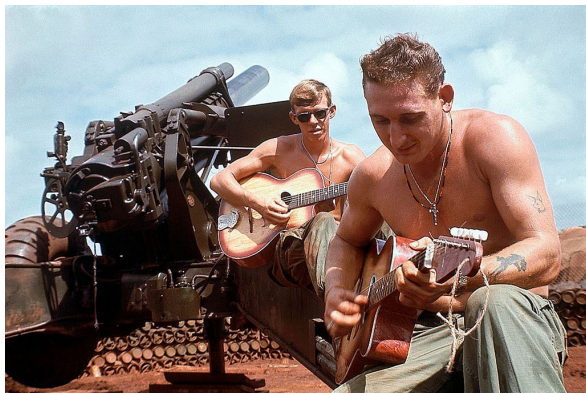


Top Hits Of 1967



At the start of 1967 there were 385,300 American troops in South Vietnam. Replacements continued to pour in and troop strengths increased. The draft was in full swing and 228,263 men were drafted that year.

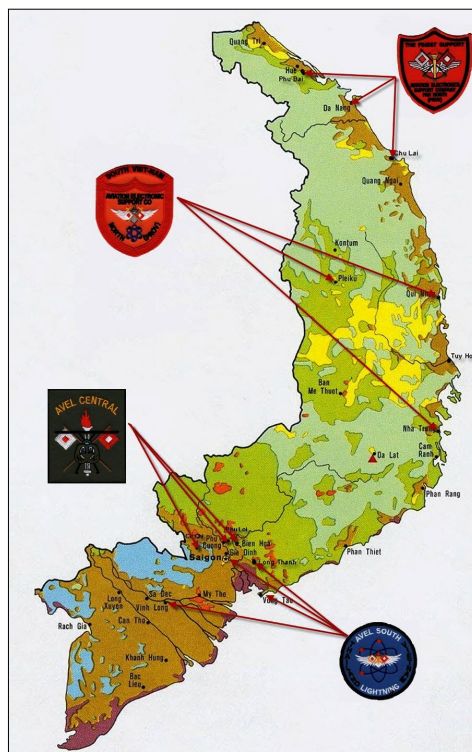
There were several major operation in 1967 and casualties increased throughout the year.

Operation Cedar Falls was conducted primarily by US forces. The aim of this massive search and destroy operation was to eradicate the so-called "Iron Triangle", an area located in close proximity to Saigon which had become a major stronghold of the Viet Cong. The operation began on January 8, 1967, and ended on January 28, 1967. The US units involved were the 1st and 25th Infantry Division, the 196th Infantry Brigade, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, as well as the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Operation Junction City was an 82-day military operation conducted by United States and Republic of Vietnam (RVN or South Vietnam) forces begun on February 22, 1967, lasting until May 14, 1967. It was the largest U.S. airborne operation since Operation Market Garden during World War II, the only major airborne operation of the Vietnam War, and one of the largest U.S. operations of the Vietnam War. Units involved included the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade and the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Vietnam war protests increased in 1967. The attitude had shifted from protest to resistance. In October, as many as 100,000 people flooded the capital for a major anti-war demonstration. An estimated 35,000 to 50,000 of these demonstrators descended on the Pentagon. By dawn the next day, nearly 700 had been arrested for various acts of civil disobedience, including trying to get inside the building.

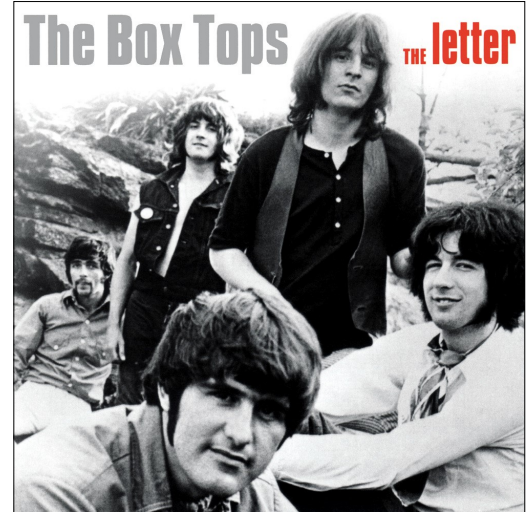
Continued on Page 2



Troop strengths in 1967 increased to 485,600 by the end of the year. In that year there were 11,153 war related deaths and 62,025 troops wounded. Next year it would only get worse.

