



DOGMAN

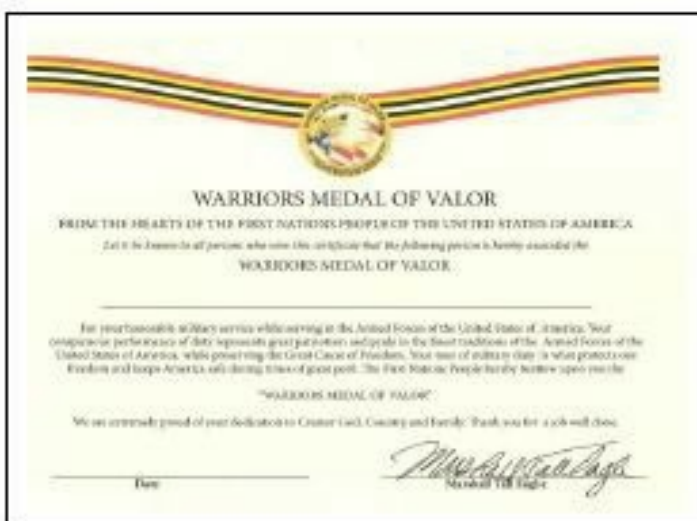


A Brotherhood of All Combat Veteran Dog Handlers

VIETNAM DOG HANDLER ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 32 - NUMBER 4 - DECEMBER 2025

Nominations Open: Warriors Medal of Valor



*By John Harvey
VDHA President*

VDHA members are asked once again to nominate active members for the prestigious Warrior's Medal of Valor (WMV). Two medals will be awarded to two members at the VDHA Reunion in May of 2026 in New Bern, NC. There are many of our members who deserve to be recognized with this very special honor for the achievements they 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 that they may 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, see [Warrior's Medal of Valor Recipient](#) 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 Broeker 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. Nominees for 2018 were Vernon Anderson, Karl Goss and Perry Money.

Continued on Page 8.

From the President

By John Harvey
VDHA President

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. November has been an exciting month. I had the humble opportunity to attend the South Carolina War Dog Memorial Rededication in Columbia, South Carolina, presented by the Military Working Dog Heritage Museum. The memorial is the creation of Johnny Mayo, a former U.S. Army scout dog handler, and Renee Bemis a renowned sculptor originally from Florida. The first time I saw the piece was when Dennis Lewis pulled into the parking lot of the hotel holding a VDHA reunion in October 2015 in Nashville, TN. It was sitting on a large flatbed trailer. Dennis was moving the memorial from Illinois to its final home in Columbia, SC. The emotions felt by the attendees are forever remembered.

This tenth-year rededication was a wonderful two-day event starting Monday morning with

registration followed by a K-9 demonstration presented by units from Fort Rutledge in Columbia, SC and Fort Jackson in Clemson, SC. The demonstration was coordinated by SGM Viridiana Lavalle. SGM Lavalle currently serves as the Army Military Working Dog Sergeant Major and Program Manager at the Pentagon. SGM Lavalle has been a long time friend of the VDHA family. The demonstration was followed by a pizza dinner on Monday evening. There were about 40 participants.

Tuesday morning the attendees participated in Columbia's Veterans Day Parade. The participants rode on a large open flatbed trailer outfitted with seats on which to sit. Some of the lucky ones snagged a ride in various military vehicles escaping the wind and cold. The morning started at a brisk 34 degrees and it was windy. As the day progressed, it finally warmed

up to around 40 degrees. The rededication ceremony was held Veterans Day, Tuesday afternoon. The invocation was given by Dennis Lewis followed by remarks from Al Dobbs, Albert Johnson, president of MWDHM, and Johnny Mayo. Unfortunately, Renee's plane flight was canceled due to the government shut down, however we were fortunate enough to have her call in and make a speech thru the speaker system provided by the city.

SGM Lavalle was the keynote speaker. MSG Terry Young gave an inspiring reading of the poem, "The Guardians of the Night." All in all it was two days of comradery, meeting old friends and making new ones.

A quick reminder to get your registrations in for our reunion in May in New Bern, North Carolina. Wishing you all the happiest of holidays in December and a happy and healthy New Year.



