

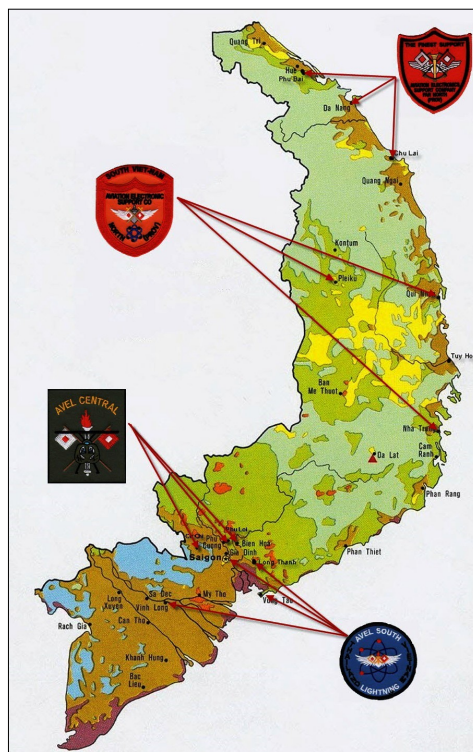
AVEL VIETNAM

Newsletter - April 2017

Celebrity Vietnam Vets

Steve Kanaly

Steve was drafted into the Army in 1966. He was in college at the time but dropped a class and Bingo, was drafted. Steve said; "I know people that did everything possible to stay out of the draft short of going to jail. I don't know anybody that went to jail but some managed to find medical means and or other ways to avoid going."



Kanally attended basic training at Fort Ord, California, then was sent to Radio/Teletype school and then Crypto school. He was sent to Vietnam in July 1967 and assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division where he was a radio operator.

Kanally: "I was nineteen when I went to Vietnam. And, looking back at the whole experience you're forced to grow up and be a man. You work hard, you work with others and do so many things that you you'd never done prior to that. And it made you a much more productive guy. I know I came back to college with a lot different attitude than when I went the first time. It made a big difference. Oh Jeez, you can actually get A's! Isn't that amazing if you only work at it. I had a lot of success when I came back."

Kanally worked at a gun club and attended Valley State University Northridge as an art major. Between the job and the G.I. Bill he was able to go to school full time. While working at the gun club he met a lot of people in the film industry which led to his first acting role in the movie *The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean* with Paul Newman and Ava Gardner.

He landed the roll of Ray Krebbs on the television series *Dallas* which ran from 1978 to 1991. He was also a technical adviser on the film *Apocalypse Now* in 1979. Steve Kanally is now an accomplished artist.

WELCOME HOME, STEVE KANALY

PRAYERS NEEDED

John Peacock (Avel North) brought it to my attention that Dan Harmon is suffering from cancer and can't make the Gathering this year. He has had surgery and is now having Chemo treatments. Dan served in Avel North at Pleiku in 1968 - 1969.



Don't forget to join us on Facebook. Search for the group: AVEL Vietnam.



AVEL “Gathering”, Charleston 2017

We are having a Gathering of AVEL Vietnam vets in Charleston this October. We are not having a formal Reunion this year but will have a much more relaxed, informal get together. We will have a Hospitality Room as a meeting place to talk, share a cocktail and look at the slide show to bring back all those fond (for the most part) memories.

There will be NO Reunion cost. There will be no banquet or guest speaker. Just enjoy each others company and the beautiful city of Charleston. You will pay for your own room, meals and libations. We will most likely have a group dinner for those interested.

PLEASE REGISTER ON THE WEBSITE! There is no obligation but if you think you are coming **PLEASE REGISTER** so we have an idea of the size of the crowd.

Go to www.avelvietnam.com website to register.

RESERVE YOUR ROOM! We have a room block which can be increased so **PLEASE RESERVE YOUR ROOM IF YOU THINK YOU ARE COMING!** You can cancel your room until a week before the Gathering so..... If you even **THINK** you are coming please reserve your room!!

Dates: 9 October - 12 October 2017

Room Rates: \$101.00/night. We have a rate for the weekend before and after the Gathering at \$139.00/night.

Location: Town & Country Inn and Suites
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407

Reservations: Call the hotel at 800-334-6660. Tell them you are with the **AVEL Group** and quote the rate.
If you have any problems call Stephen Clarke at 843-329-3304

I hope you can make it! Looking forward to seeing you in October!

Top Vietnam Quotes

1954

“Finally, you have broader considerations that might follow what you would call the “falling domino” principle. You have a row of dominoes set up; you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is that it will go over very quickly.” – Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954

1961

“Now, we have a problem in making our power credible, and Vietnam is the place” – John F. Kennedy, 1961.

1963

“I don’t think that unless a greater effort is made by the government to win popular support that the war can be won out there. In the final analysis, it is their war. They are the ones who have to win it or lose it. We can help them, we can give them equipment, we can send our men out there as advisors, but they have to win it, the people of Vietnam, against the communists.” —President John Kennedy in a televised interview with Walter Cronkite on September 2, 1963.

1964

“Tell the Vietnamese they’ve got to draw in their horns and stop their aggression, or we’re going to bomb them back into the stone age.” – Gen. Curtis Lemay, May 1964



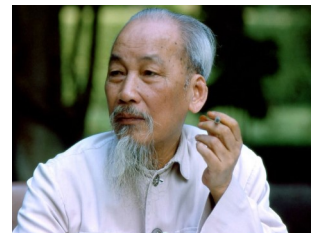
"I believe this resolution to be a historic mistake. I believe that within the next century, future generations will look with dismay and great disappointment upon a Congress which is now about to mistake such a historic mistake."—Senator Wayne Morse (D-OR) on the Senate's impending vote to adopt the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on August 7, 1964.