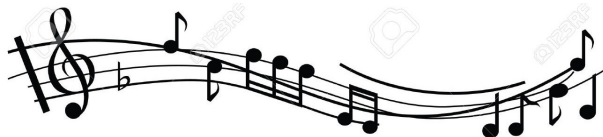
Check out the Top Ten songs of 1967!

- #1 “To Sir With Love” by Lulo
- #2 “The Letter” by The Box Tops
- #3 “Ode to Billie Joe” by Bobby Gentry
- #4 “Windy” by The Association
- #5 “I’m a Believer” by The Monkees
- #6 “Light My Fire” The Doors
- #7 “Somthin’ Stupid” by Nancy Sinatra & Frank Sinatra
- #8 “Happy Together” by The Turtles
- #9 “Groovin’” by The Young Rascals
- #10 “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You” by Frankie Valli



Top Ten Albums of 1967

- #1 The Beatles “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band”
- #2 The Jimi Hendrix Experience “Are You Experienced”
- #3 Buffalo Springfield “Buffalo Springfield Again”
- #4 The Jimi Hendrix Experience “Axis: Bold As Love”
- #5 Rolling Stones “Between the Buttons”
- #6 The Doors “The Doors”
- #7 Cream “Disraeli Gears”
- #8 The Mothers of Invention “Absolutely Free”
- #9 Jefferson Airplane “Surrealistic Pillow”
- #10 The Beatles “Magical Mystery Tour”



What songs do you immediately associate with Vietnam? Send them to me so I can put them in the next newsletter. Email me at jmccabe51@gmail.com

From Hal Moore’s Bookshelf: What He Underlined

LTG Hal Moore, passed away several years ago, three days shy of his 95th birthday. General Moore studied leadership and the characteristics of some of the worlds best military leaders.

One book on Hal Moore’s bookshelf was Owen Connelly’s, On War and Leadership. This book is a collection of Western generals’ experiences leading in combat. Hal Moore’s markings capture six values that he pulled from their experiences to develop his own leadership style. Faith, character, will to win, discipline, presence, and boldness.

Hal Moore made the lifelong learning of leaders and leadership a central tenet of his growth as a leader and commander. These writings cited from works that he marked indicate what he valued and what we should assess and internalize in our leadership style – appropriate for our character.



FAITH: From Stonewall Jackson – “My religious belief teaches me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time of my death. I do not concern myself with that.” Hal Moore would unequivocally state that “The purpose of life on earth is to QUALIFY for eternal life.” He lived this belief every day and expected that his gift in heaven would be to see his wife AND his beloved troopers again.

CHARACTER: From Archibald Percival Wavell – “No amount of study or learning will make a man a leader unless he has the natural qualities of one. The bare essentials are character, a general interest and knowledge of humanity (the raw material of his trade), and fighting spirit-the will to win.” This person has the ability, when apparently beaten, to come back and “refuse to acknowledge defeat.”

Hal Moore understood the challenge of leadership: inspiring people to work hard and to execute tasks willingly. To meet that challenge, a leader must demonstrate three things: (1) He must be competent, (2) he must exercise good judgment, and (3) he must have character. By itself, competence is meaningless without character and good judgment.

WILL TO WIN: The idea of an unconquerable spirit from Wavell – “No battle was ever lost until the leader thought it so.” Hal Moore, in leadership talks, would always passionately argue that a leader’s task is to “instill the will to win.” When asked about the possibility of defeat in the Ia Drang battle, Hal Moore stated “It never crossed my mind that we would be defeated.”

DISCIPLINE: From Napoleon Bonaparte: “Discipline ties troops to their flags; it is not harangues that make them brave. Old soldiers are irritated by speeches; young ones forget them at the first cannon shot. The gesture of a general who is liked-held in esteem by his troops-is better than the most beautiful speech.” Hal Moore held the highest personal standard – self-discipline – to create, model, and instill unit discipline.

PRESENCE: From Erwin Rommel – “The commander must have contact with his men. He must be capable of feeling and thinking with them. One must never make a show of false emotions to one’s men. The soldier has a surprisingly good nose for what is true and what is false.” From Bonaparte – “Always when you are in the presence of your enemy, bivouac with your troops. It sets the right example for everybody.” Hal Moore modeled leadership on the front line as the only real means to demonstrate commitment, understand his unit’s fighting spirit, and more importantly, to see the real impact of orders issued.