Member Information Notice

VDHA officers do not give out member information. We have had requests for contact information, i.e., phone numbers, email address, etc., from other members trying to get in contact with a specific member.

Each member's information that they themselves have requested to be 'PUBLIC' is on their profile page.

If you are looking for another member, sign into the website and click on 'WAR DOG UNITS' tab and search from there.

Members are responsible for updating their profile information to keep it up to date by logging into their account on the website with their login (member number) and password (known to you). You can change or correct the information such as your address, email address and phone number, etc. Once you enter your new information you will need to scroll down to the bottom and SAVE it.

If you have a problem, contact Bob Palochik at bobpalochik@vdha.us, or if no computer, call him at 702-557-3538 for help.

Vice President's Report

Calling All Unit Directors

By Ernie Ayala

The Vietnam Dog Handler Association has been around for about 35 years now. It has always been the largest and oldest group around for military dog handlers, past and present.

When I joined up back in 2000 I was so proud being part of this organization because all the members did what I did in Vietnam. When I was asked to be a unit director for all Army Sentry Dog Handlers, I gladly accepted the job. A few months later Jesse Mendez, the living legend who started the Scout Dog Handling School at Fort Benning asked me and the other unit directors to go to our groups and raise enough money to pay for our pedestals around the War Dog Memorial. I had to raise \$8,000 from members I hadn't even known yet from my units. Somehow all we unit directors did it and were proud of our contribution because of our own pride in the project. We attended the grand unveiling at Fort Benning in 2003 and the pedestals are still standing, despite several scares of them being removed or relocated.

Members, I need you now to know exactly who your unit director is. Is he still active? Is he still alive? Our structure is in need of a Vice President of Units and some fresh faces who want to keep the VDHA alive and work to keep units up to date with what we do or can do for them. We need unit directors to keep us informed of their members when one dies. Get us an

obituary and a photo usually provided by the funeral home.

These are so important to the membership because these are our brothers and many knew them from past reunions or even served with them back in the day.

As editor of my unit's newsletter, every three months I put in the obituaries of all our membership and I usually include between 10-20 members per issue, that's 40-80 members a year! How do we do it? Our webmaster Gary Smith has found just about every member we have lost track of using an application that zeroes in to a person matching a name, certain year born and home state. If you want the name of this magic application call Gary at (713) 614-2503. He uses it sparingly because there is a monthly cost to this so its best used when you have many names you wish to look up. Once I printed three pages of obituaries and got a call from one of our old timers how sad it made him to see so many he knew. I try to limit it to two pages now.

Elections will be coming up. We need a VP of Units, VP of Tracker Dogs, an Assistant Webmaster and Unit Directors to represent every unit without one. Please contact me if you are interested. (626) 862-2667. If you know of a recent member who has passed away, active or non-active, call me or any board member.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and have a very happy New Year.



2026 VDHA Reunion

New Bern, NC

INFORMATION



AIRPORTS: New Bern NC airport code is EWN / approximately 4 miles to New Bern
 Wilmington NC airport code is ILM / approximately 98 miles to New Bern
 Raleigh NC airport code is RDU / approximately 129 miles to New Bern
 Charlotte NC airport code is CLT / approximately 221 miles from New Bern
 (There are Ubers and taxis available from New Bern Airport-approximately \$10-\$15 one way)

Reunion is scheduled
Thursday, May 28th through Saturday May 30th, 2026
CUT OFF DATE FOR REUNION REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT

MAY 1, 2026

As with previous reunions, there are a limited number of blocked rooms
 90-minute trolley tour Friday May 29th
 Buffet dinner on Saturday evening May 30th

HOTEL INFORMATION

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, NEW BERN NC - RIVERFRONT

100 Middle St., New Bern NC 28560
 1-252-658-9000

Rate \$202-night (inclusive) Tuesday May 26th, Wednesday May 27th, and Thursday May 28th
 Rate \$213-night (inclusive) Friday May 29th, Saturday May 30th, and Sunday May 31st

INCLUDES CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST @ CONFLUENCE RESTAURANT (2 per room max)

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/ewnmsdt-doubletree-new-bern-riverfront/>