"We are not about to send American boys nine or ten thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves" – Lyndon B. Johnson, Oct. 1964.

1966

"Everything depends on the Americans. If they want to make war for 20 years then we shall make war for 20 years. If they want to make peace, we shall make peace and invite them to tea afterwards." – Ho Chi Minh, North Vietnamese leader, Dec. 1966.



1967

"One of the greatest casualties of the war in Vietnam is the Great Society... Shot down on the battlefield of Vietnam" – Martin Luther King, 1967.

"We seem bent upon saving the Vietnamese from Ho Chi Minh, even if we have to kill them and demolish their country to do it. I do not intend to remain silent in the face of what I regard as a policy of madness which, sooner or later, will envelop my son and American youth by the millions for years to come." – George McGovern, U.S. Senator, April 25, 1967.

1968

"It became necessary to destroy the town to save it." —AP correspondent Peter Arnett quoting a U.S. Major on the decision to bomb and shell Ben Tre on February 7, 1968 after Viet Cong forces overran the city in the Mekong Delta forty-five miles south of Saigon.

1969

"I refuse to believe that a little fourth-rate power like North Vietnam doesn't have a breaking point." — National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger speaking in July 1969 to NSC aides as he charged them with developing a punitive military strategy that would coerce North Vietnam into negotiating on American terms.

"Only you can prevent forests" a shortening of the U.S. Forest Service famous warning to the general public "Only you can prevent forest fires". – sign in room of U.S. airmen spraying defoliants.

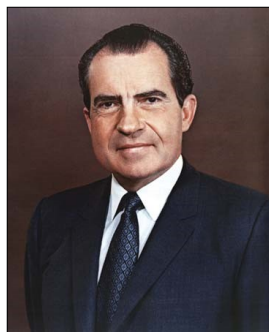
"I'm not going to be the first American President to lose a war" – Richard M. Nixon, Oct. 1969.

"And so tonight—to you, the great silent majority of my fellow Americans—I ask for your support." — President Richard Nixon in his address to the nation on the war in Vietnam on November 3, 1969.

"Let us understand: North Vietnam cannot defeat or humiliate the United States. Only Americans can do that."—President Richard Nixon in his address to the nation on the war in Vietnam on November 3, 1969.

1970

"This war has already stretched the generation gap so wide that it threatens to pull the country apart." — Senator Frank Church (D-ID) speaking on the Senate floor on May 13, 1970.



1972

"The bastards have never been bombed like they're going to be bombed this time." —President Richard Nixon to White House Chief of Staff H.R. "Bob" Haldeman and Attorney General John Mitchell on April 4, 1972 in deciding to launch what would become known as Operation Linebacker, a massive escalation in the war effort that included mining Haiphong harbor, blockading the North Vietnamese coast, and launching a massive new bombing campaign against North Vietnam.

“We believe that peace is at hand. We believe that an agreement is within sight” —National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger speaking at a White House press conference about the Paris Peace negotiations on October 26, 1972, two weeks before the presidential election.

1973

“I have asked for this radio and television time tonight for the purpose of announcing that we today have concluded an agreement to end the war and bring peace with honor in Vietnam and in Southeast Asia.”—Richard Nixon informing the American public in a nationwide address on January 23, 1973 that the United States had reached agreement with North Vietnam on the Paris Peace Accords.

1975

“If the Americans do not want to support us anymore, let them go, get out! Let them forget their humanitarian promises!” – Nguyen Van Thieu, South Vietnamese President, April 1975.

“During the day on Monday, Washington time, the airport at Saigon came under persistent rocket as well as artillery fire and was effectively closed. The military situation in the area deteriorated rapidly. I therefore ordered the evacuation of all American personnel remaining in South Vietnam.” —President Gerald Ford’s statement announcing the evacuation of United States personnel from the Republic of Vietnam on April 29, 1975.

“Today, America can regain the sense of pride that existed before Vietnam. But it cannot be achieved by refighting a war that is finished as far as America is concerned. We, of course, are saddened indeed by the events in Indochina. But these events, tragic as they are, portend neither the end of the world nor of America's leadership in the world.” – Gerald Ford, 1975.

“Television brought the brutality of war into the comfort of the living room. Vietnam was lost in the living rooms of America, not on the battlefields of Vietnam.” – Marshall McLuhan, a Canadian philosopher of communication theory, 1975.



1985

“No event in American history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War. It was misreported then, and it is misremembered now. Rarely have so many people been so wrong about so much. Never have the consequences of their misunderstanding been so tragic.” – Richard M. Nixon, 1985.

NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTER

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582nd TC (USAAMAC Depot Repair Facility), Coleman Barracks, Mannheim, Germany: 1967-1969

tom.goez@gmail.com

MOS: 35L20

TAPS

It was reported by John Clem that **Ronny Smith** passed away on 31 March 2017 in Midland, Texas. Ronny served in Avel North, Qui Nhon in 1968 & 1969. *Rest in peace*

PHOTOS

Gene Brinson of 34th General Support Group sent in photos taken in South Tan Son Nhut.

Photos are posted in the Avel South, Saigon section on the website: www.avelvietnam.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

None Reported

IN-COUNTRY



WELCOME TO SAIGON, "PEARL OF THE ORIENT!"

IN-COUNTRY



MPC...MOUNTAINOUS POCKET CHANGE!

Have any stories you would like to submit?

Any photos of veteran activities or memorials to submit?

Send them to me!

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