BOLDNESS: Underlined and starred from Rommel – “...bold decisions give the best promise of success.” From Wavell – “No general can be lucky unless he is bold.” From Wavell citing Voltaire – “that calm courage in the midst of tumult, that serenity of soul in danger, which is the greatest gift of the nature of command.” Finally from Wavell citing the first essential [trait] of a general – the quality of robustness, the ability to stand the shock of war.”

These examples, while grounded in military experience, are very applicable to non-military organizations. These few essential qualities of a leader will not alone guarantee organizational success but it can be argued that the lack of these qualities will hasten an organization’s demise. Study history, study leadership – what leaders do and fail to do. But more importantly, internalize what is good for you, your character, and your purpose and mission.



11 Ways People Dodged The Vietnam Draft

The U.S. first started drafting civilians during the Civil War. Back then, rich men had many other options open to them avoiding Civil War service. To dodge the Civil War draft, people could pay a less wealthy person to take their place in the draft, pay a crooked doctor to give them a bad health exam, or outright bribe draft officials.

The modern Selective Service system was established to raise an army to fight in Europe during World War I.

It was used again from 1940-47 to raise troops to fight World War II, and then again to meet the needs for the Korean War. Between the end of WWII and the Korean War, men could just be drafted to serve, regardless of the demands of a national emergency.

After Vietnam, President Gerald Ford abolished the draft entirely in 1975 but President Carter established the draft system in place today as a response to the potential threat posed by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

There were two kinds of methods to avoid being drafted when your number was called: illegal and legal. There were a few laws in place relevant to Selective Service meant to keep necessary men in their homes and with their families. Purposely pursuing a legal waiver or deferment for any reason is draft avoidance. Those who could not meet the criteria for legal would mitigate their responsibilities by illegal means, this is called draft evasion or more popularly known as "draft dodging."

Those who received deferments (especially politicians and other people who like to closely associate themselves with the military) will fervently argue there is a distinct difference. Here are 11 ways people beat the draft in the 1970s.

1. Be a Conscientious Objector

Jehovah's Witnesses, Mennonites, the Amish, and Quakers are all considered Peace Churches who are opposed to any kind of military service. They were allowed to serve in other ways, however, but in a civilian capacity. Dishonest conscientious objection would be illegal. You can still be awesome as a CO, by the way. Clergymen and missionaries were also exempt from the draft, which is how Mitt Romney deferred while spending two years in France as a Mormon missionary.

2. Make up a health condition

The military is surprisingly strict about the medical conditions of those it enlists, even if they really need the manpower. Gastritis, ulcers, hepatitis and anemia are all common, treatable conditions the military will flat-out reject you for having. Diabetics are out, too.

If you don't have one of these or you're in perfect health, just make up a health problem! During the Vietnam draft, people would stay awake for days ahead of their medical screening, do a lot of illegal drugs, or otherwise make themselves appear generally unhealthy to avoid being drafted. Ask Ted Nugent about doing meth and crapping his pants to avoid the draft.

3. Have children who need you

Men with children and families who depend on those men for their livelihood are in a lower draft priority than single men or childless husbands.

4. Be a homosexual

And if you're not a homosexual, pretend to be! In the 1960s and 1970s, it was perfectly fine to both ask and tell. If men out to dodge the draft were afraid they wouldn't be asked, they would wear women's underwear to the medical exams.

5. Run away to Canada

Upwards of 40,000 draft dodgers fled to Canada between 1965 and 1975. Many stayed in Canada after the war's end, and some even stayed after President Carter pardoned them all on his first day in office. Those who stayed became Canadian citizens.

6. Go to college

Student deferments were very common ways of beating the draft, though many students were really in school to be in school and not simply to avoid Vietnam. Notable examples of those receiving student deferments include Bill Clinton (1 deferment), Joe Biden (5 deferments), and Dick Cheney (5 deferments).

While a college deferment was very common, it is still a major point of contention for politicians seeking office today.

7. Have a high lottery number

366 plastic capsules, each with one date of the year, were dumped in a large glass container, then drawn, opened, and assigned sequentially rising numbers. The first capsule was September 14. So all men born on that date, from 1944 through 1950, received the first priority for call to duty.