Each guest is required to provide a credit card guarantee to make reservation(s)

PLEASE NOTE: Hotel reservation "Cut-Off Date" is **MARCH 31, 2026**

Rates WILL NOT be honored after **MARCH 31, 2026**

Tues	5/26/26	\$202.00
Wed	5/27/26	\$202.00
Thurs	5/28/26	\$202.00
Fri	5/29/26	\$213.00
Sat	5/30/26	\$213.00
Sun	5/31/26	\$213.00

ALL INCLUSIVE

Call **1-252-658-9000** for reservation(s)

When calling to make reservation(s) you **must reference**

GROUP CODE 90T (nine zero T) and
VIETNAM DOG HANDLER REUNION 2026

OR

ONLINE

<http://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/ewnmsdt-90t-2e749d2f-5b4d-492a-9623-2ac73fbcd0f3/>

HOSPITALITY ROOM

(Hawks Room First Floor)

Registration

Thursday May 28th 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Friday May 29th 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

(closed for lunch 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm)

\$70/pp

REGISTRATION PACKAGE WILL INCLUDE NAME BADGE(s) * REUNION PIN(s) * HOSPITALITY ROOM ACCESS * AGENDA

Hospitality room will be open Thursday, May 28th, 9:00 am–10:00 pm

Friday, May 29th, from 10:00 am–10:00 pm

(after general membership meeting @ 9:00 am)

Saturday, May 30th, 8:00 pm–**2:00 pm**

Open again after dinner until 10:00pm

VDHA BX

BX Manager, Mike Hurder, will not be attending the reunion due to health issues.

BX merchandise will still be available to purchase. There will be a binder in the hospitality room with photos of merchandise to view along with order forms including VDHA Logo hoodies.

*Payment can be made by **cash** or **check** only*

Orders will then be forwarded to Mike for fulfillment in a timely manner.

POSTAGE WILL BE WAIVED FOR PURCHASES MADE AT THE REUNION

OFFICER'S MEETING

Thursday, May 28th, 2026, 3:00PM

Officers will be notified of location

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

(Hospitality Room-Hawks Room First Floor)

Active VDHA Members Only

Friday, May 29th,

9:00 am – 10:00 am

TROLLEY TOUR

90 Minute New Bern Trolley Tour

(Time to be determined)

Sign up on registration form

\$35/pp

LIMITED SEATING

BUFFET DINNER

\$65.00/pp

(Grand Ballroom-First Floor)

Saturday, May 30th, 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Open cash bar 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm



LOW COUNTRY BOIL

Seasoned Local Shrimp

Seasoned Crab

Smoked Sausage

Sweet Corn

Red Potatoes

Corn Bread Muffins

Caesar Salad

Seasonal Vegetable Medley

Roasted Turkey Carving Station

(with mushroom sauce)

Prime Rib Carving Station

(with au jus – horseradish cream)

Classic Cheesecake

Please join us!

Let's make this one of the best!



NEW BERN, NC

2026 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Thursday, May 28th –Saturday, May 30th, 2026

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON NEW BERN - RIVERFRONT

DATE	EVENT	COST/pp	# ATTENDING	TOTAL
	Reunion Registration Fee	\$70/pp		
FRI - 05/29	90 Minute Trolley Tour * Limited Seating	\$35/pp		
SAT-05/30	Low Country Boil Buffet (6:00 pm Cash Bar/7:00 pm Dinner)	\$65/pp		
				TOTAL DUE \$
NAME (as you want it on badge)				
VDHA Member Number		UNIT	-	
SPOUSE name (If attending)				
GUEST name (if attending)				
Street Address (member)				
City		State	-	Zip
EMAIL ADDRESS (Required for Confirmation)				
MEMBER phone #		EMERGENCY phone #		
NOTE: Only ACTIVE VDHA MEMBERS will have access to the General Membership Meeting. You will be notified if your membership is NOT ACTIVE when your registration form is received.				

