wait. I can't wait to see my brothers.

Can you make it? I hope so—this is one instance where the phrase "the more, the merrier" absolutely rings true. Come on down. Bring your bug juice.

Make your reservations now. Be sure to book your stay soon also. Look for the special rate of \$119/night at the Hampton Inn Columbus, South Fort Benning. For more information on the National Infantry Museum, visit <https://nationalinfantrymuseum.org/visit/>.

I sure hope to see you all there. WOOF!

The Tip of the Sword; a War Dog Story

Continued from Page 13.

Therefore, we never could pull KP. It was a major hoot to run around the base dressed as we were in a place packed with spit shine shoes, starch fatigues, in boots that did not see polish the whole time we were there, and fatigues that made us look like refugees. I JUST LOVED THE LIBERATING FREEDOM.

Even in Vietnam, we wrote our own rules - or more like no rules. It was extremely nice not paying attention to any of the spit and polish rules. We had much more important things to worry about: like keeping everyone alive.

I keep mentioning having the favor of the big guy in the sky because it is impossible to be as lucky as I was during my time in the Army. It had to be the result of a higher power looking out for my best interests, even though I did not know it at the time.

Oh by the way, what was even more of a hoot, was that we had a Marine unit going through dog training school with us, and they were "strict" Marines. They had a sergeant in charge of them. So when they were not under the control of the Army, the Sergeant was all over them. They did do the spit and polish things, and to top it off, he would force them to go on PT runs. I never ran in the Army after OCS, at least not for exercise. Those poor buggers had it tough, and it had to really piss them off when we would lay around and wish them well on their PT runs.

So, what happens at dog school? The first thing that happens is you get a dog. Now this can be a scary time. We have already been taught how powerful a German Shepherd is. He can break your leg with his bite or whatever else he gets a hold of. When he attacks, he/she will be coming for either your neck or the family jewels.

Now the Army, at least at that time, normally did not pay for the dogs it got. They were, for the most part, donated. They first went to Lackland AFB in Texas.

Continued in the next issue.

PBS Airs Four-Episode Series on Veterans

By David Adams

Thailand Dog Handler 1969-70

If you didn't see it, PBS ran a four-episode program called *American Veteran*. Being a veteran means many different things to vets, but these episodes give the best overall perspective across all segments that I have ever seen. The episodes can be watched on-line at: <https://www.pbs.org/show/american-veteran/episodes/>.

It is excellent!



First Cavalry Division Scout Dog Reunion

By Joe Hanlon

From June 13 through June 16 of 2021, a reunion of former scout dog handlers with the First Cavalry Division, Vietnam took place at the Comfort Inn, Apple Valley, Sevierville, Tennessee.

Eleven members of the 34th Infantry Platoon Scout Dogs along with five of their spouses united, some for the first time since Vietnam 1970. They enjoyed videos, talk, food, and most of all, fellowship. It was an experience none will ever forget.

Thanks to organizers Mac, Swan, and Sharp. On a bittersweet note, Garland Sharp passed away a short time after the event leaving his loving wife Pat, and their two adult children. But we know he went to be with his Lord. Please pray for his family.



Front Row: D. Swan, J. Adams, J. Bogren, S. Smith, P. Bergstrom; Back Row: P. Thompson, B. Burns, J. Hanlon, R. McCaskill, G. Sharp, M. Boyles

TREASURER'S REPORT

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It's Been Awhile

By Tom Sykes

48th IPSD LZ Baldy 2/68-2/69

Royal (19X8)

It's been a while. How many of us have uttered that phrase when trying to come up with a good excuse for not having done something in a long time? You know, like writing an article for the *Dogman* newsletter? My apologies for being AWOL for so long.

A few weeks ago, I started to tackle one of those "to do" items I'd put off for too long. I was clearing out the bottom drawer of my filing cabinet where Army files and photos have lingered for too long. Just another effort at downsizing. Much of what was in the drawer is now "digitized" and backed up on hard drives and in the cloud. Finally, I can now justify to my wife why I had to spend so much money on a flatbed scanner. The down side? She is now eyeing all the family albums. I may have created a monster.

The filing cabinet effort led to a collateral project. A review of the 48th IPSD web site. It has been a long time since providing any updates, primarily due to clunky software. A change up in software allowed me to rebuild the site and adding a lot more material. Updates will now be ever so much faster and easier. The rebuild also required changing the site location. The new site address is: <http://portalscards.com/48thIPSD/>.

By all means, please pay visit. If you have any material you'd like to contribute - photos especially - pass them along. And any comments/corrections are also welcome.

Some years ago I started to use Facebook. To be honest, I have a love-hate relationship with the platform. But I stuck with it mainly because it allowed me to stay in touch with family and friends. I just ignore all the ads and yelling and screaming. So why not create a FB page for the 48th? The restricted Facebook address is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/140612559846707>. Both of these addresses have been included on the VDHA 48th Scout Dog page.

I was looking back on the year of my tour in Vietnam...it's now been over 50 years. I remember WWII vets crossing the same threshold and thinking, wow, that's old! Now we're in the same boat. And yes, we are feeling a bit older, a bit slower with more aches. But just as proud.

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Carol and Tom Sykes, enjoy RV life in Arizona.

I've attended a few reunions - San Diego and D.C. Missed many more for one reason or another. Perhaps if one is held again in Arizona where my wife and I now reside after spending nine years on the road as full-time RVers I'll make it. I confess that selling our home in Wisconsin, along with most of our belongings, was a major downsizing. It was also quite liberating - just like tackling the bottom drawer of my filing cabinet. And it got us to avoid winters at all costs.

Oh, and one more thing. Please take a moment to check your name at the VDHA 48th unit page. Check to see if your email address on file is still valid. Submit a current email address if one isn't listed. And If you are listed as inactive, please consider reactivating. The cost is less than a pizza and a few beers and will do wonders for the VDHA coffers.

Cheers and welcome home. It's been a while.