The remaining capsules were drawn and assigned a number. A second lottery was also conducted for the 26 letters of the alphabet, to determine the order of priority (by last name) for each date. The highest draft number drawn was 195.

8. Hold an "essential" civilian job

These are also known as "reserved occupations" and are so necessary to a country's war effort, drafting them is illegal. The jobs cannot be done by others and cannot be completely abandoned, but those men were required to continue working that job.

9. Get married

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson changed the draft law to allow married males to be drafted, if they didn't have children. Before August 26, 1965, however, getting hitched was a Get Out of Vietnam Free card. Johnson quietly changed the rules to keep up with the demands of the war. Hundreds of couples on the West Coast ended up in shotgun marriages to avoid serving.

10. Forge military ID or reserve papers

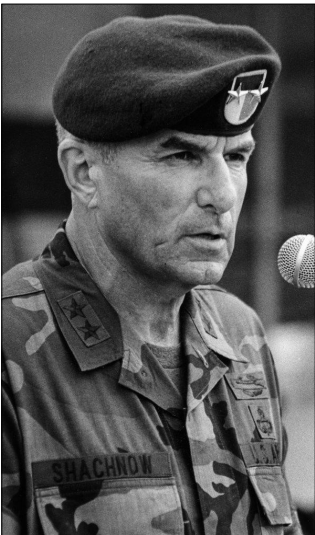
Some men in Northern states formed groups which made fraudulent National Guard or Reserve papers, identifying men who bore them as having already enlisted. For upwards of \$5000, men could acquire these papers and take them to the local draft board to be relieved of their obligation.

11. Enlist anytime

Even during Vietnam, men received credit for serving. If you completed a military service obligation, you couldn't be forced to re-enter the military. If you called up to be drafted, you could avoid it by enlisting and choosing your service.

Failing to register for the draft could mean ineligibility to hold a government job, the inability to apply for student loans through the Department of Education, and a condition of citizenship for immigrants who arrived before their 26th birthday. It is also punishable by a 250,000 fine and up to five years imprisonment, among other consequences.

Major General Sidney Shachnow



Legendary Special Forces Officer Maj. Gen. Sidney Shachnow survived three years in a Nazi concentration camp, he deployed twice to the jungles of Vietnam and he was the top U.S. Army officer in Berlin at the end of the Cold War. Along the way, the general became a legendary Special Forces officer, revered by many in the close-knit community of Green Berets.

Born in Lithuania in 1934, Shachnow faced oppression in his homeland. As a 7-year-old boy, he was among thousands of Jews imprisoned in the Kovno concentration camp near Kaunas, Lithuania. For three years he endured countless brutalities in the camp and was forced to watch helplessly as almost every single one of his extended family were slaughtered. To increase his prospects of survival, young Shachnow performed heavy manual labor under harsh conditions. He narrowly escaped death only days before Kovno's gruesome "Children's Action," of March 27, 1944, when Nazi troops rounded up all children in the camp and marched them to The Ninth Fort for execution or to Auschwitz to be gassed.

"Our camp did things the old-fashioned way," he said in a speech at Elon University, in North Carolina, in 2014. "Several bulldozers would dig a ditch; people would be asked to move to the edge of the ditch. In most cases they were naked. Automatic weapons would kill them. They would fall into the ditch, some wounded and not dead, and if you were lying on the ledge, an individual would throw you into the ditch." After years of escalating brutality (in one instance a guard beat him with a shovel), his family devised an improbable but successful escape plan for him. Leaving behind his weeping parents one morning before dawn, 9-year-old Sidney hid under his Uncle Willie's long coat as the uncle, with Sidney moving in rhythm with him, walked through the gates, passing guards and a work detail that was often sent outside the ghetto. Shortly afterward, children at the camp were liquidated.

When he and his uncle reached the streets beyond the gates of the ghetto, he said, his uncle gave him a prearranged signal to emerge from under the coat and find his contact, a woman wearing a red kerchief. Following the route, he had been given, he found her and followed her to temporary safety - in a storage room of a building with a table, chairs and a toilet. Afterward, he was taken in by a Roman Catholic family and lived with them for several months. He was then reunited with his mother, who had escaped from the camp, and his younger brother, Mula, who had been smuggled to safety disguised as a girl. For a while they lived in the family's house in Kaunas with Soviet officers; the Red Army had by then taken control of Lithuania.