Print and complete registration form and mail it, along with your check/money order to:
VDHA c/o Bob Palochik, Treasurer, 10125 Skye Saddle Ave., Las Vegas NV 89166-6546

CHECK/MO MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO VDHA
NO PAYPAL OR CREDIT CARD payments accepted for Registration

Completed registration and payment are due **ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2026**

Registration cancellation (with refund) will be accepted up to and including **May 06, 2026**

To add/cancel/modify your registration or have any questions, please email Bob Palochik at bobpalochik@vdha.us or call 702.557.3538 or 702.845.2944

INDIVIDUAL HOTEL RESERVATION(S) FOR DOUBLETREE BY HILTON

RESERVATION(S) CAN BE MADE BY CALLING

1-252-658-9000

Tues 5/26/26 \$202.00
 Wed 5/27/26 \$202.00
 Thurs 5/28/26 \$202.00
 Fri 5/29/26 \$213.00
 Sat 5/30/26 \$213.00
 Sun 5/31/26 \$213.00

YOU MUST REFERENCE GROUP CODE 90T(nine zero T) and

VIETNAM DOG HANDLER ASSOCIATION REUNION

OR online - copy and paste following link

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/ewnmsdt-doubletree-new-bern-riverfront/>

CUT OFF DATE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS MARCH 31, 2026 RATE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AFTER THIS DATE

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

YES ☐

If yes, how many nights

NO ☐

Nominations Open: Warriors Medal of Valor

Continued from Page 1.

Bob Palochik received the medal in 2022 you can see his nomination in the June 2022 Dogman. Ernie Ayala and John Sciascia received the award in 2024.

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 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 for 2026 are:

VDHA President John Harvey — Marine Scout Dog

‘Doc’ Russell Walters — Army Scout Dog

John Homa — Air Force Sentry Dog

Al Dodds — Navy Sentry Dog

Janet Mathews — Daughter of USAF Master Sgt.

Alvin W. “Sarge” Matthews.

Nominations should be received by the committee no later than February 15, 2026 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.

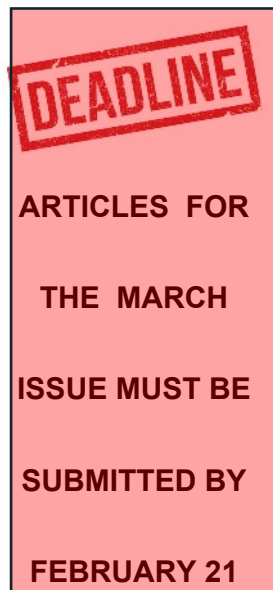
Each nomination must contain the name of the nominee, dates of service in Vietnam or Thailand, and unit(s) name and number as best known. It must contain the name of the VDHA member making the nomination and contact information. It must identify for which one or more of the nomination criteria listed (numbers 1 through 4) the VDHA member is 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”).

Describe the event(s) or circumstances or activity past or present for which the VDHA member is being nominated. See example nomination text on the website and in the Dogman issues mentioned above. The nomination should contain the Who, What, Why, Where, When, and How to the best of the nominator's knowledge.

VDHA members wishing to nominate a fellow member for the upcoming reunion in New Bern, NC, should send a nomination to VDHA President John Harvey at jrhcpa@hhcpas.com or John Homa at jhomatdh@vdha.us by February 15 of 2026. If you do not have e-mail please send a nomination by letter to President John Harvey, 3000 Holiday Drive, Unit 1101, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316.

Vietnam Dog Handler Association Officers

President:	John R. Harvey	3000 Holiday Dr., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316	860-796-7813
Executive V.P.	Ernie Ayala	4000 Pierce Street #143, Riverside, Ca. 92505	626-862-2667
V.P. Trackers	Vacant		
V.P. Thailand	John Homa	7157 Potomac River Dr., Hixson, TN 37343	423-368-4493
V.P. Units	Vacant		
Secretary	Billy Barnes	P.O. Box 1061, Hayfork, CA 96041	530-945-2832
Treasurer	Bob Palochik	10125 Skye Saddle Ave., L.V., NV 89166	702-557-3538
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
BX Manager	Michael Hurder	986 Coronado Way, Livermore, CA 94550	925-518-0318
Webmaster	Jim Stiles	7413 Jacksonville Cutoff Road, Lot B, Jacksonville, AR 72076	501-952-5904
Dogman Editor	Steve Lemish	4723 Rolando Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101	619-417-0954



So, You Want to be a Dog Handler?

Editor's Note: This is the fourth installment of Rick's multi-part adventure as an Air Force dog handler. In this episode, he receives his new sentry dog Rinny.

*By Rick Marty
USAF, 1964-1968*

Well that really didn't improve things. Rin was afraid of small arms fire, heavy weapons fire, bright lights like Jeep headlights and slap flares. I spent a lot of off duty hours working with him but we were making no progress at all. The thing that finally made me give up hope happened one night on patrol. I had stopped at one of the post's bunkers for a break and opened a can of "C" rat peaches. I was sitting on the sandbag rim eating them and Rin was out in front of me with his eyes on the sky as usual.

A very brilliant shooting star flamed across the sky above us, Rin let out a scream and dove into me, knocking me, my gear and weapons as well as the open can of peaches into a wet pile in the bottom of the hole. I was flat on my back with my legs in the air and Rin on my chest busily trying to get underneath me. This really did it for me, I probably shouldn't have felt that way but dammit canned peaches were really hard to come by.

After another week or so of extra training and no marked improvement, the Veterinarian declared Rin unfit for duty in a combat zone and had him shipped to the dog school in Japan for retraining and re-assignment. I found out years later that Rin had been shipped from the retraining center to Phan Rang Air Base, Viet Nam. I really hope that Rin was cured of his fears before being sent back into a combat zone but I know in my heart that wasn't the case.

May 1967 I was re-assigned to Sentry Dog Rinny, serial number 969F, a five-year-old black and tan German Shepherd. This was a dog, a very special dog, I just knew it. Love at first sight, at least on my part, Rinny wasn't so sure about that.

After several days of getting acquainted we began to work together and in a few more days we pulled our first postings. Rinny was a veteran that had been in country for quite a while and wasted no time in teaching me what I needed to know about him and our surroundings. Reading his subtle and not so subtle alerts, whether animal or human and what kind that might be. I learned these things and learned them



quickly because he had little to no patience with me if I screwed up which I did quite often at the start of our time together.

I had learned, and learned well, the complete and total trust that builds between handler and dog, with Whiskey and again with Heidi, but this was taken to a whole new level with Rinny. Much of it I am sure was because of our location in a combat zone and our total dependence on just each other and no one else.

Hour after hour we spent alone in the darkness, night after night, trusting our lives to each other. You that have held the leash know what I am speaking of. For those that haven't I doubt that a million words can really make you clearly understand the depth of that trust and yes love.

Rinny and I went on to work together for many months and had many strange adventures. Thank God none of them included close combat or loss of life in our kennels.

Continued in the next issue.

Things to Do and See Around the Reunion

By Steve Lemish

The next VDHA reunion is coming up at the end of May, 2026 in Bern, NC. New Bern is a quaint little southern town that boasts about their southern charm and hospitality. But, what is there to do there besides going to the reunion? Many dog handlers bring their families, wives, kids, grand kids to the reunion with them. Some of them may want to explore the town and the area. This article might give you some ideas and, depending on your interests, give you several options to explore.

New Bern was settled in 1710 and the settlement was named after Bern, Switzerland. It was the colonial capital for a time. Its location on the banks of two rivers was ideal and the town was later known as the “Athens of the South.” One of the landmarks downtown is City Hall. It is visited often by locals and tourists alike generally for its history and rich architectural details. It is built in the Romanesque Revival style.

According to the New Bern website, the town is rich in history and culture, which is part of its charm and appeal to visitors young and old. They urge you to visit the Firemen's Museum and North Carolina History Center to find out more about the history of New Bern. They also invite visitors to step back in time as they walk through the Governor's mansion at Tryon Palace. Visitors can stroll through the downtown and find themselves amongst some of the most beautiful historic districts in the South.

You can also visit the Craven County Courthouse which was rebuilt in the 1880s. It is a Second Empire style building. You can also visit the birthplace of Pepsi.

New Bern, being on the water, is surrounded by many other interesting places. The art scene includes museums, art galleries, a local theater and a “vibrant” food scene.