But fearing that the Communists would seal the country's borders after the war, Sidney left with his mother and brother on a six-month 2,000-mile trek by foot, wagon, and train through Lithuania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria before settling in Furth, Germany, near Nuremberg, in the fall of 1945. His father, who had been fighting the Germans with partisans, rejoined them, and they charted a path to the United States. To make a living in war-torn Nuremberg, Shachnow resorted to pirating black market contraband such as nylon stockings and chocolate. It was during this time that he learned to speak German. "After I finished that experience, I was very cynical about people," he said. "I didn't trust people. I thought that there is a dark side to people. If you leave things to people, they'll probably screw things up."

In 1950 the family left Germany on a Navy transport ship and arrived in Boston. Sidney, his parents, and brother settled in Salem, Mass., where relatives had preceded them to America. Sidney attended high school but dropped out in 1955 and joined the Army, despite hardly being able to speak English. He married Arlene Armstrong - a Jewish Catholic union that his parents opposed. He later attended Officer Candidate School as a Sergeant First Class and was commissioned in 1960 as an Infantry Officer. He served with the 4th Armored Division until 1962, when he volunteered for Special Forces. He served with the 5th Special Forces Group and commanded the secretive "Detachment A," a small team of Special Forces soldiers who operated in Berlin during the Cold War and prepared for possible war with the Soviet Union. Many of its members later went on to help form Delta Force.

His status grew as Special Forces grew, rising to the rank of Major General, receiving both a masters and an honorary doctoral degree along the way. He traveled the world, from Vietnam to the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Korea and back to Germany as commander of all-American forces in Berlin when the Berlin Wall was toppled, near the end of the Soviet Union. "Here it is the very capital of fascism and the Third Reich. The very buildings and streets where they were goose-stepping and heil-Hitler and the very system that put me in the camp and killed many people," he said. "Here we are 40 some-odd years later, and I come back to be Commander of American forces in that city and a Jew on top of that. It sorts of adds insult to injury, doesn't it?"

He served 32 years in the Special Forces community. His top posts included leadership of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School and U.S. Army Special Forces Command at Fort Bragg and U.S. Army -Berlin in Germany. "Maj. Gen. Sidney Shachnow truly lived the American dream," said officials at the Special Warfare Center and School, which the general commanded from 1991 until his retirement in 1994. "He came up through the ranks from private to major general through hard work and selfless service to this nation and the men and women under his command."

While serving in Infantry, Airborne, Airmobile, and Special Forces units, he also earned degrees from the University of Nebraska and Shippensburg State College in Pennsylvania. And he received an honorary doctorate from the Harvard Executive Management Program. Shachnow was inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment in 2007. During his military career, his awards and decorations included two Distinguished Service Medals, two Silver Stars, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts, among other honors.

Maj. Gen. Shachnow, 83, died on Sept. 27, 2018, and is survived by his wife Arlene, four daughters and more than a dozen grandchildren.

NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTERED

Arnold, James (SSG)

105 Stony Point
Clute, TX 77531
979-388-0452

701st Maint. Bn., E Co., Phu Loi, Lie Khe, Can Tho: 1966-1967, 1968-1969, 1970-1971

parnold007@comcast.net

MOS: 35P40

Other units served in Vietnam: 173rd AHC, 147th AHC Hillclimber

TAPS

None Submitted

PHOTOS

None Submitted

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMAIL/PHONE

Ed Kavalesky (Avel Far North/Avel South) has a new email: unkunkunk@outlook.com

Albert Buchanan (Avel South) has a new address and phone number: 5029 French Circle, New Port Richey, FL 34653. 727-261-6224

JD Vaughn (Avel Central) has a new address and home phone number: 2296 Brock Hollow Road, Pikeville, TN 37367