If you want to explore out of town also, the area is rich with historical sites and towns. Places near New Bern include coastal towns like Atlantic Beach and Beaufort, state parks such as Fort Macon State Park and Hammocks Beach State Park, and attractions like the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. You can also visit the Cape Lookout National Seashore or take a ferry to see wild horses on Shackleford Banks.

Historical sites include New Bern Civil War Battlefield Park. As we get closer to the reunion dates, more information about the area will be provided.



New Bern, NC at sunset. Credit: Visit New Bern.

**MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND
OUR VDHA REUNION
IN NEW BERN, NC
MAY 28-30, 2026**

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, 4723 Rolando Blvd, San Diego, CA 92115 (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.

TAPS: Reporting Vietnam Dog Handler Deaths

'TAPS' Names Will Be Listed Differently as of January, 2026. In an effort to alert our VDHA membership of Dog Handlers that are reported as deceased, regardless of the actual year they died, the 'TAPS' list on the web page will be shown differently.

When the VDHA is informed of any Vietnam Dog Handler death, whether a member or not, and once confirmed, their name will be added to the home page of the VDHA website, under 'TAPS'.

If their date of death is in the current year, their name will be listed in black along with their unit. Names listed in red, along with their unit, will indicate the date of death was in a previous year but reported in the current year.

When reporting a death, please include as much information as you can, including the Dog Handler's name, his date of death, the unit served with in Vietnam, his dog's name (if known), the dates he served and who is reporting the information. You can also include an

obituary listing or link that can be posted to the member's profile.

All Vietnam Dog Handlers who have passed can and will be added to TAPS posthumously, including those who are not a VDHA member.

The purpose is to honor our lost Dog Handlers. It is our obligation, and we are honored to make sure that these Dog Handlers, and their dogs (if known) are listed with their Units.

However, please note that to report a deceased Dog Handler who served in Vietnam, and who is not in our system as a current or past member, you must provide the Dog Handler's name, date of death, the unit he served with in Vietnam, his dog's name (if known), the dates he served and who is reporting the information.

Once the information is verified, they will be added under TAPS. Without this information we cannot add the Dog Handler. Please report deaths to deaths@vdha.us or bobpalochik@vdha.us.

2026 Reunion Pin Contest Entries

By John Harvey

You can compete in designing a pin for this year's VDHA Reunion in New Bern, North Carolina. The VDHA has formed a Reunion Pin Design Committee consisting of three member judges: Norm Ream (Chairman), Bill Cummings and Tim Hennessey.

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) 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 nream@aol.com. Please put "VDHA Pin Contest" in the subject line so your entry does not go to spam.

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, Attention Norm Ream, 336 Camino De Las Flores, Encinitas, CA 92024.

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 January 31, 2026. 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" only. Good Luck to all!



Treasurer's Report

CHECKING \$41,550.39
 SAVINGS 5,074.00
 TOTAL \$46,624.39

REMINDERS and INFORMATION:

Checks are always to be made payable to VDHA no matter if the funds are for dues or merchandise. Our bank will not accept third party checks.

PayPal payments for dues and/or merchandise purchases must be made from your personal PayPal account.

Dues: PayPal payments are to be sent to vdhapaypal@vdha.us. Please include member name and/or member number in NOTE area in PayPal.

Merchandise: PayPal payments are to be sent to merchandisepaypal@vdha.us.

Remember, if you pay for merchandise through your personal PayPal account, your completed order form must be emailed to our BX Manager, Mike Hurder, at bxmgr@vdha.us for completion.

March Field Memorial

The 25th anniversary celebration of the War Dog Memorial at March Field near Riverside, CA is being still postponed again due to the Air Museum's plan to re-design and landscape the area.

We will publish an announcement in *Dogman* when more information becomes available. Also watch our VDHA website for updates.

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

2026 Election Notice

The positions of executive vice president and secretary are open for election in 2026.

Any member in good standing who would like to run for either office should contact the president (jrhcpa@hhcpas.com) or the treasurer (bobpalochik@vdha.us) by email or by U.S. Mail. Mail addresses are listed on page 8 of this issue.

The cut-off date for nominations is January 31, 2026.

The general meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Friday, May 29 in the Hospitality Room at the VDHA Reunion in New Bern, North Carolina.



Designed by Freepik.