Send your change of address and email to jmccabe51@gmail.com

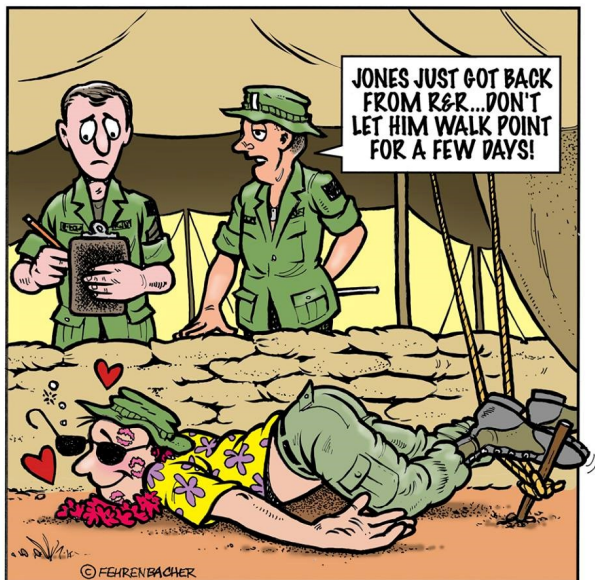
VIETNAM SONGS REMEMBERED

What songs instantly bring you back? Send me your songs and I will publish them in the next news letter!

Al Buchanan (Avel South): I remember hearing "We gotta get out of this place" everywhere!!!!

Jack McCabe (Avel Central): Purple Haze, Fire and Rain, Horse With No Name

IN-COUNTRY



IN-COUNTRY



AT LEAST THE RED CROSS ASKED
IF THEY COULD HAVE YOUR BLOOD!

ALL AVEL REUNION/GATHERING 2019

Join us at LZ Tucson!

Wednesday September 25th to Sunday September 29th 2019

Homewood Suites by Hilton

St. Philip's Plaza

4250 N. Campbell

Tucson, AZ 85718

RESERVE YOUR ROOM NOW!

2019 All AVEL Gathering/Reunion Itinerary

Early Bird, Tuesday, 24 September 2019

Explore Tucson on your own

Wednesday, 25 September 2019

Reunion begins with open registration

17:30: Hamburger BBQ on the patio

Hospitality Room is open after dinner

Thursday, 26 September 2019

Hospitality Room open until 23:00

Pima Air Museum and Boneyard Tour

Friday, 27 September 2019

Hospitality Room open until 23:00

Bus tour to Tombstone

Saturday, 28 September 2019

Hospitality Room open until 17:00

John Veers Martini Golf Outing (Course to be announced)

Ladies Luncheon (Paid by Avel)

Hospitality Room will be closed until 17:30 to prepare for dinner

Group Dinner

Hospitality Room open until 23:00

RESERVE YOUR ROOM

If you think you can come please reserve your room. You can cancel anytime up to 24 hours prior to scheduled arrival. Call the hotel at 520-577-0007 and tell them the Group Code "VNR". Room rate is \$139.00/night.

REGISTER ON THE WEBSITE

Once again, if you even think you can make it, please register at www.avelvietnam.com. We need an approximate count in order to make arrangements for group activities. **Please register!**

Hope to see you there!

Group activities may change as we get closer to the reunion date!



VIETNAM VETERANS RETURN TO VIETNAM

MENASHA, Wis. — A.J. McCaskey wasn't interested in going back to Vietnam. He had seen it once already, as a soldier with the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division in 1968 and 1969. He didn't really want to see it again. But, he said, when a friend told him he should sign up for a trip for veterans headed back to Vietnam, he eventually gave in. A month later, he got a call that he'd been chosen.

After two weeks in Vietnam, McCaskey, a 72-year-old from Wautoma, and 51 other veterans from Wisconsin returned home to a crowded celebration at Menasha High School. The crowd was quiet as it waited for the veterans to enter the gym. But when they did, the roar was deafening.

"I knew they were going to have a welcome back reception, but this was stunning," McCaskey said to the Appleton Post-Crescent.

Old Glory Honor Flight started accepting applications from veterans last summer when the two-week trip to Vietnam was still being planned. More than 500 applied. A group of 52 veterans went on the trip, which began Feb. 24. The trip is believed to be the first time an Honor Flight from the U.S. has gone to Vietnam. In 2012, Old Glory Honor Flight also brought a group of veterans back to Pearl Harbor.

The trip back to Vietnam offered the veterans a chance to reflect on the time they had spent there and try to heal. McCaskey spent much of his first time in Vietnam fighting in the Mekong Delta, where he took part in search-and-destroy missions. "We visited (the Mekong Delta) on this trip, so it was a real emotional time," he said. "The whole trip was an emotional roller coaster."

The trip also gave him a chance to see how Vietnam has recovered from the conflict. "It warms my heart to see it peaceful and prospering, and the kids enjoying life and not worrying about an artillery shell coming into their backyard," he said.



Would you go back to Vietnam?



AVEL VIETNAM



April 2019 Newsletter